

**To:** Mayor and Council  
**From:** Paul Gipps, CAO

**Meeting Date:** July 8, 2025  
**Meeting Type:** Regular Council Meeting

**Prepared by:** Ruth Sulentic, Economic Development and Public Engagement Specialist  
**Department:** Parks, Recreation and Culture

**Title:** UBCM Community Excellence Award Submission  
**Description:** Submission of application for consideration in the category of Excellence in Governance

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff be directed to submit an application for the 2025 UBCM Community Excellence Awards for the District's communication and engagement regarding financial plans and taxation increases.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate UBCM member First Nations and local governments that have implemented projects or programs that go above and beyond in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. The awards are intended to showcase outstanding initiatives and share them with other members to implement in their own communities.

The awards are open to all local government and First Nation members of UBCM and are awarded in four categories. The UBCM Presidents Committee will also present one community with the Presidents Committee Choice Award. This award recognizes an outstanding, unique and/or special project chosen from all the submissions received. In order for Lake Country to submit an application a Council Resolution is required before August 15, 2025.

## DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In 2023 new and unique ways of communicating and engaging with the community, about financial plans and taxation increases, were developed and have been put into place for subsequent budgets. Tools such as Let's Talk – Lake Country, On-line Q&A, "You-Asked" Series, Citizen's Bulletin and in person & online engagement. These tools continue to evolve with the needs of the community making Lake Country an example for other communities to reference for their yearly budget engagements with the community.

The award category that the application will be submitted under:

***Excellence in Governance*** - Governance processes or policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; that support and encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are efficient, equitable and inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

☒ None ☐ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Other (see below)

## COMMUNICATION

The Community Excellence Awards Ceremony will take place during the 2025 UBCM Convention.

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. THAT an application not be submitted for the 2025 UBCM Community Excellence Awards.

Respectfully Submitted.

**Ruth Sulentic, Economic Development and Public Engagement Specialist**

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	UBCM Community Excellence Award Submission.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 2, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Jul 2, 2025 - 5:45 AM**

**Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Jul 2, 2025 - 2:15 PM**

**Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Jul 2, 2025 - 3:39 PM**

**Makayla Ablitt, Legislative & FOI Coordinator - Jul 2, 2025 - 3:43 PM**