



News Release

Sunshine Coast Regional District Collaborates with other Regional Districts at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention

Sechelt, BC — SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 — The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) came together with other local governments at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Whistler this past week to discuss a number of important local initiatives and community needs.

On September 10, 2018 a meeting was held with Honourable Claire Trevena, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) and elected representatives from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Comox Valley Regional District, and qathet Regional District. The meeting was to discuss active transportation (infrastructure or corridors), specifically the current challenges with urban pressures in rural settings such as amenities and infrastructure for pedestrians including paths, sidewalks, bikeways and trails within MoTI road allowances.

The meeting confirmed that the Regional Districts remain committed to continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry staff to develop protocols for constructing and maintaining enhanced future active transportation infrastructure. The Chairs of these Regions, working through the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, requested the meeting with the Minister in order to express their continued interest in addressing community need. The population represented by these regions is over 500,000 people, many of whom live in rural areas.

Working through the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Special Committee on Solid Waste Management, the SCRD also met with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The AVICC Special Committee requested Ministry participation on the Committee in order to support and strengthen regional collaboration on the development of effective waste management solutions and policies.

“Concerns about solid waste management are not unique to the Sunshine Coast,” says SCRD Vice-Chair Ian Winn. “Having nine regional districts within the AVICC region working together to support an informed and unified voice to work with partners such as the Province of BC, NGOs and others, to develop effective waste management solutions and policies is a benefit to all parties.”

On September 11, 2018, the Sunshine Coast Regional Hospital Board met with the Minister of Health to advocate for an increase in the number of Residential long-term care (LTC) beds essential for the Sunshine Coast community.

“It is essential that the Ministry plan for and support the needs of the aging population on the Sunshine Coast,” says Director Frank Mauro, Chair of the Regional Hospital District Board. “Filling acute care beds with long term care patients is an ongoing concern.”

Elphinstone Director Lorne Lewis met with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (Claire Trevena) to review highway safety issues.

SCRD Resolutions advocating for provincial support for local watershed collaborative governance models; federal regulatory changes to address safety and nuisance complaints related to medical cannabis production operations; and, review of the *Local Government Act* to address inequities between municipalities and regional districts were brought forward and endorsed by the UBCM membership at the Convention.

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