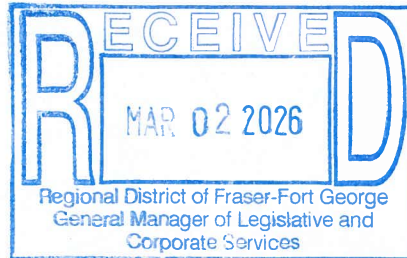


February 23, 2026

Board Members
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
155 George Street
Prince George, BC, V2L 1P8



Dear Chair,

I am pleased to invite Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to renew its annual membership in the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM).

For 120 years, UBCM's work has been grounded in the belief that British Columbians are better off when local governments have a voice at the provincial level. We know that when legislation is developed with robust input from communities, the outcomes are stronger and more effective. Raising your voice remains our driving mission, whether designing funding programs that put decision-making power in local hands, or conveying local government perspectives to the Province.

A core focus this year will be understanding the nuts and bolts of reconciliation. As the Province has been rolling out its commitments under DRIPA, it is increasingly evident that local governments need to be involved to ensure lasting outcomes.

Through resolutions, members have communicated unwavering support for reconciliation – and at the same time, repeatedly asked the Province for clarity and transparent engagement. UBCM is working with Provincial staff to develop protocols to engage local governments as partners in reconciliation, and we continue to advocate for early and open involvement in relevant negotiations and discussions.

At Convention 2025, a pivotal session on the Cowichan Tribes court ruling offered members a space for non-partisan discussion of the practical implications of the decision. The recording of the panel was watched over 11,000 times, showing the value of a neutral, fact-based discussion on emerging issues.

Over the past few years, the provincial government has trended towards centralizing its decision-making, spending less time developing new legislation, and putting constraints around consultation. The unintended consequences – such as complications with housing legislation – have led to a growing sense of frustration among local governments and First Nations and made UBCM's advocacy for open consultation more urgent.

And we are seeing results.

In September we successfully challenged the Province to give more time for UBCM members to weigh in on proposed changes to the *Heritage Conservation Act*, which had been planned for fall 2025. In a few short weeks, we solicited and conveyed detailed feedback from members. We're pleased that the initial fast-tracked implementation has slowed down, and we are continuing to push for meaningful engagement on a modernized *Heritage Conservation Act* before it is introduced to the legislature.

In 2025, escalating U.S. trade actions created new risks for BC's economy. UBCM led research to assess the local level impacts of U.S. tariffs on key industries and communities, enabling members and the Province to better understand and respond to potential pressures.

This summer we launched the first Strategic Priorities Fund intake under the renewed 10-year Canada Community-Building Fund agreement. This intake makes as much as \$7 million available for local governments to regionally significant, innovative legacy projects. Our team administered millions in funding through a dozen programs covering emergency services, asset management, Community-to-Community forums and more.

UBCM resolutions are foundational to our advocacy, and each year hundreds of issues are raised for debate. The volume shows the range of issues communities deal with – but the sheer number poses some challenges. In 2025, members approved a new framework to screen out duplicate resolutions and keep our work focused on local government jurisdiction. We look forward to a sharpened set of resolutions in 2026.



The UBCM Group Benefits Plan continues to provide an excellent array of health benefits for local government staff, along with plan management services. This program is among the best in the province; we're pleased to have welcomed several new members over the last year and now manage a fund for more than 4,000 employees across BC.

Our strength as an organization is tied to the diversity of our members, which now includes 14 elected First Nations councils in addition to the 27 regional districts and 162 municipalities. As we look ahead to 2026, UBCM will continue championing our members' priorities, and look for your participation to ensure our advocacy remains grounded in local expertise.

If you have any questions or feedback about our work, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cori Ramsay", is written in a cursive style.

Councillor Cori Ramsay
President, Union of B.C. Municipalities