



Staff Report

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TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Dawn McGinn, Interim Deputy Corporate Officer
DATE: June 15, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 UBCM Ministerial Meetings

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES:

This report complies with the following strategic goals set out by Council:

- Advocacy

PURPOSE:

Annually during the Union of BC Municipalities Conference, municipalities are given an opportunity to meet with Ministers or Ministry staff to discuss issues of concern.

Staff is reaching out to the Committee to begin discussions on which Ministries Council may wish to meet with while attending this years Union of BC Municipalities Conference, in Vancouver from September 14 to September 18, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

In previous years, the District of Taylor has attended the following ministry meetings during UBCM Conventions:

- 2023 and 2024: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Discussion topics:
 - Peace River Bridge Construction
 - Highway 97 Rail & Road Crossings
 - Public Transit and/or Ride Sharing
- 2023: Ministry of Agriculture:
 - Discussion topics:
 - Agrifood Development
- 2022: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
 - Discussions topics:
 - Peace River Bridge Construction
 - North Peace Gravel Depletion

- 2022: Ministry of Health:
 - Discussion topics:
 - Health Care Services in the North

COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:

On May 5th, 2026, staff attended an UBCM information session on the process for requesting meetings with the Premier, Cabinet Ministers and Provincial Ministry, Agency, Commission, and Corporation (MACC) staff at the Conference, to maximize Council's opportunity to meet with those that they choose.

The Committee should note that the deadline to request meetings with Premier Eby and Cabinet Ministers is June 24, 2026. The MACC staff will be available virtually only, from August 31 to September 4, which is a new approach by UBCM. The deadline to set meeting dates and times to meet with MACC staff is August 5, 2026.

Staff recommends that Council seek a meeting with the Ministry of Health to discuss the current state of mental health services and supports available in the Northeast region. The purpose of the meeting would be to better understand existing service levels, identify gaps and challenges affecting residents, and explore opportunities to improve access to mental health resources within the region.

Also recommended would be to meet with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit to discuss the current condition of the Taylor Bridge, timelines for a long-term replacement solution, and the potential impacts to residents, businesses, and regional transportation networks.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Council may choose not to schedule any ministry meetings during the 2026 UBCM Convention.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSION:

Staff is seeking direction on desired meetings and topics for discussion for the 2026 UBCM Convention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Dawn McGinn

Interim Deputy Corporate Officer

The District of Taylor's guiding principle is "Safety, Family, then Work."