



July 30, 2018

RECEIVED AUG 03 2018

Ms. Wendy Booth
President
Union of BC Municipalities
#60-10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond BC V6X 2W9

Dear Ms. Booth:

RE: Policy of a single standard of fire safety for public buildings

I am writing to advise you that government has directed the Office of the Fire Commissioner to implement a single standard of fire safety for public buildings, whether located in a municipality or in an unincorporated area. This means that buildings where people gather to meet, study, rest, engage in recreation, or receive care in a licensed daycare or group care home facility will be subject to fire inspection and risk-based compliance monitoring requirements.

I recognize that this policy direction is a change from what was communicated to your members in September of 2016. Our view is that the most expeditious way of achieving our policy objective is to expand the capacity of regional districts to provide a comparable level of fire safety service to what municipalities currently offer. Our intention is to work collaboratively with the *Fire Safety Act* Working Group, UBCM's professional staff and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to understand how to mitigate the added administrative and operational costs of setting up a compliance program that serves unincorporated parts of BC. We expect that this engagement process will also inform the direction of amendments to *Bill 4, 2016: Fire Safety Act*, as well as the development of support tools and resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Farnworth'.

Mike Farnworth,
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Selina Robinson
Ms. Jennifer Rice, Parliamentary Secretary for Emergency Preparedness
Ms. Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
✓ Mr. Gary MacIssac, Executive Director, UBCM
✓ Ms. Marie Crawford, General Manager, Richmond Operations, UBCM
Mr. Gordon Anderson, Fire Commissioner