

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Throughout the Union of British Columbian Municipalities (UBCM) Convention September 25 – 29, 2017, Mayor John McEwen and CAO Juli Halliwell met with Ministers and Provincial staff regarding a number of issues.

Metro North Transmission Study

During a meeting with Minister of Energy Michelle Mungall and BC Hydro staff, Mayor McEwen requested that the power lines through Anmore, including the upgraded lines being proposed as part of the Metro North Transmission Study, be placed underground. BC Hydro staff, in response to a question from Minister Mungall, indicated that placing the new lines underground in Anmore would add approximately \$25M to the project cost. Village staff have requested a breakdown of these increased costs.

Further, Mayor McEwen requested that all BC Hydro staff and contractors who are undertaking work within BC Hydro right of ways provide adjacent property owners with adequate, detailed surveys of the area showing specifically where the right of way exists to confirm that work is conducted within the right of way only.

Buntzen Lake Recreation Area

At a meeting with BC Hydro staff, Mayor McEwen reiterated that regional growth and the popularity of Buntzen Lake has resulted in additional strains on Village resources. Mayor McEwen requested that BC Hydro provide Anmore with \$10,000 annually to enable the Village to hire a bylaw officer to ensure compliance with parking related bylaws during the summer months to ensure the safety of residents and visitors alike.

Access to Rural Funding

Communities outside the Metro Vancouver Regional District and Capital Regional District who are designated rural have access to grant funding programs and an additional homeowner grant that is not available to urban communities. During a joint meeting with the Village of Belcarra, Village of Lion's Bay and Bowen Island Municipality, the Mayors requested that Minister of Finance, Carole James, provide all small communities with the same ability to apply for additional funding. As well, a request was made to increase the annual small communities operating grant to address cost concerns associated with being rural communities within an urban centre.