



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

**To:** Regional Board  
**From:** Corporate Officer / Deputy CAO  
**Date:** March 20, 2025

**Subject:** Attendance Approval for Electoral Area East Director – 2025 Keeping It Rural Conference

**Voting Entitlement:** *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

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**Purpose:** To consider approval for Electoral Area East Director Kraft's attendance at the 2025 Keeping it Rural Conference.

### Executive Summary:

At the Board's December 12, 2024 Regular Board meeting Directors were approved to attend the following conferences:

- UBCM Electoral Area Directors Forum, February 4-5, Richmond BC
- LGLA Leadership Forum, March 12-14, Richmond BC
- Council of Forest Industries Conference, April 2-4, Prince George BC
- UBCM Regional District Chair and CAO Forum, April 22-23, Victoria BC
- Municipal Finance Authority Financial Forum and AGM, April 23-24, Victoria BC
- SILGA Annual Conference, April 29-May 2, Merritt, BC
- FCM Annual Conference and Trade Show, May 28-June 1, Ottawa ON
- UBCM 2025 Convention, September 22-26, Victoria BC

A request has been made by Electoral Area East Director Kraft to attend the 2025 Keeping it Rural Conference being held in Kelowna June 10-12, 2025.

The cost to register for the Keeping it Rural Conference is \$500.00. Board approval for estimated expenses of attending a seminar or conference over \$100.00 is required under Board Expense Policy 7.15.

### Recommendation(s):

**THAT** in accordance with Board Expense Policy 7.15, the Regional Board approves Director Kraft to attend the 2025 Keeping it Rural Conference.

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Respectfully submitted by: Sandra Ballan-Brown, Corporate Services Executive Assistant

Report Approved by: Corie Griffiths, Corporate Officer/ Deputy CAO

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

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**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness  | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness     | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | ✓ Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only                   |
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**About the Conference:****WHEN:** June 10 - 12, 2025**WHERE:** Four Points by Sheraton at Kelowna Airport

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** The Keeping It Rural Conference is ideal for rural, remote, and First Nation leaders, elected officials, planners, community development professionals, rural economic developers, and representatives from non-profit organizations. It is also beneficial for educators, researchers, and students interested in sustainable rural development and those passionate about making a positive impact in their communities. Attendees will have the chance to connect with experts, share experiences, and discuss the critical themes of sustainability, resilience, and innovation that are vital for the future of rural regions.

**WHY ATTEND:** Attending the Keeping It Rural Conference is essential for leaders, stakeholders, and elected officials in rural, remote, and First Nation communities. This conference provides a unique platform to engage with experts and peers on the specific challenges and opportunities faced by these areas. Participants will gain valuable insights into innovative solutions, share best practices, and collaborate on strategies to enhance the resilience and sustainability of their regions. Additionally, the conference fosters networking opportunities and empowers leaders to advocate effectively for their communities' needs while embracing change for a prosperous future.

The Keeping it Rural Conference is an engaging and informative event designed for individuals and organizations committed to enhancing rural communities through sustainable practices, innovation, and collaboration. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops, expert-led panels, and networking sessions focused on topics such as agricultural advancements, rural economic development, and community resilience. With a mix of keynote speakers and open dialogue, the conference aims to inspire and empower participants to address the unique challenges faced by rural areas.

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**Considerations:**

Considerations not applicable:

Organizational/External

Financial

Legal/Statutory Authority

Alternate Recommendation

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**Attachment(s):** 1. BP-2022 (7.15) Board Expense Policy