



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-206

From: Crystal Brown, Electoral Area Manager

Date: June 24, 2021

**Subject: 2021 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests**

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## **RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Citizens' Services** regarding connectivity at the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities Convention to provide an update on the PRRD connectivity project, to request that the Ministry create a central repository for collecting and sharing information among local governments, and to discuss spectrum allocations.

Topic	Request
Connectivity	That the Ministry receive an update of the work completed by the PRRD to support rural and remote communities accessing to broadband internet, further, that the Ministry create a central repository for collecting and sharing information among local governments, and discuss spectrum allocations.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** at the 2021 UBCM Convention to inform the Ministry about the PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan renewal, and to request that the Ministry bring stewardship of Industrial Commercial and Institutional recyclables into the Provincial Recycling Regulation in order to address the difficulty that rural regional districts have accessing recycling markets.

Topic	Request
Draft Solid Waste Management Plan	That the Ministry receive an update regarding the PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan renewal.
Recycling	That the Ministry bring stewardship of Industrial Commercial and Institutional recyclables into the Provincial Recycling Regulation in order to address the difficulty that rural regional districts have accessing recycling markets.

**RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development** at the 2021 UBCM Convention regarding the approval of worker camps and sharing information with the Regional District about approved camps, and to express disappointment over the engagement process undertaken for the Draft Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace for the Southern Mountain Caribou Recovery Program and request further information on next steps.

Topic	Request
Draft Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace	That the Ministry discuss how the engagement process for Draft Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace was developed, what the timelines are, and opportunity for feedback on the “What We Heard” report will be, how the plan will be implemented, and what will happen to long term tenure holders that are impacted.
Worker Camps	That the Ministry ensure that all information regarding contact information, camp purpose, camp location and size, arrangement of camp facilities, provision of safe drinking water, location and construction of sewage facilities, waste management and camp duration, is provided to the PRRD for all camps approved by all Ministries.

**RECOMMENDATION #4: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Health** during the 2021 UBCM Convention requesting a COVID-19 communications debrief opportunity for the Regional District.

Topic	Request
COVID-19 Communications Debrief	That the Ministry provide a COVID-19 pandemic debrief opportunity regarding the Ministry’s communication to local governments, including what communication measures worked well, what didn’t work well, and what long term measures will the Ministry implement to ensure that BC is prepared for the next pandemic.

**RECOMMENDATION #5: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General** at the 2021 UBCM Convention requesting a COVID-19 communications debrief opportunity for the Regional District.

Topic	Request
COVID-19 Communications Debrief	That the Ministry provide a COVID-19 pandemic debrief opportunity regarding the Ministry’s communication to local governments, including what communication measures worked well, what didn’t work well, and what long term measures will the Ministry implement to ensure that BC is prepared for the next pandemic.

**RECOMMENDATION #6: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board request a meeting with the **Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure** at the 2021 UBCM Convention regarding the Gotta Go and North Peace Rural Roads initiatives, and advocating for improvements to bridges and culverts in the PRRD.

Topic	Request
Gotta Go	That the Ministry continue to partner with the PRRD, Northern B.C. Tourism, Public Services and Procurement Canada, and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality on the Gotta Go Roadside initiative, and receive an update on the PRRD Gotta Go Roadside Facilities service function.
North Peace Rural Roads	That the Provincial Government invest in rural roads in the North to ensure they are safe for users, and are upgraded and maintained to a condition suitable for the type and volume of traffic that rely on it, and the duration of road bans be decreased.
Bridges and Culverts in the PRRD	That the Provincial Government increase safety to road users by completing engineering and public consultation phases for replacement of bridges and culverts in the PRRD as required.

**RECOMMENDATION #7: [Corporate Unweighted]**

That the Regional Board establish the order of priority for the Minister meetings requested during the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities Convention, as per the Convention's meeting request requirements and identify a spokesperson for each topic approved for submission to the UBCM Convention coordinator.

**BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

On June 10, 2021 the Regional Board proposed the following meetings and topics, to be requested with either Provincial Ministers, staff and/or other agencies during the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities Convention:

1. Ministry of Citizens' Services
  - i. Connectivity
2. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
  - i. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan
  - ii. Recycling and access to markets
3. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
  - i. Worker camps
  - ii. Draft Winter Motorized Recreation Management Plan in the South Peace
4. Ministry of Health
  - i. COVID-19 communications debrief
5. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
  - i. COVID-19 communications debrief
6. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
  - i. Gotta Go Roadside Facilities
  - ii. North Peace Rural Roads
  - iii. Bridges and culverts in the PRRD (Taylor Bridge)

On June 10, 2021, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

*MOVED, SECONDED, CARRIED*

That the Regional Board increase the number of virtual meeting requests for audiences with Provincial Ministers, staff, or other agencies, at the 2021 Union of BC Municipalities Convention from the maximum of three, which had been deemed as the appropriate number for the 2020 Convention in-person meetings.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Partnerships
  - ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments
- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery
  - ☒ Review and Amend Solid Waste Management Plan
- ☒ Advocacy
  - ☒ Increased broadband connectivity for rural communities - Situational/Gap Analysis and Investment

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

If approved, the meeting topics and requests will be submitted to the province accompanied with a brief background (maximum 700 characters).

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

If approved, prior to the meeting date, the Board will need to identify a spokesperson for each topic. The Director identified will work with staff to prepare speaking notes for the meeting, and compile background information if required.

## External Links:

1. June 10, 2021 Board Report - [2021 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests - ADM-BRD-202](#) - Item 10.6