

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS

**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT:** **UBCM 2025 COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS SUBMISSION**

**PURPOSE:** To seek Council approval to support staff's application to the 2025 Community Excellence Awards of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the submission of the Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan Public Engagement Program for the 2025 UBCM Community Excellence Award in the category of *Excellence in Governance*, as noted in the report titled "UBCM 2025 Community Excellence Awards Submission", dated July 22, 2025, be supported.

## **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

The City of Burnaby's submission for the UBCM Community Excellence Awards aligns with the following policies:

- Corporate Strategic Plan (2022);
- Draft Official Community Plan (2025); and
- Social Sustainability Strategy (2011).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND – UBCM 2025 COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate UBCM members who have implemented outstanding initiatives that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in British Columbia, to encourage local governments to learn from the success of others and to implement changes in their own communities.

There are four award categories: Excellence in Governance, Excellence in Service Delivery, Excellence in Asset Management and Excellence in Sustainability. Submissions will also be scored against general program criteria including:

- Leadership
- Financial Management and Planning
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Innovation
- Public Engagement and Communications
- Transferability

- Performance Measurement

To complete the submission, entries must include a resolution by Burnaby City Council indicating support for the initiative. UBCM accepts applications without a resolution, provided a resolution is submitted by the deadline of August 15, 2025. The application guide for the 2025 awards program is included as Attachment 1.

### **3.0 BURNABY 2050 OCP PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

For the 2025 Community Excellence Awards, staff have submitted the Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan (OCP) Public Engagement Program under the *Excellence in Governance* category on May 30, 2025, which was the application submission deadline. Although the OCP is not yet adopted by Council, the Public Engagement Program is now complete.

#### *Excellence in Governance*

*This category recognizes UBCM members that utilize governance processes and policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; 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. This may include projects focused on staff, elected officials and/or the community at large.*

The Burnaby 2050 OCP Public Engagement Program exemplifies excellence in governance through its robust, multi-phased process that emphasized inclusive participation, innovation and transparency. Key highlights include:

- First city in Canada to use a Community Assembly and one of the first to establish a Youth Advisory Council for its OCP;
- An inclusion lens through the use of Gender Base Analysis Plus;
- Meaningful engagement with Host Nations and Indigenous Peoples living in Burnaby;
- Use of innovative tools such as an interactive Land Use Map;
- Over 30,000 public comments collected since 2002;
- Partnerships with over 100 community organizations;
- Ongoing interdepartmental staff collaboration; and
- A resulting city-wide, long term OCP shaped by community input and grounded in reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion, and climate action, with clear steps for accountability and progress tracking.

This project exemplifies community-engaged planning and sets a strong example of effective, inclusive and responsible public engagement.

### **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

Submissions will be preliminarily reviewed by UBCM staff and then assessed and scored by subject matter experts. Awards will be presented at UBCM's 2025 Convention in September 2025.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report or the award submission.

Respectfully submitted,

E.W. Kozak, General Manager Planning and Development

## **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1 – Community Excellence Awards 2025 Application Guide

## **REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was prepared by Shirley Zhong, Planner 1, and reviewed by Sarah Crawford, Planner 3, Johannes Schumann, Director Community Planning, and Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager Planning and Development.