

Staff Report to Council

Office of the CAO

FILE: 01-0390-20/22

REPORT DATE: June 10, 2022 **MEETING DATE:** June 21, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Mark Roberts, Chief Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: 2022 UBCM Conventions – Meetings with Provincial Cabinet Ministers

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council:

- A. Direct staff to submit the following prioritized requests for meetings with Provincial Cabinet Ministers during the 2022 UBCM Convention:
 1. The Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training, regarding tertiary and employment skills training in the Pitt Meadows/Maple Ridge area; AND
 2. The Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food, regarding continued opposition of the CP Logistics Park proposed development, and agri-tech and agricultural innovations in the Metro Vancouver region; AND
 3. The Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, regarding opposition of the CP Logistics Park proposed development; AND
 4. The Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, regarding secondary access to q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) IR1 lands.
 5. The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, regarding agri-tech and agricultural innovations in the Metro Vancouver region; AND
 6. The Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Art, Culture and Sport, regarding sponsorship and grant opportunities to help fund major capital projects as identified through the recently completed Parks, Recreation and Culture Masterplan; AND
 7. The Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, regarding regional leadership and funding for dike infrastructure upgrades and flood management; AND

- B. Direct staff to prepare discussion papers for each requested meeting outlining relevant background information and any specific requests; AND
 - C. Direct staff to invite Minister Lisa Beare to join Council for the above meetings as available; OR
 - D. Other.
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PURPOSE

To present prioritized recommendations to Council for meeting requests with provincial ministers and senior ministry staff which will take place during the upcoming 2022 UBCM Convention.

☐ Information Report ☒ Decision Report ☒ Direction Report

DISCUSSION

Background:

The UBCM (Union of British Columbia Municipalities) convention is scheduled for September 12 – 16, 2022, in Whistler, BC. During the convention, all Provincial Cabinet Ministers, together with their staff, make themselves available to meet with municipalities to discuss the issues and initiatives that are important to those communities.

These meetings are typically 15 minutes long. Considering introductions can take upwards of 5 minutes when there are multiple people involved, there is a very small window of opportunity to discuss the issues at hand. It becomes essential, therefore, to keep the conversations focused on one or two key issues, supported by a comprehensive briefing note that can be provided beforehand for Ministry staff to digest post meeting.

Due to the volume of requests and scheduling availability, municipalities are being asked to provide their order of priority for these meeting requests. For instance, last year the City of Pitt Meadows requested six Minister meetings and were granted five of those meetings, as follows:

1. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, regarding traffic issues impacting the City, including improvements along the Lougheed Corridor, Golden Ears Way, and advocacy for secondary access to ᑭᑭᑭᑭ (Katzie) First Nation IR1;
2. Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, to discuss the need for advocacy for the prevention of the removal of approximately 100 acres of viable farmland from the ALR as part of the proposed CP Rail Logistics Park expansion;
3. Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to discuss next steps related to an autonomous RCMP Police detachment in the City, and to acknowledge ministerial approval if received;
4. Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, to support a call to action with respect to the 215 Indigenous children found buried on the residential school site in

Kamloops, including a review of all residential school sites in BC as a step towards reconciliation; and to advocate for secondary access to q̓ičəy̓ (Katzie) 1 Lands;

5. Minister of Finance, regarding the fair taxation of railway and industrial operations, as endorsed by the LMLGA at their 2021 AGM; and
6. Minister of Health – *meeting request denied*

Taking Council's current priorities into consideration, staff are recommending that meetings with the following Ministers be requested to discuss the issues as outlined:

1. The Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Topic: To thank the Minister for funding supporting the tertiary training facility feasibility study for Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge; and to reinforce the need to work collaboratively to provide more tertiary education and skill development programs in this part of the Metro Vancouver region to support skill education, job growth, and economic development goals.

2. The Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food

Topic: To thank the Minister for their continued opposition to the proposed CP Logistics Park and request that the Minister submit a letter to the Canadian Transportation Authority, Transport Canada, and Agriculture Canada opposing the CP Logistics Park proposal specifically, and more broadly, the legislated ability of federally-regulated railroad companies to take agricultural land permanently out of production for speculative projects.

In addition, request that the Minister work with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation to support agri-tech and agricultural innovations in our region, to foster knowledge development, job growth, and innovations that help address sector-wide issues with land affordability, climate adaptation, and increased regulations that place Metro Vancouver agricultural producers at a competitive disadvantage to other producers in BC and across Canada.

3. The Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health

Topic: To request the Minister submit a letter to the Canadian Transportation Authority, Transport Canada, and Health Canada opposing the CP Logistics Park proposal specifically, and, more broadly, the lack of enforceable engine-emissions legislation for federally-regulated railroad companies to manage cumulative, adverse health impacts. The legislative gap allows railroad companies to indiscriminately pollute in urban areas, causing cumulative health impacts that inequitably affect marginalized and vulnerable populations.

4. The Hon. Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Topic: To request advocacy and funding support to provide secondary access to ᑭᓴᓴᓴ (Katzie) First Nation IR1. With Pitt Meadows experiencing substantial growth with the development of the 200-acre Business Park, \$60M investment at the Regional Airport and operation of CP's Intermodal Yard, infrastructure is unable to meet regional demands and impedes the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Direct access into ᑭᓴᓴᓴ (Katzie) First Nation IR1 is essential to realize the full economic potential and reduce the burden of traffic in nearby residential areas. MP Marc Dalton, MLA Lisa Beare, the ᑭᓴᓴᓴ (Katzie) First Nation and Maple Ridge Council have all expressed their support and Translink has prioritized related Golden Ears Way improvements in their 10-year plan.

5. The Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

Topic: Requesting the Ministry work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to support agri-tech and agricultural innovations in the Metro Vancouver region to foster knowledge development, job growth and innovations that help address sector-wide issues with land affordability, climate adaptation, and increased regulations that place Metro Vancouver agricultural producers at a competitive disadvantage to other producers in the province and across Canada.

In addition, reinforce the need to work collaboratively to provide more tertiary education and skill development programs in this part of the Metro Vancouver region to support skill education, job growth, and economic development goals;

6. The Hon. Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Art, Culture and Sport

Topic: Requesting funding and sponsorship opportunities to help guide our communities development over the next 10 – 15 years, including the need to find additional funding for some major capital projects projected for our community, as identified by the recently completed Parks, Recreation and Culture Masterplan. This would also include establishing an Arts and Culture Hub facility, upgrades to our Pitt Meadows Athletic Park to support sport hosting and enhanced user experience, and development of an outdoor covered multi-sport box to provide a new opportunity for various sports to play year-round (including lacrosse, ball hockey and pickle-ball to name a few).

7. The Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Topic: Regarding the Province becoming the regional lead for the dike infrastructure upgrades and flood management, with dedicated funding-streams to support the critical improvements. As there is significant risk of flooding in BC which continues to increase in frequency and severity, economic losses for Pitt Meadows are estimated to be \$725M, with over 85% of land within the floodplain, protected by 60km of dike. The City completed a Flood Risk Assessment in 2018 and a Detailed Flood Mitigation Plan in 2020, outlining a long term plan to prioritize the \$121M in necessary upgrades to dikes and flood infrastructure. Pitt Meadows is also inter-connected with ᑭᓴᓴᓴ (Katzie) First Nation

Reserve No. 1 and the west end of Maple Ridge, and is only as strong as its weakest point within the flood management system.

As per standard protocol, Staff will reach out to Minister Lisa Beare's office to invite her to participate in the scheduled meetings, as available.

Relevant Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:

It has been past practice to meet with Ministers at the annual UBCM Convention in an effort to further intergovernmental relations and bring forth local community input and insight into local and provincial initiatives and issues.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- ☒ Principled Governance ☒ Balanced Economic Prosperity ☐ Corporate Excellence
☒ Community Spirit & Wellbeing ☒ Transportation & Infrastructure Initiatives
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ None ☐ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Referral to Business Planning
☐ Other

There are no financial implications associated with this report or included recommendations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- ☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower
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KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☒ Yes ☐ No

Council may wish to invite Chief George or another Katzie Council member to attend some of the meetings which would be of interest to their nation.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Kerrie Dykeman,
Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor & CAO

Reviewed by:

Kate Barchard,
Corporate Officer

THERE ARE NO ATTACHMENTS TO THIS REPORT.