

## BULLETS

**DATE:** January 16, 2017

**PREPARED FOR:** Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

**REGARDING:** Meeting with the First Nations Relations Committee (FNRC) of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) regarding the new treaty certainty model and Ministry engagement respecting other matters that may affect local governments.

### SUMMARY:

- MARR has been engaging with stakeholders (confidentially) about the non-assertion certainty model prior to informing Canada and the First Nations Summit about the new provincial mandate and introducing the model at treaty tables.
- MARR staff met with Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director of UBCM, and no concerns were identified with the certainty model although there was frustration expressed in UBCM not being able to communicate with its members about the new model due to confidentiality.
- A broader issue was raised by UBCM: not being more involved or consulted with respect to MARR policy changes and other matters affecting local governments. During a subsequent call between Deputy Minister Doug Caul and Gary MacIsaac, a commitment was made to meet with UBCM's FNRC to discuss the certainty model and Ministry engagement more generally.
- **Non-assertion certainty model:** Addresses concerns by some First Nations that the current certainty model extinguishes Aboriginal rights not expressly defined in the treaty. The new 'non-assertion model' will be as legally effective as the current model and will not change the level of certainty achieved under treaty, nor negatively impact stakeholders.
- **Engagement between the Province and UBCM:** Government is committed to ensuring local governments are meaningfully engaged in the BC treaty process and other negotiations as per the Province-UBCM MOU signed by MARR on behalf of the Province (renewed on September 21, 2015). The Ministry values its relationship and provincial commitments with UBCM, and wants to strengthen engagement on matters that may impact local governments.

### PREPARED BY:

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