



## LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Governance Review – Presentation to Convention  
April 30, 2026



# WELCOME

- ▶ **Gary MacIsaac**  
Executive Director, UBCM
- ▶ **Allan Neilson**  
Principal, Neilson Strategies Inc.



# GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- ▶ Examine composition of UBCM Executive to assess need for change, and to consider possible changes
  - ✓ response to questions on degree of representation, ongoing desire to optimize governing body's legitimacy to membership
  - ✓ response to challenges elected officials in different regions may face in getting elected to Officer positions



# GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- ▶ Consider arguments for, and arguments against, change to UBCM name brand to one perceived to be more inclusive
  - ✓ response to *Resolution NEB 2024 – Union of BC Municipalities Name Change*



# GOVERNANCE REVIEW

- Review being undertaken by local government consultant, using process that features:
  - ✓ comparative research
  - ✓ extensive engagement of membership, including at Area Association Conventions, through online survey and in focus groups
  - ✓ report to Executive, then to Annual Convention (preceded by webinar sessions)



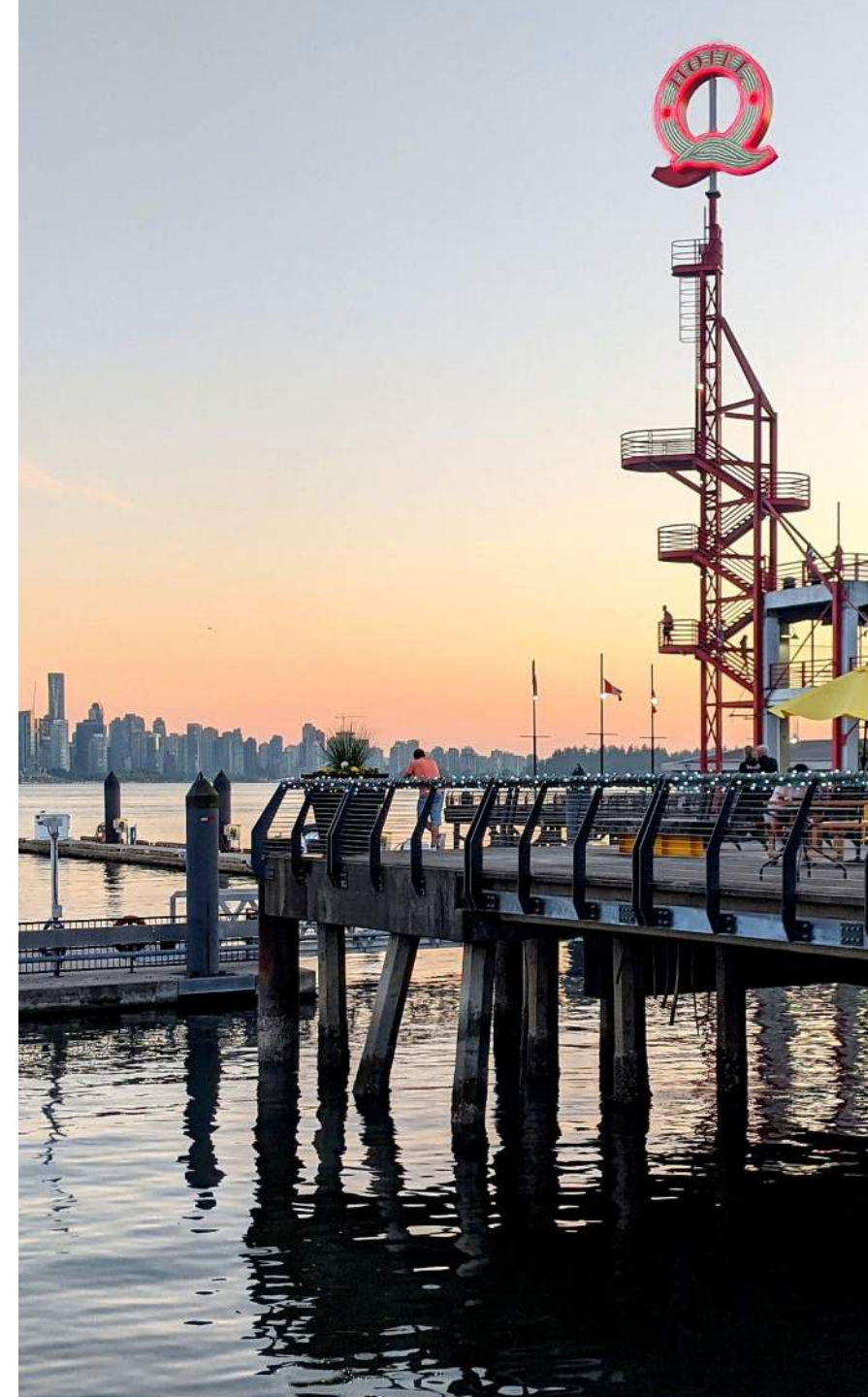
# PRESENTATION

- ▶ Four-part presentation:
  - ✓ Current Composition of Executive
  - ✓ Issues to Consider
  - ✓ UBCM name – potential for change
  - ✓ Q & A



# COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Composition designed to provide for governing body that is representative of the membership it serves



# COMPOSITION TODAY

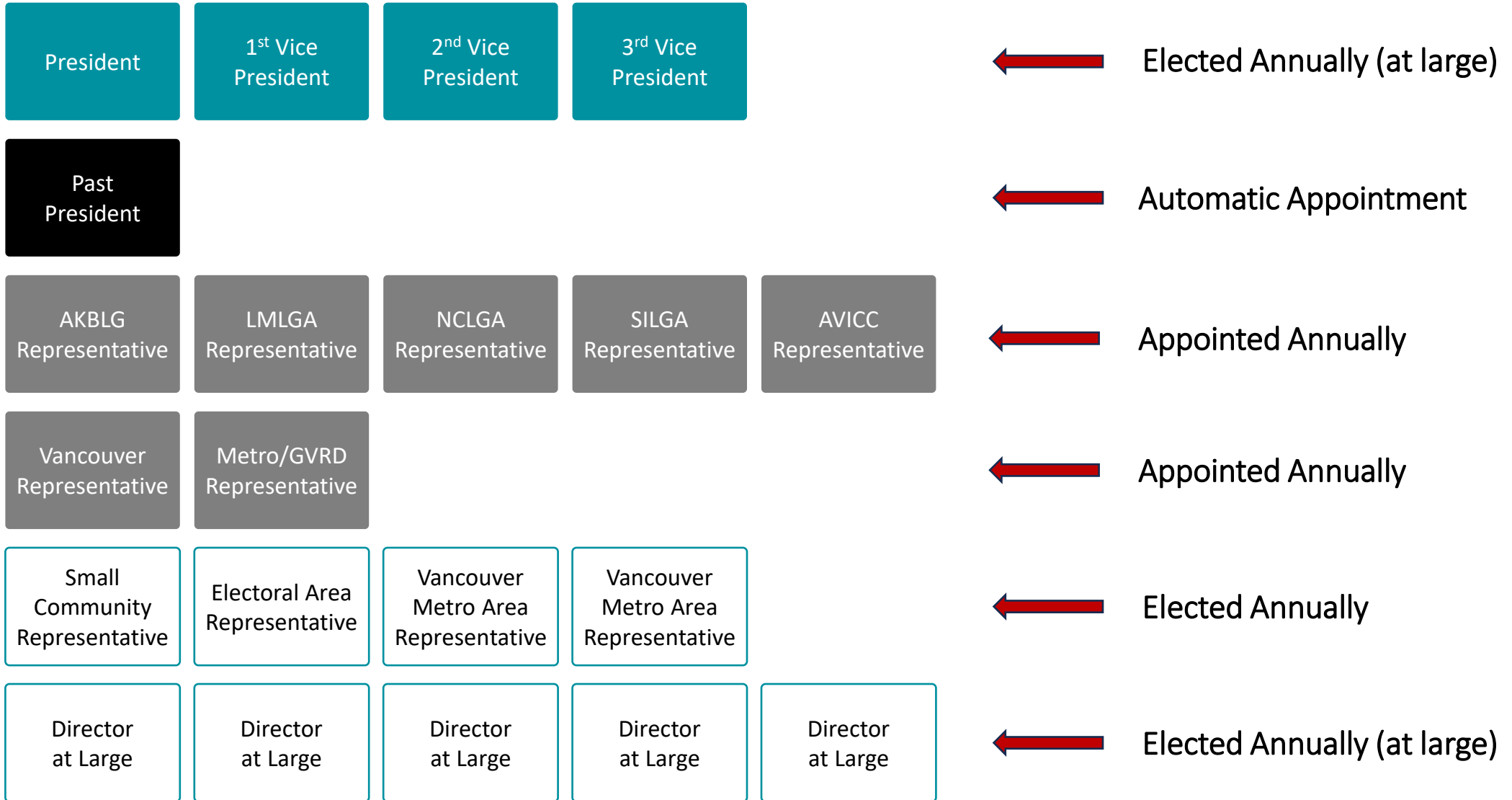
- Representation can be based on different factors; current composition intended to reflect:
  - ✓ geography – the regions of British Columbia as defined by Area Associations
  - ✓ type of local government
  - ✓ size of community – small communities; largest metropolitan area and city



# COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Officer positions designed to be open to all representatives across membership





# COMPOSITION TODAY

- ▶ Composition of Executive similar in many respects to that which is in place for governing bodies of other local government associations across Canada
  - ✓ regional representation is widespread feature
  - ✓ type of local government important factor
  - ✓ size of community another factor (largest city commonly featured)



# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Important that composition provides for Executive that is reasonably representative of membership
  - ✓ perfection is not the objective (not achievable)
  - ✓ seek composition that accounts for geography, type, size
  - ✓ when strike the right balance, enhance legitimacy of body to membership





**Does the current composition of the Executive provide for a governing body that is reasonably representative of membership?**

# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Officer positions hold considerable responsibility; important to work of Executive and UBCM



# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Composition designed to provide elected officials from all regions (Area Associations) ability to get elected to, and serve in, Officer positions
  - ✓ concern that numbers of delegates and/or bloc voting tendencies of some regions result in disproportionate representation at Officer level
  - ✓ concern that representatives from other regions challenged to achieve positions
  - ✓ possible to change type of election to ensure equal representation at Officer level





**Is it important to have every region (Area Association) represented at the Officer level?**

# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Current composition recognizes size of community in determining representation
  - ✓ Small Communities recognized
  - ✓ Vancouver, Metro Area recognized
  - ✓ Large Urban Communities as constituency not recognized (15 municipalities > 100,000)





**Should Large Urban Communities, defined to include all 100,000+ cities across the Province, be recognized in the composition of Executive?**

# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ All positions on the Executive have one-year terms
  - ✓ maximizes opportunities for elected officials to serve
  - ✓ can be challenging for continuity
  - ✓ view that longer term could enhance effectiveness of governing body
  - ✓ UBCM unique in its use of one-year terms





**Should terms for Executive positions -  
all or some - be two years?**

# ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- ▶ The Executive consists of 21 members
  - ✓ choice of size reflects attempt to balance desire for broad representation, and effectiveness of governing body
  - ✓ larger body could help to enhance level of representativeness, but may impact effectiveness
  - ✓ holding firm at 21 may protect effectiveness, but could limit representativeness (especially if changes made)





**Should the size of the Executive be held at 21?**

# UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Resolution to change name put forward and endorsed in 2024



# UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Arguments in favour of a name change may include:
  - ✓ enhanced inclusivity; recognition of diversity
  - ✓ greater sense of belonging; strengthened engagement
  - ✓ modernization of UBCM's identity
  - ✓ increased clarity
  - ✓ strengthened advocacy



# UBCM NAME CHANGE

- ▶ Arguments against a name change may include:
  - ✓ considerable brand value, name recognition in "UBCM"
  - ✓ confusion on the part of partners and/or audiences
  - ✓ costs incurred
  - ✓ limited practical impact (symbolic rather than substantive)
  - ✓ unintended consequences





**Given all considerations, is the case for a change to the UBCM name strong enough to seek the necessary legislative amendment and make a change?**

# MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

- ▶ Please complete the survey online at [ubcm.ca](http://ubcm.ca)





## LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Governance Review – Presentation to Convention  
April 30, 2026

