



February 10, 2023

Ref: 272022

Dear Mayors and Regional Chairs:

I am pleased to let you know of the significant investment our government has made to support all our municipalities and regional districts around the province. This is in direct response to my mandate letter to support growing municipalities and regional districts with funding for infrastructure and community amenities.

Today Premier David Eby and I announced the [B.C. building stronger communities with \\$1-billion Growing Communities Fund | BC Gov News](#). The fund will provide a one-time total of \$1 billion in direct grants to all 188 of B.C.'s municipalities and regional districts. Your local government can use it to address your community's unique infrastructure and amenities demands, such as recreation facilities, parks and water treatment plants, as well as other community infrastructure. It will help communities prepare for future growth and build the amenities needed to support new home construction, especially with the *Housing Supply Act* where targets are set.

These grants will complement existing infrastructure funding programs for projects such as sewer, water and recreation facilities. The province will distribute them to B.C.'s 188 municipalities and regional districts by the end of March 2023. The Growing Communities Fund arises from the surplus shown in the Second Quarter Financial Report. The province is putting this year's surplus to work for people to support them now and for the long term.

The province has heard from local governments about the need for infrastructure and amenities to support their growth. Infrastructure funding programs are routinely significantly oversubscribed. For example, there were six times more requests for funding through the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community Culture and Recreation" stream than what was available. This one-time fund also supports priorities identified by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

The Ministry will issue a direction letter to each local government in March 2023 including further details on this one-time direct grant. This will include information on the formula used to allocate the funds, the amount your local government will be receiving and the province's expectations for the use and reporting of the funds.

As this is a direct grant from the province to each municipality and regional district in B.C., your local government will not have to apply for the funds. Your council or board will be required to make decisions on the use of the funds in compliance with this second letter coming in March 2023. Projects that support neighboring First Nations communities are strongly encouraged.

.../2

Mayors and Regional Chairs

Page 2

I trust you will join me in acknowledging the importance and value that this fund will have to focus on building a secure, low emission, sustainable economy and a province where everyone can find a good home – whether you live in a rural area, a city, or in an Indigenous community. Together we can make life better for people in B.C., improve the services we all rely on, and ensure a sustainable province for future generations.

I look forward to connecting with you again soon in person or virtually as I continue to tour and meet with local elected officials. In the interim, any questions can be directed to myself at:

Minister.MUNI@gov.bc.ca. Staff are available at: LGIF.Infra@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Anne Kang
Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

pc: The Honourable David Eby, Premier
The Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Chief Administrative Officers
Okenge Yuma Morisho, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Jen Ford, President UBCM
Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM