

## **Media Release**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **UBCM Conference a Success**

The annual Union of BC Municipalities conference was held last week in Vancouver. “UBCM was very successful for Summerland council and staff. In addition to valuable educational sessions offered, Summerland was fortunate to secure meetings with the Premier and many provincial ministers to discuss issues important to our community,” states Mayor Waterman.

Council started out the conference meeting with Premier Christy Clark to discuss general aspects of advancing the high tech Agri-business sector and to request provincial assistance in the monitoring and mitigation measures of the perpetual slide adjacent to Trout Creek Canyon. This was followed by discussions with John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations, to request assistance in advancing relationships with our First Nations neighbours.

Mayor and Council also met with the Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness, Naomi Yamamoto to continue discussions regarding the perpetual slide and with Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture to further explore options for advancement of the food biotech industry. Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure met with council to discuss speed zone and safety issues on Highway 97. Minister Stone was very supportive of the lakeshore trail project and expressed a desire to extend the trail to Penticton over the next several years.

Council and Minister of Finance, Mike DeJong, discussed an issue currently facing a number of Summerland’s electrical utility customers. The concern regarding the residential energy rebate program was raised. The province is committed to working with the District and is reviewing the situation.

The conference was a valuable opportunity to bring issues that are serious to Summerland to the attention of the Province and to develop relationships that will assist the District in the future. The conference ended with an address by Premier Clark where she announced that \$90 million will be available for infrastructure projects through the Small Communities fund with applications being accepted from municipalities beginning in October, as well as the introduction of a \$75-million rural dividend to help small communities build community capacity.

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