



MEMBER RELEASE

November 17, 2010

TO: Mayors, Chairs and Administrators
FROM: Union of BC Municipalities
RE: **Ministry Website on Implementation of the Elections Task Force
Recommendations: Campaign Expense Limits**

The Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development has launched a webpage to highlight some of the key recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force and to provide information on how the recommendations may affect candidates and others who participate in local elections. The webpage includes questions and answers on a number of topics, including information on the development of campaign expense limits for future local government elections.

All UBCM members are encouraged to visit the following link to review the information:

www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/governance/taskforce_implementation.htm

Please submit any feedback specifically regarding campaign expense limits to UBCM as soon as possible. As part of the next steps in developing the actual expense limit formula, UBCM will forward your feedback to the Province.

Since Cabinet endorsed the Task Force recommendations earlier this year, UBCM and staff from the Ministry of Community & Rural Development (now Community, Sport & Cultural Development) have worked collaboratively to develop potential approaches for campaign expense limits. This has included consideration of expense limits in other jurisdictions and a sampling of actual spending data from the 2008 local government elections.

Although the process is not yet finalized, and the Province will make final decisions on the implementation of the campaign expense limits, the Ministry's webpage outlines a number of further considerations that are intended to guide the development of an actual formula for campaign expense limits. These include:

- Total spending is affected by population size and expense limits should accommodate population differences;
- Candidates for mayor spend more than candidates for other elected offices and this needs to be recognized in the limits;
- Expense limits should be formula-based and include a base amount as well as per capita amounts, and;
- Expense limits for elector organizations should be based on the expense limits of the candidates they support.

UBCM will continue to work with the Province on this file and will provide additional information to members as it is available. For more information or to submit feedback regarding campaign expense limits, please contact:

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Wednesday, December 1, 2010

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Implementing Recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force

On July 7, 2010, it was [announced](#) that Cabinet had given the "green light" to move forward with implementing the recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force in time for the November 2011 general local election. This page highlights some of the recommendations' key features and what they might mean for campaign participants (candidates, elector organizations and third party advertisers), local governments and electors.

The [Task Force](#) made [31 recommendations](#) to improve [local government election](#) rules – rules that apply to elections for municipalities, regional district electoral areas, boards of education and various other local bodies. Most of the recommendations focus on improving campaign finance, transparency and enforcement, including consolidating these matters into a separate Act. While many aspects of a local election will see little change – such as holding the election, and the voting process – implementing the recommendations would create some new rules, especially for campaign participants and their campaign financing.

Work is underway to give effect to the recommendations, such as developing details of the needed legislation. Government intends to introduce the legislative changes in Spring 2011, to be in place for the November 2011 general local election; the Legislature will decide whether to enact that legislation.

While all details are not yet known, key features and potential impacts are described, and some questions answered, for the following recommendations:

- Placing [expense limits](#) [PDF 77KB] on local election campaign participants
- [Banning anonymous contributions](#) [PDF 46.5KB]
- Requiring [sponsorship information on election advertising](#) [PDF 53.6KB]

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Questions or comments about implementation of the Task Force recommendations, or about existing election rules can be directed to:

Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
4th Floor
800 Johnson Street
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9T1

Phone: 250 387-4020
For toll free access call Enquiry BC:
Call 604-660-2421 in Vancouver or 1-800-663-
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