



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-494

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: April 18, 2024

Subject: **2024 UBCM Minister Meeting Requests**

RECOMMENDATION: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board identify three meetings, and a maximum of three topics for each meeting, to be requested with either Provincial Ministers, staff and/or other agencies during the 2024 Union of BC Municipalities Convention.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Since 2019, the Regional Board has annually discussed the efficacy of Minister Meetings held during the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention. Starting in 2019, the Regional Board resolved to self-impose a limit of three requests for audiences with Provincial Ministers, staff, or other agencies, at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention (UBCM). In both 2022 and 2023, when presented with a report suggesting a self-imposed three meeting limit, the Board resolved a three meeting limit and then at the next meeting, reconsidered and increased the limit; in 2022 to four meetings, and in 2023, the limit was removed and six meetings were identified/requested.

Given the number of Minister meetings already accomplished in 2024 outside of the UBCM convention, (shown in 'Other Considerations' below) it is recommended that the Regional Board impose a limit of three Minister meeting requests for the 2024 UBCM Convention. Directors and Provincial staff and Ministers are challenged to attend the many valuable information sessions and meetings that are held during the week-long convention, and adding more than three additional commitments makes the schedule for the week even more challenging and exhausting for Regional Board members.

UBCM Ministry Meetings will be held from September 16-20, 2024. The information regarding meeting requests, including a deadline for meeting request submissions, has not yet been released by the Province. It is suggested that the Regional Board identify which Ministries they require meeting with, and if there are more than three, staff will prepare a follow up report at a subsequent meeting seeking direction from the Regional Board as to which three Ministries are the priority for 2024.

Due to the volume of requests and scheduling availability, the Regional Board must rank its priority order for the meeting requests (most important to least important). The Regional Board will complete this task at a future Board meeting by first voting on which three Minister meetings are the most important (as there may be more than three identified) and of the top three, which is ranked first, second and third.

In the past, each Minister meeting request has been limited to three topics. Each topic submitted must include a one-sentence summation of what the Regional Board would like from the meeting, with a brief background (maximum 700 characters) about the topic. It is required that the background

information submitted with the meeting request provides a complete picture of the topics and requests.

A list of meetings and topics requested in 2018-2023 is attached for reference.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S): None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S): None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Minister Meetings listed below were requested in March 2024 while the Chair and CAO were in Victoria. Meetings were held with Minister Bowinn Ma (Emergency Management) and Deputy Minister Lori Halls (Water Land and Resource Stewardship). A virtual meeting with Minister Niki Sharma, (Attorney General) was held on April 17, 2024 and a virtual meeting with Minister Pam Alexis (Agriculture) is scheduled for April 29, 2024.

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| Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture and Food | Drought relief |
| Honourable Niki Sharma, Attorney General | Bail reform and Criminal Code |
| Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills | NLC Cares – Allied Health Strategy |
| Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness | <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> |
| Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation | Clean BC Policy and implications to the region |
| Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing | Bill 44 <i>Housing Statutes Amendment Act</i> |
| Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions | Facility and support services |
| Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship <i>(Met with Deputy Minister Lori Halls)</i> | First Nations Engagement |
| Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General | Bail reform and Criminal Code |
| Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs | Follow-up on Seniors Aging in Place budget and NLC Cares – Allied Health Strategy |

Attachments:

1. UBCM Minister Meetings – 2019 to 2023