

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** May 30, 2024

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Eric Depenau, Director of Administrative Services

**SUBJECT:** 2024 UBCM Direct Submissions and Meeting Planning

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated May 30, 2024, from the Director of Administrative Services, titled “2024 UBCM Direct Submissions and Meeting Planning”.

**PURPOSE:**

For Council consideration.

**BACKGROUND:**

**2024 Meetings:**

To help arrange a productive set of ministerial meetings in the background of the UBCM 2024 convention administration plans to submit meeting requests in line with the existing advocacy strategy which broadly includes focusing on advancing existing priorities and following up on previous outreach, while seeking opportunities for joint advocacy with partner governments. Meeting requests are planned to be extended to the following offices on topics previously advocated on in 2024, or earlier. Additional meetings in line with the strategy may also be arranged.

1. The Premier
2. Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
3. Minister of Housing
4. Solicitor General and Minister of Public Safety
5. Attorney General
6. Minister of Health
7. Minister of Transportation
8. Minister of Post Secondary Education
9. Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation
10. Minister of Education and Childcare
11. Minister of Emergency Management Climate Readiness
12. Ministerial staff and crown corporation meetings will also be sought out in line with existing advocacy.

## **Direct submissions to UBCM 2024:**

At the May 27, 2024 regular meeting of Council a motion was made to refer cost recovery of medical support to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs for further review. As the deadline for UBCM 2024 submissions is June 15<sup>th</sup> this report is being brought back for consideration ahead of the deadline to give Council opportunity to discuss direct submissions.

At the March 1, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, the Committee recommended that Council request the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs to consider preparing a resolution for submission to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) advocating for financial support from the provincial government for medical services provided by municipal fire and rescue service departments. This recommendation was endorsed by Council at the May 8, 2023 regular council meeting and submitted to UBCM 2023. The resolution as presented in the 2023 UBCM resolution book reads:

*Whereas communities across British Columbia are facing a significant increase in calls to respond to emergency medical incidents;*

*And whereas local governments provide for their fire departments to support prehospital patient care in their community by providing emergency medical services that assist the Provincial Government's BC Ambulance Service;*

*And whereas the costs associated with supporting prehospital care by local government fire departments has increased significantly in relation to response hours and increased use of first aid and other medical supplies and that such costs are funded solely through local government property taxation:*

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a funding model to compensate local governments who provide emergency medical services through their fire and rescue services fulfilling the responsibility of the provincial government with consideration given to community population and the fire department's authorized level of emergency medical response.*

In 2023 the UBCM Resolutions Committee commented that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services over the years, which include: (2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018- B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26). Should Council wish to renew this call for fair compensation the 2023 resolution text above may be resubmitted to UBCM for the 2024 convention. Text would be updated to read "UBCM renews its ask to the provincial government" in the therefore clause.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Advocacy to ensure appropriate cost for services can be viewed in relation to the strategic pillar of city government and infrastructure priorities, specifically, continue to improve processes to support effective and efficient service delivery.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

No financial considerations arising from this report.

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

This report gives an update on planning for UBCM 2024 ministerial meetings and offers a space for Council to discuss UBCM 2024 direct submissions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Eric Depenau, Director Administrative Services

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 12 June 2024