



# Local Governments and *Reconcili-Action*

Brent Mueller, Director  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

*Association of Vancouver Island Coastal  
Communities, April 16, 2023*

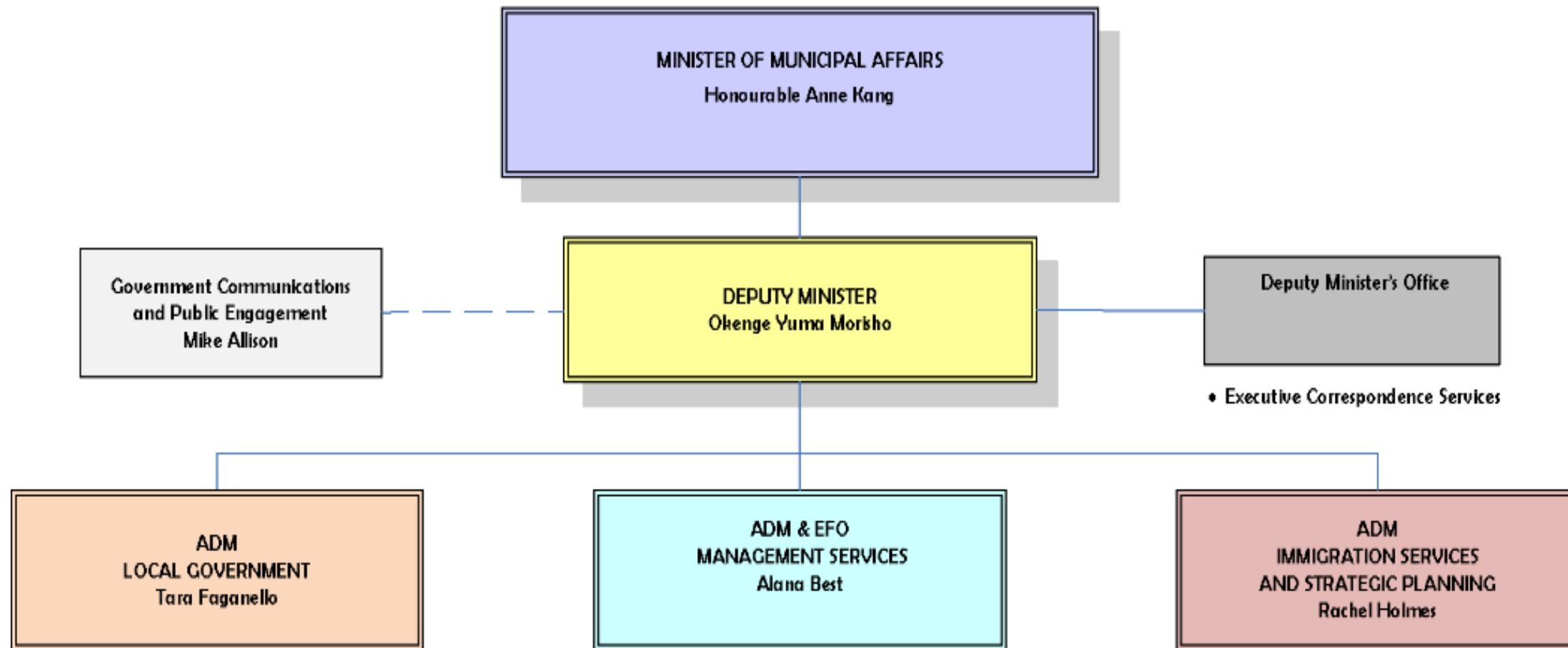
# Overview

- Ministry structure
- Indigenous People in BC
- Ministry approach to Reconciliation
  - Update on *Declaration Act*, Action items
- Local Government Role
- Tools and Partnerships
- Resources
- Discussion



# Ministry Structure

## MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



# Local – Provincial Relations

- *Community Charter*
- *Local Government Act*

## Provincial-Local Government Relations

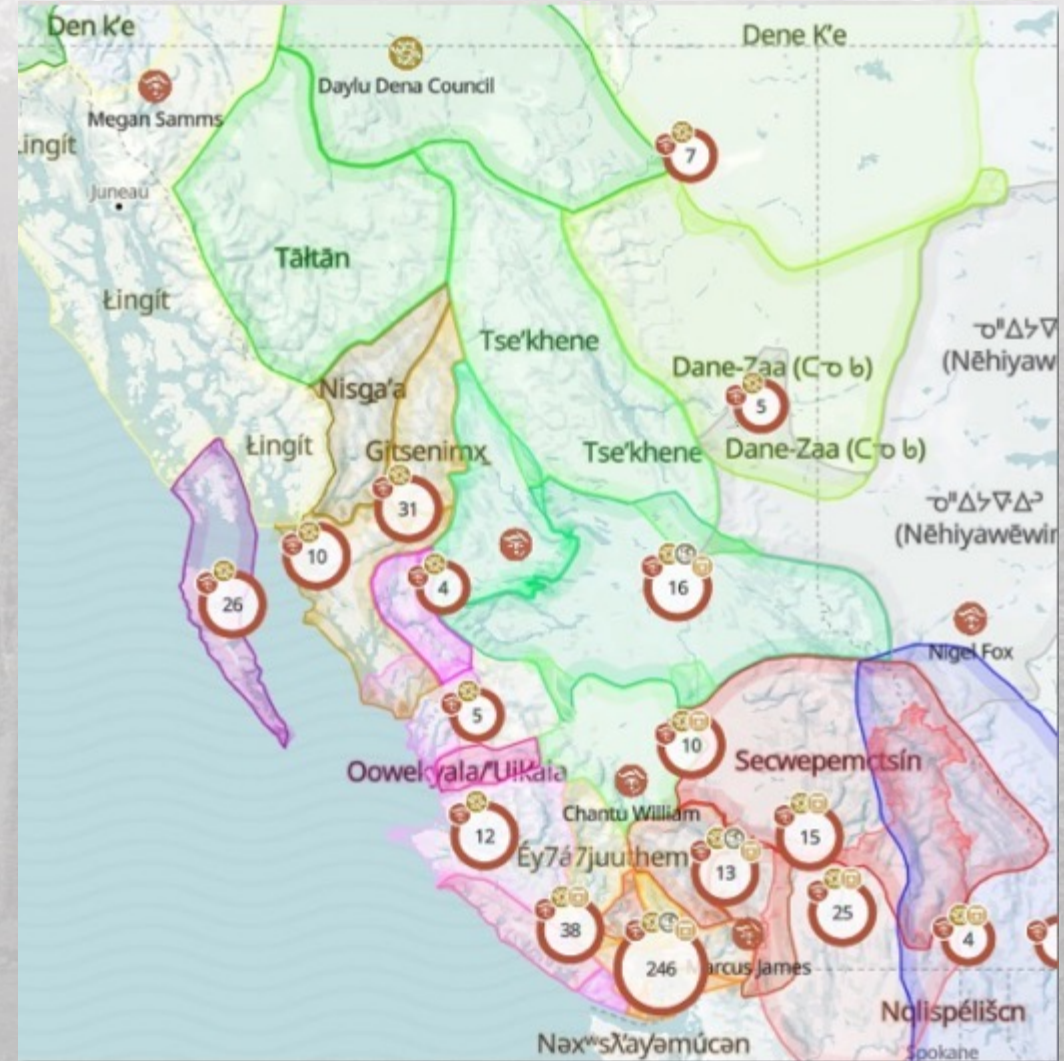
The collaborative relationship between municipalities, regional districts and the provincial government is a key aspect of the local government system in B.C.

In Canada, provincial governments have constitutional responsibility for “municipal institutions.” In B.C., that provincial responsibility represents a unique system of local governance that emphasizes the empowerment, fiscal independence, accountability and collaboration of local government.

The local-provincial government relationship is resilient, focused on mutual respect and on mutually beneficial outcomes over conflict. Contributing to that success have been the underlying and legislated principles of that relationship, as well as targeted provincial oversight through the Inspector of Municipalities.

# Indigenous People in BC

- Population 270,000
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit
- Diverse
- Sophisticated cultures, relationships
- Few Treaties

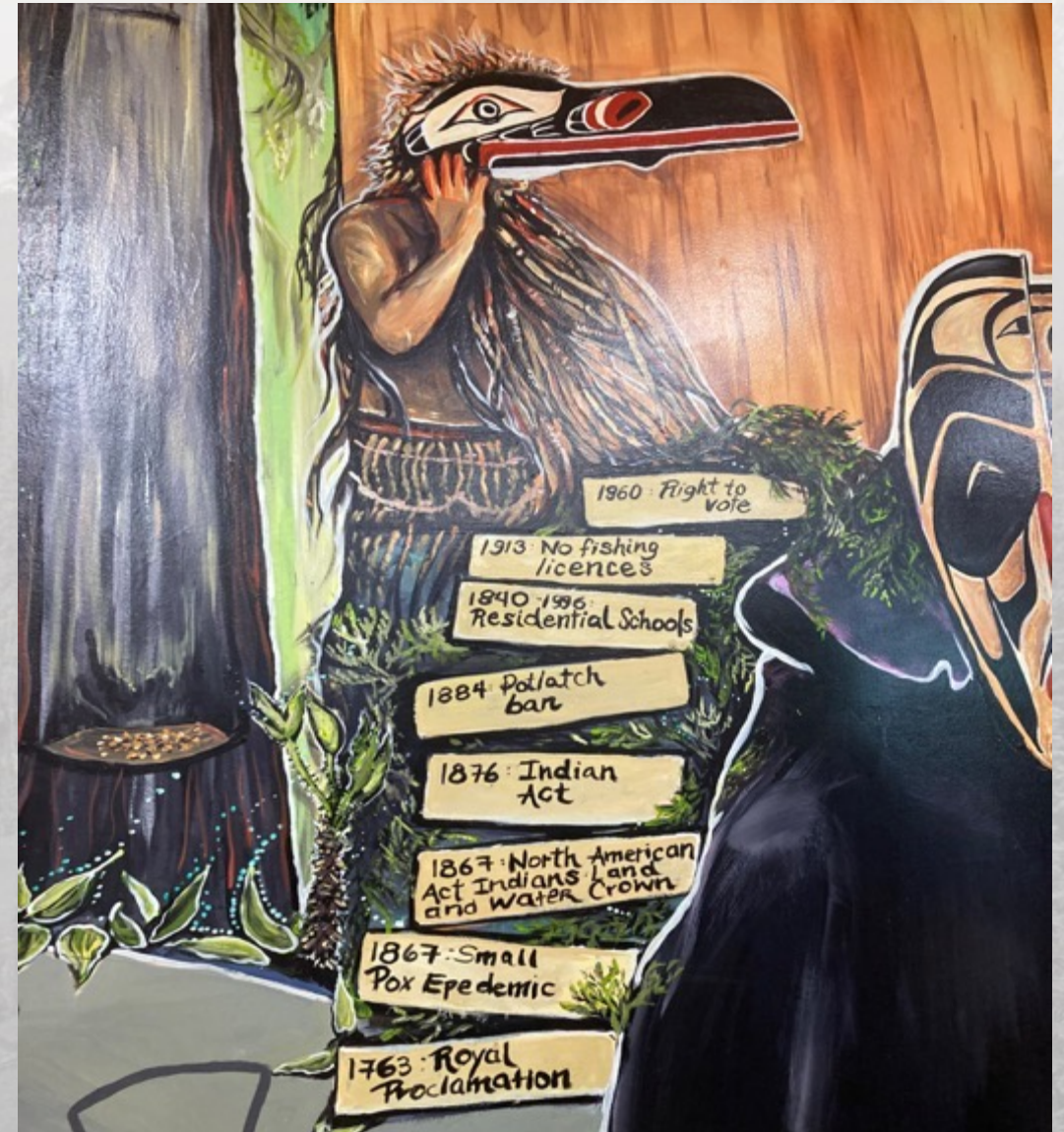


# Approach to Reconciliation

- As per TRC Calls to Action # 57 – building staff capacity
- From our Service Plan: Consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (**Declaration Act**) as the **Province's framework for reconciliation, support local governments in building respectful relationships and fostering meaningful and lasting reconciliation with First Nations**. As part of this, collaborate with UBCM on providing advice to local governments. Under the Declaration Act, continue to meet, engage and collaborate with First Nation communities and Indigenous partners and organizations.

# Building Staff Capacity

- 10 Principles Committee reports to ADM
- Intranet site with staff resources
- Annual budget approved by Ministry Executive for training and learning events
- Annual Learning Calendar (to coordinate activities for Red Dress Day; Moose Hide Campaign; National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation).
- Indigenous Reads Book Collection accessible across the Ministry



# Action plan

## Items directly referencing local governments:

- **1.11** Support **inclusive regional governance** by advancing First Nations participation in regional district boards.
- This Action was first raised by UBCM membership
- **4.27** Review the principles and processes that guide the **naming of municipalities and regional districts** and evolve practices to foster reconciliation in local processes.



# *Inclusive Regional Governance*

- 5-year timeline
- Research
- Engagement
- Working with regions  
ACRD, CCRD, RDN,  
CRD, RDCO
- BC First Nations  
Summit



# ***Naming of Local Governments***



# Daajing Giids Celebration

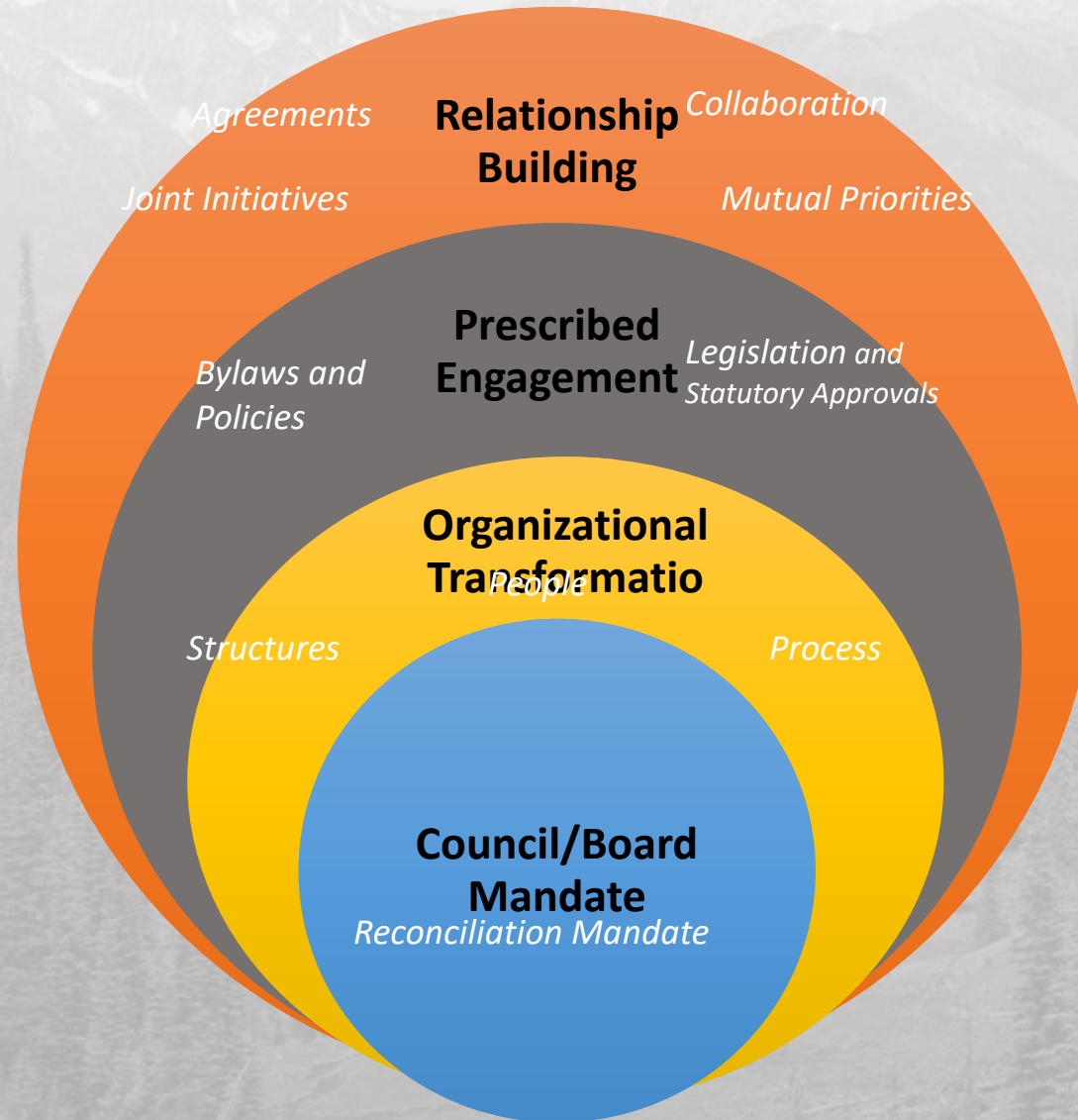


# Local Government Role

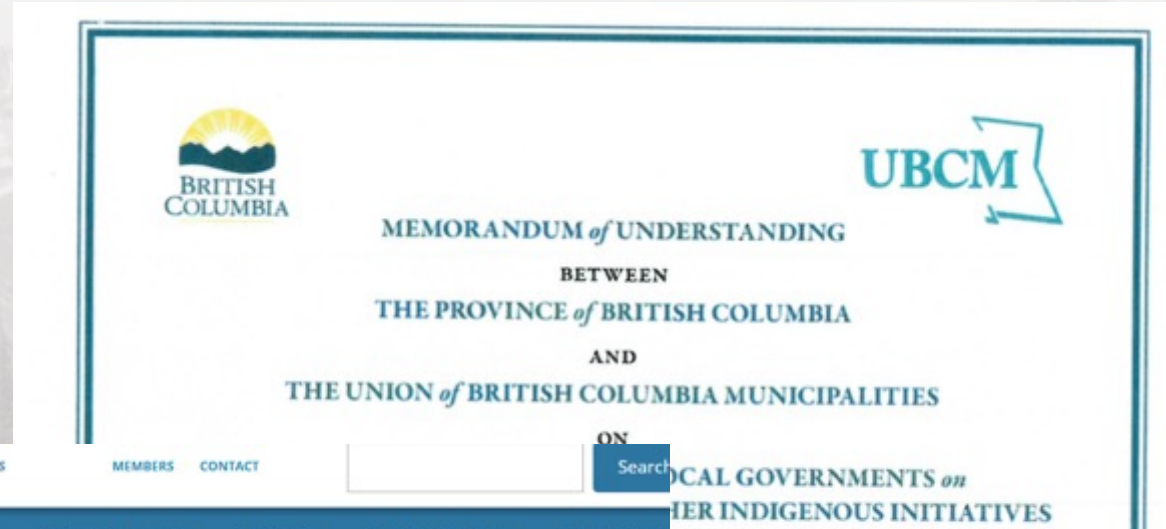
- Relationship Building
- Policy, program alignment
  - TRC Calls to Action
  - Articles of the UN Declaration



# Model for Local Governments



# Supports for Local Government



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### Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations

A collection of resources related to initiatives, agreements, arrangements, partnerships, and the provision of services between Indigenous governments and organizations, and local governments in British Columbia.



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1. [Land Details Agreement Between RDKS and Kitselas First Nation](#)

## Guide to Community to Community Forums in British Columbia

September 2019

# Resources

## ***Declaration Act***

- [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)
- [Declaration Act Action Plan](#)
- [Local Government Fact sheet on the Declaration Act](#)
- [UBCM Draft Action Plan Submission](#)

## **Pathways to Success**

- [MOU: Engagement with UBCM and Local Governments on Treaty Agreements, Non-Treaty Agreements and Indigenous Initiatives](#)
- [Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations collection](#)
- [Pathways to Collaboration](#)
- [Community to Community Forum \(C2C\)](#)

## ***Research***

- [Contacts for First Nation Consultation Areas](#)
- [BC Treaty Annual Reports](#)
- [Provincial Agreements with First Nations \(A to Z\)](#)
- [MUNI Local Government and First Nations Relations Webpage \(Guides found here\)](#)
- [Interactive Guide to Building Relationships with First Nations](#)
- [Interim Approach to Implementing the Requirements of Section 3 of the DRIPA](#)
- [Union of BC Indian Chiefs](#)

# Contact Information

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# Reconcili-Action

