

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
September 2, 2020

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions  
Ministry of Education

### **Enhanced mental health programs support a safe return to school**

VICTORIA – Students and staff will be heading back to school with more resources available to support mental wellness during the unprecedented school year ahead.

“The excitement that normally comes with back-to-school may feel more like anxiety this year, as many families worry about COVID-19 and keeping everyone safe,” said Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “These feelings are understandable when facing the unknown. Nobody should have to face their worries alone, which is why we are investing in more mental health supports to help students, parents and educators navigate these uncertain times as we work to support a safe return to school.”

The Province is boosting funds immediately for school-based wellness programs and supports by \$2 million, topping up the \$8.8 million investment over three years that was announced last September. This means that for the 2020/21 school year, school districts and independent school authorities will receive a total of \$3.75 million to promote mental wellness and provide additional supports for students, families and educators as we work together to get through this challenging time.

s.13

School districts will determine how funds are used based on their individual needs to help students adjust to the challenges of today. Funds may be used to enhance staff training, student workshops, family information nights or to develop new resource materials for educators and families. Mental health programs will also be expanded this year to include staff wellbeing, in addition to a focus on trauma-informed practices that build capacity for good mental health today and for years to come.

Surveys show that many people in British Columbia are experiencing an increase in mental health and substance use challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those with pre-existing conditions. Government reminds British Columbians that help is available for people of all ages, and there is strength in seeking support.

“It’s important for people to know that it’s okay to not be okay, especially during these extremely challenging times,” said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family

Development. “With this funding, young people of all ages and their parents can get more support from our many programs and services that help keep students on the path to success.”

As families, teachers and staff prepare for a school year that looks very different, help is available if worries begin to feel unmanageable. Free and low-cost counselling services are available online, by video and phone through programs such as BounceBack, Living Life to the Full, Here2Talk, Foundry’s virtual services and more, for anyone who needs someone to talk to.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Province has invested \$6 million to expand existing mental health programs and launch new services in response to the extraordinary situation.

Improving mental health in schools is an integral part of government’s plan to build the comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care that British Columbians deserve, as outlined in A Pathway to Hope. Implementing A Pathway to Hope is a shared priority with the BC Green Party caucus and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

**Learn More:**

Free and low cost mental health supports during COVID-19:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19>

Here2Talk connects students with mental health support when they need it:

<https://here2talk.ca/home>

Find a Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) Walk-in Intake Clinic near you:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/child-teen-mental-health/mental-health-intake-clinics>

Erase services and resources for students, parents and teachers: [www.erase.gov.bc.ca](http://www.erase.gov.bc.ca)

A Pathway to Hope: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCMentalHealthRoadmap\\_2019.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCMentalHealthRoadmap_2019.pdf)

**Media contacts:** Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions  
250 213-7049

Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
[release number]  
September 2, 2020

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

### **Stronger mental health and substance use services to help young people thrive**

RICHMOND – Better, seamless mental health and substance use care for children and youth in three more school districts will support families through new Integrated Child and Youth Teams in Richmond, Coast Mountains and Okanagan-Similkameen.

“For too long, young people and their families have had to knock on one door after another to access the mental health and substance use services they need,” said Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. “These integrated child and youth teams will ensure that help is there when and where it’s needed, so that children and youth are able to not just survive – but thrive.”

Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams work to fill gaps in the current system of mental health and substance use care. This model of care has been successful in other jurisdictions with positive results including reduced wait times, better health outcomes and increased engagement at school.

What makes ICY Teams stand apart is their integrated, multi-disciplinary approach and focus on culturally safe practices. A young person in need will receive services and supports tailored to their unique situation, delivered by a team of experts. Team members may include school counsellors, youth substance use workers, child and youth mental health clinicians from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Elders and Indigenous support workers, primary care clinicians, psychologists, and family and peer support workers. The team works in a continuous, inter-connected way to deliver wraparound support for children, youth and their families.

“Investing in the health and well-being of our students today will help them grow and succeed now, and for the rest of their lives,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “This expansion of mental health and substance use support teams will increase support for vulnerable youth, so they have the care they need and deserve to have to reach their full potential.”

Teams are built to be flexible and inclusive to make sure anyone who is 18 and under can access help as soon as they need it through a variety of ways, including self-referral, schools, primary care, community organizations and Foundry centres, First Nations, health authorities, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Richmond, Coast Mountains and Okanagan-Similkameen join Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows and the Comox Valley, bringing the total number of school districts with ICY Teams to five since they were first introduced in July 2019. Funding for the teams is part of the Province’s \$74 million investment over three years announced in Budget 2019 to support mental health initiatives for children and youth. It is estimated to take up to one year for programs to get up and running.

Implementing this program in three more school districts is another step forward in building the comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care that British Columbians deserve, detailed in *A Pathway to Hope*. Implementing *A Pathway to Hope* is a shared priority with the BC Green Caucus and is part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement.

**Quotes:**

**Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children & Family Development —**

“We have seen the many ways in which young people can create positive changes for all of us, but when they are struggling with mental-health and substance-use challenges, it is crucial that we help them. We are here to provide a pathway to hope with culturally safe, tailored supports – in both larger centres and in rural areas like Okanagan-Similkameen and Coast Mountains – that help children and youth recover and succeed; these new ICY teams are part of our commitment to bringing better supports and services to families throughout the province.”

**Vivian Eliopoulos, Interim President & CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health —**

“We need to continue to ensure that young people with mental health and substance challenges receive the right care customized to their needs so that we can improve health outcomes. The efforts to tailor and streamline access to care is a good step forward in supporting children, youth and their families early on.”

**Ken Hamaguchi, Chairperson, Richmond Board of Education —**

“The Richmond School District appreciates the funding that is being provided by the Province to address the need for additional mental health support in our community. The implementation of an Integrated Child and Youth Team will offer essential care and services to many children, youth, and families in Richmond. Supporting our learners, and our community, is fundamental to who we are and what we are hoping to achieve.”

**Roger Parsonage, Executive Director, Clinical Operations, Interior Health —**

“We continue to work alongside partners to build a better and more coordinated mental health system for young people and their families. These new multidisciplinary teams will be available to help children and youth when and where they need it, providing access to wrap-around, youth-centred care at what is often a critical time.”

**Rob Zandee, Board Chair, Okanagan-Similkameen School District —**

“SD #53 is appreciative to be named one of three new sites for an Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Team. We acknowledge the positive impact the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Team will have on serving the mental health and substance use needs of the students and families in our communities. This is an area of priority for the district and we look forward to the collaborative process that will build on our efforts.”

**Chris Simms, Health Services Administrator, Northern Health —**

“This is very positive for the young people of Terrace and their families. By supporting strong linkages of Northern Health’s community and specialized services with schools, MCFD, primary care and community organizations including the Foundry, we are hopeful these teams will achieve their full potential and deliver continuous, collaborative wraparound supports to children, youth and their families.”

**Shar McCrory, Board Chair, Coast Mountains School District —**

“Coast Mountains School District 82 is grateful for the opportunity to expand our relationship with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. Combined with existing supports for youth such as physical health education curriculum, the ERASE strategy and Foundry Centres, ICY Teams will add yet another layer of collaborative, inter-connected and continuous wrap-around services to vulnerable youth in a culturally sensitive manner. When individuals and organizations work collaboratively to improve life circumstances, it is better for the youth, the communities and society as a whole.”

**Quick Facts on Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use:**

- In B.C., an estimated 84,000 children aged four to 17 years are experiencing mental health disorders at any given time.
- It is estimated that 70% of mental health and substance use problems have their onset during childhood or adolescence.
- In September 2019, the Province invested \$8.8 million over three years to help all 60 school districts, as well as independent schools, enhance existing mental health and wellness programs and launch new programs for students, families and educators.
- Mental well-being and substance use literacy is included in the physical and health education (PHE) curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12.
- The 2018 refreshed *erase* (expect respect and a safe education) strategy has been expanded to focus on building safe and caring school communities by empowering students, families, and educators with resources about complex issues facing students.
- The Province is increasing access to the number of Foundry youth centres from 11 to 19 to help young people in more communities access these “one-stop shops” for health and wellness resources, services and supports.
- More youth will soon have access 123 new beds for substance use treatment and withdrawal management, doubling the number of treatment beds for young people struggling with addiction in B.C.

**Learn more:**

To read *A Pathway to Hope*, please visit:

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCMentalHealthRoadmap\\_2019.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCMentalHealthRoadmap_2019.pdf)

**Media contact:** Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions Communications  
250-213-7049

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

DRAFT

**From:** [Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Ducker, Jayne MAH:EX](#)  
**Cc:** [Rorison, Trish GCPE:EX](#); [Henry, Molly MAH:EX](#); [Ashbourne, Craig MAH:EX](#); [Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** KM/QA We've Got Issues  
**Date:** September 10, 2020 3:47:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [KM\\_QA\\_We've Got Issues\\_Sept 11\\_Final Draft.docx](#)

---

Hello Jayne;

Apologies for the lateness of the day. The program area provided a lot of the information to assist with this.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The highlighted Questions we thought were best answered by MSR.

Kind regards,  
Lauren

**Lauren Mulholland | Acting Communications Manager**  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Cell: 250 208-0410

Interview Prep KM/QA 'We've Got Issues'  
for Minister Selina Robinson  
Nancy Furness – Citizens' Forum Facebook  
**1:30pm Sept. 11, 2020** at Evergreen Cultural Center (location TBC)

**Key Messages:**

General COVID-19 KMs:

- The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an unprecedented challenge for British Columbia.
- We know COVID-19 is going to be in our communities for many months ahead, so our focus needs to be on keeping our communities vibrant and healthy and keeping new cases low by breaking the chain of transmission.
- As we move to the fall, now is the time to pause the activities that we know are a high risk to all of us – spending time with groups of people we don't know without taking personal precautions.

Local Governments:

- COVID-19 has touched all aspects of our lives and our economy.
- Our government is focused on working with our federal and local government partners to provide relief for people impacted by COVID-19.
- In the past few months, I spoke with local government leaders regularly to hear firsthand about the challenges they were facing and continue to face, as well as their suggestions on how to move forward as we work to recover.
- As a first step, we provided some immediate relief last spring to help local governments manage cashflow pressures.
- In July, the Province announced it was earmarking up to \$1 billion of additional provincial spending targeted to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transit services, to match federal contributions under its 50/50 cost-sharing criteria.
- As this pandemic continues to evolve so has our response, and we continue to look at how we can deploy provincial tools to help local governments and provide relief to people.



### **General questions**

**Q: Please describe the mandate of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing.**

A: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing takes leadership in supporting local governments and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well-governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, and socially and environmentally responsible.

The ministry is also mandated to provides British Columbians with access to more affordable, safe and appropriate housing through policy and programs, technical codes and standards, and services for landlords and tenants.

**Q: What is your day-to-day role as Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing?**

A:

*(From Nancy Furness: We note that many actions have been taken with respect to housing. Our hope is that there will be for another opportunity closer to election time for an interview focussing on housing. This interview is designed to focus on your role in Municipal Affairs.)*

### **COVID 19**

**Q: COVID 19 has presented challenges to all levels of government. Can you describe the challenges faced by your Ministry and how you are handling these situations?**

A: We realized early on in the pandemic that local governments were experiencing cash flow and revenue shortfalls due to COVID-19. That's why we announced measures to help local governments that:

- Authorized local governments to borrow, interest-free, from their existing capital reserves to help pay for operating expenses, such as employee salaries.
- Delayed the provincial school tax remittances until the end of the year.
- Provided local governments greater flexibility to carry revenue anticipation borrowing debt for an additional year.

These measures provided municipalities with the tools they needed to address immediate cash flow issues and meet operational costs and required payments to regional districts, regional hospital districts, TransLink and transit authorities, BC Assessment, the Municipal Finance Authority and other taxing authorities.

In July, the Province announced it was earmarking up to \$1 billion of additional provincial spending targeted to address COVID-19 impacts and restart plans of local governments and public transit services, to match federal contributions under its 50/50 cost-sharing criteria.

**Q: The next Provincial election is scheduled for October 16, 2021 (unless the Government calls for an earlier election). What are some of the steps that are being considered in order to maintain democratic elections under potential COVID 19 restrictions?**

A: Elections BC, an independent office, is responsible for administering provincial elections – you should connect with them regarding the work they are doing to prepare for a safe provincial election.

In regard to local government elections, the Ministry has been working with communities who have pending by-elections or assent votes to ensure their plans take into consideration the need to protect community residents during this emergency situation.

We've drafted guidelines for those local governments which provide a variety of options to support physically distanced in-person voting opportunities. Local governments can use these guidelines in conjunction with the Local Government Act (LGA) and their election procedure bylaw, to establish clear processes and procedures for these events that support the recommended PHO health and safety measures (including physical distancing) and those set out by WorkSafeBC.

In addition to the guidelines, the Ministry is engaging directly and regularly with each local government with a pending by-election or assent vote to offer advice, learn about progress and any challenges, and support with resources.

If requested, this support can involve adjustments through Ministerial Order to provide more tools or flexibilities to their specific election processes including, for instance, mail-in ballots so that people can vote safely. To date, four Ministerial Orders have been completed for by-elections taking place this fall (in Fort St. James, Greenwood, Smithers and Lake Cowichan).

At the end of the day, the Ministry is here to help local governments safely conduct elections and determine the best approach that works for their communities. The focus for all of us is to protect voters and the people of B.C., including those who are working to support any by-election, while ensuring the process is conducted in a fair and safe manner.

#### **Municipal relations**

**Q: There is a collaborative relationship between municipalities, regional districts and the Provincial government. In Canada, Provincial governments have constitutional responsibility for "municipal institutions". Can you explain what this means and clarify the relationship between your Ministry and individual municipalities?**

A: The provincial constitutional responsibility means that each provincial government across Canada is responsible for the framework for local governments in their province.

In British Columbia, this means that the provincial government, led by my Ministry, develops and maintains the legislation – the Local Government Act. This guides and delivers the authority for local governments to provide services and set rules on local matters in their communities.

While the provincial government sets the framework, local governments in BC have the autonomy within their jurisdiction – for example, the democratically-elected municipal council makes the choices about what kinds of services are provided and how they operate to best meet the needs of their particular community.

Nonetheless, all governments – whether local, provincial or federal – collaborate as needed on particular topics – the COVID-19 pandemic is a good example of the importance of governments working together.

At last year's in-person UBCM Convention in Vancouver, there were over 580 meetings between the Premier/Cabinet Ministers and local government delegates, and there were over 420 meetings between provincial staff and local government delegates. I myself had about 65 formal meetings with local governments at that event and I expect to have about the same number of formal calls with local governments around this year's virtual event.

With the COVID-19 pandemic this year, we recognized the need to share information quickly. Between mid-March and mid-June, I held 42 regional teleconferences with municipal mayors and regional district chairs in about 13 weeks. In July, I held 10 teleconferences specifically focused on local governments' ideas for recovery.

**Q: How does your Ministry support local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, and socially and environmentally responsible? Please provide examples of initiatives that your office has taken to ensure that you are meeting your mandate.**

A: My Ministry does an incredible amount of work everyday to fulfill the mandate I am honoured to have been given. To give just a few examples:

- Ministry supports a large variety of not-for-profit organizations through Community Gaming Grants, annually providing \$140 million dollars to over 5,000 organizations throughout BC to help them in delivering needed programs in their communities;
- We support local governments in a number of ways:
  - by sustaining and updating the legislative framework;
  - by providing targeted financial supports, such as infrastructure grants often in partnership with the Federal government;
  - by providing advice, guidance, education and problem-solving on a whole range of issues – from elections to taxation to land use and everything in between;
  - by providing targeted oversight specially to ensure the financial integrity of the local government system (e.g., approving borrowing bylaws); and
  - by communicating and connecting, to share provincial priorities and understand local and regional priorities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have taken even more steps to support local governments as they worked hard to respond and restart, and now move towards recovery. For example:

- Provided temporary relief measures to give local governments more flexibility in financial matters, such as being able to use monies in capital reserve funds for operational purposes.
- Provided special authorities to help local governments hold meetings and public hearings, and other important procedural matters using technology and other ways to allow transparency while still being able to be safe with social distancing.
- The ministry is also actively working on options to support local governments economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q: Several other municipal or regional organizations exist, such as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), the Local Government Management Association (LGMA), and the BC School Trustees Association. What is the relationship between your office and the other municipal organizations?**

A: The local government system in BC is noted for its collaborative organizations that enable local governments to do things together that they might not be able to accomplish as effectively on their own.

For example:

- UBCM is the voice of local governments and their elected leaders from an advocacy perspective, as well as delivering key programs.
- The Local Government Management Association is the professional development group for local government administrators.
- There are other important collective organizations as well, such as the Municipal Finance Authority, CivicInfo BC and the Municipal Insurance Association.

Each of them plays a different and important role in the local government system.

The provincial government consults with local government organizations and individual local governments when, for example, it is making policy or legislative changes to the local government framework. The organizations can often bring professional expertise and collective perspectives that add great value to provincial initiatives.

This is based on a legislated principle that the province must consult with local governments on matters that directly affect them. Any changes to core local government legislation, such as the *Community Charter* or the *Local Government Act*, we are required consult with UBCM before it makes such changes.

#### **Election reform**

**Q: Municipal Affairs has recently put in place some election reforms for municipal offices (mayors and councillors) including banning certain organizations and individuals who are not BC residents from providing contributions to candidates, elector organizations, and third-party advertising sponsors. There are also limits on contributions made to candidates and**

**elector organizations. Why were these changes deemed necessary and what are the consequences of implementing them?**

A: This government believes that people should be at the heart of politics, not big money. We listened to British Columbians who asked that we level the playing field for local candidates throughout the province. That is why our government took action to level the playing field in time for the 2018 general local elections by introducing the Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act.

The legislation banned corporate and union donations, put reasonable limits on individual contributions, and banned out-of-province donations at the local level. In developing this legislation, we consulted with key stakeholders such as Elections BC and the Union of BC Municipalities.

*If asked whether the added red tape will discourage people from running:*

- On the contrary, by ensuring that only individuals may contribute and setting contribution limits, this legislation will improve access to the democratic process for those who want to run for public office.

**Q: In Spring 2018, an additional change was made to clarify that operational expenses of a “continuing” elector organization are considered to be “election expenses” during election and campaign periods. Please explain what is meant by a “continuing elector organization” and provide some examples of types of operational expenses that such organizations might have been providing.**

A: Generally, elector organizations are organizations that endorse candidates in local elections and have their name associated with the candidate on the ballot. There are different types of elector organizations. Some are issue-based or other-purpose organizations that exist for reasons other than an election and are only involved in one election with no active presence in between election years. Continuing elector organizations are those that are most like civic political parties – they operate over the years in sequential local elections with a primary purpose being to advance election of their endorsed candidates.

Operational expenses for a continuing elector organization include property and services used exclusively for the day-to-day administration of the elector organization office – things such as essential office supplies and permanent administrative staff. Operational expenses may only be paid from an operations account.

**Q: Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature. Can you briefly explain their roles and how your office interacts with Elections BC?**

A: I can explain how our ministry interacts with ElectionsBC. For more information about their role, it's best to go to them directly.

**Commented [MLG1]:** Election BC should explain their own role

**Commented [WKMM2R1]:** agreed

Elections BC, as an independent office of the legislature, shares the role of administering local elections with local governments. Local governments administer local elections *processes* – leading up to and on voting day, and also administer elections for school trustees. The regulation of campaign financing – rules about fundraising and campaign and third-party advertising spending – is administered for local elections by Elections BC. That includes local by-elections, general local elections and assent voting processes, and covers all local governments as well as two park boards, as well as elections for school trustees.

### **Respectful workplace**

**Q: How do you show leadership as a Minister in ensuring a respectful, inclusive workplace for yourself and your colleagues?**

A:

**Q: Do you have an established process for dispute resolution?**

A:

**Q: The Community Charter (Division 3) contains a defined process for Municipalities for dispute resolution for intergovernmental disputes including use of a dispute resolution officer and resolution by arbitration. What guidance is provided in your Ministry's oversight role, for dispute resolution amongst municipal elected representatives?**

A: There are different types of disputes and they are managed in different ways.

### **Disputes among governments**

Regarding disputes between different local governments, the Ministry has a role in helping municipalities and regional districts resolve their land use, servicing and other intergovernmental disputes in a collaborative way.

Legislation provides opportunities for local governments to use appropriate alternative dispute resolution tools for **inter-governmental conflicts**, including dialogue, interest-based negotiation (IBN), mediation, and if needed, arbitration.

The *Local Government Act* provides a process to help resolve disputes over acceptance of a regional growth strategy, disputes about regional context statements or disputes about regional district service arrangements.

The *Community Charter* provides a process to help resolve disputes between municipalities and other local governments, municipalities and the provincial government, and municipalities and provincial crown corporations

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has the authority to designate a dispute resolution officer to help address interjurisdictional disputes. Any local government party to an interjurisdictional dispute may apply to the dispute resolution officer for assistance in resolving

the dispute, and the dispute resolution officer may help the parties resolve the matter by any process the officer considers appropriate.

### **Disputes among individuals**

In regard to disputes among elected officials in a local government, while it has been a challenging time for many local elected officials in these past few months during the COVID-19 pandemic, elected decision-makers have continued to strive to provide for good governance and engage in responsible conduct for their communities.

Responsible conduct by elected officials is key to the good governance of communities. My ministry, the Union of BC Municipalities and the Local Government Management Association have established a staff-level joint responsible conduct working group to undertake collaborative research and policy work to more broadly explore issues related to the conduct of locally elected officials.

As part of its work, the working group has articulated a set of key foundational principles and published a model code of conduct that can serve as a starting point for those local governments interested in improving how they fulfill their collective responsibilities as decision-makers in their communities.

These and other accompanying resources from the working group are available online on the bc government website under local governments and conduct of locally elected officials:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/conduct-of-locally-elected-officials/responsible-conduct>

The working group is also getting work underway on what would be needed to develop a resource to support the enforcement of codes of conduct based on the tools currently available to local governments in B.C. The goal would be to assist with information on important issues, such as safeguarding administrative fairness in the process of vetting complaints, investigations, determinations and application of sanctions

**Q: If asked about calls for a province-wide code of conduct for elected officials after a city councillor in Port Moody accused the mayor of demeaning her and other women.**

**A:**

- Local governments are autonomous, responsible and accountable within their jurisdiction.
- Local elected officials should conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, and in a way that furthers good governance for our communities. This includes upholding and promoting a respectful workplace for everyone.
- A range of tools are available – voluntary and legislative – to help local elected officials ensure good governance in their communities.

#### Secondary Points:

- A Working Group with staff from UBCM, the Local Government Management Association and the ministry has published a range of guidance materials for local councils and boards, including resources to help them develop and refresh their own codes of conduct, that can be customized for their unique circumstances and communities.
  - The model code of conduct is a tool that Councils and Boards can use to consider what principles should guide their conduct and how they can be put into action.
  - A code of conduct is a living document and should be reviewed regularly. The Working Group's 'companion guide' provides discussion questions, things to keep in mind, and other helpful tips and resources to facilitate a council/board's conversation in developing, reviewing and refreshing their own codes to ensure they reflect current circumstances.
  - Work is also getting underway on what would be needed to develop a resource to support the enforcement of codes of conduct based on the tools currently available to local governments in B.C.

*If ASKED ABOUT Port Moody and the councillor's concern:*

- I appreciate that the Port Moody City Council and the community have been through a difficult situation and more recently, a council member has raised concerns.
- I realize that responsible conduct can be a hard topic – fundamentally it is about relationships and values as well as standards that govern the behaviour of elected officials in their interactions.
- As I mentioned, a range of tools are available – voluntary and legislative – to help local elected officials ensure good governance in their communities.

#### Wrap-up questions

**Q: What accomplishment or accomplishments are you the proudest of with respect to your leadership role in Municipal Affairs?**

A:

**Q: What is something additional to what is already in place, that you would like to see happen to support local governments, not-for-profit organizations and residents to build vibrant and healthy communities that are well governed, liveable, safe, economically resilient, and socially and environmentally responsible?**

A:



**Q: We are aware of many actions that have been taken under your leadership with respect to housing. May we ask for your commitment to join us for another interview in the near future to focus on your work in this area?**

**A:**