



MEDIA RELEASE

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Strathcona Regional District Celebrates Successful UBCM Convention

Campbell River, BC – The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) convention is an annual event that brings together local government officials from across the province. This year's convention was held in Vancouver and the theme, 'Roots to Results', considers the increasing role of local government in defining issues and impacting policy directions in matters of federal and provincial jurisdiction.

Representatives from the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) used the opportunity to learn about a range of topics such as various funding opportunities and approaches to infrastructure and emergency services planning as well as First Nations relations and housing affordability. The convention also provides an important opportunity to meet with provincial cabinet ministers to discuss local issues and seek support.

"This year, we knew we wanted to raise several issues, and we are happy to report that we had six successful meetings with provincial ministers. We also had the opportunity to meet other senior elected officials and leaders on an informal basis at various convention events," says Chair John MacDonald. "Another achievement was having our approach to broadband connectivity highlighted as a case study through the provincial Connecting British Columbia program material and panel presentation. We are continuing to push hard on this important strategic priority for our region and recently submitted applications to the federal Connect to Innovate program and various provincial funding programs for new broadband infrastructure for our communities. Although no decision on these funding programs has been reached, it is encouraging to be recognized for our work so far."

During the five-day convention, various members from the Strathcona Regional District delegation formally met with:

- Honourable Jinny Sims, Minister of Citizen's Services
 - Broadband infrastructure needs
- Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
 - Crown grant of two remote School District 72 properties on Quadra Island
- Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
 - Strathcona Community Health Network, housing and the new Campbell River hospital
- Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Jobs, Trades and Technology
 - Broadband infrastructure needs and support for Island Coastal Economic Trust
- Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
 - First Nations relations and the potential for collaboration on Quadra Island projects
- Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - Support for the Strathcona Gardens Recreation Complex redevelopment, UBCM's initiatives on elected official responsible conduct and a Crown grant of two remote School District 72 properties on Quadra Island.

The Regional District has been fortunate to have one of their very own play a key role in UBCM for many years. “We would like to recognize the efforts of Director Jim Abram. Jim has been Director for Electoral Area C since 1988, and he has been actively involved with UBCM since 1990. He has served on various UBCM committees and was the UBCM President in 2000/2001. He has been awarded Lifetime Membership, and is still serving as a Director at Large. Jim’s actions and involvement have helped to raise the profile of our region, and help push our priorities. I would like to thank him for his ongoing service,” added Chair MacDonald.

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing approximately 43,000 residents with 55 services including parks, liquid and solid waste systems, fire protection, emergency preparedness programs and a full-service sports facility.

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