

To: Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2025-07-10

From: Jaime Van Nes, Director of Legislative Services/Corporate Officer

Subject: 2025 UBCM Ministry Staff Meeting Requests

Reviewed by: Jennifer Kinneman, Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board direct staff to request the following meetings with ministry staff during the 2025 Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention:

Ministry of Environment and Parks

1. Creation of a Cultus Lake Provincial Park plan to manage visitors
2. Establishment of future Elbow Lake Park and Echo Lake conservation areas in Electoral Area C in collaboration with local First Nations

Ministry of Forests

1. Creation of community forest in Electoral Area C in collaboration with local First Nations

Ministry of Transportation and Transit

1. Hemlock Valley Road conditions and Highway 7 improvements

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

1. Cultus Lake – an ecosystem under stress and in need of care

BACKGROUND

At the April 14, 2025 Electoral Area Advocacy Committee meeting, staff provided Electoral Area Directors with information regarding the provincial meeting request process as part of the 2025 UBCM annual convention. A limit of three meeting requests per provincial ministry, per organization, was introduced as part of the 2024 UBCM convention, and will continue for the 2025 UBCM convention.

Requests to meet with BC's premier and cabinet ministers are limited to Board-approved topics.

Electoral Area Directors were asked to provide their requests to meet with ministry staff before Friday, June 13, 2025, so that all meeting requests could be compiled and brought forward to the July EASC meeting for the committee's consideration.

DISCUSSION

The following meeting requests have been submitted by Electoral Area Directors:

Ministry of Environment and Parks

- Creation of a Cultus Lake Provincial Park plan to manage visitors (Director Dixon)
- Establishment of future Elbow Lake Park and Echo Lake conservation areas in Electoral Area C in collaboration with local First Nations (Director Waardenburg)

Ministry of Forests:

- Creation of community forest in Electoral Area C in collaboration with local First Nations (Director Waardenburg)

Ministry of Transportation and Transit:

- Hemlock Valley Road conditions and Highway 7 improvements (Director Waardenburg)

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship:

- Cultus Lake – an ecosystem under stress and in need of care (Director Dixon)

An additional meeting request was provided by Director Waardenburg for a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit regarding the decision to decline funding for the north of the Fraser transit service initiative. This meeting request is already captured under the Board-directed request to meet with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit on this topic.

As the ministry staff meeting requests received from our Electoral Area Directors do not exceed the limit of three meeting requests per ministry, per organization, staff are recommending that all meeting requests be submitted through UBCM.

The deadline for FVRD staff to submit these ministry staff meeting requests is Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

COST

There are no costs associated with the UBCM meeting request process. The costs of Electoral Area **Directors' attendance at the UBCM annual conference have been previously** approved by the Board, and costs will be allocated to Budget 102 (Electoral Area Administration).

CONCLUSION

Following the April 2025 Electoral Area Advocacy Committee meeting, staff asked Electoral Area Directors to submit their requests to meet with ministry staff so that they could be compiled and **brought forward for consideration at the July EASC meeting. Requests to meet with BC's Premier and cabinet ministers are limited to Board-approved topics.**

As the ministry staff meeting requests received from Electoral Area Directors do not exceed the limit of three meeting requests per ministry, per organization, staff are recommending that all meeting requests be submitted through UBCM by the August 20 deadline.