

SILGA *Southern Interior Local Government Association*

February 22, 2019

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Emergency Management BC
PO Box 9201 Stn. Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J1
Attn: Chris Duffy, Executive Director EMBC Programs

Dear Mr. Duffy,

Re: UBCM meeting on State of Emergency Legislation

Thank you for meeting with the SILGA board on Sept 12, 2018 to discuss the ramifications of “State of Emergency” declarations by the Provincial Government. We appreciated that you understood the rationale behind our request. Based on the meeting, we all agreed that these declarations allow the government to ensure federal, provincial and local resources can be delivered in a coordinated response to protect the public, which is obviously the top priority. The ominous connotations to “state of emergency”, however, have had a negative impact on provincial tourism. The term “state of emergency” is used to trigger necessary funding yet with the power of social media the negative implications of “state of emergency” carry a bold statement that implies a state of unrest and that the province might not be safe for travel.

At our meeting, you indicated that a timeline to change such phrasing and put together legislation that would address this issue might be 12-18 months. I wanted to write to you to see if you could provide any updates which could be conveyed to our membership at our April convention.

We appreciate the work that you do and your time in replying.

Sincerely,

Shelley Sim
President, SILGA

cc: Sandra Tanaka, Director, Corporate and Strategic Initiatives (ADMO), Ministry of Public Safety and
Solicitor General