

Provincial Response to the 2023 UBCM Resolutions

ADDENDUM

JULY
2024

EB48 Parking on Ministry of Transportation Rights-of-Way

Whereas regional districts have not been granted the authority to regulate vehicle parking on roadways in rural areas;

And whereas the Province and the RCMP have limited resources to regulate and enforce the increased volume of vehicles parked illegally on roads and rights-of-way that cause congestion and unsafe conditions for other vehicles, pedestrians and emergency first responders;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia grant regional districts the authority under the BC Motor Vehicle Act to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and rights-of-way with the same authority as municipalities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The *Motor Vehicle Act* provides authority to municipalities to manage traffic, including parking, on municipal roads consistent with the framework established under the Community Charter. Highways in rural areas of the province fall under the jurisdiction of the province, with the regulation of parking enforceable by police.

Providing an authority to Regional Districts to regulate parking similar to municipalities would require legislation and significant analysis of broad questions on the role, responsibilities and powers of Regional Districts. Other matters for consideration include who is responsible for and pays the costs of enforcement, including regulation of parking and traffic management, sign installation and maintenance, responsibility and liability, planning and engineering of roadside parking, terms and conditions of approvals, and other related matters.

Given these questions, more information is needed to understand the proposal.

Accordingly, in the absence of any detailed proposal from one or more Regional Districts the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is not at this time considering providing Regional Districts with the authority to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial highways and rights-of-way.

LR1 2023 Wildfire Season – Economic Impacts to the Forestry Sector - Request for Inventory

Whereas 2023 has been the worst wildfire season in BC’s history with over 2.2 million hectares burnt, and close to \$1 billion spent to combat the wildfires;

And whereas in April 2018 the Province received the Abbott/Chapman report titled Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia whereby recommendation 104 states: “Following wildfire events, promptly undertake timber supply reviews to enable industry response and adaptation to a new allowable annual cut, and to allow BC to better understand and respond to impacts on habitat, fibre availability and community stability.”;

And whereas there has not been a provincial inventory of land base assets since the 2007 fire season; however, within the last 2 years the Province has undertaken several new forest and land based initiatives such as the Old Growth Strategic Review, Forest Landscape Plans, and BC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework proposals that are being conducted in the absence of accurate inventory data:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC immediately defer its current land base initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season recognizing that the impacts of wildfire to wildlife habitat, timber, fish, water, First Nations Reconciliation, and community stability need to be examined and prioritized to understand if the current land base initiatives remain in the best interest of the Province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) of the Ministry of Forests conducts an annual inventory of approximately 3 million hectares of new forest throughout the province. Over the past decade, 32% (or 30.9 million hectares) of the provincial forest inventory has been updated with new photo-interpreted information.

In addition to photo-interpreted inventories, FAIB is developing and implementing new technologies, such as Lidar, to model and enhance inventory attributes across various Timber Supply Areas (TSAs) in the province.

FAIB is also committed to expanding and maintaining a comprehensive network of field sample plots, which are crucial for assessing the accuracy of the forest inventory. It has established and re-measured 8000 ground samples across the province. These include Change Monitoring Plots (CMI), Young Stand Monitoring Plots (YSM), National Forest Inventory plots (NFI), and Growth and Yield Plots (GYS). These plots assist in adjusting

photo-estimated inventories based on ground data, where necessary.

Each year, FAIB updates and projects the provincial forest inventory to account for harvest depletions, natural disturbances, and forest regeneration. This includes updating the inventory to reflect the impact of wildfires. This includes conducting burn severity mapping for all wildfires over 100 hectares in size to ascertain the extent and severity of the damage. In 2023, the inventory was updated to account for approximately 2.8 million hectares of land affected by wildfire.

FAIB is supporting the acquisition of Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) data for the province and is working with the Provincial Lidar Team which is tasked with the acquisition of 100 million hectares of Lidar data over the next 4 years. The acquisition began in August 2023 and has collected approximately 3 million hectares. Currently, there are 12.5 million hectares of Lidar data that are publicly available.

FAIB has prepared the Lidar based Enhanced Forest Inventory for the Boundary TSA and is currently working on other Lidar Enhanced Inventories in parts of the interior of the province, in particular the Interior Douglas Fir zone near 100 Mile House TSA, Williams Lake TSA and Invermere TSA.

LR2 Economic Relief for Commercial and Industrial Business Sectors Impacted by Wildfires within British Columbia

Whereas British Columbia has endured the most devastating wildfire season to date;

And whereas impacts experienced across the province related to wildfires and associated highway closures are numerous and far reaching, particularly as it relates to economic development and the tourism sector, adding additional burden to ongoing challenges related to recruitment and retention, supply chains and inflation;

And whereas local commercial and industrial businesses within the Alberni Valley and neighbouring coastal communities have been particularly hard hit as a result of the ongoing closures and unpredictability of Highway 4, the one major road serving as the primary entry and exit point to the Region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate assistance and financial aid to the commercial and industrial business sectors within the province that have been impacted by the wildfires and associated highway closures;

And be it further resolved that government programs, such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to acknowledge both the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters to ensure support of affected businesses during and following natural disasters.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

The EMCR Vancouver Island Coastal Region (VIC) Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) moved to a level 2 response status, to provide enhanced response coordination for the Cameron Bluffs Wildfire event that resulted in the closure of Highway 4. At the start of the emergency, the PREOC provided funding for local Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) to open and operate reception centres to receive stranded travelers until the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) was able to open a detour route.

The VIC PREOC brought First Nation, Local Government, Ministries, and service providers into coordination calls to drive information exchange and come up with solutions to support the transportation of goods and services through the detour. In collaboration with MOTI, EMCR coordinated escorts for large transportation truck convoys through the detour route to maintain product flow into community.

After the wildfire emergency ended, EMCR engaged with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation (JEDI) to provide key information for how businesses facing emergencies can develop business continuity plans and joined into meetings with the

Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce.

EMCR also provided Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District funding amounting to \$2,189.58 for an after-action review to assess lessons learned and for future planning.

In recognition of the increasing impacts on communities from climate change, the Province is modernizing the way we prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

In fall 2023, EMCR introduced the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) which incorporates learnings from past events and international best practices. With EDMA receiving royal assent, EMCR is now working to modernize the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (CDFAR) which is being informed by public engagement.

The Province is also working with the Federal government on the development of a modernized Flood Insurance model. The Federal government is anticipating conclusion of this work by summer 2024.

NR10 Review of Health Authorities Structure

Whereas access to healthcare services is of paramount importance to all British Columbians, a detailed evaluation of structure/management is required to inform future strategies;

And whereas local governments have limited access to Health Authority reports:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to require a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities. with multi-stakeholder engagement, including but not limited to local and Indigenous governments, community organizations, people with lived and living experience, and health staff as identified by relevant health care unions with the goal of maximizing the impacts on physical, mental, social and environmental health of the public, including acute and primary care, emergency department needs and surge capacity needs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

No response provided at this time