

Community Excellence Awards

2025 Application Guide

Application Deadline: May 30, 2025

1. Introduction

The Community Excellence Awards recognize and celebrate UBCM members that have implemented projects or programs that demonstrate excellence in meeting the purposes of local government in BC. The awards are designed to profile promising practices and to encourage local governments to learn from the success of other members in order to implement changes in their own communities.

UBCM has offered the Community Excellence Awards since 2004.

2. Eligible Applicants and Projects

The Community Excellence Awards program is open to UBCM members only, including local government and First Nation members. UBCM members may submit one application per category.

To be eligible for consideration, projects:

- Must have been initiated after January 1, 2020 and be substantially completed.
- Cannot be the subject of an application that was previously awarded a Community Excellence Award.
- May have been funded by grant programs administered by UBCM.

3. Categories

The purposes of local governments in BC are set out in both the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* and generally focus on good governance, providing services for community benefit, providing stewardship of public assets, and fostering sustainability.

Based on this, the categories are:

Excellence in Governance

Governance is the process of decision-making and the means by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).

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.

Excellence in Service Delivery

Service delivery involves the actual production and provision of goods and services to the community, and should be integrated with community plans and aligned with financial plans.

This category recognizes UBCM members that provide effective services in a proactive manner and demonstrate benefit to the community.

Excellence in Asset Management

Asset management is an integrated business approach that involves planning, finance, engineering and operations to effectively manage existing and new infrastructure in order to maximize benefits, reduce risk and provide satisfactory levels of service to community users in a sustainable manner.

This category recognizes UBCM members that have developed and implemented a comprehensive system of asset management policies and practices, meeting and/or exceeding accepted best practices such as the International Infrastructure Management Manual, ISO 55000 or Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery: A BC Framework.

Excellence in Sustainability

Sustainability means meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This category recognizes UBCM members that incorporate a long-term sustainability lens by considering the four pillars - cultural, social, economic and environmental issues - in planning, policy and practice.

4. Program Criteria

All applications will be scored against the following overall program criteria:

- Leadership: the extent to which the applicant acted as a local or regional leader in the development or implementation of the project.
- Financial management and planning: the degree to which the project and/or organization has implemented financial best practices that support long-term financial planning, value for money, financial sustainability and/or economic development.
- Partnerships and collaboration: the breadth and depth of community and/or regional partnerships that supported the project and the extent to which internal (e.g. inter-departmental and/or staff and elected officials) and/or external collaboration was evident.
- Innovation and promising practices: the degree to which the project demonstrated creativity and innovation, and contributed to increased efficiency or effectiveness.

- Engagement and communications: the extent to which internal and/or external engagement was foundational to the success of the project, including the use of communication tools such as social media.
- Transferability: the degree to which the process or outcomes of the project, or other learnings, could be conveyed to other UBCM members.
- Performance measurement: the extent to which the project has identified and/or utilized performance measures, benchmarks and/or standards to demonstrate benefit to the community.

5. UBCM Presidents Committee Choice Award

The Presidents Committee Choice Award is an opportunity for an outstanding, unique and/or special project, that would otherwise not be recognized through the adjudication process, to be recognized in the Community Excellence Award's program.

The award is not an additional category that applicants can apply under; instead candidates for the award are identified during the regular adjudication process.

The criteria for considering a candidate for the Presidents Committee Choice Award include:

- Exemplary demonstration of excellence in meeting objectives of local government (for example, as demonstrated by highest application review score in a given intake);
- Outstanding achievement in relation to a current issue faced by local governments.

6. Application Process

Application Deadline

The application deadline is May 30, 2025

Application Contents

All applicants are required to submit an electronic copy of the complete application package, including:

- Signed application form. Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files.
- Council, Board or Band Council resolution indicating support for the project to be considered for a 2025 Community Excellence Award. Note: UBCM will accept applications without a resolution, providing the resolution is received by August 15, 2025. Please contact UBCM if the resolution cannot be submitted by the application deadline.
- Five representative photos of the project. Photos should be submitted as JPEG files at a high resolution suitable for display.
- Links to any publicly available videos related to the project.

Review of Applications

UBCM staff will perform a preliminary review of all applications to ensure the required application elements have been submitted and to ensure that basic eligibility criteria have been met. Only complete application packages will be reviewed.

Should UBCM staff determine that a submission is more suitable to a different category than the one submitted to, they may transfer the application to that category.

Subject matter experts will assess and score all eligible applications. UBCM's Presidents Committee will then review recommendations and scores from the subject matter experts and select category winners and, if recommended, honourable mentions.

The committee may also consider if applicants have received past awards and the location and type of each project.

7. Awards Ceremony

Awards will be presented during UBCM's 2025 Convention. All delegates are invited to attend the awards event.

Please note that in the case that an application for a project with multiple partners is selected for an award or honourable mention, only the local government that submitted the application will be identified as the recipient.

8. Additional Information

Please visit the Community Excellence Awards section of the UBCM website or contact awards@ubcm.ca.