



CAO Report – October 1, 2025

It was my privilege to attend the Union of British Columbia Municipality meetings last week in Victoria, along with the Corporate Officer. The role of staff in supporting these meetings is the preparatory work in arranging the meetings Council would like to have with key ministers on priority issues, as well as preparing binders and conducting technical briefings for attending Council members. In the meeting itself, staff are called upon to clarify operational details, or program specifics. Often letters or follow-up meetings are required to keep the issues moving throughout the year. Other work includes logistics for travel and accommodation and on-site duties like note taking to produce a record of decisions made.

Sometimes we hear criticism about the expense of these meetings and the value of attending. Aside from tangible examples where specific commitments were made right at the table, like the \$400,000 Food Hub grant we received from Agriculture a couple of years ago, from my own view there is absolutely value in engaging the province in this venue. I speak from my own experience as a former provincial public servant for 20 years in the Alberta government where I participated in countless meetings on the other side of the table, supporting the Minister in the Alberta-equivalent conference for the same purpose.

I worked in 5 different ministries and held 4 different Assistant Deputy Minister portfolios during my time there. Provincial governments listen carefully to the concerns received in these sessions whether they are heard at the table directly or reflected in resolutions passed in the sessions. I remember as a provincial staff person anxiously tracking the various resolutions as they worked their way through and then needing to comment to intergovernmental staff about how we should respond. In many, many cases the issues heard in these meetings got the cogs turning inside the provincial government ... whether that was to support new programs, augment existing grant programs, or in some cases introducing significant new policy or legislative changes at the provincial level. These meetings matter and I appreciate Council's commitment to be there for Summerland.

Finally, just a reminder that there is a planned power outage scheduled overnight starting tomorrow October 2, from 10:00 pm to Friday, October 3, 6:00 am. This overnight outage is required to safely complete electrical system upgrades as part of the ongoing Wharton Street Revitalization Project. Approximately 300 electrical connections in the downtown area will be temporarily affected. Check out www.whartonstreet.ca to see if your property is affected.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer