



ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Governance Review – Presentation to Convention

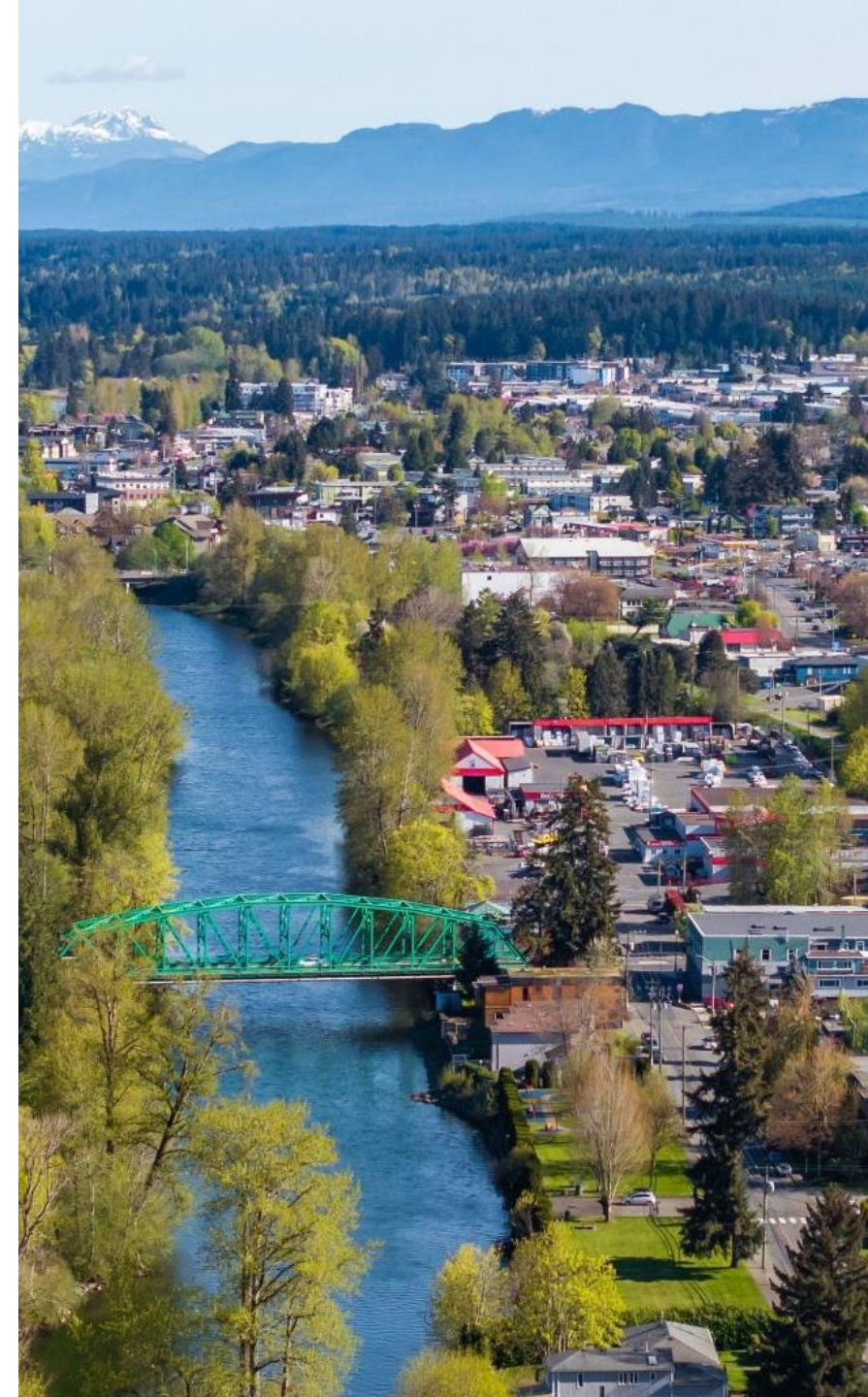
April 25, 2026





WELCOME

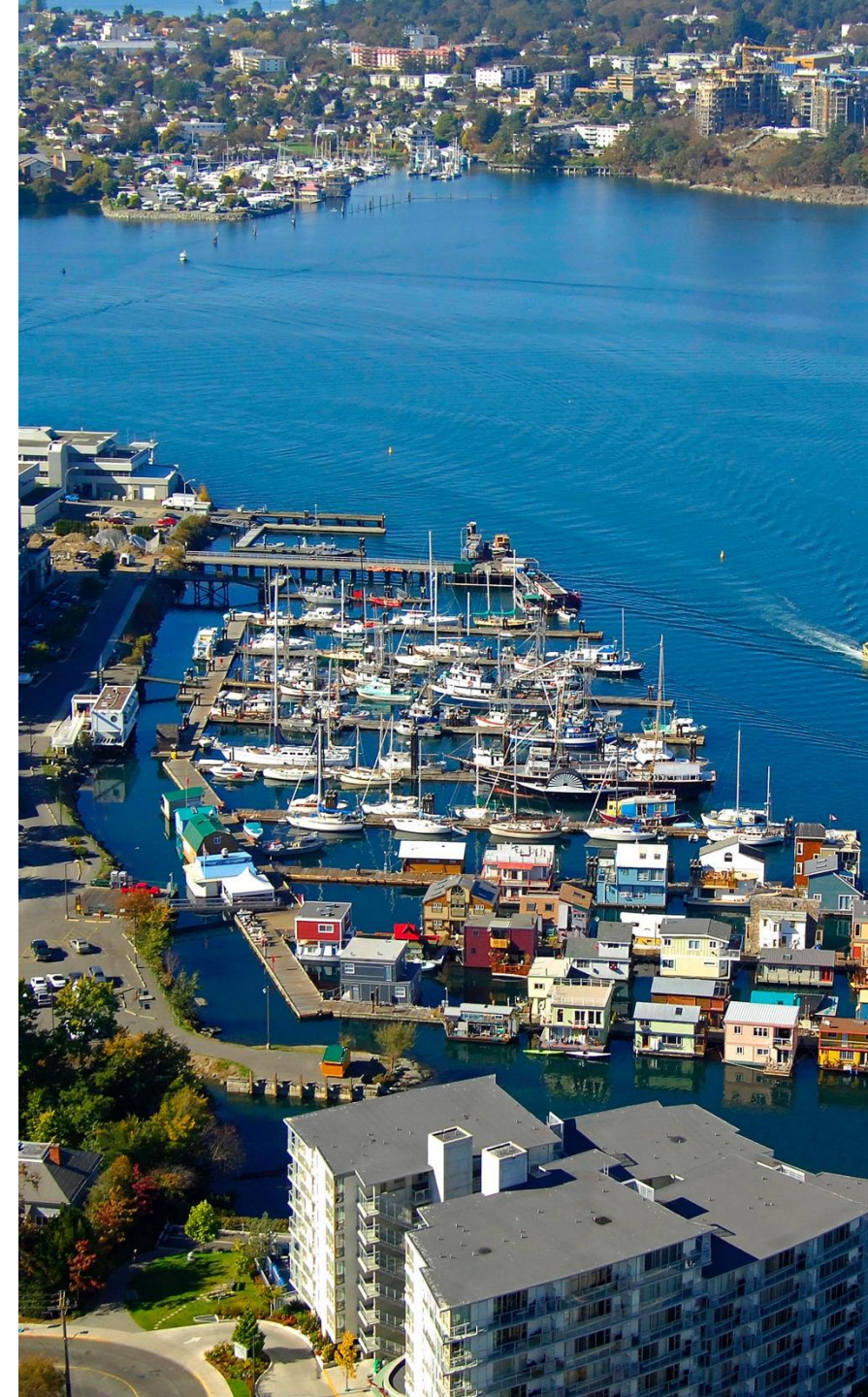
- ▶ **Gary MacIsaac**
Executive Director, UBCM
- ▶ **Allan Neilson**
Principal, Neilson Strategies Inc.





GOVERNANCE REVIEW

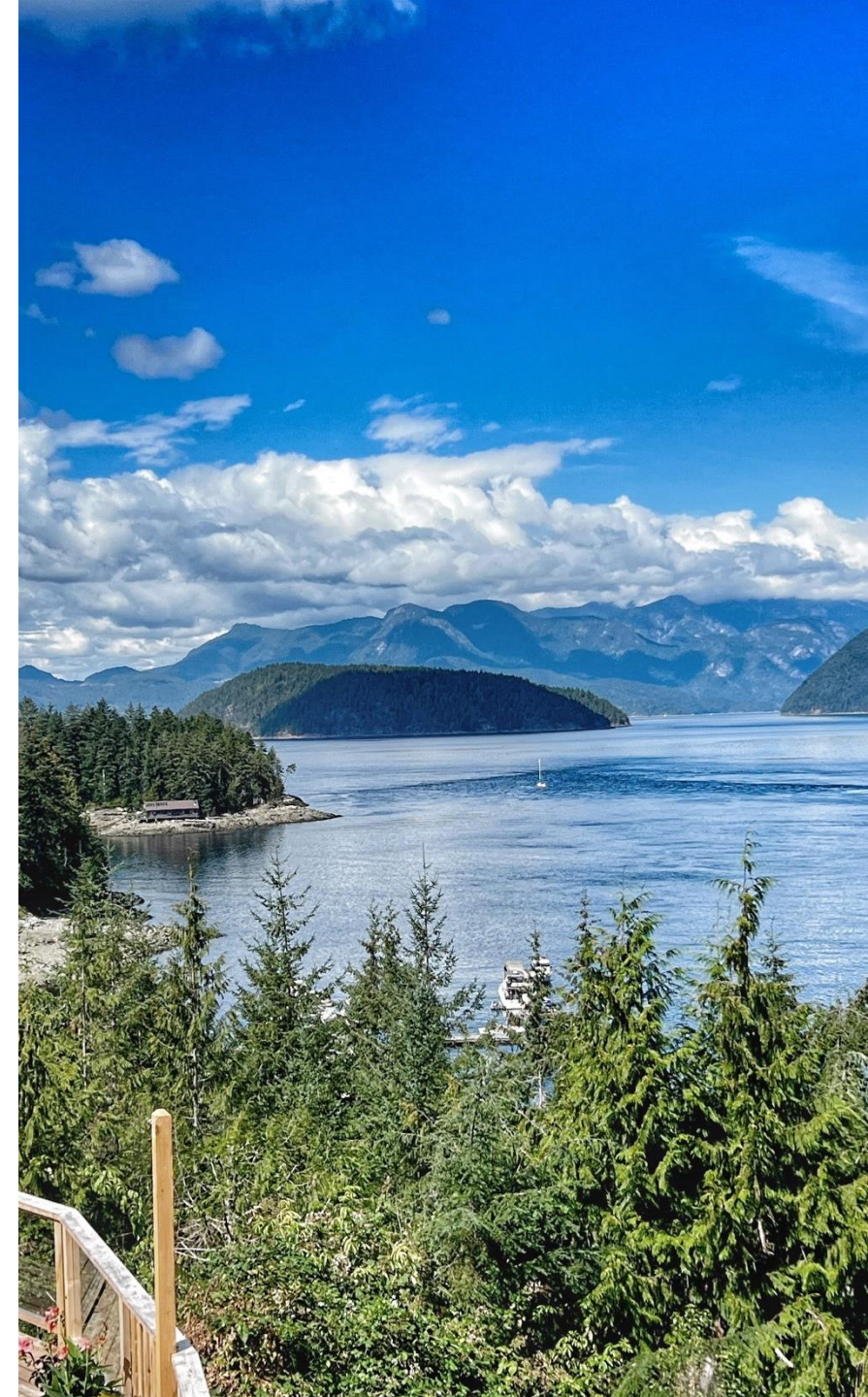
- ▶ Examine composition of UBCM Executive to assess need for change, and to consider possible changes
 - ✓ response to questions on degree of representation, ongoing desire to optimize governing body's legitimacy to membership
 - ✓ response to challenges elected officials in different regions may face in getting elected to Officer positions





GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- ▶ Consider arguments for, and arguments against, change to UBCM name brand to one perceived to be more inclusive
 - ✓ response to *Resolution NEB 2024 – Union of BC Municipalities Name Change*





GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- ▶ Review being undertaken by local government consultant, using process that features:
 - ✓ comparative research
 - ✓ extensive engagement of membership, including at Area Association Conventions, through online survey and in focus groups
 - ✓ report to Executive, then to Annual Convention (preceded by webinar sessions)





PRESENTATION

- ▶ Four-part presentation:
 - ✓ Current Composition of Executive
 - ✓ Issues to Consider
 - ✓ UBCM name – potential for change
 - ✓ Q & A





PRESENTATION

- ▶ Real-time input in response to four questions
 - ✓ everyone will be prompted to visit [slido](#)





COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Composition designed to provide for governing body that is representative of the membership it serves





COMPOSITION TODAY

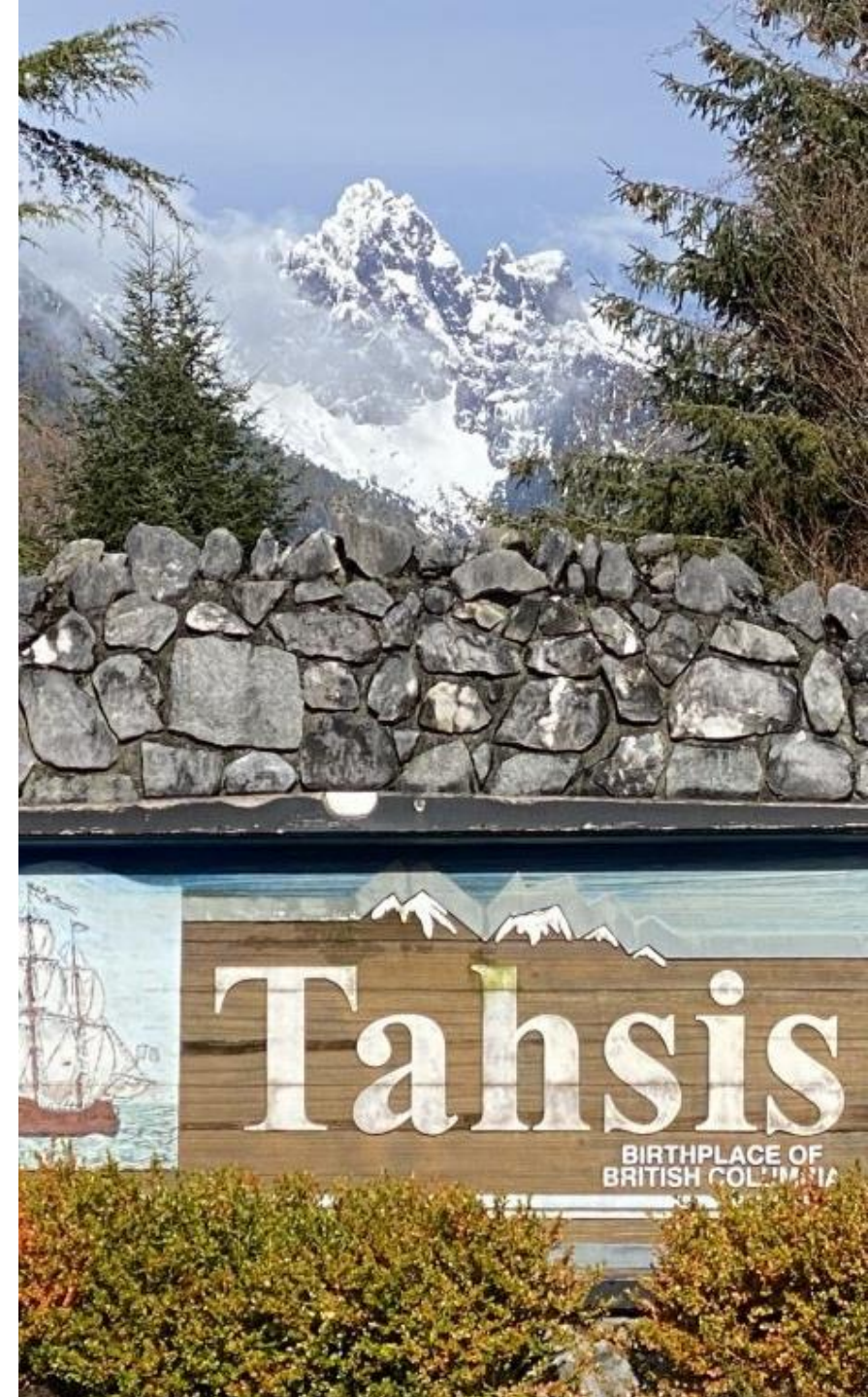
- ▶ Representation can be based on different factors; current composition intended to reflect:
 - ✓ geography – the regions of British Columbia as defined by Area Associations
 - ✓ type of local government
 - ✓ size of community – small communities; largest metropolitan area and city

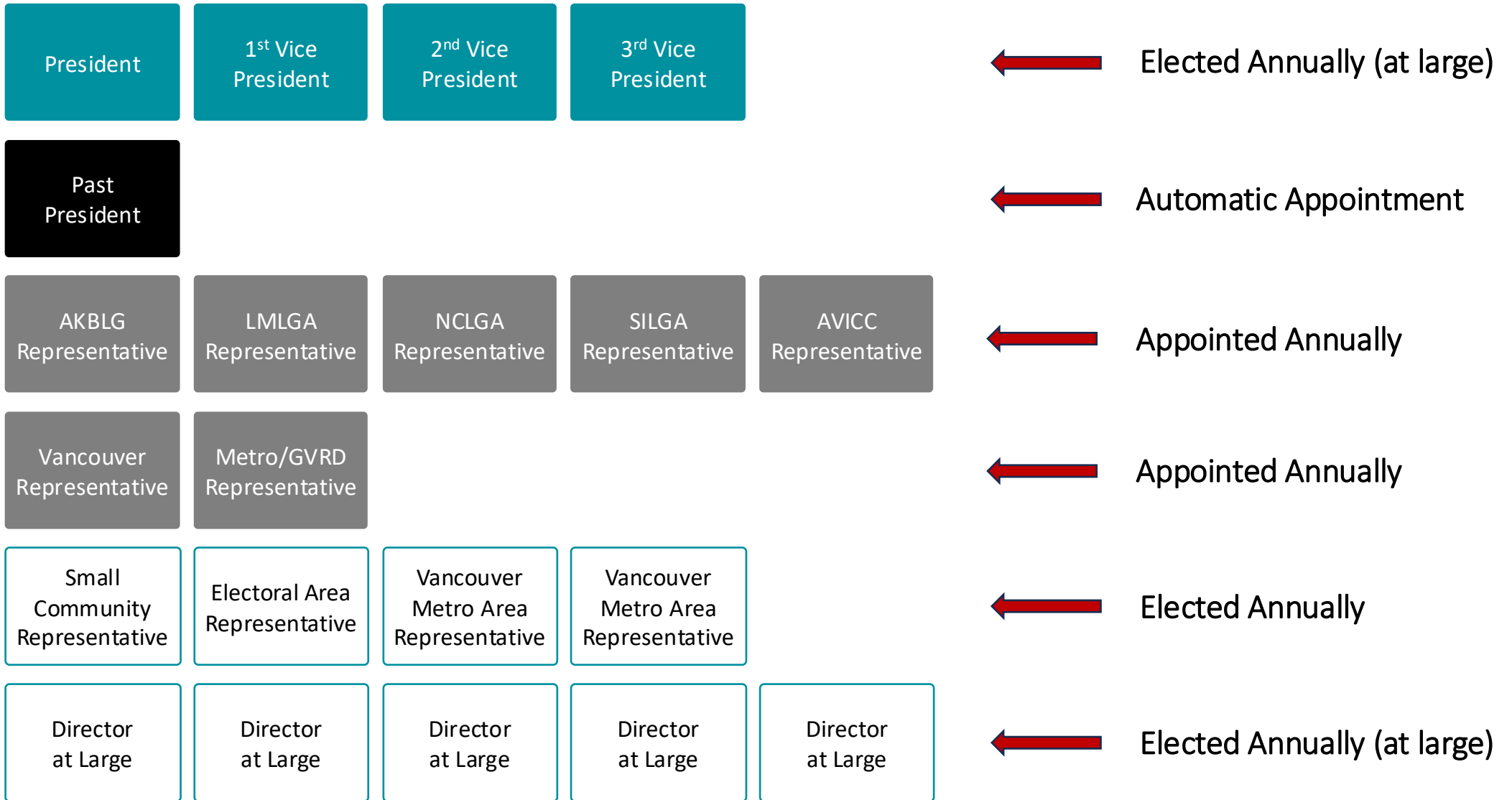




COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Officer positions designed to be open to all representatives across membership

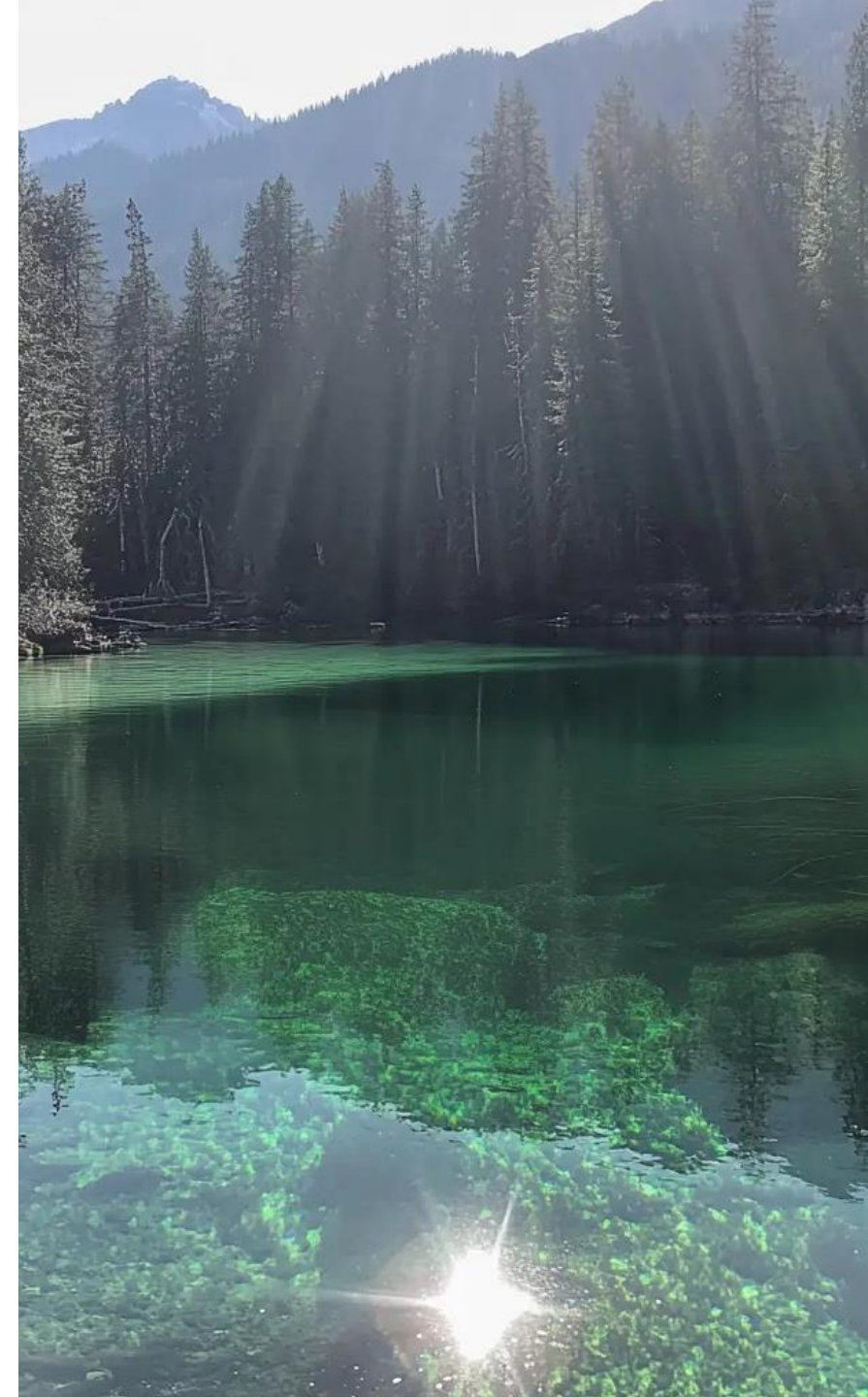






COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Composition of Executive similar in many respects to that which is in place for governing bodies of other local government associations across Canada
 - ✓ regional representation is widespread feature
 - ✓ type of local government important factor
 - ✓ size of community another factor (largest city commonly featured)





ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Important that composition provides for Executive that is reasonably representative of membership
 - ✓ perfection is not the objective (not achievable)
 - ✓ seek composition that accounts for geography, type, size
 - ✓ when strike the right balance, enhance legitimacy of body to membership





QUESTION

- ▶ Does the current composition of the Executive provide for a governing body that is reasonably representative of membership?



Join at slido.com

Participant code: #250



ISSUES TO CONSIDER

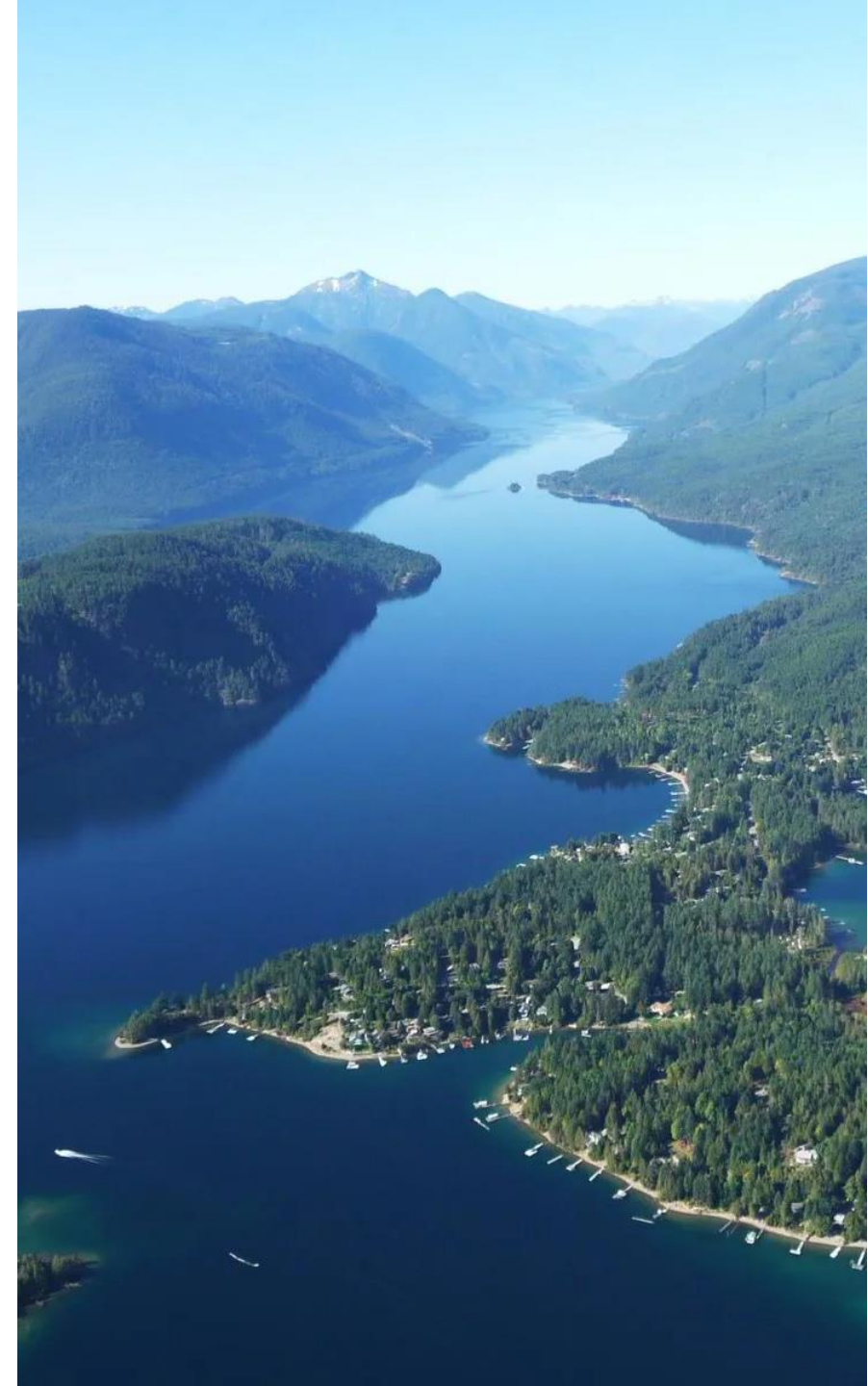
- ▶ Officer positions hold considerable responsibility; important to work of Executive and UBCM





ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Composition designed to provide elected officials from all regions (Area Associations) ability to get elected to, and serve in, Officer positions
 - ✓ concern that numbers of delegates and/or bloc voting tendencies of some regions result in disproportionate representation at Officer level
 - ✓ concern that representatives from other regions challenged to achieve positions
 - ✓ possible to change type of election to ensure equal representation at Officer level





QUESTION

- ▶ Is it important to have every region (Area Association) represented at the Officer level?



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ISSUES TO CONSIDER

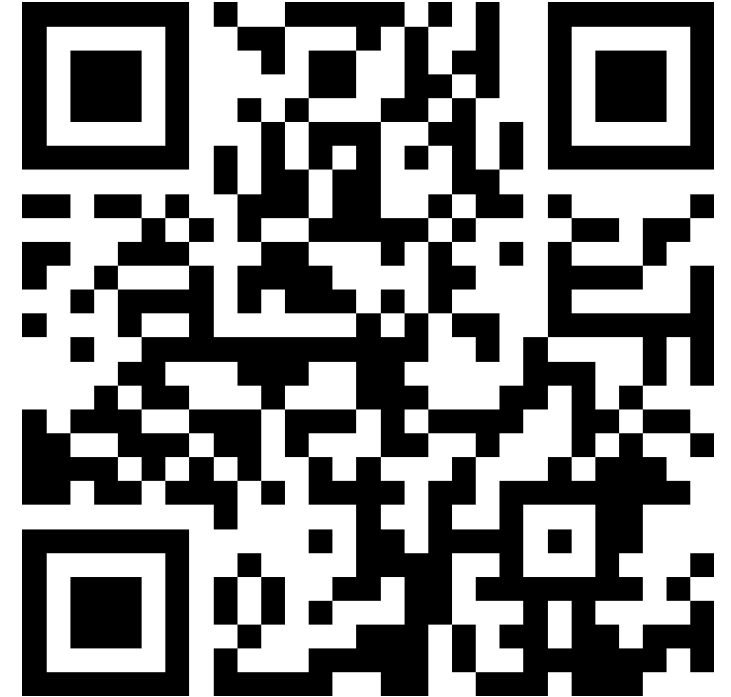
- ▶ Current composition recognizes size of community in determining representation
 - ✓ Small Communities recognized
 - ✓ Vancouver, MVRD, Metro Area recognized
 - ✓ Large Urban Communities as constituency not recognized (15 municipalities > 100,000)





QUESTION

- ▶ Should Large Urban Communities, defined to include all 100,000+ cities across Province, be recognized in composition of Executive?



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ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ All positions on the Executive have one-year terms
 - ✓ maximizes opportunities for elected officials to serve
 - ✓ can be challenging for continuity
 - ✓ view that longer term could enhance effectiveness of governing body
 - ✓ UBCM unique in its use of one-year terms





QUESTION

- ▶ Should terms for Executive positions – all or some – be two years?



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ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ The Executive consists of 21 members
 - ✓ choice of size reflects attempt to balance desire for broad representation, and effectiveness of governing body
 - ✓ larger body could help to enhance level of representativeness, but may impact effectiveness
 - ✓ holding firm at 21 may protect effectiveness, but could limit representativeness (especially if changes made)





QUESTION

- ▶ Should the size of the Executive be held at 21?



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UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Resolution to change name put forward and endorsed in 2024



UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Arguments in favour of a name change may include:
 - ✓ enhanced inclusivity; recognition of diversity
 - ✓ greater sense of belonging; strengthened engagement
 - ✓ modernization of UBCM's identity
 - ✓ increased clarity
 - ✓ strengthened advocacy



UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Arguments against a name change may include:
 - ✓ considerable brand value, name recognition in "UBCM"
 - ✓ confusion on the part of partners and/or audiences
 - ✓ costs incurred
 - ✓ limited practical impact (symbolic rather than substantive)
 - ✓ unintended consequences





QUESTION

- ▶ Given all considerations, is the case for a change to the UBCM name strong enough to seek the necessary legislative amendment and make a change?



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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

- ▶ Please complete the survey online at ubcm.ca

