



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

Staff Report

To: Council

File No.: 0390-20 UBCM

From: City Manager (CAO)

Date: June 12, 2024

Subject: 2024 UBCM Minister and Staff Meeting Requests

PURPOSE:

To receive direction from Council with respect to Minister and Ministry of Staff level meeting requests at the 2024 UBCM convention to address City of Courtenay Strategic Priorities, community issues and infrastructure projects.

BACKGROUND:

The 2024 UBCM Convention will take place September 16 – 20, 2024 in Vancouver, BC. In conjunction with the conference appointments are available with provincial government representatives and Ministers which provide an opportunity to discuss impactful community issues, share information on the City Strategic Priority projects and seek provincial support for key initiatives.

DISCUSSION:

Through the City's strategic planning processes and financial planning a series of priorities and projects have been developed on both an annual and longer term horizon. The UBCM convention meetings provide an opportunity to meet with Provincial Ministers and their staff as well as other provincially focused agencies and corporations that can assist the City in addressing community issues and priorities. Given input and discussions by Council and a scan of strategic priorities and projects the following meeting requests with Cabinet Ministers and MACC staff have been drafted for Council's consideration.

1. Minister of Housing: regarding Heart and Hearth program – meeting request to discuss Minister response regarding Heart and Hearth request: discuss housing conditions, share opportunities identified by the City and request funding support.
2. Minister of Mental Health and Addictions – meeting request to discuss:
 - a. Follow up to City letter dated March 18, 2024 requesting immediate prioritization of funding of treatment and medical detox beds in the Comox Valley, in alignment with the Substance Use Strategy and Walk with Me Report.
 - b. Funding and support to increase access to hygiene services for those experiencing homelessness including: operational and capital funding for overnight public washroom access, funding towards supported shower programs 7 days / week, and increased access to water.
3. Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure – meeting to discuss drainage management challenges in a shared watershed and seek support for implementation of the City Integrated Rainwater Management Plan.
4. Ministry of Housing - Share information on South Courtenay Sewer project and seek information on potential grant funding support
5. Ministry of Municipal Affairs – meeting request to:
 - a. Advocate for and request Provincial funding towards recreation infrastructure projects to address the growing infrastructure funding gap in municipal recreation facilities.
 - b. Discuss East Side Fire hall project access to grant programs

- c. Discuss implications for the cost of fire service infrastructure related to certification time limits requiring asset replacement
- 6. Island Health – meeting request to seek funding and support to increase access to hygiene services for those experiencing homelessness including: operational and capital funding for overnight public washroom access, funding towards supported shower programs 7 days / week, and increased access to water.
- 7. Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – meeting to share information on Anderton Dyke replacement project and seek information on potential grant funding support

POLICY ANALYSIS:

Meeting requests reflect a number of policy documents and direction for the City including the City’s 2022-2026 Strategic Priorities, Annual and Five Year Financial Plan for Capital Projects, Official Community Plan, Water, Sewer and Parks and Recreation Master Plans as well as Asset Management Policies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

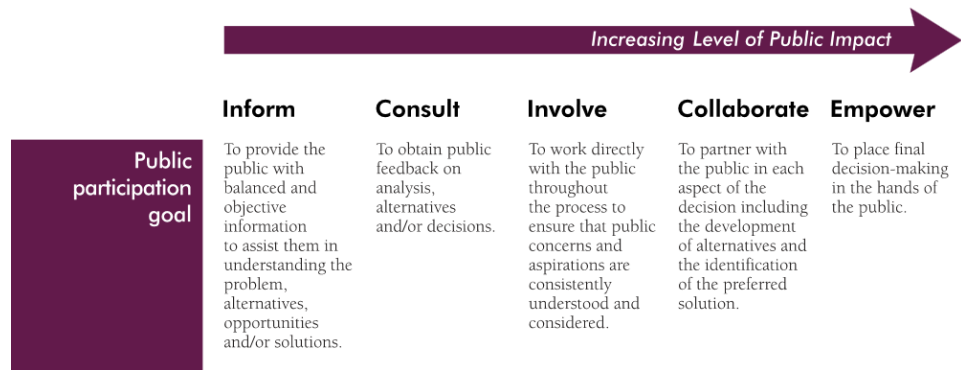
Attendance at UBCM by Council and UBCM meeting requests are accommodated through the current financial plan. Meeting topics directed toward grants have the potential for positive financial impact on the City’s capital plans.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

UBCM Minister and Staff Meetings (request and materials) are supported and prepared by staff and departments across the organization lead by Legislative Services and the City Manager’s Office.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:



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OPTIONS:

1. THAT Council direct staff to make application for Minister and Ministry Staff meetings (Council to provide specific direction)
2. THAT Council provide alternative direction to staff.

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