



STATEMENT: BC Urban Mayors applaud the new fiscal relationship MOU signed by the Province and UBCM

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The BC Urban Mayors' Caucus (BCUMC) Co-Chairs Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran and Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, are issuing the following statement in support of the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Province's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Finance Ministry, and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that will set the path forward for a better local government finance model.

"We recognize the incredible work done to date, including that of our colleague, Prince George Mayor Lyn Hall who has been a steward of this initiative as the co-chair of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance," said Kelowna Mayor Colin Basran, Co-Chair of the BCUMC. "This MOU is a testament of what can be accomplished through dialogue and collaboration across levels of government."

Calling on the Province for a new fiscal relationship is one of the four priority pillars in the BCUMC's [Blueprint for British Columbia's Urban Future](#) published in 2020. Since then, the BCUMC has amplified their call for a collaborative approach to reform the local government finance model working closely with UBCM. A new fiscal relationship, once implemented, will strengthen the resiliency of communities across B.C. while providing efficiency and accountability to both the provincial and local governments.

"Municipalities across the province are bearing the burden of escalating costs that are further intensified by the ongoing health pandemic and the downloading of Federal and Provincial responsibilities by default rather than design," said Mayor Basran. "A new, collaborative, and modernized fiscal relationship model that goes beyond property taxes is critical to the economic, social and environmental health of our communities. We look forward to a new model emerging that is fair and ensures the financial security and sustainability of communities across the province. While we recognize the need to get it right, we see the need for the work to be completed in a timely fashion to best serve B.C.'s communities."

The BC Urban Mayors' Caucus is committed to continuing to be a shared voice alongside the Provincial Government and UBCM on these important discussions.

As a unified voice on critical issues facing urban British Columbia communities, the [BC Urban Mayors' Caucus](#) (BCUMC) is a non-partisan group of mayors from Abbotsford, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Prince George, Richmond, Saanich, Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria.

The BC Urban Mayors' Caucus's four key priorities for urban communities across the province are:

- Mental Health, Substance Use and Treatment
- Affordable Housing
- Public Transit
- A New Fiscal Framework

To learn more, visit www.bcurbanmayorscaucus.ca.

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Media Contact:

To arrange for interviews please contact:

Mayor Colin Basran, City of Kelowna

BCUMC Co-Chair

+1-250-469-8663 (media desk)

twilson@kelowna.ca (Tom Wilson - Media Relations Manager)