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Vernon Politicians at UBCM

Posted on 9/23/2015 by Pete McIntyre



North Okanagan politicians have been flexing their mussels at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in Vancouver.

Vernon Mayor Akbal Mund says city and Regional District of North Okanagan reps had a meeting with Environment Minister Mary Polak about zebra and quagga mussels,

pressing the need for permanent inspection stations.

"Just addressing the concerns that we do have if we get the invasive species within our lakes, it will be a major cost to clean them up and we just want to make sure we are doing all we can to be pro-active," Mund tells Kiss FM.

Mund says the minister was very well schooled on the issue, and indicated the province is looking at ways to provide some funding.

"Which was really good. It was a good sign. (She didn't) give an official response as a ministry, but they are working on where they can obtain the funds to battle this."

Critics say attending the UBCM is a waste of taxpayers money, but Mund says for a new political rep like him, it's a worthwhile event.

"Now that I know how the process works, it is valuable. You get to talk to other mayors here, you get to go through the seminars and workshops. They are very enlightening what's out there and what you can do, especially for a new member."

In addition to Mund, the city also has new councillor Scott Anderson there, along with veterans Catherine Lord and Juliette Cunningham.

Staff members include CAO Will Pearce and Corporate Manager Patti Bridal.