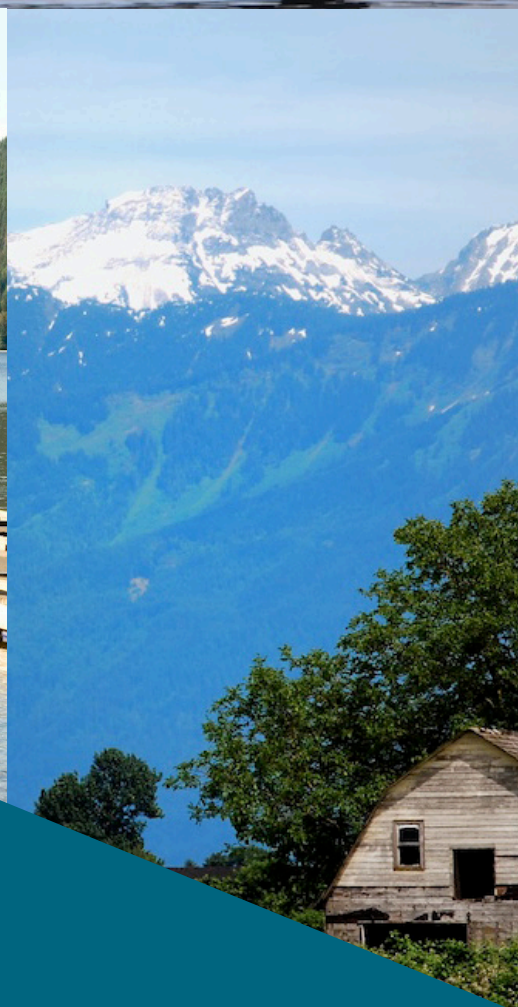


2024 Resolutions Book



Resolutions to be Considered at the 2024 UBCM Convention

Vancouver Convention Centre Vancouver, BC

The resolutions sessions are presently scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 18

10:30am to 11:45am

Special Resolutions

Endorse Block of Resolutions

Not Endorse Block of Resolutions

No Recommendation Resolutions (*time permitting*)

Thursday, September 19

8:35am to 11:15am

No Recommendation Resolutions (*cont'd*)

Friday, September 20

8:00am to 9:00am

10:00am to 11:15am

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline (*Policy
Book 1 blue cover*)

No Recommendation Resolutions (*cont'd*)

All times are subject to change—please check the Convention Program to confirm date and times.

Report of the 2024 Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is pleased to welcome members to Convention. We look forward to the lively debate of this year's resolutions.

Resolutions

Two hundred and sixty-four resolutions were received from the members by the June 15 deadline and have been included in the Resolutions Book. The UBCM Executive are putting forward three Special Resolutions (SR) for consideration. This makes a total of 267 resolutions in 2024, which is a 25 per cent increase over last year.

This year, approximately 80 per cent of resolutions were submitted to the five Area Associations prior to being submitted to UBCM. This reflects an on-going trend of increased engagement in the different regions of the province. The Resolutions Committee credits members for submitting resolutions to their Area Associations for consideration at annual spring conventions, and reminds members that Area Association endorsement lends weight to a resolution when it is later considered at UBCM. Under each resolution there is a notation indicating if the resolution was endorsed at an Area Association or submitted directly to UBCM.

The resolutions are indexed by both resolution number and by sponsor. They are placed into one of 15 categories. New this year, is a category titled Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. Prior to the creation of this category, resolutions addressing issues of Indigenous relations and reconciliation were placed under the Selected Issues category, which is meant to capture one-off resolutions that don't belong under the other categories. The Resolutions Committee is pleased to have this new category to give Indigenous issues a place of priority.

Also new this year, is the use of icons throughout the Resolutions Book to make the Book more visual and less text heavy.

Advance Preparation

The Resolutions Committee is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate over the three days allotted to resolutions. Resolution

sponsors should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide information that clarifies the request made by the resolution. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate as many resolutions as time permits. We also remind delegates that amendments must be provided in writing to staff at the front of the room, prior to speaking to them.

Order of Debate

Debate will begin with the individual consideration of the Special Resolutions (SR).

Next, members will consider the two consent agenda blocks of resolutions, the Endorse Block (EB) of resolutions and the Not Endorse Block (NEB) of resolutions.

Finally, individual consideration of resolutions with the recommendation of No Recommendation (NR) or No Action Required.

If time constraints prevent all resolutions from being considered, policies ensure that resolutions not considered by the Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

Resolutions received after the deadline are handled as Late Resolutions, in accordance with the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions. These are printed in the "Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline," which will be posted to the UBCM web site and Convention App on the first day of Convention.

The Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions detail the step-by-step handling of each category of resolution. Members are encouraged to read the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions that follow this introduction.

2024 UBCM Resolutions Committee

Councillor Pete Fry, Chair
Councillor Gord Klassen, Vice-Chair
Councillor Cori Ramsay
Director Art Kaehn

Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

Section	Description	Handling
EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS (ER)	Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the <i>UBCM Act</i>	Considered individually
SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS (SR)	UBCM Executive resolutions on priority issues	Considered individually
ENDORSE BLOCK (EB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolutions that support established UBCM policy Recommendation: Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment 	Considered as a block
NOT ENDORSE BLOCK (NEB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolutions that are contrary to established UBCM policy Recommendation: Not Endorse 	Considered as a block
NO RECOMMENDATION (NR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New issues Recommendation: No Recommendation or No Action Required 	Considered individually
REFERRED RESOLUTIONS (RR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolutions referred to similar resolutions found elsewhere in the Resolutions Book Resolutions referred to policy papers and/or special sessions held at Convention Resolutions to be referred back to the sponsor or Area Association Resolutions recommended Refer to UBCM Executive 	Not admitted for debate

Classifications in the Resolutions Book

Outlined below are the subject area classifications used in the Resolutions Book.



Health and Social Development

Resolutions that relate to health policy and health services (e.g. capital projects, access and level of service, home support, ambulance service, hospitals, internationally trained doctors).



Housing

Resolutions that address housing legislation and regulation such as *Residential Tenancy Act*, *Strata Property Act* and BC Building Code. These resolutions also address housing issues, such as renters rights, secondary suites, homelessness and BC Housing.



Community Safety

Resolutions focused on legal matters; provision of court services; police services and associated costs; as well as the general administration of justice, protective and emergency services.



Environment

Resolutions on environmental issues of direct interest to local government, that impact local government operations. These may include product stewardship, recycling, solid waste management, water and air quality, and streamside protection.



Regional Districts

Resolutions that raise issues or propose changes to the statutory authorities and jurisdictions of regional districts.



Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Resolutions that focus on Indigenous issues and matters of reconciliation.



Finance

Resolutions of broad financial impact to local government. These may include federal grants-in-lieu, federal sales tax, fuel tax, infrastructure funding, or provincial funding (e.g. health care, tourism).



Land Use

Resolutions regarding planning issues such as parkland, development cost charges, siting,

Agricultural Land Reserve, Crown lands, and matters falling under Part 14 of the *Local Government Act*.



Taxation

Resolutions focused on charges and taxes levied by local governments, revenue from which supports their operations.



Transportation

Resolutions that request changes to issues related to transportation (e.g. trucking, highways, roads, off road vehicles, bicycles).



Legislative

Resolutions that focus on the *Community Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, or other legislation that sets out local government jurisdictions and authorities.



Assessment

Resolutions that relate to property assessment, market value, and changes to the current assessment system. The *Assessment Act*, BC Assessment, or assessment appeal boards may be referenced.



Community Economic Development

Resolutions regarding regional sustainability and economic development opportunities for local governments, including concerns of resource-focused communities.



Elections

Resolutions that request changes in the election process, dates, voting, or procedures outlined in the *Local Government Act* or related statutes.



Selected Issues

Resolutions of a general nature that are not easily classified in the above sections, or that are of interest to local governments, but might not affect them directly.

Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions

General Rules

1. Sessions will begin and end promptly at the scheduled hours.
2. Delegates will use the floor microphones when speaking.
3. All elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations attending the Annual Convention of the Union shall be delegates entitled to participate in debates and to vote on any matter before the Convention. Non-elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations may attend a Convention as guest delegates and shall not be entitled to the privilege of the floor unless authorized by the Convention and in any case shall not be entitled to vote [Bylaw s. 11]. Guest speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive. [Bylaw s. 14(e)]
4. At all business sessions of the Convention, fifty delegates shall constitute a quorum. [Bylaw s. 12(h)]

Voting Rules

5. Only elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations are entitled to vote. [Bylaw s. 11]
6. Voting on ordinary resolutions normally shall be by a show of voting cards or by electronic voting device, as determined by the Chair.

In cases where the number of votes for or against a motion is difficult to discern using a show of voting cards, the Chair may at their discretion call for a vote using electronic voting devices. The results of a vote using electronic voting devices are final.

Following a show of voting cards, the Chair's decision as to whether a motion is won or lost is final, unless immediately upon the decision of the Chair being declared, ten or more voting delegates then present, by standing, demand an electronic vote, whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a vote using electronic voting devices. The results of a vote using electronic voting devices are final.

In the event that electronic voting devices are not available or not functioning, the Chair may call for a standing vote, whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a count of those standing in favour of and against the motion. In the event that the result of the

standing vote is questioned by fifty or more voting delegates then present, or at any time at the discretion of the Chair, the Chair shall order that the matter before the Convention be determined by ballot, and the result of such ballot shall be final. [Bylaw s. 13(a)]

7. Where voting is by ballot, scrutineers shall be appointed by the Chair to distribute the ballot, collect the same, and to count and report the vote. [Bylaw s. 13(b)]

8. In all cases, where the votes of delegates then present, including the vote of the Chair, are equal for and against a question, the question shall be negated, and it shall be the duty of the Chair to so declare. [Bylaw s. 13(c)]

9. No vote by proxy shall be recognized or allowed. [Bylaw s. 13(d)]

10. When voting by show of hands all delegates shall hold their voting card. In the case of a ballot, the voting card must be presented and initialled by the scrutineers before a ballot is issued.

Rules of Procedure

11. The fundamental principles of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Union so far as they may be applicable without coming in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws. [Bylaw s. 22(a)]

12. The Chair shall enforce order and strict observance of the Bylaws. Subject to an appeal to the meeting sustained by a majority vote of delegates present, the Chair shall have the right to decide all questions of order and the Chair's rulings in this regard shall be final. [Bylaw s. 22(b)]

13. A delegate wishing to move, second or speak to a motion shall address the Chair and shall wait until they are recognized before speaking. Delegates must announce their name, local government office and membership or other qualifications each time they wish to speak [Bylaw s. 22(c)]

14. Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. The introducer of a motion is permitted three minutes. [Bylaw s. 22(d)]

15. No delegate may speak more than once on any one question unless and until all other delegates desiring to speak have been heard. [Bylaw s. 22(e)]

16. Any amendment and any motion to withdraw any resolution from consideration of the meeting or to refer the same to the Resolutions Committee, or to any other committee, and any motion affecting the resolution must be moved and seconded from the Convention floor. [Bylaw s. 23(e)]

17. Motions to vary the agenda are permitted in the following circumstances:

a) a motion to adjust the order in which the No Recommendation (NR) resolutions will be considered.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to amend the order of debate of NR resolutions. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the NR resolution will be dealt with immediately, but not before the Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been considered.

A simple majority is required to endorse an NR resolution that has been admitted for debate.

b) a motion to consider a Referred Resolution (RR), which are not considered at Convention.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an RR resolution be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the RR resolution will be dealt with immediately, but not before the Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been considered.

A simple majority is required to endorse an RR resolution that has been admitted for debate.

c) a motion to consider a resolution received after the deadline (late resolution) that was not recommended admit for debate.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that a late resolution be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?"

– and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the late resolution will be dealt with on Friday morning, immediately following the consideration of any late resolution(s) deemed emergency and recommended for debate, as found in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution received after the deadline (late resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

d) a motion to consider a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book or in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline ("off the floor" resolution). (Conference Rules and Procedures s. 56)

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an "off the floor" resolution, which is defined as a resolution not included in either the Resolutions Book or Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the "off the floor" resolution will be considered on the Friday of Convention, immediately following consideration of the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book ("off the floor" resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

18. Should discussion continue on any resolution for an undue length of time without reasonable agreement being reached, the resolution may be cleared from the floor by a favourable vote to refer the resolution to the Resolutions Committee for further consideration and report. [Bylaw s. 23(e)]

Order of Resolutions: Resolutions Book and Convention Debate

Resolutions will be organized as follows:

19. EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed "ER" and are included in the first section of the Resolutions Book. Extraordinary Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership. Extraordinary

Resolutions are sponsored by the UBCM Executive and are seeking membership approval to amend UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the *UBCM Act*. [Bylaw s. 19]

20. Extraordinary Resolutions: Notice of Extraordinary Resolutions intended to be submitted for consideration shall be given in writing to the Executive Director not later than seventy-five (75) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual Convention, and shall be included in the Resolutions Book distributed to member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. A favourable three-fifths majority vote at an Annual Convention of the delegates then present shall be necessary to adopt an Extraordinary Resolution. [Bylaw s.20]

21. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed “SR” and are included in the second section of the Resolutions Book. Special Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership, following consideration of all Extraordinary Resolutions.

Special Resolutions are sponsored by the UBCM Executive and address priority issues of the membership.

22. RESOLUTION BLOCKS: Resolutions may be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate in one of two blocks being an Endorse Block or a Not Endorse Block as follows:

a) ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- previously considered and endorsed resolutions; or
- resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy, including previously approved policy papers or other documents.

These resolutions are in-line with existing policy positions and are all recommended as Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. These are prefixed “EB” and are included in the third section of the Resolutions Book. They will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate as a block. The Endorse Block of Resolutions will be considered in one vote by the membership, following consideration of all Special Resolutions.

b) NOT ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- resolutions with proposed policy positions that contradict current policy positions; or
- previously considered, but not endorsed resolutions.

These resolutions are contrary to existing policy positions and are all recommended as Not Endorse. These are prefixed “NEB” and are included in the fourth section of the Resolutions Book. They will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate as a block. The Not Endorse Block of resolutions will be considered in one vote by the membership, following consideration of the Endorse Block.

23. NO RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- resolutions on topics not previously considered;
- resolutions where there is no action required; or
- resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with current UBCM policy position.

These resolutions are neither in exact alignment with existing policy, nor contrary to existing policy positions and are all recommended as No Recommendation. These are prefixed “NR” and are included in the fifth section of the Resolutions Book.

The No Recommendation resolutions will be considered individually, following consideration of the Not Endorse Block.

Any NR resolutions that are not considered during Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention. Sponsors will be notified of the decision made by Executive regarding their resolution.

24. REFERRED RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- referred to a similar resolution in an Endorse Block or Not Endorse Block;
- referred to a similar No Recommendation resolution;
- referred to a Special Resolution to be put forward at Convention;
- referred to policy papers and/or special sessions held at Convention;
- deemed too regional in nature and will be referred back to either the sponsor or the Area

Association; or

- recommended Refer to UBCM Executive.

These are prefixed “RR” and are included in the sixth section of the Resolutions Book and cross-referenced for delegates’ information.

Referred Resolutions will not be admitted for debate during Convention, unless a favourable motion to vary the agenda is achieved in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 17b)

Handling of Resolutions: Step-by-Step Rules for Extraordinary Resolutions

25. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

26. The resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

27. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

28. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from UBCM, the sponsor, to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

29. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

30. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the “Voting Rules”. (Rules s. 5-10)

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A three-fifths majority is required to endorse an Extraordinary Resolution.

Extraordinary Resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

Step-by-Step Rules for Special Resolutions

31. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

32. The resolution will after reading be properly

before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

33. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

34. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from UBCM, the sponsor, to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

35. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

36. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the “Voting Rules”. (Rules s. 5-10)

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A simple majority is required to endorse a Special Resolution.

Special Resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

Step-by-Step Rules for the Endorse Block of Resolutions

37. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Endorse Block resolutions as a block.

38. The Endorse Block will require a mover and a seconder.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have an Endorse Block resolution entered for individual discussion, because they disagree with the recommendation or wish to propose an amendment, shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – “Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?” – and such question shall require a simple majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the Endorse Block and it will be

considered immediately following the Endorse Block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Endorse Block as amended.

v) After the Endorse Block has been considered, any resolution(s) removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

A simple majority is required to endorse the Endorse Block of resolutions, either as amended, or unamended.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution(s) pulled from the Endorse Block for individual consideration.

Step-by-Step Rules for the Not Endorse Block of Resolutions

39. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Not Endorse Block resolutions as a block.

40. The Not Endorse Block will require a mover and a seconder.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have a Not Endorse Block resolution entered for individual discussion, because they disagree with the recommendation or wish to propose an amendment, shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – "Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?" – and such question shall require a simple majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the Not Endorse Block and it will be considered immediately following the Not Endorse Block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Not Endorse Block as amended.

v) After the Not Endorse Block has been considered, any resolution(s) removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

A simple majority is required to endorse the Not Endorse Block of resolutions either as amended or unamended.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution(s) pulled from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration.

Step-by-Step Rules for No Recommendation Resolutions

41. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of each resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

42. The resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

43. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

44. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from the sponsoring municipality, regional district or First Nation to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

45. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

46. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure". (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the "Voting Rules". (Rules s. 5-10)

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A simple majority is required to endorse a No Recommendation resolution.

No Recommendation resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book, unless a favourable motion to vary the agenda is achieved in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure". (Rules s. 17a)

For Resolutions Received After the Deadline

47. A resolution submitted following the regular deadline shall be considered "late" and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that the resolution shall be provided to UBCM by the Friday noon preceding the date of the Annual Convention.

48. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be available for discussion after Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been

considered, but not before the time included in the Convention Program.

49. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be examined by the Resolutions Committee and shall be separated into the following categories:

(a) Emergency Resolutions recommended to be placed before the Convention for Plenary discussion.

(b) Resolutions recommended to be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action (note that the Resolution Committee's recommendation for action will be included in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline).

(c) Resolutions not recommended to be admitted for Plenary discussion.

50. Resolutions received after the deadline are classified as "Emergency" and therefore appropriate for Plenary only if the topic is such that it has arisen since the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions.

Resolutions received after the deadline are appropriate to be referred to the Executive if the topic has arisen since the regular submission of resolutions and, in the opinion of the Resolutions Committee, the topic is noncontroversial and in keeping with UBCM policy.

Resolutions received after the deadline are not appropriate for Plenary discussion or referral if they concern a topic that arose or was known before the regular deadline for resolutions.

51. The Chair shall put forward a motion that contains the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee on entering Resolutions Received after the Deadline for discussion which, if duly seconded, will be dealt with as follows: The Chair shall put the question – "Shall the report of the Resolutions Committee and the recommendations therein be adopted?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote.

52. Only Emergency Resolutions shall be dealt with and they shall be dealt with in the order presented in the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

53. The Resolutions Committee's Report on resolutions Received After the Deadline shall be distributed at Convention.

54. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the Emergency Resolution to be read by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee.

55. The Emergency Resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and the procedures for handling No Recommendation resolutions will apply. (Rules s. 41-46)

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution received after the deadline (Emergency Resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

For Resolutions Not Included in the Resolutions Book or in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

56. A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an "off the floor" resolution, which is defined as a resolution not included in either the Resolutions Book or Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the "off the floor" resolution will be considered on the Friday of Convention, immediately following consideration of the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book ("off the floor" resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

The Chair, at their discretion, may require that any such motion be submitted in writing and may require that copies be provided to all delegates present before consideration thereof. [Bylaw s. 14(c)]

57. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive may submit any matters not requiring Extraordinary Resolution to any Convention for consideration or action at any time. [Bylaw s. 14(d)]

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Section SR Resolutions

Section SR resolutions are Special Resolutions and they address priority issues identified by the UBCM Executive, of concern to a broad range of UBCM members around the province.

Included in Section SR are resolutions numbered:

SR1 – SR3

Section SR



Health and Social Development

SR1 Unsustainable Local Government Contributions to Regional Hospital Districts

UBCM Executive

Whereas local governments are facing significant financial pressures due to the expansion of services which are being downloaded by the provincial and federal governments on many issues including housing, community safety and climate change;

And whereas local governments must share the capital infrastructure project costs for healthcare facilities with the provincial government through their Regional Hospital Districts with 60 percent contributed by the Province and 40 percent contributed by Regional Hospital Districts;

And whereas local governments must provide the 40 percent 'voluntary' contribution towards the provincial government's health care capital costs, including any cost overruns, or risk losing those projects to other areas of the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work with Regional Hospital Districts and UBCM to review the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC, and acknowledge that the reliance on property taxes to fund areas of provincial health care responsibility is inconsistent and unsustainable for BC local governments.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions regarding the cost-sharing of capital projects between Health Authorities and Regional Hospital Districts. (2023-NR11, 2021-EB64, 2018-B50, 2018-B144, 2017-B39, 2016-B114, 2014-B35, 2011-B58, 2009-B150, 2008-B129, 2007-B184, 2005-B42, 2004-B28). Several of the resolutions have requested a review of the historic cost-sharing ratio and have advised reliance on the property tax system to provide 40 percent of the capital costs is inflexible, inconsistent, and unsustainable.

The Committee also notes that the membership supported resolution 2023-NR10 which called for a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities; and resolution 2014-C19 which requested legislative change to require the composition of health authority boards to include representation from regional districts.

For 2024, UBCM received three related resolutions on regional hospital districts that will be referred to this Special Resolution. Resolution RR1 requests that the provincial government consult with Regional Hospital Districts to reconsider the existing capital infrastructure project funding split as the 60:40 percentages are not legislated in the Hospital District Act; Resolution RR2 asks the provincial government for transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects, enabling accountability and effective financial planning by local governments; and Resolution RR3 requests equitable funding arrangements for healthcare infrastructure projects, ensuring that the financial burden is distributed fairly among communities based on their capacity to contribute.

See resolutions RR1, RR2, RR3

Background

The UBCM Executive is bringing forward a special resolution on Regional Hospital Districts to highlight and provoke action by the provincial government on the long-standing issue of the expected contributions from local governments to provincial health care capital projects.

Local governments, through their Regional Hospital Districts (RHD), provide a voluntary 40 percent contribution towards capital costs. However, most RHDs acknowledge that while they theoretically can (and some do) refuse to approve the full 40 percent of project requests from Health Authorities, they feel that it is risky to do so as the project could be placed at risk and the local community could lose needed investments.

In response to endorsed resolution 2021-EB64, the Ministry of Health advised that “RHDs are expected to contribute 40 percent of capital project costs within their region”. The provincial government noted that “when there is an opportunity to amend the Hospital District Act - the legislative framework for the roles and responsibilities of RHDs - the review of the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC could be considered in consultation with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities”.

Staff note that the Regional Hospital Districts exist in every region of BC except for the Greater Vancouver Regional District. A provision in the Greater Vancouver Transportation Act allows residents in that area contribute towards transit instead of health care capital costs.

UBCM Policy Position

Local contributions to Regional Hospital Districts have been a significant issue for UBCM since 1992.

UBCM was involved in drafting two Regional Hospital District Cost Sharing Reviews in 2003 and 2009.

In 2003, Sierra Systems was hired by the Ministry of Health to conduct a review of the cost sharing processes between the Ministry of Health, Health Authorities and RHDs. The review examined the appropriate role for RHDs in capital planning and contribution decisions; and the capital process concerns of each party. The report offered 15 recommendations.

In 2008 and 2009, UBCM worked with the Ministry of Health to commission a second report to review the status of the implementation of recommendations from the 2003 Cost Sharing Review.

Following the release of the report, Ministry of Health staff provided updates to the UBCM membership in 2009, 2010, and 2011 at the Annual Conventions. In 2011, the Ministry noted that of the actionable recommendations, 8 items were complete, 1 item was 95 percent complete (recommendation #2), and 1 item is headed in the right direction (recommendation #1), and 1 item will be on the legislative agenda (recommendation #11). It was noted that the Ministry was preparing a summary report to present to the RHDs in early 2012.

Work on the implementation of the recommendations stalled after the 2011 Convention session, due to a lack of staff resources at the Ministry to continue the work, and the 2013 provincial election.

To re-ignite work with the provincial government on regional hospital districts, UBCM offered a clinic on the issue at the 2018 Convention, which included the CEO of Interior Health, a representative of Island Health, two local Directors from RHDs, and a representative from the Ministry of Health.

Current Status

Regional Hospital Districts in BC have reported significant cost increases in the funding requests brought forward by Health Authorities for healthcare capital expenditures. This has resulted in substantial increases to RHD budgets and to the regional district taxpayers.

For example, the below table outlines the Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District contributions to Northern Health between 2014 and 2023; as well as anticipated costs for 2024 to 2028.

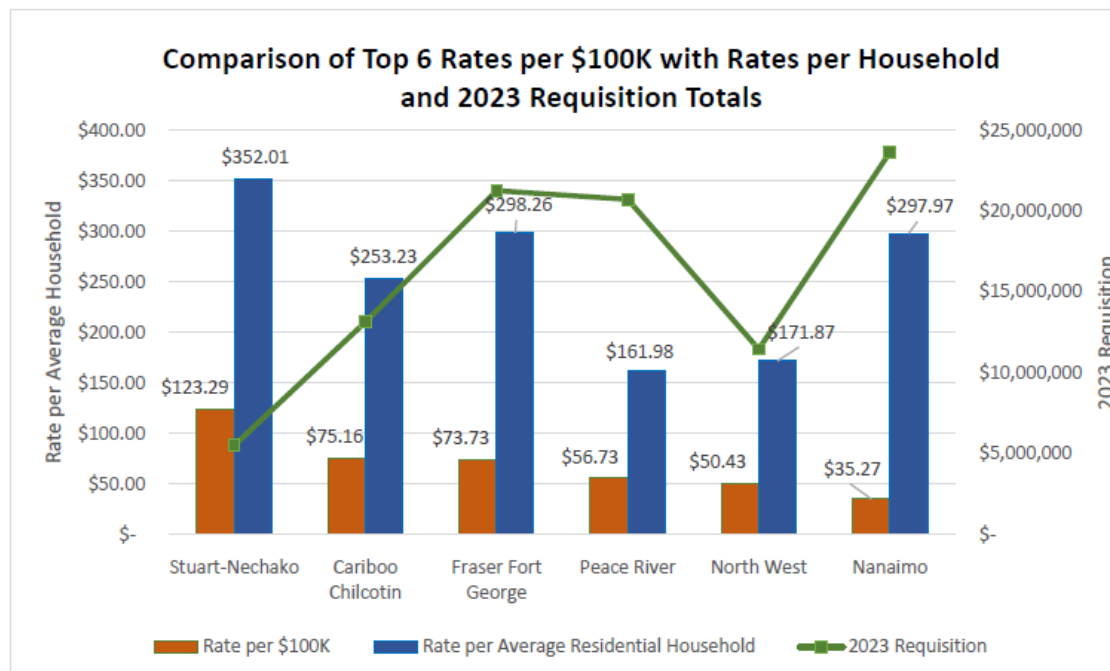
**Fraser Fort George Regional Hospital District
Grants to Northern Health Authority**

Anticipated 2028	12,910,995
Anticipated 2025	12,887,655
Anticipated 2025	23,549,665
Anticipated 2025	32,015,295
Anticipated 2024*	23,633,980
2023	10,484,730
2022	6,649,135
2021	5,168,061
2020	2,081,112
2019	4,950,916
2018	4,824,597
2017	4,033,689
2016	2,097,310
2015	2,804,326
2014	3,342,915

*Note: 2024 includes prior year commitments of \$7,313,671

Fraser Fort George also collected data on provincial hospital requisition rates, showing a comparison of requisitions rates for taxpayers in various Regional Hospital Districts.

Figure 9 – Comparison of Top 6 Rates per \$100K with Rates per Household and 2023 Requisition Totals



The Fraser Fort George Hospital District financial plan provides additional detail on future funding needs, strategic issues, and recommendations: <https://www.rdffg.ca/media/file/approved-financial-plan-2024-2038>

Conference decision: _____



SR2 Infrastructure Funding to Support Provincially-Mandated Housing Growth

UBCM Executive

Whereas Bills 44 and 47 mandated increased housing density across the province, requiring local governments to expand infrastructure to support the new housing and ensure complete communities;

And whereas an infrastructure deficit already exists with risks of failure that could impact health and safety, and threaten growth of the provincial economy;

And whereas local governments do not have financial tools linked to population and economic growth that could fund the capital renewal, expansion, and ongoing maintenance that will be required;

And whereas local governments are increasingly taking on tasks that have historically been the responsibility of the provincial and federal government including providing lands and other financial supports for non-market and supportive housing, while also bearing costs related to medical emergency response, and managing encampments for growing numbers of unhoused British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province invest in a long-term, predictable allocation-based funding program to support expansion and operation of local government infrastructure services to support provincially-mandated housing growth including, but not limited to, water and sewer, transit, police and fire, and recreation;

And further that the Province invest in its own areas of responsibility where there are already service deficits that will be further affected by housing-related population growth, namely health care (family doctors, ambulances, hospitals, etc.) and education (classrooms, teachers, etc.).

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for increased long-term, predictable allocation-based funding from the provincial and federal governments that would support growth and complete communities, and that recognizes the limited financial capacity of local governments under the current financial framework (2023-EB11, 2023-EB49, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2018-B111, 2012-A1, 2012-B13, 2011-B34). Recent provincial legislation mandating housing growth and further regulating the ability of local governments to collect growth charges from developers is creating more financial pressure.

In 2021 the UBCM membership endorsed the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that included a working partnership between the Province and UBCM to strengthen the local government finance system. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing the funding of growth-related infrastructure. The Working Group agreed to a shared problem statement recognizing the difficulties local governments report regarding infrastructure capital costs.

The Resolutions Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that request improvements and/or enhancements to both federal and provincial funding programs (2023-EB50, 2020-EB36, 2020-B40, 2016-B18, 2014-B19).

See resolutions RR11, RR26, RR27, RR28

Background

The UBCM Executive is bringing forward this Special Resolution as a means to consolidate recent UBCM resolutions and advocacy on the need for funding to support the infrastructure and services required for provincially-mandated housing growth.

UBCM’s 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures and 2021 Ensuring Financial Resiliency reports had previously identified issues with the current financial framework. With limited revenue tools, members face the challenge of addressing existing infrastructure deficiencies while also expanding water, sewer, roads, and other infrastructure and services to address new growth. They are also dealing with substantial costs associated with increased senior government regulations for health, safety and climate response.

On top of these challenges, local governments increasingly provide services that have historically been the responsibility of the provincial and federal government. Members care deeply about their communities and have felt the need to step up and help address service deficiencies in areas ranging from emergency medical response to subsidized housing to community health centres. This support has significant financial costs that take property tax dollars away from the core local government services they were intended to pay for.

The provincially-mandated housing growth further increases costs for local governments without providing the necessary financial support.

Services that are provincial responsibilities need to catch up and keep up with the population increases that will go along with the housing growth the Province has legislated. The membership has previously supported resolutions calling on the Province to respond to the health care crisis service-deficiencies that exist at current population levels. Specifically, resolution 2022-SR1 cited the critical need for additional family physicians, emergency room doctors, specialists, paramedics, and nurses across the province so that all residents of British Columbia can access an appropriate and necessary level of care. Local governments do not have the financial means to take on these responsibilities.

UBCM Policy Position

This resolution is consistent with existing policy that calls for increased long-term, predictable allocation-based funding.

Current Status

The Local Government Financial Review Working Group continues to review options for infrastructure funding.

Conference decision: _____

SR3 Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers UBCM Executive

Whereas some local governments in British Columbia have experienced a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers using emergency shelters that are not equipped to handle their unique needs (i.e. translation, income and resettlement services), and which reduces the capacity of local shelters to accommodate the growing homeless populations in their communities;

And whereas the federal government maintains responsibility for immigration and refugee services, and provides funding to provincial and local governments, on a cost-sharing basis, for the temporary housing costs for asylum seekers;

And whereas local governments in BC are not eligible to directly receive this federal funding as the Province runs the shelter system in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to develop, co-ordinate and fund new dedicated temporary shelters and appropriate support services for asylum seekers to relieve the pressure on shelters servicing local homeless populations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the federal government to provide the Province with the funds necessary to support said temporary shelters and support services in accordance with their responsibility for immigration and refugee services.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to develop and fund temporary shelters and services for asylum seekers, nor have they considered a request for federal funding for the Province to develop such shelters and services.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing refugees and asylum seekers in the past, including:

- *2022-NR35 which asked the provincial government to terminate its immigration detention arrangement with the Canada Border Services Agency, stop incarcerating immigration detainees in BC jails, and call on the federal government to do away with immigration detention altogether;*
- *2015-LR1 which asked the federal government to significantly increase federal commitments to receive Syrian refugees in Canada matching or exceeding historic levels; and*
- *2009-B177 which asked the federal government to immediately cancel all outstanding refugee transportation and pre-entry medical loan debt and to cease seeking repayment of the transportation and pre-entry medical costs for new Government Assisted Refugees coming to Canada.*

See resolution RR10

See also resolutions EB23, EB24, EB25, NR26, NR27, NR28

Background

The UBCM Executive is bringing this resolution forward in response to ongoing member concerns around growing homeless populations, and the associated costs to local governments of supporting, and housing the most vulnerable. As outlined in the endorsed UBCM paper, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency, local governments bear wide ranging costs associated with homelessness, including community service, legal and policing costs related to homeless encampments and homelessness more broadly. They incur costs to address public safety, such as security costs for complex needs or social housing because of onsite substance abuse. Local governments also often need to hire new bylaw officers to address issues arising in homeless camps, and additional parks workers to clean up parks each morning where there is overnight camping.

This resolution reflects UBCM's advocacy for new provincial investments in shelter spaces as part of a homelessness strategy that will address a key cost driver for local governments. Communities across BC have seen growing homeless populations amidst a lack of sufficient shelter spaces and support services. The resolution seeks to alleviate a new mounting pressure placed on existing emergency shelters by asylum seekers who are using the shelters as temporary housing, thus reducing the capacity of local shelters to accommodate a growing number of homeless residents.

Some BC communities have experienced a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers using emergency shelters. The City of Richmond reported in March 2024 that one-third (1/3rd) of those accessing the shelter system were asylum seekers. This trend was seen in major Ontario and Quebec cities last year when local shelters were quickly overwhelmed. In the City of Toronto, for example, the total number of asylum seekers in the shelter system increased by more than five hundred (500) percent – from 530 individuals a night in September 2021 to almost 3,000 a night in May of 2023.

UBCM Policy Position

In addition to three endorsed resolutions addressing refugees and asylum seekers (2022-NR35, 2015-LR1, 2009-B177), the Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70).

Current Status

As the order of government responsible for immigration and refugee services, the federal government has pledged money to support asylum seekers through the Interim Housing Assistance Programs (IHAP). In January of this year, Canada allocated an additional \$362 million to IHAP which provides funding to provincial and local governments, on a cost-sharing basis, to address extraordinary interim housing pressures resulting from increased volumes of asylum claimants. However, BC local governments are not eligible to receive this funding for incurred temporary housing costs as eligibility is based on a local government operating the shelter. The shelter system in BC is currently run by the Province in conjunction with service operators.

Given the new and rising pressures placed on existing local emergency shelters by asylum seekers, and its impact on local homeless residents, the UBCM Executive proposes 2024-SR3 in an effort to address one challenge in the homelessness crisis.

Conference decision: _____

Section EB Resolutions Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

Section EB are the Endorse Block of resolutions. Resolutions in the Endorse Block support existing policy and are recommended as Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

EB Resolutions are:

- resolutions previously considered and endorsed;
- resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy; or
- resolutions in keeping with other major previously approved policy papers or documents.

Included in Section EB are resolutions numbered:

EB1 – EB105

Section EB



Health and Social Development

EB1 Mental Health Supports

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas social issues in the province such as the opioid crisis, mental health issues, the lack of affordable housing, and a shortage of family physicians has led to increasing pressures on fire departments to respond to first response calls;

And whereas communities need more support and resources to deal with the impacts of the opioid crisis and mental health issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to allocate resources to improve access to mental health supports, harm reduction sites, detox and treatment facilities, family doctors, walk-in clinics, community health centres and affordable housing.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking resources and improved access to mental health supports, harm reduction sites, detox and treatment facilities, family doctors, walk-in clinics, community health centres and affordable housing.

Mental Health Supports/Harm Reduction Sites/Detox and Treatment:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Health Care Professionals:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting improved physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals, including but not limited to (2023-SR1, 2022-SR1, 2022-EB15, 2022-EB16, 2022-EB17, 2022-EB18, 2022-NR5, 2022-NR6, 2017-B42, 2015-B68, 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41).

Primary Care:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for more resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).

Affordable Housing/Supportive Housing:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5,

2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30).

Housing:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-EB11, 2022-EB25, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

Conference decision: _____

EB2 Mental Health Liaison Officers Nanaimo City

Whereas RCMP members continue to respond to a significant number of calls for service for individuals dealing with mental health challenges and mental health liaison officers have proven to be an effective resource for assisting vulnerable citizens requiring support;

And whereas local governments are not provided funding to pay for healthcare and social services and there has been no increase in the Provincial funding model to support these officers responding to chronic/crisis mental health calls:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund RCMP mental health liaison officers within local detachments.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund ~~RCMP~~ Mental Health Liaison Officers within **the RCMP and local police departments.***

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions on this issue, including:

- *2022-EB8 which asked the Province to support an integrated Car 40 Program with appropriate and sustainable funding;*
- *2021-EB60 which asked the Province to provide an integrated health care regional model for a Mobile Crisis Response Car Program; and*
- *2020-SR8 which called for the development of integrated teams of health, police, and other officials on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to manage individuals with mental health issues.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Conference decision: _____

EB3 Amendment to the BC *Mental Health Act* to Relieve Officers from Attendance at Hospitals

View Royal

Whereas Section 28 of the British Columbia *Mental Health Act* specifies a police officer should accompany to hospital persons with apparent mental disorders and acting in a manner likely to endanger the safety of themselves or others;

And whereas the opioid and mental health crisis in British Columbia communities has resulted in an increase in the number and length of times police officers are immobilized to the service of the greater community to sit in hospital waiting rooms while accompanying apprehended individuals until they are seen by a physician:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the Provincial government to amend Section 28 of the British Columbia *Mental Health Act* so that trained hospital staff be given special constable status and peace officer status to relieve police officers of the responsibility of attending hospital emergency departments with apprehended individuals.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend Section 28 of the British Columbia Mental Health Act so that trained hospital staff be given special constable status and peace officer status to relieve police officers of the responsibility of attending hospital emergency departments with apprehended individuals.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-SR8, which asked for a province-wide agreement between police and mental health officials on the management of mental health patients in emergency wards. The membership also endorsed resolution 2013-B83 that addressed the time that police spend in hospital guarding mental health clients, and sought to create an efficient process of mental health patient intake, including the provision of secure holding facilities and security personnel trained to guard patients in order to reduce the use of police resources in this capacity.

Additionally, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR8 which asked the Province to implement a provision permitting local governments to invoice their local health authority for police officers that are required, under the Mental Health Act, to wait with hospital patients for more than 30 minutes, similar to the framework used for BC Ambulance Services.

Conference decision: _____

EB4 Additional Funding for Overdose Prevention Sites Across Local Governments

New Westminster

Whereas the Province of British Columbia declared a drug toxicity public emergency in 2016, acknowledging the rapid increase in overdose deaths and the need to deploy the necessary harm reduction strategies with urgency to prevent additional deaths;

And whereas over 13,000 people have died of toxic drugs since 2016 in communities across British Columbia, including at least 2,500 people in 2023, about two-thirds of which were from inhalation, yet only about 40 per cent of supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites in British Columbia offer inhalation services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for Health Authorities to augment existing, and to open new, supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites,

including related inhalation services, across British Columbia and including local governments which do not currently offer this service to residents.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed special resolution 2023-SR3 which asked the Province to immediately provide financial investments to ensure the provision of geographically accessible, on-demand mental health and addiction treatment, detox and recovery services; overdose prevention sites with inhalation; and access to safe supply and drug testing for all regions of BC.

Additionally, the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Conference decision: _____

EB5 Additional Rapid Access to Detox Beds

Abbotsford

Whereas the Province of BC, through their 2023 Pathway to Hope progress report committed to “eliminating gaps in the mental health care and substance use treatment system,” and to “building an integrated system of care that includes access to a full spectrum of treatment and recovery options” so that “no one falls through the cracks”;

And whereas wait times for detox beds are a known barrier for those seeking the option of treatment for addiction when they are ready:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government in order to provide more funding to open detox centres where they are needed and where accessing existing ones would be difficult for individuals needing the service.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions on the provision of mental health and addictions services, including: seeking care beds for those suffering with substance use disorder, including:

- 2019-B61 which asked to fund significantly more licensed rehabilitation facilities and beds in every local government to enable all those who seek assistance in recovering from addictions an opportunity to beat addictions;
- 2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds;
- 2007-B51 which asked for more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province; and
- 2006-B8 which asked for more regional detox centres.

More generally, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Conference decision: _____

EB6 Investment in Complex Care Beds

Nanaimo City

Whereas in 2022, the BC Emergency Health Services reported a 75 per cent total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events since the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in 2016 and the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort reports that brain injury is 15 times more likely among people who had experienced drug poisoning than those who had not;

And whereas the number of supports available for individuals requiring complex care due to health challenges related to substance use disorder has proven grossly inadequate for the ever-increasing demand in communities all across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to increase investment in complex care beds to address the growing demand from those who have suffered serious health impacts from substance use disorder.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking care beds for those suffering with substance use disorder, including:

- *2020-SR8 which asked, in part, to introduce additional long-term care beds to deal specifically with mental illness cases;*
- *2019-B61 which asked to fund significantly more licensed rehabilitation facilities and beds in every local government to enable all those who seek assistance in recovering from addictions an opportunity to beat addictions; and*
- *2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds.*

More generally, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

See resolution EB7, NR3

Conference decision: _____

EB7 Complex Care Facilities

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD,
Penticton**

Whereas the toxic drug crisis continues to surge across the province and the lasting effects of overdose can potentially lead to acquired brain injury which can include organ failure, nerve damage, paralysis, memory loss,

mental disorientation, diminished motor skills, reduced physical and cognitive functioning, and behavioural changes;

And whereas communities across the province are implementing many initiatives in support of all residents' safety and wellbeing such as Public Safety and Social Development Frameworks;

And whereas the Province has developed a complex care framework that acknowledges the growing number of people in our communities who require housing and have overlapping health, mental health, trauma and acquired brain injuries; yet there are no established timelines and residents continue to suffer in the interim;

And whereas the Province has appointed Health Authorities as the lead for plan implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province provides immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not specifically asked the Province to provide immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2021-NR44, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

See resolutions EB6, NR3

Conference decision: _____

EB8 Community Safety Resources

Terrace

Whereas local governments are facing increased pressures to address immediate, emerging and persistent social issues in their local communities that impact the safety, security and well-being of residents;

And whereas the provincial government does not respond as quickly as needs arise, forcing local governments to take increased action to address community mental health and substance misuse/toxicity challenges with limited and often inadequate resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding in order to support local government needs for community safety.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding **for mental health and addictions services** in order to support local government needs for community safety.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding in order to support local government needs for community safety.

However, the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions addressing mental health and substance misuse/toxicity challenges in BC communities, including:

- 2023-SR3 which asked the Province to provide financial investments to ensure the provision of geographically accessible, on-demand mental health and addiction treatment, detox and recovery services; overdose prevention sites with inhalation; and access to safe supply and drug testing for all regions of BC;
- 2023-SR4 which asked the Province to further regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in parks, beaches, sports fields and bus stops where children also gather;
- 2021-NR44 which asked the provincial and federal governments to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, safe supply, suitable medical treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in local governments across Canada;
- 2020-SR8 which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency; and
- 2019-B142 which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-EB1, 2023-EB2, 2023-EB3, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2021-NR44, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B142, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

In 2022, the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA) published its final report, including 11 recommendations to modernize policing and public safety in British Columbia. As part of its response to the report, UBCM and the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable have both supported the SCRPA recommendation that the Province "create and appropriately fund a continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues."

Conference decision: _____

EB9 Provincial Cost Recovery for Emergency Medical Services Provided by Fire Departments Nanaimo RD

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls while there is inadequate funding for the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do so on a community-by-community basis creating an inconsistent provincial approach to emergency medical assistance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a cohesive financial emergency medical assistant framework, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training,

province-wide consistency, and the replacement of consumed supplies for fire rescue service departments, as part of advocacy for a modernized financial framework for local governments in BC.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2023-EB4, 2023-EB5, 2023-EB6, 2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26). But the membership has not considered the request as a part of advocacy for a modernized financial framework for local governments in BC.

See also resolutions RR4, RR5, RR6, RR7, RR8

Conference decision: _____

EB10 Housing is Healthcare

Vancouver

Whereas every year hundreds of British Columbians are diagnosed with chronic conditions and diseases that necessitate specialized medical treatment requiring long term stays near but not in hospital, there are disparities in health outcomes between rural and urban patients;

And whereas residents of rural and remote communities in British Columbia requiring specialized medical treatment for complex care in urban centres face significant challenges including high travel and accommodation costs, the psychosocial impacts of healthcare away from home and community, the loss of income during treatment period, and increasingly limited availability of affordable accommodations, hotel rooms, or short term rentals;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia, reflected in its 2024 mandate, is committed to both improved health care for British Columbians when they need it, and attainable and affordable housing to deliver more homes for people faster:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Provincial Government of British Columbia to alleviate the financial and logistical burdens associated with seeking specialized medical care far from home by developing and implementing comprehensive policies and programs to assist patients needing to travel for healthcare, and ensure that patients have access to affordable, comfortable, and convenient accommodations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province consider and implement ways to deliver and dedicate subsidized accommodations in and adjacent to large urban health centres specifically purposed for longer term specialized medical treatment.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has considered resolutions which address the transportation challenges faced by medical patients in rural and remote areas to access health care (2020-EB75, 2018-B16, 2014-B9, 2012-B38).

The membership also endorsed resolution 2015-B69 which asked the provincial government to provide support, either through direct funding, initiatives, or policy, to organizations that are undertaking the development of lands and other hard assets in the establishment of rural out-patient accommodation.

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient’s home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

Conference decision: _____

EB11 Healthcare Worker Shortage - Reducing Barriers to Training Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas there is a shortfall of qualified staff to provide healthcare services, particularly in rural and remote communities, across the province;

And whereas some of the training requirements for healthcare workers pose significant barriers in terms of time, cost, and accessibility, thereby hindering the potential influx of qualified individuals into the healthcare workforce;

And whereas reducing unnecessary barriers and streamlining training opportunities for healthcare workers would promote professional growth, enhance healthcare delivery, and ultimately benefit the residents of our communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province and relevant authorities to put in place the necessary framework, tools and incentives to address the shortfall of qualified healthcare workers and reduce the barriers for healthcare training opportunities.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking additional resources, funding and training for health care professionals and the health care system, including:

- supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146);
- improving physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals (2018-B143, 2017-B42, 2015-B68, 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41);
- working with universities and communities to encourage graduates of medical programs to practice and stay in rural areas of BC (2011-B60);
- calling for greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC (2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91, 2009-B148);
- developing appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112);
- improving education and training opportunities for more health care professionals (2009-B148, 2008-B49) and removing obstacles for foreign trained doctors and health professionals who are willing to work in BC (2009-B148);

- recognizing, regulating and approving physician assistants (2016-B124); and
- streamlining the registration process for internationally educated nurses (2022-NR5).

Conference decision: _____

EB12 Internationally Educated, Trained and Experienced Healthcare Workers

Dawson Creek

Whereas the Province is currently experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers, and there are qualified individuals among international residents who despite being internationally trained, educated, and experienced, are encountering certification and financial barriers preventing them from joining the healthcare workforce in the province;

And whereas the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is responsible for providing leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training systems in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to expedite the credential approval process and provide financial assistance for internationally trained, educated and experienced healthcare providers to remove the unnecessary credential and financial barriers to integrate them into the provincial health system to help address the shortage.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions that address and support hiring more internationally trained doctors to address a doctor shortage.

Resolution 2023-SR1 asked the Province to additional licensing and training opportunities for internationally-trained medical graduates. Additional endorsed resolutions 2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91 and 2009-B148 called on the provincial government to provide greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates (IMGs) to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC.

The membership also endorsed resolution 2022-NR5 which asked the Province to provide greater support to streamline the registration process for internationally educated nurses to the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, set up a financial support process, and bring together all stakeholders to determine how to integrate internationally education nurses and employed student nurses to the workforce to address the nursing staffing crisis across the province.

The Committee is aware that on July 1, 2024 the International Credentials Recognition Act came into effect in BC to help remove barriers in 29 professions and make it fairer, more transparent and efficient for qualified professionals to pursue and achieve credential recognition, no matter where they were trained. One of the 29 professions includes paramedics.

Conference decision: _____

EB13 Eliminating Barriers to Publicly Owned and Operated Home Care Services and Long-Term Care

New Westminister

Whereas seniors, families and seniors organizations have been advocating to improve access to public home care services and supports to assist seniors to live at home, in their communities, longer and to delay or prevent premature admissions to public long-term care facilities;

And whereas finances can become an impediment to access the required home care services such as housekeeping, more frequent bathing and meal preparation necessary to age in place, and community programs that have been designed to try and meet seniors' needs are unable to fulfil the increasing demand:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to eliminate financial and accessibility barriers by investing in more publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit home care services and social supports required to age in place, and by further investing in publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit long-term care to ensure seniors are well supported in the continuum of care.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- *increase the number of care beds in rural communities to allow seniors to age in place (2021-EB65);*
- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and*
- *create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).*

See resolutions NR10, NR11, NR12, RR40

Conference decision: _____

EB14 Seniors' Support Assisted Living

Saanich

Whereas Statistics Canada reports confirm that both the number and percentage of seniors will grow significantly during the next two decades, both in numbers and overall proportion of the population;

And whereas most serious illnesses requiring either assisted living options and/or hospital care occur later in life and there is a significant shortage of supportive assisted living spaces for seniors, affecting both hospital availability/accessibility and housing options for vulnerable seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the number of supportive assisted living units across British Columbia in a manner aligned with the demographic data to ensure that all seniors can be housed in dignity as they age and to reduce the pressures of the hospital system by so doing.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking additional supportive assisted living units (care beds and facilities) including (2021-EB65, 2009-B52, 2005-B45, 2004-B127).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other related resolutions, including requests for:

- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162);*
- *creation of a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46); and*
- *restoration of long-term care facilities throughout the province, sufficient to meet the needs of citizens in their communities (2006-B159).*

Conference decision: _____

EB15 Implementing Accessibility BC Act Recommendations

Parksville

Whereas the *Accessible British Columbia Act* passed by the provincial government in 2021 requires local governments to develop accessibility plans to identify, remove and prevent barriers;

And whereas local governments have limited financial abilities and staff resources to implement accessibility recommendations on an ongoing basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province create an annual funding model (accessibility fund) designed to assist local governments to implement accessibility recommendations.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2023-NR3 which asked the Province to establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.

Staff note that the Province has created a funding program for local governments through SPARC BC which can be used for the development and implementation of accessibility plans. However, this funding program is not provided annually to local governments.

Conference decision: _____

EB16 Universal Basic Income

Victoria

Whereas municipalities are increasingly expected to respond to gaps in Canada’s social safety net resulting from growing economic, racial and health inequalities;

And whereas a basic income program, in addressing key social determinants of health, such as income and housing, can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty and fill gaps in social supports, such as shelter, housing, food security and mental health;

And whereas evidence from basic income research and pilots shows that when people have a sufficient and secure income their mental and physical health improves, they have the capacity to secure more affordable, suitable, and safe housing, childcare, healthy food, and transportation, and poverty rates decrease;

And whereas the provision of a basic livable income would benefit individuals, families and communities and protect the most vulnerable in society, and support community resilience;

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions requesting that the Province create a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2020-NR68).

Conference decision: _____



EB18 Incentivizing Non-Market Housing

Maple Ridge

Whereas local governments are seeing the need for increased housing affordability for vulnerable residents, students, families, and seniors;

And whereas there is a need for building a broad spectrum of housing supply and supports in rapidly growing communities such as in the Lower Mainland region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province and federal government work with not-for-profits to further incentivize not-for-profit partnerships and the building of non-market housing, such as below market rentals and co-ops, through financial tools like low interest rate loans, long-term 25 year rates and expanded tax credit eligibility.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking to increase the amount of affordable housing through a variety of actions with non-profit organizations, including:

- 2023-EB13 which asks the Province to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies and co-operatives who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing;
- 2022-NR14 which asked the Province to develop a provincial acquisition strategy and grant program that would allow non-profit housing providers to purchase and repair aging rental stock for the purposes of maintaining existing affordable housing;
- 2021-NR54 (Executive endorsed) which asked the Province to work with interested local communities, the not-for-profit sector and other partners on a program of land banking purpose-built rental apartment buildings, to preserve and renew this essential component of the affordable rental housing supply.

The Committee notes that the membership has also consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ways to encourage investment in older and new rental housing stock (2018-B56, 2017-B53, 2016-OF1).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

Conference decision: _____

EB19 Housing Support in Northern and Small Communities

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas there is a housing crisis throughout BC requiring a range of solutions that address housing affordability issues in large and small communities;

And whereas the Province's Homes for People's plan focuses on addressing housing supply issues in larger communities in high growth areas of the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to engage with small and northern communities to identify housing solutions outside of high growth areas.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing the unique housing needs of rural, remote and northern areas (2022-EB25, 2021-EB65, 2021-EB75, 2018-B55), and interprets this resolution as requesting enabling supports and strategies developed in consultation with impacted local governments, rather than a one-size fits all regulatory approach.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

Conference decision: _____

EB20 Funding for Seniors Housing in Rural Areas

Gold River

Whereas seniors, in the increasing demographic of those over 65, in rural BC have limited range of options for housing;

And whereas rural BC local municipalities have limited financial resources to support seniors housing options that allow seniors to age in place in their home community due to financial, social, health and housing vulnerabilities experienced by this increasing demographic:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to provide BC Housing with additional funding and support to facilitate new affordable seniors' housing in rural areas.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking more affordable seniors' housing across BC (2018-B55, 2014-B45).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking more housing in rural areas (2022-EB24, 2021-EB65, 2021-EB75, 2019-B183).

Conference decision: _____

EB21 SAFER Funding for Seniors

Vancouver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia’s Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program is intended to help make rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes;

And whereas the Office of the Seniors Advocate has identified that the BC Housing Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and Seniors Subsidized Housing programs are not keeping pace with inflation, the growing seniors population, and changing market conditions, including a notable lack of culturally appropriate supports and inclusive care environments for 2SLGBTQ+ residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase funding and resources for the SAFER Program and Seniors Subsidized Housing programs, including affordable seniors housing projects, to reflect current market conditions, meet the needs, and improve the quality of life for seniors and older persons across the province.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions addressing the SAFER program:

- *2023-EB16 which asked the Province to amend the formula used to calculate the SAFER subsidy to accurately reflect both the current incomes of low-income seniors and the average market rents throughout the province as calculated by CMHC, and to review and update the amounts on an annual basis going forward;*
- *2022-EB28 which asked the Province to increase to the maximum rent ceilings and monthly payment amounts through SAFER, and that regular increases be made in maximum rent ceilings and monthly payments in subsequent years; and*
- *2013-B53 which asked the Province to adjust the maximum monthly rent levels under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program to reflect the actual prevailing cost of housing for seniors across the province and eliminate the requirement of annual re-application.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions addressing subsidies for renters and seniors, including:

- *2017-B51 which asked the Province to plan system-wide initiatives to support seniors’ healthy, stable and successful aging to limit social isolation, varieties of abuse and limited access to needed housing;*
- *2015-B45 which asked the Province to increase income assistance shelter allowances and expand and lengthen rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing; and*
- *2014-B42 which asked the Province to increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in communities affected by industrial development.*

Conference decision: _____

EB22 Expanding the Rental Protection Fund

**Nakusp,
New Denver**

Whereas the current parameters of the Rental Protection Fund only provides funding for the purchase of rental buildings that have a minimum of 5 units and 4 in rural Fund communities;

And whereas many small rural and remote communities do not have properties that are for sale with a minimum of 4 units;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to expand the Rental Protection Fund to allow for the purchase of individual units in communities that are less than 5,000 in population classified as remote or very remote.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the Rental Protection Fund to allow for the purchase of individual units in communities that are less than 5,000 in population classified as remote or very remote.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolution 2022-NR14 which called for the development of a non-profit housing acquisition strategy.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed a variety of resolutions seeking assistance to renters and expansion of rental housing stock, including:

- *2023-EB17 which asked for a rapid increase in the rental stock, mitigate the number of no-fault evictions, and close the gap between core housing need and cost via income and disability assistance, guaranteed annual incomes and rental assistance programs;*
- *2023-NR21 requesting that the Federal Government modify the Rental Construction Financing Initiative to further incentivize rental construction; and*
- *2022-EB28, 2017-B51, 2013-B53 all of which sought additional aid and support for senior renters.*

Conference decision: _____

**EB23 Strengthening Provincial-Local Government Collaboration for NCLGA Executive
Homelessness Solutions**

Whereas local governments across British Columbia continue to collaborate with provincial authorities in addressing homelessness and housing challenges, recognizing the Province's responsibility for housing, healthcare, and encampments;

And whereas initiatives led by the Province through various programs aim to provide housing solutions and support services for unhoused individuals, requiring close coordination between provincial and local government agencies;

And whereas local governments acknowledge the complexities of responding to homelessness and the critical role of the Province in providing resources and expertise, with a commitment to supporting these efforts and advocating for effective collaboration between all stakeholders:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM emphasize to the provincial government the importance of expediting proposed transitional shelter facilities and supportive housing projects in partnership with relevant provincial agencies to address immediate and long-term housing needs.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30).

See resolutions SR3, EB24, EB25, NR26, NR27, NR28, RR10

Conference decision: _____

EB24 Expansion of Homeless Response and Shelter Support Langley City
(Heart and Hearth)

Whereas the BC 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time count recorded the largest measured increase of individuals experiencing homelessness since 2005 (Metro Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District); with individuals experiencing homelessness for longer periods of time, and with more individuals in unsheltered environments due to insufficient permanent, temporary shelter or emergency beds throughout the regions;

And whereas the provincial government, having outlined the strategic plan “Belonging in BC: A collaborative plan to prevent and reduce homelessness”, has invested over 2 billion dollars since 2022 outlining commitments to “prioritized” communities, based on provincial qualifying assessments of local government homeless encampment impacts, to address immediate supports and shelter needs in those selected local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

See resolutions SR3, EB23, EB25, NR26, NR27, NR28, RR10

Conference decision: _____

EB25 Extreme Weather Response Shelter System

**Courtenay, Comox Valley RD,
Cumberland, Powell River**

Whereas the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter system was developed more than a decade ago to support community organizations in providing life-saving warm, safe places for unhoused community members to sleep in cold and wet weather, the EWR model does not provide any funding for facility rental costs, security, equipment or resource purchases, nor does it provide any funds for these community organizations to plan for, develop, and deliver EWR shelters in their communities;

And whereas since the EWR program was developed the number of community members experiencing homelessness has grown substantially, and the needs of those community members have, often due to addiction and mental health challenges, become increasingly complex, community organizations in many communities have been unable to provide life-saving EWR shelters with the limited resources available:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to recognize that the EWR program is insufficient to address current social challenges and community capacity to meet those challenges; and that a provincially driven solution be determined in collaboration with community leaders to ensure that:

1. service delivery by existing provincial agencies that are tasked with providing social service supports, including shelter spaces and wrap-around services, is strengthened; and
2. funds are available to rent facilities, provide security and necessary equipment such that the community organizations that are tasked to deliver this program are appropriately resourced.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions that asked the Province to provide adequate funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response (EWR) shelters and warming and cooling centers under specific circumstances (2023-EB18, 2023-NR28, 2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).

In particular, resolution 2023-EB18 requests that BC Housing, The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and health authorities ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long-term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

In addition, 2023-NR28 sought that funding for additional shelters be administered through the currently established provincial funding mechanism to social sector agencies, such as BC Housing.

The provincial government’s website offers a list of expenses and their eligibility for reimbursement during an extreme weather emergencies: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/policies/514_eligibility_assessment_addendum.pdf

To ensure costs will be reimbursed, an expense authorization form must be submitted to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) for pre-approval.

See resolutions SR3, EB23, EB24, NR26, NR27, NR28, RR10

Conference decision: _____

EB26 Large Infrastructure Project Impacts on Housing Crisis

Squamish

Whereas the Province has acknowledged that there is a housing crisis affecting communities across all of British Columbia and has chosen to take unprecedented action to address this challenge by looking for opportunities and taking action to deliver long-term housing supply;

And whereas large infrastructure projects mandated or approved by the Province put immense pressure on available housing rental and ownership stock, and tourism infrastructure by requiring a significant number of temporary workers without appropriate workforce housing plans as a requirement of project approval;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province require robust and detailed workforce housing plans integral to the approval process for large infrastructure projects, to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of temporary workforce housing on communities and deliver a positive housing legacy.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution from the same sponsor: 2023-NR19.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing the impacts of workforce housing plans or work camps:

- 2014-A4 which asked the provincial government to establish a “single window approval process” for work camps that allows for stakeholder comment to address the location, operation, safety, health and socio-economic impacts associated with a work camp; and
- 2005-B36, which in part expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities and sought consultation (in this specific resolution) with the Oil and Gas Commission in advance so local jurisdictions were aware of their plans that would affect future community and regional development.

See resolution EB104

Conference decision: _____

EB27 Local Government Funding Through Speculation and Vacancy Tax

Burnaby

Whereas encouraging unoccupied residential properties to become available for long-term occupancy represents an opportunity to increase the availability of housing in our communities;

And whereas revenue collected from the Speculation and Vacancy Tax is directed into the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account where BC Housing is the primary recipient of the funds rather than local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit local governments to receive a portion of the funds collected through the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account, with funds to be used by the local government towards affordable housing projects.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-NR53 which asked the provincial government to distribute directly back to each municipality a portion of the revenue collected, up to the amount collected from each local government, under the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to further affordable housing initiatives within those jurisdictions.

More broadly, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2023-EB14, 2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

Conference decision: _____

EB28 BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC government implemented a BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax to turn vacant homes into housing for BC residents;

And whereas the BC government continues to expand the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program to include new communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the provincial government that all BC communities, including electoral areas, be given the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province that all BC communities, including electoral areas, be given the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2023-EB14, 2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

Conference decision: _____

EB29 Residential Tenancy Act Review

Sicamous

Whereas British Columbia is in a housing crisis and the *Residential Tenancy Act* is intended to provide a fair balance between the right of tenants to safe and secure affordable housing and the right of landlords to maintain their property and see a return on their investment;

And whereas the current *Residential Tenancy Act* was enacted in 2004 and the last comprehensive review was completed over 20 years ago (2001-2002), and there is no indication from the Province that a new review will be conducted;

And whereas the Province is investing \$15 million over three years to hire and train more Residential Tenancy Branch staff and the Province reports a growing caseload for adjudicating disputes between renters and landlords:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to conduct a formal review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* that includes meaningful consultation with stakeholders and considers tenancy legislation enacted in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B51 which asked the Province “to initiate a complete review of the Residential Tenancy Act in order to address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.”

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed some resolutions seeking a review of the Residential Tenancy Act to address a variety of issues (2020-EB84, 2019-B182, 2017-B120, 2017-B126, 2016-B121).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking additional resources for Residential Tenancy Branch, including:

- 2023-EB17 which asked, in part, for adequate resourcing of the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB); and
- 2022-NR12 which asked, in part, to provide the RTB with additional resources to ensure timely support for adjudication, as well as tracking of health related concerns.

Finally, the Committee notes that The Province in 2018 received the final report from a Rental Housing Task Force (https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2018/12/RHTF-Recommendations-and-WWH-Report_Dec2018_FINAL.pdf) that included a series of recommendations related to the residential tenancy system in BC. The Province has also since that time made some amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act, including recent amendments aimed at protecting people from bad-faith evictions, eliminating rent increases when a child is added to a household and resolving rental disputes faster (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024HOUS0017-000461>).

Conference decision: _____

EB30 Development Cost Charges for Fire Protection Facilities

Lantzville

Whereas the provincial government has passed Bill 46 *Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act, 2023* amending Section 559, subsection (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act* to include "fire protection facilities" in the collection of Development Cost Charges (DCCs), but does not specifically define "fire protection facilities";

And whereas many smaller local governments have a limited number of brick-and-mortar fire protection buildings, but a large number of other capital expenses related to fire protection, such as vehicles and equipment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that "fire protection facilities" be specifically defined in the relevant documentation and/or legislation to include the purchase and maintenance of all capital items related to fire protection including, but not limited to, fire trucks, duty vehicles, hoses, breathing apparatuses, communications equipment and all other capital expenditures that may be required to equip and maintain fire protection services.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported two resolutions that sought to allow Development Cost Charges to be used to fund the cost of fire halls and firefighting equipment. Resolution 2012-B9 sought to allow development cost charges to be imposed to assist local governments in funding the capital costs of fire halls and fire suppression equipment and other purposes deemed appropriate by the local government that are required as a result of increased development. Resolution 2005-B95 sought a change in legislation allowing municipalities to collect Development Cost Charges for major protective services capital projects (such as fire fighting equipment).

In addition to 2019-SR2, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that call for the expanded application of Development Cost Charges (DCC) beyond their current allowable usages to a variety of specific usages including solid waste infrastructure, fire halls and fire suppression equipment and sport related park infrastructure (2021-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2018-B21, 2016-SR1, 2015-B21, 2012-B9, 2012-B54, 2011-B35, 2010-B23, 2007-B37, 2005-B95).

The Committee also notes that fire protection facilities have now been defined in Interim Guidance on Development Cost Charges and Amenity Cost Charges (https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/housing-and-tenancy/tools-for-government/local-governments-and-housing/dev_fin_tools-update_interim_guidance.pdf).

This definition notes that Fire service costs that are not considered “facilities” include:

- all vehicles related to the service
- any gear or equipment that is conveyed to the site of a fire or other service activity

Conference decision: _____

EB31 BC Homeowners Solar Power Incentive Program Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas meeting the need for additional power sources in BC with industrial scale wind and solar installations is expensive, potentially damaging to environmentally sensitive land, and insufficient;

And whereas private solar installations would reduce these negative economic and environmental impacts;

And whereas solar installation is costly and often beyond the financial ability of many property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province create a Provincial Solar Power Rebate Program for homeowners.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking financial incentives and support for residential solar power, including:

- 2022-NR18 which asked for financial incentives, including increased feed-in-tariffs, for home and building owners to install solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems;
- 2018-B58 which asked the provincial and federal governments for support for the development of alternative home heating products that are more affordable to consumers, yet sensitive to environmental sustainability targets; and
- 2009-B166 (Executive endorsed) which asked the Province to provide incentives to encourage new construction to be pre-plumbed and pre-wired for future solar panels or other alternative energy installations.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).

The Committee also notes that in July 2024 BC Hydro announced an incentive program that will offer rebates for the installation of rooftop solar and battery-storage systems in residential, commercial and institutional buildings.

Conference decision: _____



EB32 Victim Services Program Delivery

East Kootenay RD

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has primary responsibility for the Victim Services Program delivered throughout the Province of British Columbia in close collaboration with policing services;

And whereas a variety of agencies and local governments deliver/manage the Program in different communities, with varying degrees of expertise and limited connection to services to be able to provide adequate supervision and support of victim service workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of the Victim Services Program, with oversight from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of the Victim Services Program, with oversight from **police-based victim services programs in BC that, among other things, includes additional provincial funding and assigns full responsibility for delivery of these programs to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that the Province develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of victim services programs.

As part of information received from the sponsor, it is understood that the intent of the resolution is for the Province to contribute more funding towards victim services programs; and, that delivery of these programs be the responsibility of the relevant RCMP detachment or provincial government.

The Committee notes that provincial government funding for victim services programs is a long-standing issue. Members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to increase funding for victim services programs, including 2020-EB2, 2019-B6, 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2015-B4, 2014-B4.

It should also be noted that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2016-B83, which requested that UBCM work with the Province to develop a mandatory funding formula for local government contributions towards victim services program. Local governments are currently not required to fund victim services programs, although some do provide financial contributions.

Conference decision: _____

EB33 Disaster Financial Assistance for Victims of Climate Related Events

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have a robust policy to assist victims of climate related events whose losses are not covered by insurance or Disaster Financial Assistance;

And whereas the time of decision making on claims to the Province of British Columbia is a significant and life changing hardship to British Columbians and Indigenous communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to take urgent steps to develop a policy to assist victims of climate events with their claims in a timely manner, not exceeding 12-months post-disaster.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to take urgent steps to develop a policy to assist victims of climate events with their claims in a timely manner, not exceeding 12-months post-disaster.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to make improvements with respect to assistance for victims of disasters and emergencies:

- *2023-LR2 which asked 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 disasters, and that government programs, such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to incorporate the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters in order to support affected businesses;*
- *2022-NR29 which asked the Province and Emergency Management BC to increase the Disaster Financial Assistance Funding (DFA) limit on homeowner applications and consider implementing a framework that ties DFA compensation to BC Assessment values;*
- *2019-B97 which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments so that they may address their legislative responsibilities;*
- *2019-B103 which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster;*
- *2019-B104 which asked the Province to change the Disaster Financial Assistance program criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners;*
- *2017-B86 which asked the Province to increase its share of emergency recovery costs, so that the Province is responsible for 90 per cent and local governments are responsible for 10 per cent of emergency recovery costs;*
- *2015-B78 which asked the Province to expand the disaster relief fund, making it available to all property owners when such disaster is a result of natural and/or non-human causes; and*
- *2013-B90 which asked the Province to expand the Disaster Financial Assistance fund to cover vacation properties.*

In October 2023, the Province began a review of its financial assistance regulation by releasing a discussion paper and series of questions for stakeholders to consider.

See resolution EB34

Conference decision: _____

EB34 Provincial Support for Rebuilding Following Disasters Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas the Province of BC faces the worsening effects of climate change, the disasters resulting from which impact more residents and properties with each year;

And whereas many residents and properties impacted by wildfire and flooding are located within regional districts;

And whereas disasters do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries (as was the case with Lytton Creek wildfire):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit to ensuring that in the case of disasters such as wildfire and flooding, all of those who are impacted—regardless of jurisdictional boundaries—receive the same access to, and level of, support as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to commit to ensuring that in the case of disasters such as wildfire and flooding, all of those who are impacted—regardless of jurisdictional boundaries—receive the same access to, and level of, support as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.

Based on the general principle of equality as it pertains to support for victims of emergencies and disasters, the Committee recommends that this resolution be endorsed.

Further, the Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions related to disaster financial assistance and support for recovery in BC communities, including:

- *requests for the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate disaster assistance and financial aid to commercial and industrial sectors, and to expand government programs such as Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA), increasing funding and tailoring program criteria to reflect the realities of rural, remote, and First Nations communities in BC (2023-LR2, 2022-NR29, 2019-B104);*
- *2019-B103 which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster;*
- *2019-B97 which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments;*
- *2017-LR4 which called on the federal and provincial governments to establish a \$1 billion recovery fund to assist BC communities, including First Nations, impacted by that year’s record-breaking wildfire season;*
- *2017-B86 which asked the Province to increase its share of emergency recovery costs, so that the Province is responsible for 90 per cent and local governments are responsible for 10 per cent of emergency recovery costs;*
- *2015-B78 which asked the Province to expand the disaster relief fund, making it available to all property owners when such disaster is a result of natural and/or non-human causes.*

See resolution EB33

Conference decision: _____

EB35 Flood Protection Funding and Management

Mission

Whereas the majority of communities, either in whole or in part, within British Columbia are situated on floodplains;

And whereas the cost of mitigating flood risk has increased to levels that are no longer affordable by Local Governments, Regional Districts or Improvement Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the province and federal governments commit to allocate adequate funds to mitigate the flood threat to British Columbia communities and that the Province consider assuming control of, and responsibility for, flood protection and mitigation infrastructure including diking and pump stations.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2022-SR3, 2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4).

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported multiple resolutions calling on the Province to be established as the diking authority in all local governments (2022-SR3, 2015-B52 and 2014-B75 (in local governments under 20,000 in population)).

The UBCM Executive has consistently called on the provincial government to provide long-term funding and support to local governments to address new and ongoing emergency management responsibilities. This request was also included as part of the August 2021 report by the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency.

Conference decision: _____

EB36 Emergency and Disaster Management Act Capacity Funding

Hudson’s Hope

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has enacted legislation known as the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) that constitutes a significant download of responsibilities and addition of new legislative and regulatory requirements that will significantly and permanently add to the workload of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas the opportunities for local governments to raise funds required to support these legislative changes are limited, and where the provincial government has provided some proactive capacity funding in specific areas, such as First Nations consultation, but has not provided any guarantee of ongoing capacity funding to support the legacy of these legislative changes:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to providing long-term sustainable capacity funding to municipalities and regional districts to fulfill their emergency management duties, including responsibilities under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership recently endorsed resolution 2023-EB26, which asked the Province to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for, and respond to, local emergencies.

In response to endorsed resolution 2023-EB26, the Province acknowledged the importance of supporting communities, noting several short-term financial commitments towards the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The Province has not sought to develop a long-term funding and capacity-building framework to address new and enhanced emergency management responsibilities, despite numerous requests delivered through endorsed resolutions, the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, and UBCM Executive.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2022-EB34, 2022-EB35, 2022-NR23, 2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).

See resolution RR21

Conference decision: _____

EB37 Enacting the Safety Amendment Act

Fort St. John

Whereas ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities is of utmost importance, and recent events in the province highlight the urgent need for proactive measures to tackle emerging social and criminal challenges;

And whereas the Province of BC previously created and did not enact the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act, providing authorities with effective tools to respond to chronic and illegal behaviour from problematic properties;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM actively lobby the provincial government to bring into force the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act to address challenges related to crime and illegal activity and associated threats to public safety.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to bring into force the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act to address challenges related to crime and illegal activity and associated threats to public safety.

However, the Committee notes that the membership previously endorsed resolution 2009-B66, which requested new or amended legislation to address public disorder, neighbourhood deterioration and other issues caused by illicit drug houses, problem addresses, and certain businesses. The Province subsequently passed the Community Safety Act in 2013, but did not bring it into force. Amendments were tabled in 2019 that sought to, among other things, better address low-level gang and firearm violence in communities. The Community Safety Amendment Act was passed in 2019, although this Act has not been brought into force.

Conference decision: _____

EB38 Bylaw Offence Notice Limits

Summerland

Whereas the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation has been amended to increase maximum Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) fine amounts from \$1,000 to \$3,000, but the maximum fine amount for Bylaw Offence Notices (BON) under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* remains at \$500, which is inconsistent with inflation rates and is not enough of a financial disincentive for many bylaw infractions, especially for short-term rentals;

And whereas BONs are more commonly used for bylaw enforcement as they require less evidentiary and administrative work than MTIs and can be disputed through a neutral adjudication process rather than tying up the court system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to increase the maximum penalty for Bylaw Offence Notices and amend the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* accordingly.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed resolution 2016-B84 which sought an increase to the maximum penalty provided under the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act from \$500 to \$1,000.

UBCM has raised the need to increase the bylaw adjudication maximum fine amount with the provincial government on numerous occasions. To this point, the Province has been unwilling to meaningfully consider this change, despite overseeing the increase of certain costs associated with the adjudication process.

See resolution NR30

Conference decision: _____

EB39 Allocating Resources Towards Cyber Security Health and Protection of Privacy

Logan Lake

Whereas public bodies are responsible for the management and protection of personal information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA);

And whereas personal information is stored and gathered through many methods including digital technology;

And whereas local governments face major challenges with digital technology including capacity and the lack of knowledge and awareness around cyber security;

And whereas Section 69 (5) of FOIPPA legislation, which states that local governments are required to conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) on new initiatives for which no PIA has been conducted or before implementing a significant change to an existing initiative, places hardship on local governments to allocate more staff and resources to meet these requirements, along with costs of upgrades to digital technology;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.

The Committee further notes that in 2021, UBCM members endorsed “Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency”, a report from the Select Committee on Local Government Finance that made 20 recommendations towards finance system modernization (the Report). The Report is being used as a guide for the joint Provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group. Recommendation 13 from the Report seeks the establishment of a provincial program that provides local governments with expertise (e.g., systems and programs) and shared skills to protect and respond to cyber threats.

Conference decision: _____

EB40 E-Comm Governance Review

New Westminster

Whereas E-Comm has struggled to provide service levels that meet established standards or the expectations of the communities they serve, while the cost of E-Comm is increasing at an unsustainable rate, creating budget uncertainty for local Police and Fire services;

And whereas the imminent introduction of next-Gen 911 will represent the single largest change in emergency communications delivery since the introduction of 911, with uncertain cost and operational impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to engage local governments in a comprehensive review of the governance structure and delivery model of 911 emergency call taking, related non-emergency call taking, and emergency dispatch services across BC with a goal to assure reliable, affordable, and sustainable services for all communities.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership, as part of endorsed resolution 2023-SR2, requested that the Province of BC work with local governments to modernize the 911 emergency communications system through the creation of a provincial 911 governance model, with local government representation, to address policy and service standard issues, and manage revenue. This resolution also requested:

- *Implementation of a 911 levy on cellular devices, to address current and future financial challenges associated with the delivery of 911 services;*
- *Development of consistent 911 service standards, without increasing service costs for local governments; and*
- *Integration of mental health call options within the 911 framework including culturally safe options for Indigenous and other racialized peoples.*

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership also endorsed resolution 2022-EB42, which asked the Province to work with UBCM to develop a new provincial mandate and structure for 911 service delivery, with a focus on improving the governance, funding and operations.

Additionally, the UBCM Executive, in 2022, delivered correspondence calling for a governance model, consistent service standards, and a provincial strategy to modernize 911 services, in addition to emphasizing the need for a call answer levy on cellular devices.

Conference decision: _____

EB41 Intersection Safety Camera Program Expansion

Dawson Creek

Whereas due to the high frequency of crashes at intersections in British Columbia, the province implemented an Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program to save lives and reduce injuries;

And whereas the ISC program consists of 140 red light and speed cameras at high-risk intersections in British Columbia, with only one of the locations being in North Central British Columbia thus limiting the opportunity for remote municipalities to use red-light or speed cameras as a traffic safety feature:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions that seek for an expansion of the Intersection Safety Camera program through a variety of initiatives.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions (2023-EB25, 2019-B8, 2017-B90) asking the Province to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras on local roads at the local government's expense. As part of its response to resolution 2023-EB25, the Province stated that it does not intend to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking the usage of traffic enforcement cameras, including:

- *2018-B103 which asked the Province to pilot average-speed-over-distance technology at one or more suitable locations in BC, including but not limited to the Sea-to-Sky Highway 99 at Lions Bay, the Malahat Highway 1 or the Coquihalla Highway 5;*
- *2013-B91 which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and*
- *2011-B84 which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.*

See resolutions RR14, RR15, RR16, RR17, RR18

Conference decision: _____

EB42 Management of Fireworks

Mission

Whereas the misuse and abuse of fireworks causes property damage, personal injury, community disturbance and is a threat to first responders;

And whereas a province-wide approach is needed for the safe manufacturing, transportation, retail, wholesale and use of fireworks:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to regulate the use and sale of fireworks in British Columbia, including public education, enforcement, and transportation.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions that make similar requests:

- 2010-B3 which asked the Province to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia by a permit system that also addresses public education, enforcement, international and local government cross-border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use and abuse of fireworks.; and
- 2005-B74 which asked the Province to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia, through a framework that addresses public education, enforcement, international and municipal cross border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use or abuse of fireworks.

As part of its response to resolution 2010-B3, the Province noted that "the proposed regulatory change would require significant local government involvement and support, which has not been evident in previous efforts to amend existing fireworks regulations."

The Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2005-B75 which sought a province-wide ban on the general sale and use of fireworks.

See resolutions RR19, RR20

Conference decision: _____

EB43 Federal Consultation Prior to Issuing Medical Cannabis Production Certificates

Cariboo RD

Whereas Health Canada may issue a registration document to an individual based in part on a health care provider's initial assessment and document supporting the individual's use of medical cannabis which can permit an individual to grow cannabis plants at designated locations for the purpose of producing cannabis for personal medical use;

And whereas the number of plants which may be possessed under a medical certificate can permit a person to possess a number of plants similar to an industrial marijuana grow facility:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on Health Canada to consult and share information with local governments prior to authorizing any individual to produce cannabis for medical purposes at any location within a given local government's jurisdictional boundaries.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions related to information sharing with local governments as it pertains to the personal production of cannabis for medical purposes, including:

- 2022-NR30 which called for a reduction in the maximum number of cannabis plants for medical purposes, provide local governments with resources and legislative authority to monitor and regulate production of medical cannabis, and share cannabis taxation revenue with local governments;
- 2021-EB13 which called for the establishment of a framework for sharing information and coordinating services in relation to medical cannabis production sites to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities;
- 2018-B7 which called for local governments to be notified of locations with medical cannabis personal production licenses to ensure the safety of first responders who may attend these locations; and,
- 2012-B111 which called for medical cannabis producers (personal and commercial) to be required to obtain a municipal license or permit to ensure compliance with local bylaws and all electrical, fire, health, building and safety regulations.

Health Canada has previously advised that it may only share personal information regarding those authorized to produce cannabis for medical purposes in accordance with existing privacy legislation.

It is the Resolutions Committee's understanding that the number of cannabis plants that may be produced by an individual, as discussed in the sponsor's second preamble clause, may be considered by some to be an excessive amount of cannabis for medical purposes. However, this decision is not made through a "medical certificate" as is inferred in this preamble clause. An initial assessment is made by a health care practitioner, who among other things will help determine if cannabis is an appropriate option for an individual, and if yes, how much cannabis an individual should be taking per day. This determination and information is provided as part of a medical document issued by a health care practitioner to an individual. If an individual wishes to produce cannabis for their own medical purposes, this individual must subsequently register with Health Canada.

Conference decision: _____



Environment

EB44 Enhancing the Environmental Assessment Process

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the environmental assessment review and permitting process for major projects does not adequately identify, consider and proactively address the cumulative social, economic, and infrastructure impacts of these projects on communities;

And whereas the environmental assessment process defers consideration of community issues to the management planning and permitting stage where the issues that arise are inadequately addressed in a reactive manner during project implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to ensure that the environmental assessment review process ensures the proactive identification and mitigation of cumulative community impacts in a proactive manner based on an inclusive and collaborative review process with impacted communities.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to ensure that the environmental assessment review process ensures the proactive identification and mitigation of cumulative community impacts in a proactive manner based on an inclusive and collaborative review process with impacted communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed past resolutions that call for the examination of the impact of major projects/large infrastructure projects on housing, safety and the environment:

- 2023-NR19 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on the housing crisis;
- 2023-NR37 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on public safety; and
- 2017-B65 which asked for projects to be considered in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution from the same sponsor, 2017-B113 that asked the Province to set up a funding system to allow for local governments to be compensated for the staff time spent including research, review, technical and working group participation, and to augment and support community engagement during the process to consider major projects; and that the provincial government's Environmental Assessment Office fee schedule be revised to include a fee for local governments throughout the certification process.

The Province's response to 2017-B113 stated in part, "The Environmental Assessment Office does not currently have budget available to provide capacity funding for local governments participating in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. We acknowledge the time and expense that local governments invest in the EA process, and recognize that funding from the provincial government would be helpful. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has a mandate to revitalize the EA process. We are working to identify the scope and process for EA revitalization and have noted this issue for consideration."

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions addressing environmental assessment and impact, including:

- 2017-B65 which asked the Province to consider projects in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office;
- 2015-B61 which asked the Province to conduct a complete health impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment for all projects; and work with the Health Officers Council to develop guidance documents to support such health impact assessments; and
- 2015-B96 which asked the Province to ensure that the scope of environmental impact assessments for major infrastructure projects includes the wider community and environmental impacts associated with increased road, rail and marine traffic so that a range of mitigation options can be assessed, including the development of inland port facilities.

The Committee further notes that a review of the Environmental Assessment Act, which is required by the Act within five years of its enactment, is scheduled to begin no later than December 16th, 2024.

See resolution EB45

Conference decision: _____

EB45 Improved Local Government Capacity for Environmental Assessment Participation

Squamish

Whereas the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes are not the direct jurisdiction of local governments and therefore not subject to associated service cost recovery fees;

And whereas environmental assessment processes, while of critical importance to communities, are very time-consuming, expensive, and onerous for local government staff, community, and council:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish proponent fees to support the participation of local governments in environmental assessment processes, including compensation associated with the research and review of applications, participation in technical and working groups, augmented community engagement, and post-decision regulatory processes should a project Certificate be issued.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution from the same sponsor, 2017-B113 that asked the Province to set up a funding system to allow for local governments to be compensated for the staff time spent including research, review, technical and working group participation, and to augment and support community engagement during the entire process; and that the provincial government’s Environmental Assessment Office fee schedule be revised to include a fee for local governments throughout the certification process.

The Province’s response to 2017-B113 stated in part, “The Environmental Assessment Office does not currently have budget available to provide capacity funding for local governments participating in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. We acknowledge the time and expense that local governments invest in the EA process, and recognize that funding from the provincial government would be helpful. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has a mandate to revitalize the EA process. We are working to identify the scope and process for EA revitalization and have noted this issue for consideration.”

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions addressing environmental assessment and impact, including:

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- 2015-B61 which asked the Province to conduct a complete health impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment for all projects; and work with the Health Officers Council to develop guidance documents to support such health impact assessments; and
- 2015-B96 which asked the Province to ensure that the scope of environmental impact assessments for major infrastructure projects includes the wider community and environmental impacts associated with increased road, rail and marine traffic so that a range of mitigation options can be assessed, including the development of inland port facilities.

The Committee further notes that a review of the Environmental Assessment Act, which is required by the Act within five years of its enactment, is scheduled to begin no later than December 16th, 2024.

See resolution EB44

Conference decision: _____

EB46 Reducing Regulatory Complexity in Freshwater Sources

Nelson

Whereas in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing population; fresh water for human consumption, agriculture, industry, and ecological needs has become a precious commodity across British Columbia;

And whereas securing a new water source involves the navigation of complex provincial regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies and simplify the associated regulatory process, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB38 that had a very similar enactment clause, which asked for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

Conference decision: _____

EB47 Water Infrastructure Funding

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, is responsible for establishing the standards for drinking water quality as codified by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has adopted the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the standard for drinking water quality under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which community water systems are required to meet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia to provide ongoing, long-term, and stable funding for local governments to upgrade community water distribution and treatment systems to enable compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and all subsequent amendments thereto.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide ongoing, long-term, and stable funding for local

governments to upgrade community water distribution and treatment systems to enable compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and all subsequent amendments thereto.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future (2023-EB38);*
- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);*
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

Conference decision: _____

EB48 Urgent Protection of Urban Waterways

Burnaby

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides powers to local governments to regulate protection of the environment and levy maximum fines for offences:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide urgent protection to watercourses from dumping and discharge, including by providing authority to local governments to impose higher fines.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide urgent protection to watercourses from dumping and discharge, including by providing authority to local governments to impose higher fines.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122). In particular, resolution 2023-EB37 asked the Ministry of Forests to allocate more staffing, funding and enforcement tools, prioritize enforcement to ensure watershed security is maintained and work collaboratively with local governments.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that aim to protect groundwater (2019-B157, 2018-B34, 2011-B43, 2008-B78).

Conference decision: _____

EB49 Water Management for Agriculture

Comox Valley RD

Whereas in response to persistent drought conditions and other climate change effects that are placing considerable stress on supplies of safe, reliable water, the Province of British Columbia has launched new regulatory and enforcement tools as well as funding programs targeting the agricultural sector;

And whereas efforts by the agricultural sector to develop more efficient water infrastructure, management, supply and storage to maximize available water is being impeded by lengthy, costly, and complex grant application and water licencing processes as well as conflicting guidance from different ministries involved in water management:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to mandate the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to work together in a concerted manner to simplify administrative processes, remove excessive requirements, reduce processing times, ensure consistent policy and enforcement, and provide greater support to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers in improving water management, supply and storage.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to simplify administrative processes, remove excessive requirements, reduce processing times, ensure consistent policy and enforcement, and provide greater support to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers in improving water management, supply and storage.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported a number of resolutions addressing relevant water issues, including:

- *2023-EB38 which asked the Province for the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and in the future;*
- *2023-NR42 which asked the Province to increase resources and prioritize the processing of water license applications;*
- *2021-NR30 which sought clarity from the Province on what is causing delays in the issuance of water licenses;*
- *2011-B43 which called for the creation of a groundwater regulation mechanism and agricultural water reserve system; and*
- *2016-B106 which asked the Province to develop policy and procedure for a rainwater harvesting system rebate program for agricultural users.*

More generally, the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for more oversight and control over groundwater extraction (2019-B154, 2018-B34, 2011-B43, 2008-B78).

Also, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

Conference decision: _____

EB50 Non-Compliant and Illegal Buoys

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas many BC local governments continue to experience an ongoing significant proliferation of non-compliant and illegal buoys on our lakes, which has led to an untenable enforcement and public safety situation as well as diminished environmental and fisheries values;

And whereas both the Province of BC and Government of Canada have a shared jurisdictional authority and responsibility regarding enforcement and removal of these structures because:

- the buoys are placed on Crown lands (being anchored to the lake bottom),
- the landowners are using Crown lands for exclusive ongoing use without tenure; and
- the buoy float and its placement/adjacency on the water to other buoys and structures is regulated by Transport Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to utilize their enforcement powers and authorities to remove non-compliant and illegal buoys which are in trespass on Crown lands, through a multijurisdictional project between the Province of BC, Government of Canada, and impacted local governments.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions (2017-B68 and 2009-B173) requesting the provincial and federal governments remove unsafe, unsightly and hazardous objects (buoys, docks, boats and other structures) from waterways. In particular, resolution 2017-B68 requests that buoys on lakes and rivers that have been illegally placed be removed by Transport Canada.

Conference decision: _____

EB51 Invasive Mussels

Kelowna

Whereas bodies of water in British Columbia are at very high risk for infestation of invasive mussels, particularly following the discovery of quagga mussels in a tributary of the Columbia River in Idaho;

And whereas an infestation of invasive mussels would cause significant economic and environmental losses, with economic losses alone estimated at \$64 million to \$129 million annually across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC take action based on the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s recommendations to the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship for invasive mussel prevention, dated September 25, 2023, including requesting the federal government enhance inspections, increasing funding and staffing for the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program, introducing provincial “pull-the-plug” legislation, and updating the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC work with the federal government to increase long-term funding and support to prevent invasive mussels from entering waterways in British Columbia.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions addressing watercraft and invasive mussels:

- 2023-EB36 which asked the province to introduce legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels when entering BC and establish mandatory watercraft inspections to ensure the protection of our watercourses; and
- 2021-EB26 which asked the provincial and federal governments to adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a watercraft inspection station.

See resolutions NR60, RR23, RR24, RR25

Conference decision: _____

EB52 Wildlife Safety Response Officer Program Funding Pemberton

Whereas the Province is responsible for preventing and responding to natural resource law enforcement infractions and human-wildlife conflicts through the BC Conservation Officer Service;

And whereas the Province created the Wildlife Safety Response Officer program, funded by communities, to support BC Conservation Officers and communities in proactively managing human-wildlife interactions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to fully fund the Wildlife Safety Response Officer program to ensure that all communities have access to the tools they need to protect wildlife and reduce the risks associated with human-wildlife interactions.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fully fund the Wildlife Safety Response Officer program to ensure that all communities have access to the tools they need to protect wildlife and reduce the risks associated with human-wildlife interactions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management and to reduce human-wildlife conflict (2021-NR38, 2018-B36, 2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2013-B73, 2012-B21, 2012-B72, 2013-B27, 2012-B21, 2010-B25, 2004-B81).

See resolution NR53

Conference decision: _____

EB53 Sustainable Funding for Solid Waste Management Compliance Comox Valley RD

Whereas increasing environmental standards for solid waste management are placing considerable financial strain on local governments and their taxpayers;

And whereas the provincial government should consider the financial implications of such regulatory changes on local governments and provide corresponding and accessible opportunities for local governments to receive financial support:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia for the establishment of an annual funding model to assist local governments in adequately preparing for and responding to new provincial environmental standards for solid waste management.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish an annual funding model to assist local governments in adequately preparing for and responding to new provincial environmental standards for solid waste management.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed the following related resolutions:

- *2021-NR33 that called upon the Province of British Columbia to provide the necessary resources to local governments for landfill compliance related projects; and*
- *2016-B27 that called for provincial funding to assist local governments in their waste management initiatives that address the new standards around Landfill Operational Certificates.*

Conference decision: _____

EB54 Produce Stickers in Composting Facilities

Summerland

Whereas the Government of Canada, Province of BC, and 17 regional districts, municipalities and local First Nations have together invested up to \$30 million through the Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) to keep organic waste out of landfills and to increase organic composting capacity in BC;

And whereas the organic composting process is hindered by the difficulty of screening out non compostable plastic Price Look-Up (PLU) stickers applied to fruit and vegetable items that inevitably end up in curbside collection bins:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the governments of British Columbia and Canada to require the use of certified industrially compostable PLU stickers on all fresh produce.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to require the use of certified industrially compostable PLU stickers on all fresh produce.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2017-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments (where applicable) to change both domestic and import regulations related to food labeling to require vegetable-based ink/food safe stamps on all fruits and vegetables sold in Canada, to address the issue of the plastic, non-compostable produce stickers.

Conference decision: _____

EB55 Youth Climate Corps

Port Moody

Whereas local governments recognize the urgent need to address climate change and the impact that climate change is having on communities through extreme weather such as wildfires, floods, extreme heat, which is causing major infrastructure damage and loss of life to residents;

And whereas there is a need to engage young people by local governments, and train the next generation of low carbon sector workers and leaders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia for an expanded Youth Climate Corps that will provide green living wage jobs and training to young adults to support important work on climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their own communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement;

And be it further resolved that the Province work with local governments, Indigenous communities and nations, youth groups, industry, union associations and environmental organizations to scaleup, design programming and provide resources for a BC-wide Youth Climate Corps.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand a Youth Climate Corps that will provide green living wage jobs and training to young adults to support important work on climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their own communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement. Nor has the membership considered the request for the Province to work with local governments, Indigenous communities and nations, youth groups, industry, union associations and environmental organizations to scale up, design programming and provide resources for a BC-wide Youth Climate Corps.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2013-B81 which asked the Province to create and support a Green Jobs Plan for BC.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include (2023-EB31, 2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

The Committee further notes that the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action identified social mobilization, and the recruitment and training of local citizens and youth to serve as climate champions, as an important area of climate action in its November 2020 recommendations.

See resolution RR22

Conference decision: _____

EB56 Heavy Duty Vehicle Climate Emissions

Central Saanich

Whereas many local governments in BC have set Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas like other local governments, the District of Central Saanich has made progress in reducing emissions, yet has findings to indicate that heavy-duty truck emissions have increased, while there are few available local government legislative or financial powers to change this trajectory:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to use its financial and legislative powers to take further action to reduce the emissions from the heavy-duty trucks, which may include requiring a higher mixture of biodiesel, electrification, or further incentives to decarbonize heavy-duty vehicle fleets.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed an earlier resolution which sought to reduce emissions from heavy-duty vehicles, 2020-EB27 asked the Province to enact zero-emission vehicle sales requirements for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

Conference decision: _____

EB57 Small Scale Commercial Contaminated Sites

Kitimat

Whereas the contaminated site remediation process is required when an application is made for many types of redevelopment;

And whereas the environmental remediation process is so onerous and costly for small scale commercial development that it can delay development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to reassess the contaminated sites provincial legislation to alleviate the negative economic impacts for small scale commercial redevelopment and provide more options for economic development opportunities on these properties.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reassess the contaminated sites provincial legislation to alleviate the negative economic impacts for small scale commercial redevelopment and provide more options for economic development opportunities on these properties.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to create a new, separate tax class for brownfield sites so that local governments can tax these sites accordingly (2020-EB46, 2019-B41, 2018-B25, 2017-B21, 2016-B104).

The Committee also notes that prior to 2016, other resolutions related to brownfield sites have focused on either expediting the remediation of contaminated properties (2013-B33, 2012-B26, 2011-B99, 2008-B33, 2007-B29, 2007-B70), or fine-tuning the criteria applied by BC Assessment when assessing contaminated properties (2013-B26, 2011-B37, 2005-B21).

Conference decision: _____



Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

EB58 Advancing Local Government Actions Toward the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)* and Reconciliation Courtenay

Whereas the Province of BC is implementing the 10 Principles within the *Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)* and local governments and Indigenous organizations are collectively working towards reconciliation actions;

And whereas many local governments and Indigenous organizations do not have the capacity for the extensive work required for effective partnership building in the spirit of reconciliation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC provide an ongoing funding stream for local governments and Indigenous partners to advance the *Declaration of Rights on Indigenous Peoples Act* and local reconciliation actions.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting funding or supports for local governments for reconciliation, relationship building and engagement with First Nations (2018-B23, 2021-EB77).

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions in support of UNDRIP, DRIPA, MMIWG2S and TRC (2023-EB72, 22022-EB86, 2022-EB85, 2022-NR70, 2022-EB60, 2019-A4, 2019-LR4, 2018-B150, 2015-B106).

Conference decision: _____



Finance

EB59 Grant Processing Timelines Summerland

Whereas local governments are required to meet tight and firm deadlines for submissions to provincial and federal application-based grant programs;

And whereas after submitting a grant application, local governments are left to wait indefinitely due to the absence of established timelines for grant adjudication and approvals, thereby affecting local governments' ability to plan projects with certainty and financial accuracy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to establish and adhere to processing timelines and award decision dates for all application-based grant programs.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish and adhere to processing timelines and award decision dates for all application-based grant programs.

The Committee notes that while the UBCM does establish timelines for various programs under Local Government Program Services (LGPS), there are no set timelines for provincial/federal capital infrastructure programs.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to improve and streamline grant processes, including:

- *2022-EB58 which asked, in part, for the provincial and federal governments to review the delivery program for application-based grant programs to increase certainty for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current application based grant funding programs;*
- *2021-EB21 which asked that the provincial and federal governments coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements, and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs; and*
- *2018-B111 which asked that the provincial and federal governments restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding (and remove need to expend limited staff and financial resources on grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements).*

Additionally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing grant programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:

- *2020-EB35 - Doubling the Gas Tax;*
- *2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants;*
- *2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;*
- *2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria;*
- *2012-B69 - Local Government Funding; and*
- *2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.*

Conference decision: _____

EB60 Streamlining of Grant Applications and Reporting Nelson

Whereas local governments in BC are increasingly reliant on a wide variety of grant programs to support the delivery of services, programs and projects in their jurisdictions;

And whereas the administrative burden of managing increasingly complex criteria and requirements, from application to final reporting, can be overwhelming, time consuming and sometimes prohibitive for some local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed an identical resolution: 2021-EB21.

The membership also endorsed resolution 2018-B111 which was very similar, identifying limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements. B111 went further requesting that the provincial and federal governments restructure programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing grant programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:

- *2020-EB35 - Doubling the Gas Tax*
- *2018-B109 - Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access*
- *2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants*
- *2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities*
- *2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria*
- *2012-B69 - Local Government Funding*
- *2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding*

Conference decision: _____

EB61 Stable Local Government Funding in BC

Fernie

Whereas local governments across British Columbia face challenges in securing stable funding for essential services;

And whereas a consistent and reliable source of funding is crucial for the effective functioning of local governments;

And whereas alternative funding mechanisms, such as a municipal sales tax or alternative tax be directly allocated to BC local governments, can contribute to financial stability and local autonomy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for the exploration and implementation of alternative funding options, including, for example, a municipal sales tax, to ensure stable and predictable funding for local governments in British Columbia, with a specific focus on directing funds directly for local government budgeting;

And be it further resolved that UBCM engage in discussions with relevant provincial authorities to develop and implement a sustainable funding model that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by local governments, promoting financial resilience and supporting the delivery of essential services.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for alternative funding options (e.g. municipal sales tax) to ensure stable and predictable funding for local governments in BC, nor to develop and implement a sustainable funding model for local governments.

However, the Committee notes that in 2021, the UBCM membership endorsed UBCM's Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report on issues affecting the financial sustainability of local governments. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a mandate that includes reviewing local government financial resiliency and analyzing

recommendations in the report. The work plan includes a review of the current local government property tax system and opportunities for revenues to strengthen the local government finance system.

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2015-B82, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).

The membership has also supported resolutions asking for local government to receive a share of other taxation revenues, including:

- Cannabis Taxation Revenue (2023-NR31, 2022-NR30, 2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3);
- Provincial Sales Tax (2021-EB20, 2020-EB34, 2012-B11);
- Fuel Tax (2021-EB20, 2013-B99, 2012-B19, 2010-B24, 2007-B21, 2007-A5, 2005-B20);
- Liquor Tax (2021-EB20, 2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2004-B111); and
- Property Transfer Tax (2023-EB52, 2021-EB20, 2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2012-B18, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2005-B87, 2004-A8).

Conference decision: _____

EB62 Rethinking Local Government Taxation for Equitable and Effective Crisis Response

Langford

Whereas local governments, often on the front lines, bear the brunt of addressing shared crises such as climate issues, housing affordability, inequality, public health, and infrastructure challenges;

And whereas the burden on local governments has intensified due to provincial shortcomings in fulfilling their responsibilities, leaving many local governments grappling with insufficient revenue sources, resulting in an over reliance on regressive property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to promptly fulfill its responsibilities in providing health care, including mental health care, as well as social services and the management of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities;

And be it further resolved that in the absence of immediate provincial action, UBCM advocate for a comprehensive and immediate review of local government taxation and revenue sources recognizing the pivotal role of local governments, which, despite these being provincial responsibilities, are left to deal with the repercussions without adequate support from the Province.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to fulfill its responsibilities in providing health care, including mental health care, as well as social services and the management of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities. As well as advocate for a comprehensive and immediate review of local government taxation and revenue sources.

However, the Committee notes that in 2021, the UBCM membership endorsed UBCM's Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that recognized the historic downloading of jurisdictional responsibility for mental health and addiction services and for supporting attainable housing. The report called for UBCM to

work with the Province to develop a comprehensive strategy to address mental health and addictions, and develop and implement a province-wide homelessness strategy.

UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing the current local government property tax system and opportunities for sharing taxation/revenues to strengthen the local government finance system.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2015-B82, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking action and funding from the Province to address:

Health Care:

- resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks, Clinics and Health Centres (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2016-B44);
- recruitment and retention of medical practitioners (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162); and
- additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities in BC (2023-SR1).

Mental Health Care:

- improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-EB1, 2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Housing:

- provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-EB11, 2023-NR21, 2022-EB24, 2022-EB25, 2022-EB26, 2022-NR14, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

Criminal Rehabilitation/Public Safety:

- crime prevention and harm reduction solutions in communities across the province (2022-EB44, 2020-EB7, 2015-B54, 2011-B15, 2008-B67, 2005-B3);
- consider public safety and fairness when dealing with prolific offenders, and furthermore that guidelines be developed as to what constitutes "the public interest" with respect to pursuing charges for criminal offences (2022-NR36);
- improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system (2021-EB11);
- enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, as well as the consistent use of electronic monitoring when individuals are released on conditions (2021-NR3);
- ensure prolific offenders are "sentenced effectively," and supported by credible programs to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness (2015-B54);
- amend or create laws or policies that will prohibit offenders labeled high risk, following their release from prison, from residing in the community or the vicinity of the community where they committed their crime(s) (2007-A2);
- escalate sentences for chronic offenders as part of a national integrated crime reduction strategy that also seeks to re-emphasize the protection of society and the responsibility of individuals for their criminal behaviour (2007-B89); and
- change the law with respect to "repeat offenders," including conditions around release into the community, treatment programs and rehabilitation benchmarks (2006-B137).

See resolutions NR1, NR2

Conference decision: _____

EB63 Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services

Port Alberni

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

And whereas public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensures that BC libraries receive regular increases to provincial government funding in subsequent years.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2023-EB54, 2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

See resolutions NR67, RR29

Conference decision: _____

 **Land Use**

EB64 Drought

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas climate change is causing increasingly unpredictable and extended summer droughts throughout Vancouver Island and the Coastal Region;

And whereas water is a shared resource required by all residents, industry sectors, agriculture and the environment to both sustain life and conduct business:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship conduct a current inventory of surface and groundwater availability, as well as projected future needs, in order to facilitate planning of freshwater storage requirements to supply all residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, emergency and environmental needs to a minimum 50-year threshold.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to conduct a current inventory of surface and groundwater availability, as well as projected future needs, in order to facilitate planning of freshwater storage requirements to supply all residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, emergency and environmental needs to a minimum 50-year threshold.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds; most notably as part of the recent Watershed Security Strategy and related Watershed Security Fund (2023-EB37, 2023-EB38, 2023-EB56, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- *Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);*
- *Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- *Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- *Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- *Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

See resolutions EB65, EB66

Conference decision: _____

EB65 Groundwater Protection in the Province of British Columbia

Metchosin

Whereas over one million British Columbians rely on groundwater for daily use and that groundwater presents significant challenges in terms of monitoring, defining (classifying/characterizing), and demonstrating water viability, including water-use budgets/allocations;

And whereas the impacts of climate change, population growth and industrial activity are intensifying, and all three factors can negatively impact groundwater sustainability and sources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government prioritize the following:

1. Renew the work to identify aquifers at risk in terms of productivity and vulnerability to contamination, climate change, population growth and other criteria;
2. Continue to build in the province's groundwater monitoring capacity, including installation of additional observation wells for high risk aquifers;
3. Develop a regular reporting process on the health and viability of high-risk aquifers; and
4. Develop a funding program for local governments to support local monitoring of groundwater resources.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution making the following four requests of the Province:

- Renew the work to identify aquifers at risk in terms of productivity and vulnerability to contamination, climate change, population growth and other criteria;
- Continue to build in the province's groundwater monitoring capacity, including installation of additional observation wells for high risk aquifers;
- Develop a regular reporting process on the health and viability of high-risk aquifers; and
- Develop a funding program for local governments to support local monitoring of groundwater resources.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds; most notably as part of the recent Watershed Security Strategy and related Watershed Security Fund (2023-EB37, 2023-EB38, 2023-EB56, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).

See resolutions EB64, EB66

Conference decision: _____

EB66 Rainwater Management in Road Rights of Way

Comox Valley RD

Whereas residential development in portions of unincorporated areas designated as suitable for increased dwelling density through regional growth strategies and official community plans will enhance the supply of housing in British Columbia;

And whereas a key constraint in increasing dwelling density in these areas is locating adequately sized green infrastructure such as rain gardens and infiltration swales that protect stream systems and overall watershed health, and reduce risk to downstream property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC investigate options to permit green infrastructure and low impact development rainwater management measures for private property and public

roads within provincial public highway rights of way in alignment with policy direction set out in the March 2023 Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to investigate options to permit green infrastructure and low impact development rainwater management measures for private property and public roads within provincial public highway rights of way in alignment with policy direction set out in the March 2023 Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved stormwater (rainwater) management (2022-EB63, 2020-EB62, 2012-B90).

The Committee also notes that there has been support for the use of green infrastructure, including UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR16 which sought flood risk mitigation through green infrastructure and natural assets. As well as resolution 2021-EB44 which sought to undertake risk assessments to identify and assess any potential threats to the natural assets that communities rely on to provide essential services such as drinking water and flood mitigation.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions that seek better land use planning that ensures decision making takes into account the cumulative effects on the environment, such as watersheds (2021-EB44, 2020-EB61, 2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds; most notably as part of the Province's recent Watershed Security Strategy and related Watershed Security Fund (2023-EB37, 2023-EB38, 2023-EB56, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122). UBCM's Environment Committee has been actively engaged throughout the development of the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund since 2021. The Committee and the broader membership continue to provide feedback and input as the Province moves toward completion of the Strategy and future implementation.

See resolutions EB64, EB65

Conference decision: _____

EB67 Addressing Shoreline Erosion Concerns in Coastal Communities North Coast RD

Whereas coastal communities in BC are experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, adverse weather events, and eroding shorelines:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the BC government to dedicate more resources toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and shoreline erosion in coastal communities.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to dedicate more resources toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and shoreline erosion in coastal communities.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions that seek better land use planning that ensures decision making takes into account the cumulative effects on the environment from land use (2020-EB61, 2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25). In particular, resolution 2020-EB61 notes erosion control in its first whereas clause.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions that seek to increase the funding, resources, and tools available to local governments to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change (2023-EB31, 2023-NR45, 2022-EB45, 2022-NR41, 2021-EB39), including several resolutions specifically related to flood protection (2022-SR3, 2021-EB6, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12).

Conference decision: _____

EB68 Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Wildfires Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas the current forest ecosystem contains significant unnatural old growth forest, excluding Interior Cedar Hemlock and Coastal Rainforest, and experiences damage from devastating wildfires and insect epidemics;

And whereas the biodiversity and sustainability of forests in British Columbia is at risk, impacting human and wildlife health, ecosystem health, and the economy of the forest sector:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC, in conjunction with Indigenous Nations, to modernize forest management policies and regulations, update biodiversity targets, and promote environmental stewardship, which are key in creating healthy forests, reducing fire hazards, and protecting community safety and critical infrastructure;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to support education on the value of reintroducing fire plan strategies to responsibly manage fuel sources as a healthy way to maintain the forest, ungulate, bird, and amphibian populations, and protect community safety and infrastructure.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking all of the items noted in the enactment clauses but most issues have been addressed separately by resolutions.

The Committee notes that the membership did endorse 2010-B91 which in part asked the Ministry of Forests to:

“(c) amend existing policies to ensure that the primary management goal within the wildland-urban interface should be the reduction of wildfire hazard and promotion of ecosystem health and resilience; and

(d) work with local governments to fund and implement a comprehensive management program based on current sound science research that protects the economic, environmental and social assets of community interface forests.”

The Committee also notes that members have endorsed resolutions addressing modernizing forest management policies as well as protection of ecosystem health and biodiversity, including:

- 2023-EB55 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review;
- 2023-LR1 which asked the Province to defer its current land base forestry initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season; and
- 2022-NR38 and 2022-NR39 both requested that the Province “develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous and western scientific experts, and the concerned public.”

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2023-NR33, 2022-EB36, 2022-NR26, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR21, 2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

Conference decision: _____

EB69 Salvage Logging of Wildfire Impacted Areas

Fort St. John

Whereas the 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in British Columbia’s recorded history, with more than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned, and there is limited time to recover value from fire-impacted standing timber before the wood quality deteriorates, and the forest industry in British Columbia is facing significant timber shortage challenges leading to mill closures across the province;

And whereas the fire-impacted standing timber poses a significant threat to public safety through the potential for future wildfires:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to work with the forest industry and relevant agencies to enhance access and utilization of fire-impacted standing timber across the province.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with the forest industry and relevant agencies to enhance access and utilization of fire-impacted standing timber across the province.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2011-B80 which asked the Province to have “pine beetle infestation areas harvested in those interface areas wherein licensees have determined that they will not be harvesting in order to abate wildland interface hazards on Crown land”. As well in 2012 members endorsed B109 which asked for “Integrated Landscape Planning Guidelines and that all companies harvesting timber in BC consider future wildfire impacts while planning for harvesting.”

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2021-SR2, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

Conference decision: _____

EB70 Registration of Notice of Latecomer Charges on Property Title Squamish

Whereas if a local government pays all or part of the costs of excess or extended services (road, water, sanitary or storm drainage systems) it may, under *Local Government Act* (LGA) s. 508(3), recover its costs through latecomer charges against owners of land that is to be subdivided or developed;

And whereas the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) does not currently have authority to register Notices of Excess or Extended Services Agreements against property title and does not accept such notices, creating risk for property developers or purchasers and for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to give the Land Title and Survey Authority statutory authority to accept Notices of Excessive or Extended Services Agreements (also known as Latecomer Agreements) for registration on property title.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR63 which asked the Province to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.

In its response to 2023-NR63, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs responded as follows: “The Province has no intention of examining this issue. Latecomer agreements are provided for in the Local Government Act (LGA), which is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Currently the Act does not provide for the registration of latecomer agreements in the land title register. The public policy implications of registering such agreements against title are significant. A primary concern is that no other development-related charges are registered on title.”

Conference decision: _____

EB71 Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Lands Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas British Columbia currently has no legislation restricting foreign ownership of agricultural land in the province, resulting in concern among British Columbians that unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land in British Columbia may cause speculation in land prices and compromise the security and sustainability of food production in British Columbia;

And whereas additional concerns resulting from unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land include: pressures on the limited protected agricultural land in BC; unmanaged lands with no local oversight leading to invasive species issues; whether the tax rate on non-resident ALR ownership should be different; and whether foreign ownership of ALR lands is in the long-term interest of the agricultural industry in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support Recommendation 24 of the Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission Report, December 2018 and lobby the provincial government to adopt policies restricting foreign ownership of ALR land in British Columbia, similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to support Recommendation 24 of the Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission Report, December 2018 and lobby the provincial government to adopt policies restricting foreign ownership of ALR land in British Columbia, similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.

However, the Committee would note that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B111 which asked the Province to 1. Assemble data on current foreign ownership of farm land inside and outside the Agricultural Land Reserve in BC and maintain a registry; 2. Support and strengthen the powers of the Agricultural Land Commission and take measures to protect the agricultural land base from price speculation; and 3. Take measures to limit foreign and investment company ownership of BC farmland, similar to measures taken in Alberta, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island.

The Committee would note that Recommendation 24 of the Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission Report from December 2018 states: Consider adopting policies on foreign ownership of ALR land - similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.

Report URL: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/agriculture-land-reserve/final-committee-report-to-the-minister-of-agriculture-recommendations-for-revitalization-december-4-2018_optimized.pdf

Conference decision: _____

EB72 Keep BC Parks Open Longer

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas provincial parks serve a vital recreational, cultural, social and economic role in the lives of many British Columbians;

And whereas the Province of BC closes many of its parks to campers in September each year, limiting the ability of British Columbians access to those parks at a time of year when they continue to be functionally usable:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to extend the season for all provincial parks, including campgrounds, by keeping them open until the end of October to enable the access to parks for all visitors to enjoy these recreational benefits for a longer period and to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to extend the season for all provincial parks, including campgrounds, by keeping them open until the end of October.

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2011-B49 which, in part, asked the Province “to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, **year-round where appropriate**, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians”.*

Members have also endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2021-EB42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72).

Conference decision: _____



Taxation

EB73 Volunteer Firefighter and Search and Rescue Members Income Tax Credit Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members perform a critical, lifesaving role in the safety of British Columbians while receiving no pay and are increasingly difficult to recruit and retain;

And whereas the Province of BC passed legislation in 2017 that enabled these volunteers to receive a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to increase the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members to \$10,000 per annum.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR75 which sought an increase of the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

The Committee also notes that the membership supported a number of resolutions that sought a tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, prior to the credit of \$3,000 being put into place (2011-B118, 2006-B22, 2005-B15, 2004-B61).

The Committee further notes that a doubling of the credit from \$3,000 to \$6,000 was announced in the 2024 federal budget.

Conference decision: _____



Transportation

EB74 Improved Road Design for Vulnerable Road Users Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road design standards prioritize the efficient movement of motor vehicles over the safety of vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists;

And whereas narrow road rights-of-way and topographic challenges in rural areas often make it impossible for active transportation infrastructure to be built to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Active Transportation Design Guide of separated paths along road corridors;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will not approve, fund, or maintain any road improvements that don't meet their Active Transportation Design Guide:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to instruct the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users in their road design standards;

And be it further resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognize the practical challenges of active transportation in rural areas and approve, fund and maintain minor road improvements that increase safety for vulnerable road users, such as paved shoulders and crosswalks.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to prioritize safety measures for vulnerable road users, including relevant amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act (2021-EB16, 2018-B12, 2018-B102).

The Committee further notes that more generally, the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support the increased use of active transportation:

- *development of active transportation infrastructure (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99);*
- *tax exemption or financial incentive for purchase of electric bicycles (2020-EB29, 2019-B44, 2016-B130); and*
- *improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57, 2012-B63, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B110, 2006-B140).*

The Committee understands that this resolution pertains to provincial roads in regional district electoral areas; not to provincial highways or to municipal roads.

See resolutions EB75, NR81, NR82, RR36

Conference decision: _____

EB75 Active Transportation Within Provincial Highway Rights of Way Langford

Whereas according to CleanBC’s Roadmap to 2030, transportation is our largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) which accounts for approximately 40 per cent of our annual total, and to address this the Province has committed to doubling the proportion of trips using active transportation by 2030;

And whereas given the urgency of the climate crises, the fast-approaching 2030 deadline and the fact that safe active transportation infrastructure provides economically accessible transportation for more individuals of all ages and abilities, there is a pressing need for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide stronger leadership, accountability, and equitable investment in infrastructure for all modes of transportation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to take on the responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of all active transportation infrastructure within provincial highway rights of way to align with active transportation planning of Indigenous and local governments, thus ensuring equitable commitment to active transportation infrastructure commensurate with infrastructure focused on motor vehicles.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR24, which asked the Province to assume responsibility for the development and operation of active transportation infrastructure within highway rights of way.

More generally, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support active transportation infrastructure, including:

- *development of active transportation infrastructure (2020-EB24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99); and*
- *improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57, 2012-B63, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B110, 2006-B140).*

See resolutions EB74, NR81, NR82, RR36

Conference decision: _____

**EB76 Engagement with Local Governments with Respect Sunshine Coast RD
to Road Network Planning**

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure lacks the funding, staffing and mandate to plan overall road networks in unincorporated areas and to proactively deal with transportation and development planning issues in the "fringe" interface areas of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas problems with runoff from roads and development are increasingly severe across the province, and are significantly impacted by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure decisions around subdivision approvals and road infrastructure;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not proactively engage with local governments on future planning and maintenance of numbered routes that run through local governments and often through downtown cores:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to engage with local governments on overall road network planning and subdivision planning in order to improve decision-making to reduce cumulative negative impacts on communities.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to engage with local governments on overall road network planning and subdivision planning in order to improve decision-making to reduce cumulative negative impacts on communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved engagement with MOTI and the Province regarding roads and highways, including:

- *share road maintenance plans and infrastructure priorities with local governments (2023-EB62); and*
- *require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways (2021-EB14).*

See resolutions EB78, NR83

Conference decision: _____

EB77 Culvert Restoration on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Managed Roads Funding qathet RD

Whereas the public relies on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managed culverts to ensure road safety and mitigate risk;

And whereas many failing and clogged culverts present a future flooding risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide realistic asset management and funding to restore culverts on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managed roads.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide asset management and funding to restore culverts on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managed roads.

However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2022-EB63 which addressed stormwater management and protection of critical transportation infrastructure.

More generally, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2022-EB69, 2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110). As well,

members have endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to improve service level standards and funding for maintenance of secondary roads in the provincial road network (2023-EB63, 2020-EB18, 2017-B10, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17).

In this 2024 resolution sponsored by qathet RD, the enactment clause calls on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide “realistic asset management”. The Resolutions Committee would seek clarification from the sponsor on “realistic asset management” in the context of this resolution. What would the sponsor deem “realistic” versus “unrealistic” in terms of asset management for provincial roads and related infrastructure?

Conference decision: _____

EB78 Funding for Rural Road Maintenance Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas secondary roads in unincorporated areas of BC are typically maintained on a break/fix basis despite deteriorating conditions and increasing traffic;

And whereas there is no publicly available plan for the upgrade and replacement of rural roads, culverts, and bridges:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to establish a capital asset management plan for secondary road networks across the province.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to establish a capital asset management plan for secondary road networks across the province.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved road and highway maintenance, including:

- *MOTI to consult with local governments and be more transparent and share Road Maintenance Plans and Infrastructure priorities with local governments (2023-EB62, 2021-EB14);*
- *improved maintenance and funding for roads and bridges (2022-EB69, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2015-B75, 2014-B53, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110);*
- *improved service level standards and maintenance funding for secondary provincial roads (2020-EB18, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17);*
- *improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2020-EB20, 2020-EB22, 2017-B58, 2017-B59, 2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17);*
- *improved maintenance and funding for roads and bridges (2022-EB69, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2015-B75, 2014-B53, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110); and*
- *regular provincial government audits and performance assessment of highway maintenance services, and communication of the audit findings to local governments (2017-B10, 2008-B113).*

See resolutions EB76, NR83

Conference decision: _____

EB79 Resource Roads Penticton

Whereas several communities across the province have single or limited access/egress routes leaving them vulnerable during extreme events such as wildfire, rock slides or flooding;

And whereas some communities are required to use resource roads on an ongoing basis to remain connected;

And whereas resource roads are built for industrial purposes or access to natural resources in remote areas and the Province, or its contractors, do not maintain these to the same standards as paved public roadways:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to define standards of maintenance and construction that supports the economic continuity and connectedness of residents across the Province where these resource roads are being used as alternate commuter routes or would be used in the event of an emergency.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to identify resource roads that are essential for community access or egress, and commit to maintaining these as public roads, including:

- *review forest service roads to determine which ones are critical for the public’s access/egress and develop a plan to maintain them as public roads (2020-EB22); and*
- *work with communities and stakeholders to identify key resource roads no longer required for industrial use, and designate these roads as recreational roads that require provincial oversight and funding for ongoing maintenance in support of, in part, emergency uses (2017-B58).*

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for provincial maintenance of resource roads so that they can be used for emergency purposes:

- establish defined standards for construction, maintenance, and enforcement for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities, funded similarly to the public highway system (2020-EB19);
- explore by policy the ways and means and criteria to distinguish resource road classes defined as high community or public use resource roads, along with flexible, result-oriented definitions for their maintenance (2020-EB20); and
- additional funding and improved maintenance of resource roads (2015-B74, 2010-B19, 2008-B17).

The Committee is aware that the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), a program intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies, includes a funding stream to support the development of evacuation route plans. The Province allocated \$110 million in 2021/22 in new funding to the CEPF.

See resolution EB80

Conference decision: _____

EB80 Emergency Routes

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas on June 6, 2023, Highway 4 was closed at Cameron Lake Bluff, near Koen Road, due to a wildfire, and that a detour route from Port Alberni through Lake Cowichan via Bamfield, using forest-service and privately owned industrial roads was established by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) on Wednesday, July 7, 2023, and was actively maintained until August 31, 2023;

And whereas the highway closure that occurred between June 6, 2023, and August 31, 2023, resulted in significant negative impacts on our residents' health, safety, and well-being, and it had devastating economic impacts resulting in the loss of jobs and permanent closure of local businesses, and that similar communities having only one access road in and out of their community experienced similar negative impacts during emergency activations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness work with communities, that have only one access road in and out of their community, to ensure the permanent establishment and maintenance of alternative or emergency transportation routes for use in the event of an emergency;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and appropriate local governments to conduct an inventory of active forestry roads that could be maintained for emergency evacuation purposes, and that the roads meeting the criteria for emergency evacuation purposes be maintained for these purposes by the Province in perpetuity.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to identify resource roads that are essential for community access or egress, and commit to maintaining these as public roads, including:

- review forest service roads to determine which ones are critical for the public's access/egress and develop a plan to maintain them as public roads (2020-EB22); and

- work with communities and stakeholders to identify key resource roads no longer required for industrial use, and designate these roads as recreational roads that require provincial oversight and funding for ongoing maintenance in support of, in part, emergency uses (2017-B58).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for provincial maintenance of resource roads so that they can be used for emergency purposes:

- establish defined standards for construction, maintenance, and enforcement for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities, funded similarly to the public highway system (2020-EB19);
- explore by policy the ways and means and criteria to distinguish resource road classes defined as high community or public use resource roads, along with flexible, result-oriented definitions for their maintenance (2020-EB20); and
- additional funding and improved maintenance of resource roads (2015-B74, 2010-B19, 2008-B17).

The Committee is aware that the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), a program intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies, includes a funding stream to support the development of evacuation route plans. The Province allocated \$110 million in 2021/22 in new funding to the CEPF.

See resolution EB79

Conference decision: _____

EB81 Adjustment of Funding Formula for Small Rural Transit Services Ashcroft

Whereas operational costs for the provisions of rural transit services continue to escalate in this inflationary environment;

And whereas BC Transit budget projections for existing small rural transit services appear to have a higher percentage cost increase for community partners than the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider the unique challenges faced by small rural transit services and consider the diverse needs of these communities;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government through BC Transit adjust the funding formula for anticipated annual operational increases to a fair and equal cost-share formula between BC Transit and community partners.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association 

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR77 which asked that BC Transit’s share of the expenses be increased for rural routes.

As well, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit in small, rural and remote communities (2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2023-NR75, 2020-EB17, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2015-B9).

See resolutions EB83, EB84, NR84

Conference decision: _____

EB82 Enhanced Transit Support

Fernie

Whereas communities across British Columbia are struggling with a housing crisis and a labour shortage; And whereas communities in rural British Columbia are poorly served by public transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the appropriate British Columbia ministries to enhance transit in and between rural communities to improve citizen mobility and to assist those who may already have housing in and adjacent to rural communities, or who can only afford housing in proximity to rural communities, to access available employment more readily in a sustainable, GHG friendly fashion.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to fund expansion of public transit across BC, including:

- doubling of services in BC regional, rural transit systems (2023-EB61);
- more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9); and
- implementation and expansion of interregional transit, to address safety concerns and rider demand (2022-NR56, 2015-B9, 2012-C37).

See resolution RR35

Conference decision: _____

EB83 Increasing Reliable Transit Funding to Support Growing Communities Squamish

Whereas access to reliable, frequent public transit is critical to achieving shared local and provincial objectives of supporting community growth in an equitable, healthy, connected, low-carbon way:

And whereas communities serviced by BC Transit haven't been able to realize public transit expansion plans due to lack of matching funds from the Province since 2021:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC and BC Transit to commit to funding transit service expansions where requested and to move from annual funding agreements to 3-year funding agreements to allow for more certainty.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B9, which asked the Province to provide a rolling 3-year funding commitment to BC Transit; and resolution 2023-EB60, which asked the Province to provide a rolling 5-year funding commitment to BC Transit, to support local government budgeting and planning for transit expansion beyond the current year.

In response to resolution 2023-EB60, the provincial government stated that it provided a 3-year non-rolling commitment of \$512 million for BC Transit in Budget 2023.

The Committee further notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

See resolutions EB81, EB84, NR84

Conference decision: _____

EB84 Better Support for Public Transit

Maple Ridge

Whereas TransLink relies on gasoline taxes to fund their services and those revenues can be expected to decline as the provincial and federal government move towards requiring all new passenger vehicles to be electric by 2035;

And whereas there is a need for more predictable funding and increased investments in transit services; to address traffic congestion and equitable access to transportation in our rapidly growing and increasingly densifying communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the Province to devise a new formula for funding transit services, that does not rely on gasoline taxes and supports the continued improvement of transit services across BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocates to the federal government for earlier and increased permanent transit funding, including for infrastructure projects.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to design a new formula for funding transit services, with less emphasis on revenues from fuel tax; nor have members considered a resolution requesting that the federal government provide earlier and increased permanent transit funding, including for infrastructure projects.

However, the Committee notes that in 2021, UBCM members endorsed “Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency”, a report from the Select Committee on Local Government Finance that made 20 recommendations towards finance system modernization (the Report). The Report is being used as a guide for the joint Provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group.

The first enactment clause of this resolution, seeking a new provincial government formula for transit funding, aligns with Recommendation 18 from the Report: create new revenue tools for local governments to strengthen the transit funding model and reduce reliance on transit fares.

The second enactment clause of this resolution, calling on the federal government to provide earlier and increased permanent transit funding—including for infrastructure—aligns with Recommendation 3 from the Report: continuation of federal/provincial infrastructure cost-share agreements at the current or greater level, through renewal of the Canada Community-Building Fund in 2024, and BC implementation of the federal Permanent Transit Fund by 2026.

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

See resolutions EB81, EB83, NR84

Conference decision: _____

EB85 Provincial Funding for Electric Vehicle Charger Deployment Metro Vancouver RD

Whereas Metro Vancouver has identified that by 2035 up to 350,000 existing parking spots in multi-unit residential buildings in the region will be retrofitted to be electric vehicle (EV) charging ready, and 2,200 to 2,900 public direct current fast charging (DCFC) ports and 32,000 to 47,000 public Level 2 ports will be needed to support anticipated demand for EV charging, requiring significant capital investment in both public charging and multi-unit residential buildings retrofits totalling approximately \$1.2 billion in Metro Vancouver alone by 2035;

And whereas the Government of BC has provided funding for the purchase and installation of EV chargers for home and public charging through the Go Electric EV Charger Rebate Program to complement the rapid increase of EV sales required through the BC *Zero-Emissions Vehicle Act* reaching 100 per cent by 2035;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand and enhance the funding available through the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program to offer sufficient rebates for charging in multi-unit residential buildings and public charging to support the expected rapid uptake of EVs in BC.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to expand and enhance the funding available through the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program to offer sufficient rebates for charging in multi-unit residential buildings and public charging to support the expected rapid uptake of EVs in BC.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2022-EB74, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132).

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

EB86 Provincial E-Bike Rebate Program Continued Funding Saanich

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has a goal of improving affordability for British Columbians and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and has set sectoral targets to reach GHG emissions from transportation by 27 per cent to 32 per cent below 2007 levels by 2023, but is so far still seeing an increase in those emissions;

And whereas the 2024 University of British Columbia's Research on Active Transportation (REACH) Lab Study on the Saanich E-Bike Incentive Pilot Program demonstrates that e-bike incentives effectively motivate new bike riders; significantly reduce weekly car travel, GHG emissions and Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKTs) from personal transportation; are extremely cost competitive compared to other climate transportation incentive programs in BC; and overcome cost barriers for idle and lower income households:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province commit sufficient funding for the continuation of the successful BC E-Bike Rebate Program for middle and low income households in BC in 2025 and beyond.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to commit sufficient funding for the continuation of the successful BC E-Bike Rebate Program for middle and low income households in BC in 2025 and beyond.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-EB29 which asked the Province to expand the clean energy vehicle program to include financial incentives for the purchase of electric-assist cycles in scale with the incentives provided for the purchase of electric automobiles.

The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolutions 2019-B44 and 2016-B130, seeking a PST exemption for the purchase of electric bicycles.

Conference decision: _____



Legislative

EB87 Enhanced Provincial Government Engagement Practices

Coquitlam

Whereas the provincial government establishes the legislative framework under which all local governments derive their operational authority;

And whereas the provincial government has recently enacted significant new, or amended, laws, regulations and/or policies which have had a profound effect on local governments across the province;

And whereas the provincial government has signaled its intent to undertake a significant review of all provincial statutes over the coming years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government commit to review its consultation processes with/involving local governments, especially as they relate to legislative or regulatory changes that impact local governments, in order to facilitate better engagement practices, increase transparency amongst all interest holders, and, as a result, enable the richer, more timely exchange of information in order to benefit all parties involved in such processes.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently supported resolutions requesting greater consultation and engagement with the Province on policy, programs and initiatives that have the potential to impact local governments. In 2019 members endorsed special resolution SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives. And in 2022, EB75 was endorsed which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will be impacted by provincial policy.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions seeking more and improved consultation and communication between the Province and local governments on a variety of specific topics including:

- *2023-EB8 which asked the Province to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and*

- local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC;
- 2023-EB62 which asked the Province to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways;
- 2021-SR2 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper;
- 2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;
- 2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land; and
- 2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people.

The membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-SR1, 2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).

See resolutions RR37, RR38

Conference decision: _____

EB88 Local Government Ethics Commissioner

Port Moody

Whereas the City of Port Moody strongly supports fair and unbiased resources for local governments;

And whereas in support of this principle, the City of Port Moody called upon the Province to establish an “Office of the Local Government Ethics Commissioner”, which would provide fair and unbiased guidance to local governments on issues such as legality, conflict, code of conduct violations, and bullying:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province establish an Office of the Local Government Ethics Commissioner and require mandatory ethics training for all new elected officials.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to establish an integrity or ethics commissioner office to support local governments (2023-EB69, 2022-EB77, 2021-2020-NR1).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed Special Resolution 2021-SR3 which asked, in part, that UBCM work with the Province to develop a mandatory education model that would support responsible conduct by local elected officials.

See resolutions NR89, NR90, NR91

Conference decision: _____

EB89 Parental Leave

Vancouver

Whereas current provincial legislation does not adequately protect the parental leave rights of local government elected officials, requiring local governments to adopt their own policies for approving leaves for elected officials who become parents;

And whereas the Province of BC collectively, and through its various ministries, recognizes that parental leave for elected officials is an important issue and that it is important for new parents to have adequate time and energy to spend with their child:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of BC to amend all relevant pieces of provincial legislation, such as the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter*, and the *Local Government Act*, in order to establish common, province-wide minimum entitlements for parental leave for locally elected officials following the birth or adoption of a child, consistent with the *Employment Standards Act* provisions following the birth or adoption of a child, and inclusive of leave provisions that would grant an elected official an exemption from any disqualification from office for absences of sixty consecutive days or four consecutive regularly scheduled council or board meetings.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported several resolutions seeking parental leave for local elected officials (2023-NR85, 2022-EB79, 2021-NR1, 2016-B99). The most recent request in 2023-NR85 was broader, referencing personal leaves thereby including both parental leaves as well as caregiving or compassionate care for loved ones. The 2022, 2021, and 2016 resolutions noted above were specific to parental leave.

In response to resolution 2022-EB79 (parental leave only) the Province provided the following:

“The province recognizes that parental leave is an important action to support gender inclusion and diversity in local governments and has been actively monitoring the issue for several years now.

In previous responses to similar resolutions in 2016 (2016-B99) and 2021 (2021-NR1), the province has noted the complex policy considerations in relation to establishing provincially legislated statutory minimum maternity and parental leave for local elected officials. These considerations include the existing legal and policy rules around employee leave; whether elected officials can be considered employees under the Employee Standards Act for these purposes, and other implications that could flow from elected officials being considered “employees” given their collective status (as councils and boards) as “Employers.”

Under the existing legislation, local governments have full authority to grant leave for a wide variety of reasons to elected officials seeking this option. This authority includes the establishment of policies for such leave including handling of appointments (such as to boards and committees), and other duties during the leave and upon return. Furthermore, council members who have received approval for their absence from council attendance will not be at risk of disqualification for non-attendance at council meetings. The existing authority allows individual communities to design leave policies that reflect considerations for their unique circumstances for various types of leave.

The Province continues to observe an increase in the number of local governments that have adopted their own specific policies to allow elected officials to go on maternity or parental leave. The province will continue to favour an approach that allows individual communities to determine policies related to various types of leave under existing local government legislation, just as local governments determine remuneration and other benefits for local elected officials. Local governments are best placed to continue to develop policies that best account for circumstances in their communities.”

Conference decision: _____

EB90 New Assessment Classification for Vacant Residential Lands**Gold River**

Whereas there is a housing crisis in British Columbia that affects all local governments in varying degrees;

And whereas there are limited tools to discourage speculation and encourage development of undeveloped property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create a new assessment classification for undeveloped residential properties to allow local governments to establish a different tax rate for vacant residential land.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2016-B13, which asked the Province to create a new prescribed class of property for vacant land and vacant contaminated land that allows for a different tax rate.

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported some resolutions addressing the taxation of vacant lands, including:

- *2023-NR69 which asked the Province to provide local governments with an option to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to both commercial and industrial properties;*
- *2021-EB19 requesting a review of the Community Charter to grant municipal councils' authority to add a 'vacant land' property tax;*
- *2020-NR69 which asked the Province for a vacancy tax for residential and commercial properties, but was amended to remove the reference to commercial properties; and*
- *2019-B181 was endorsed with an amendment by the UBCM Executive which asked the Province to impose a vacancy tax only on residential properties.*

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions that ask the Province to empower local governments to make adjustments to tax rates to address vacant and derelict properties (2017-B14, 2012-B130, 2007-B72); and collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

Conference decision: _____

EB91 Short-Term Rental Tax Class**Revelstoke**

Whereas a dwelling unit that meets the definition of a short-term rental within BC's *Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act* can be rented out, but places additional demands on local government infrastructure, such as water and sewer, and should pay extra tax commensurate with the additional demand;

And whereas tourist overnight accommodation uses such as motels, hotels, and resorts are classed and taxed as businesses:

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that ~~municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.~~ **the Province continue to explore ways to reduce commodification of housing, in consultation with local governments.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed two resolutions, 2020-EB45 and 2019-B34, both of which asked the Province to assign a dwelling unit (or secondary dwelling unit located on the same property), offered and used as a whole for short term rentals, to the appropriate tax class and be redefined as "Class 6: Business and Other".

The Committee also advises that the membership has supported resolutions supporting the use of housing as housing rather than as a commodity (e.g. 2017-A2). In addition, UBCM's 2018 Housing Strategy incorporates wide ranging recommendations relating to management of speculative demand.

Conference decision: _____



Community Economic Development

EB92 Tourism Diversification Needs

Oliver

Whereas tourism provides great value to the provincial economy as it is one of the largest employers and largest small business generators;

And whereas the impacts of climate change have created hardship in numerous tourism destinations throughout the province;

And whereas the hardship is prolonged in rural destinations as the economy is slower to renew than in urban destinations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide financial investments to local governments to identify how to diversify tourism in impacted communities throughout British Columbia.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide financial investments to local governments to identify how to diversify tourism in impacted communities throughout British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions in support tourism, including:

- 2021-EB23 which asked the Province to fund the provincial ministries responsible for managing parks, crown lands, and recreation sites and to local governments to assist in establishing sustainable tourism policies and programs to ensure that visitor use of lands and natural resources is done in a manner that protects the natural environment in perpetuity;
- 2020-SR7 which asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort, highlighting in part, the significant revenue losses as a result of reduced tourism due to the pandemic;
- 2018-B45 which asked the Province to provide additional funding to increase staffing, maintenance and enforcement operations in respect of existing Provincial Recreation Assets; and to investigate the development and addition of new recreation assets to the existing inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets (such that the increased number of visits may be spread over a larger inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets);
- 2015-B66 and which asked the Province for increased funding to support Visitor Information Centres; and
- 2011-B49 which asked the Province to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, year-round where appropriate, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians.

See resolutions EB93, EB94

Conference decision: _____

EB93 Economic Resiliency for Tourism-Dependent Communities Sicamous

Whereas tourism is the primary industry for many rural communities in BC and these communities rely on peak travel periods during the summer months to support their local economies;

And whereas natural disasters such as wildfires and resulting smoke have an impact on travel, and enforced travel restrictions further discourage visitors from traveling to regions with active wildfires;

And whereas tourism is supported by small businesses that breathe life into local economies by creating jobs and employment opportunities, supporting local supply chains, and generating tax revenue for local governments;

And whereas the business cycle for tourism-dependent communities, is limited to a short window during the summer months, and the loss of one summer season can be detrimental to the economic vibrancy of a community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to:

1. Develop economic recovery supports for tourism-dependent rural communities, and
2. Consult with local governments, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Destination BC to develop long-term economic supports that focus on building resiliency for tourism-dependent rural communities.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to 1. Develop economic recovery supports for tourism-dependent rural communities, and 2. Consult with local governments, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Destination BC to develop long-term economic supports that focus on building resiliency for tourism-dependent rural communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-LR2 which asked 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. 2023-LR2 also asked 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.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2017-LR4 which asked the federal and provincial governments to establish a \$1 billion recovery fund to assist BC communities, including First Nations communities, impacted by the unprecedented record-breaking wildfire season of 2017 and that this fund be called the Rural Fire Recovery Fund 2017, with the federal and provincial governments encouraged to act quickly to provide financial assistance to encourage economic recovery in all BC communities impacted by wildfires in 2017.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing disaster financial assistance for local governments and for businesses, including:

- *2019-B103 which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster;*
- *2019-B104 which asked the Province to change the Disaster Financial Assistance program criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners; and*
- *2019-B97 which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments.*

See resolutions EB92, EB94

Conference decision: _____

EB94 Increasing Investments in Tourism

NCLGA Executive

Whereas the timber harvest levels across British Columbia have declined to the projected low levels in the mid-term timber supply;

And whereas the need to diversify rural economies and enhance the attractiveness and livability of our communities is more crucial than ever:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to significantly increase the funding and mandates for BC Tourism, BC Parks, and Rec Sites and Trails BC to support communities across the province in accelerating economic diversification.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has previously considered and endorsed resolutions in support of increased funding for and expansion of tourism, parks and recreation access, including:

- 2021-EB23 which asked the Province to fund the provincial ministries responsible for managing parks, crown lands, and recreation sites and to local governments to assist in establishing sustainable tourism policies and programs to ensure that visitor use of lands and natural resources is done in a manner that protects the natural environment in perpetuity;
- 2020-SR7 which asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort, highlighting in part, the significant revenue losses as a result of reduced tourism due to the pandemic;
- 2018-B45 which asked the Province to provide additional funding to increase staffing, maintenance and enforcement operations in respect of existing Provincial Recreation Assets; and to investigate the development and addition of new recreation assets to the existing inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets (such that the increased number of visits may be spread over a larger inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets);
- 2015-B66 and which asked the Province for increased funding to support Visitor Information Centres; and
- 2011-B49 which asked the Province to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, year-round where appropriate, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2021-EB42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2011-B49).

See resolutions EB92, EB93

Conference decision: _____

EB95 Review of Timber Allocation to Mitigate Economic Impact Fort St. James
on Local Communities

Whereas the closure of all timber processing facilities that cause significant economic hardship within the affected community and its surrounding area;

And whereas the sustainability and vitality of local economies are intricately linked to the health and prosperity of timber processing facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests to review the Timber Allocation quota upon the closing of a facility, prioritizing the mitigation of adverse impacts on the economics of the affected community.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Ministry of Forests to review the Timber Allocation quota upon the closing of a facility, prioritizing the mitigation of adverse impacts on the economics of the affected community.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to work with local governments and First Nations to improve the community benefits of forest resources (2023-NR88, 2021-SR2, 2020-EB66, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-

B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

See resolutions EB96, EB97, EB98, EB99, NR94, NR95

Conference decision: _____

EB96 Industry Shutdown - Timber Rights

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the closure of sawmills in the region has caused significant economic distress within local communities that has led to a decline in local employment opportunities which negatively impacts the livelihoods of residents and local businesses;

And whereas recent shutdowns provide a concern that wood harvested in one area will be transported to another for processing, thus jeopardizing the local economic value for communities most impacted:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests that the Province considers policy to ensure that timber rights that can reasonably be considered “attached” to a sawmill that is being closed, or that were originally provided to the company (or companies) that owned that sawmill, be transferred to local and/or Indigenous governments upon closure in order to foster economic diversification and community resilience.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions addressing timber rights, timber licenses and maintaining timber supply, including:

- 2020-EB67 which asked the provincial and federal governments to review the selling of Timber Licenses and requiring that timbers be kept within the designated Timber Supply Area in order to maintain economic stability and forestry longevity in BC rural communities;
- 2016-B42 which addressed the distribution of existing timber supply, provision of the “Right Log To The Right Mill,”;
- 2015-LR2 which asked the Province to re-examine the appurtenance requirement in the Forest Act to help create local or regional economic benefits from the timber that is being logged in an area; and
- 2008-B37 which asked the Province to ensure that sufficient harvested timber remain to be utilized in local processing facilities within the Timber Supply Area.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2023-NR88, 2021-SR2, 2020-EB66, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

See resolutions EB95, EB97, EB98, EB99, NR94, NR95

Conference decision: _____

**EB97 Expansion of Community Forests for Increased
Access to Fiber**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas community forests play a vital role in supporting local economies, fostering community resilience, and promoting sustainable forest management practices;

And whereas mill closures, curtailing operations, and significant job losses have devastated rural communities, resulting in severe economic decline, decreased community stability, and limited opportunities for economic recovery;

And whereas there is an urgent need to expand the size of community forests and increase access to land and fiber around communities to enhance economic opportunities, promote resilience, and support sustainable development, alongside fostering improved collaboration in FireSmart initiatives and the effective implementation of wildfire mitigation measures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province of BC to support the expansion of community forests, facilitating increased access to land and fiber resources and streamlining regulatory process to promote sustainable development and economic growth in rural and Indigenous communities across British Columbia.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2023-NR88, 2021-SR2, 2020-EB66, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32, 2005-B33).

See resolutions EB95, EB96, EB98, EB99, NR94, NR95

Conference decision: _____

EB98 Local Consultation for Provincial Impacts to Resource Sector Jobs Pouce Coupe

Whereas the provincial government does not currently have the obligation to meaningfully consult with municipalities and/or regional districts regarding provincial policy changes or decisions that impact employment for people that live in those municipalities and/or regional districts;

And whereas the recent provincial policy changes and decisions have and will continue to negatively impact resource sector-based employment that disproportionately impacts rural, northern, and remote communities;

And whereas rural, remote and northern communities local tax bases are dependent on a strong resource sector in order to provide services to those that live there:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with the municipalities and/or regional districts whose people’s employment in the resource sector may be negatively impacted by those provincial policy changes.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously considered and endorsed 2019-SR1 which reflected the legislative requirements by the Province under the Community Charter to consult with local governments. This 2019 resolution specifically asked that the Province “ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter are adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives.”

With respect to resource matters specifically, a similar resolution, 2021-SR2 was endorsed which asked that “the Province engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper, including matters related to old growth designations and deferrals, recognizing that there will be implications and impacts for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.”

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2023-EB8, 2022-EB75, 2021-EB5, 2021-EB43, 2021-EB72, 2019-SR1, 2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).

See resolutions EB95, EB96, EB97, EB99, NR94, NR95

Conference decision: _____

EB99 Enhanced Economic Support for Forestry Communities NCLGA Executive

Whereas the economic landscape of forestry communities is constantly evolving, requiring proactive measures to ensure their continued growth and prosperity;

And whereas it is imperative to invest in the people and opportunities of the future to foster resilience and sustainability in these communities;

And whereas discussions with provincial counterparts in Victoria have highlighted the importance of addressing the challenges faced by forestry communities, including the need for transitioning local economies towards sustainability;

And whereas the Ministry of Forests has recognized the potential of a decentralized model to revitalize forestry communities, leveraging their expertise and resources to become hubs of value-added products and services:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to provide additional economic assistance and support to forestry communities to facilitate the transition towards a diversified and sustainable economy.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB55 which asked the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

Recognizing the significant economic impact that this shift in how old growth and other land, water and resources are to be managed; UBCM has asked that the Province engage and consult with local governments as it

implements the Old Growth recommendations specifically noting recommendations 13 and 14 speak to orderly transition planning at the provincial and local level; as well as transition support for communities.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2023-NR88, 2021-SR2, 2020-EB66, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

The Committee further notes that the membership has supported the allocation of funding for training and re-training /transition for workers and communities affected by changes in resource-based activities (2008-B46, 2006-B46).

See resolutions EB95, EB96, EB97, EB98, NR94, NR95

Conference decision: _____

EB100 Enhancing Communications for Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents Port Alberni

Whereas fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and that both EMCR and the local government have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders;

And whereas one of the significant challenges faced by local fire departments is the lack of adequate [or any] communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other agencies and hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as low-earth orbit satellite internet, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the Province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide modern and reliable communications, such as low-earth orbit satellite internet, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on provincial roads.

Regarding the second enactment clause, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to ensure the availability of cellular coverage along all transportation corridors in BC, and in partnership with other orders of government, oblige service providers to

close such gaps in cellular service (2020-EB70, 2019-B72, 2018-B57, 2012-B45, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2007-B57).

See resolutions EB101, EB102

Conference decision: _____

EB101 Highway Cellular Infrastructure

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the lack of cellular service along many highways throughout British Columbia poses significant safety concerns, impeding the ability of motorists to communicate in emergencies, access navigation services, or contact roadside assistance; and hampers economic development by limiting opportunities for businesses and travelers to stay connected and conduct transactions while on the move;

And whereas advancements in cellular and satellite technology have made it increasingly feasible to extend coverage to previously underserved areas, including highways, through the deployment of new cell towers and signal booster infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to advance the installation of new cellular infrastructure along sections of Highway 16 East from Prince George to the Alberta border, and other British Columbia highways, without adequate cell service, prioritizing the safety, connectivity, and economic well-being of our citizens and travelers, and to work collaboratively with telecommunications companies, government agencies, rail transportation sectors and other stakeholders to identify optimal locations for new cellular infrastructure, ensuring efficient deployment and minimal disruption to surrounding communities.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to ensure the availability of cellular coverage along all transportation corridors in BC, and in partnership with other orders of government, oblige service providers to close such gaps in cellular service (2020-EB70, 2019-B72, 2018-B57, 2012-B45).

See resolutions EB100, EB102

Conference decision: _____

EB102 Supporting the Expansion of Cell Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas

NCLGA Executive

Whereas rural and remote areas across British Columbia continue to face challenges in accessing adequate cell coverage, hindering connectivity and safety for residents;

And whereas initiatives to extend cell coverage, such as the proposed Telus tower near Puntzi Lake, present opportunities to address these challenges and improve connectivity in underserved communities;

And whereas community engagement and environmental considerations are crucial in the development of such projects to ensure they meet the needs of local residents and mitigate potential impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM extend their full support to initiatives aimed at expanding cell coverage in rural and remote areas to enhance connectivity and safety for residents;

And be it further resolved that UBCM encourage telecommunications providers, such as TELUS, to engage in ongoing consultation with local communities and stakeholders throughout all stages of project development to ensure transparency, address concerns, and maximize benefits for residents.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association 

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of high speed internet and cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2021-EB47, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2011-B78, 2010-B50).

The Committee further notes that members endorsed resolution 2023-EB70, which called on the federal and provincial governments to ensure that local governments are engaged at all stages of every internet improvement project and funding application. This engagement would keep local elected officials informed and provide an avenue for local knowledge to be incorporated. While resolution 2023-EB70 does not focus specifically on cellular coverage, the Committee understands that cellular networks support access to high-speed internet, particularly in rural and remote areas of BC. This is of particular importance as local and Indigenous governments across the province prepare for the implementation of Next Generation 911, as mandated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

See resolutions EB100, EB101

Conference decision: _____



Elections

EB103 Local Government Online Voting

North Vancouver District

Whereas the *Local Government Act* does not support online voting for local government elections;

And whereas local government elections historically have low turnouts, and being that online voting provides a broader audience the ability to vote:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiative legislative changes to allow online voting for local government elections.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association 

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province for legislative changes to allow local governments to use/implement online voting for local government elections (2019-B14, 2015-B8, 2011-A2).

Conference decision: _____



Selected Issues

EB104 Improved Assessment of Cumulative Effects of Major Projects on Communities

Squamish

Whereas major projects cause compounding impacts that are obscured when assessed in isolation from existing and planned projects in a given region;

And whereas current legislation creates significant demands on local governments by allowing for the isolated planning, assessment, and permitting considerations of wholly interdependent projects with interconnected timelines and demands on local services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of BC require the assessment and mitigation of cumulative effects, whether temporary or residual, as part of major project assessments and subsequent permitting processes where impacts arise within regions;

And be it further resolved that interdependent projects are required to undergo combined assessment and permitting processes.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to require the assessment and mitigation of cumulative effects, whether temporary or residual, as part of major project assessments and subsequent permitting processes where impacts arise within regions; and that interdependent projects are required to undergo combined assessment and permitting processes.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed past resolutions from the same sponsor that call for the examination of the impact of major projects/large infrastructure projects on housing, safety and the environment:

- *2023-NR19 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on the housing crisis;*
- *2023-NR37 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on public safety; and*
- *2017-B65 which asked for projects to be considered in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office.*

See resolution EB26

Conference decision: _____

EB105 Increased Funding for Rural Colleges

Port Alberni

Whereas colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province, including a closer to home education for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

And whereas rural colleges face increasing demands and challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs;

And whereas adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries, while being challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services and develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2012-B96 which asked the Province to develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing training and education in rural and northern BC.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2008-B46, which called on the Province to make increased investments (capital and operating funding) in educational institutions and facilities, in order that they will be able to provide the retraining programs and services needed to enable individuals to make labour force transitions, as well as provide access to the skilled workers employers will need to work in new and emerging sectors. As well, it called for the Province to establish a new funding framework to ensure the ongoing long-term sustainability of the community college system in BC.

The membership has also endorsed resolution 2004-B141 which called for the development of alternative or additional funding models that would assist in enhancing existing programs and allow the development of new, relevant, and innovative training opportunities at rural and remote colleges and training institutes.

Conference decision: _____

Section NEB Resolutions Resolutions Contrary to Existing Policy

Section NEB are the Not Endorse Block of resolutions. Resolutions in the Not Endorse Block are contrary to existing policy and are recommended as Not Endorse.

NEB Resolutions are:

- resolutions previously considered and not endorsed; or
- resolutions contrary with UBCM policy.

Included in Section NEB are resolutions numbered:

NEB1 – NEB14

Section NEB



Health and Social Development

NEB1 Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas British Columbia continues to have a healthcare worker shortage from a growing and aging patient population, impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing need to recruit, retain and train more healthcare workers at a rapidly growing pace to mitigate the healthcare crisis for the Province's population;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has taken steps to expand the healthcare workforce and increase patient access through its BC's Health and Human Resources Strategy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the healthcare workforce by lifting the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work immediately lessening the strain on the healthcare system and providing better access and healthcare for everyone in the province.

Not Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR13 which called upon the provincial government to lift the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work to lessen the strain on the healthcare system.

The Committee would note that this resolution was considered at the NCLGA 2024 Spring Convention and was not endorsed by their membership.

See resolution NEB2

Conference decision: _____

NEB2 Provincial Vaccine Mandate

Kitimat

Whereas British Columbia is one of the last remaining provinces in Canada requiring a vaccine mandate for healthcare professionals;

And whereas British Columbia's healthcare system is under severe stress:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province for the provincial criteria that must be in place in order to remove the vaccine mandate for healthcare workers.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR13 which called upon the provincial government to lift the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work to lessen the strain on the healthcare system.

See resolution NEB1

Conference decision: _____



NEB3 Vacancy Control

Victoria

Whereas communities across the province are unable to find desperately needed workers in the trades, healthcare, education, and childcare because of the unaffordability of housing;

And whereas the loss of affordable rental housing is inextricably linked to the dire social and public health concerns that municipalities across the province are struggling to adequately address;

And whereas the unaffordability of housing limits the ability of renters to contribute to local economies, as noted by Leilani Farha (the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on housing and current Global Director of THE SHIFT, a housing initiative to actualize the housing as a basic human right):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement vacancy control on rental units owned by “financial landlords,” including but not limited to corporate landlords and real estate investment trusts.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to implement vacancy control on rental units owned by “financial landlords,” including but not limited to corporate landlords and real estate investment trusts (REITs).

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2022-NR10 which asked the Province to explore a vacancy control policy that would limit rent increases between tenancies.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions looking to protect tenants’ rights and limit rent increases (2020-EB85, 2017-B53, 2017-B126, 2016-B137). Membership has also endorsed resolutions seeking review and standardization of the Residential Tenancy Act to provide clarity and certainty to both landlords and tenants (2017-B120, 2016-B121, 2014-B51). Resolution 2014-B51 in particular urged the Province to “address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.”

Overall, UBCM’s existing policy has favored a balanced approach that seeks to protect both tenant and landlord interests, which is further reflected in UBCM’s housing strategy that recommended allowing a slightly higher allowable rate of rent increase to landlords under rent controls to provide the basis for continued maintenance and/or more substantial rehabilitation.

Conference decision: _____

NEB4 Speculation and Vacancy Tax

Prince Rupert

Whereas housing availability and affordability challenges all municipalities in British Columbia;

And whereas these housing challenges impact the health, social and economic well-being of all British Columbia communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to amend the *Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act* to have all British Columbia municipalities included in the applicable areas where the tax applies.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association 

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the province to amend the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act to have all British Columbia municipalities included in the applicable areas where the tax applies.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2023-EB14, 2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

The Committee would note that widespread application of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax would run counter to current UBCM policy supporting local choice and authority to levy a tax on vacant properties. As such the Committee is recommending Not Endorse.

Conference decision: _____

NEB5 Updating the Provincial Minimum Standards of Maintenance

Port Moody

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, especially for low-income renters, and the majority of 2021 heat dome deaths were in low-income and multi-unit residential buildings that lacked access to cooling, and poor building maintenance contributes to poor occupant health;

And whereas the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA) states in general terms that landlords must comply with health, safety, and housing standards required by law, including heat but not cooling;

And whereas the Province of BC enables local government to enact standards of maintenance to enforce basic levels of maintenance for rental accommodation, but many local governments either do not have bylaws or bylaws that are inadequate in a changing climate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to make the necessary changes to the Standards of Maintenance Guide to align the BC Building Code regulations for maximum and minimum temperature standards and ensure that considerations of health and climate hazards such as mould, precipitation, extreme heat and cold conditions, are included;

And be it further resolved that the guidance be converted to regulation, with associated regional and/or provincial supports for investigation and enforcement such that communities of every size have protection for renters.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association 

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2022-NR12 from the same sponsor, which sought to strengthen protection of renters' health through a number of steps including: 1) maximum and minimum safe temperatures and definitions of serious mold concerns, such that health concerns that are likely to increase for renters in the face of a changing climate; 2) mechanism for enforcement for jurisdictions without standards of maintenance bylaws; 3) provide resources for local governments to enforce Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) rulings; 4) provide all local governments the authority to undertake health and hazard related repairs, which would be recovered from offending landlords; and 5) provide the RTB with additional resources to ensure timely support for adjudication, as well as tracking of health related concerns.

The Committee further advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2020-NEB14 which sought to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to strengthen standards of property maintenance that set out a breadth of health, safety, and security standards, and establishes enforcement mechanisms that ensure adherence to these standards.

However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing standards of maintenance, including:

- *2022-EB27 which asked the Province to ensure they are funding clients to live in safe and clean affordable housing;*
- *2019-B189 (Executive endorsed) which called for the creation of a policy and an inspection process to ensure the integrity of the rooming houses;*
- *2017-B44 which asked the province to undertake licensing and more stringent regulation of supportive recovery homes;*
- *2007-B197 which asked the Province to ensure that low income housing meets basic habitat requirements through regular inspection as a condition to supplying rental payments to landlords; and*
- *2002-B72 which asked the province to include minimum heating standards for tenants in the Residential Tenancy Act. (The Committee acknowledges this is a dated reference.)*

The Committee advises that local choice is a foundational tenet of general policy adopted by UBCM members. As currently worded, the resolution proposes legislative amendments that would constrain local choice with regards to standards of maintenance.

Conference decision: _____

NEB6 One Hectare Limit for Septic Services

Summerland

Whereas British Columbia is facing a housing crisis and part of the reason for the housing crisis is lack of developable land;

And whereas additional land for housing could be available but for the requirement of a minimum of one hectare of land for the installation of a septic field;

And whereas this one hectare minimum is an arbitrary rule which is in no way related to the ability of a location to support a septic system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields may be located.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not perviously considered a resolution asking the Province to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields may be located.

The Committee also advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR17 which asked the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

The Committee notes that the provincial government originally introduced the 1.0 hectare policy to end the subdivision of small parcels of land that relied strictly on septic fields as the means of waste disposal. The Province identified one hectare as being the minimum parcel size upon which a septic field for a single residential use should be utilized.

The Committee also notes that during the 2000's UBCM was a part of a committee that explored servicing issues, at which time concerns were raised regarding the need to ensure that if land was to be developed with septic systems, it should be done in a way to ensure that septic systems are viable as long term solutions due to the high costs of bringing in community sewer at a later date.

The Committee further notes that the 1.0 hectare policy is required to be eligible to receive a capital grant that is used to provide community sewer to an area historically serviced by septic. If local governments choose to not implement a 1.0 hectare policy, they have that ability, but they will not be eligible for funding from the Province.

Conference decision: _____



Regional Districts

NEB7 *Emergency and Disaster Management Act for Regional Districts* Cariboo RD

Whereas the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* seeks to set out a comprehensive framework for the management of wildfires, floods, and other disasters in a manner consistent with the SENDAI Framework;

And whereas the statutory responsibilities, geographic disparity, and legal powers of regional districts are not recognized by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of BC to develop regulations under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* in collaboration with representatives of each regional district, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional districts are designed in consideration of their powers, jurisdiction, and areas of responsibility.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop regulations under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* in collaboration with representatives of each regional district, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional districts are designed in consideration of their powers, jurisdiction, and areas of responsibility.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB66 which asked the Province to undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the Local Government Act as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts. One of the whereas clauses of 2023-EB66 cites emergency management, and states: “And whereas the accountabilities of regional districts continue to increase, most recently with updates to emergency management legislation, but regional districts lack the tools and authority needed to meet these expanded responsibilities;”

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR68 which asked the Province and Emergency Management BC to provide regional districts with a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre Reserve Fund to facilitate the timely provision of emergency response when prior expense authorization is not practical and works are essential to save lives and protect property.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) recently accepted a request from UBCM to form a local government advisory committee to inform the development of regulations associated with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act. UBCM and EMCR have approved a Terms of Reference that seeks adequate staff and elected representation from all five area associations. Given the importance of the new legislation, and its impacts on all local governments, the decision was made to include regional districts and municipalities. The UBCM Executive will seek to finalize appointments to this advisory committee at its July 2024 Executive meeting.

Since this legislation will impact all local governments, the Committee cannot support a process that would see the Province developing regulations in collaboration with “**representatives of each regional district**” recognizing that both municipalities and regional districts need to be part of the process, and that the purpose of the working group is to ensure that all interests can be represented at the table.

Conference decision: _____



Transportation

NEB8 Derelict Vehicles in Remote Coastal Communities

North Coast RD

Whereas remote coastal communities in BC are struggling with the accumulation of numerous derelict vehicles;

And whereas disposal facilities in coastal communities have limited capacity and a lack of infrastructure to internally manage derelict vehicles or ship to end-markets:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of BC for grant funding to be made available for remote coastal communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province specifically for grant funding to be made available for remote coastal communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.

The issue of derelict and abandoned vehicles on provincial roads in unincorporated areas is not new. The Committee would observe that in endorsing previous resolutions on this topic, the UBCM membership asked for

funding for provincial agencies or the RCMP provincial police force to take responsibility for cleanup of abandoned vehicles on provincial roads (2021-EB17, 2020-EB10).

The Committee would point out that this resolution, from North Coast Regional District, seeks funding solely for “remote coastal communities”; however, abandoned and derelict vehicles on provincial roads present challenges in remote communities all over BC, not just on the coast. As written, the resolution would exclude non-coastal remote communities from a potential solution to the issue that all remote communities face.

Further, this resolution from North Coast Regional District proposes that the provincial government fund local governments to undertake removal of derelict vehicles from provincial roads. The request in this resolution suggests downloading of a provincial responsibility onto local governments, and is contrary to the resolutions previously endorsed by the UBCM membership.

Conference decision: _____

NEB9 Zero Emission Vehicles and Gas Tax Revenue

Pemberton

Whereas the rapid increase in the use of zero-emission vehicles and corresponding decrease in the use of gas- and diesel-powered vehicles will significantly reduce revenue from taxes collected at the gas pump within only a few years;

And whereas gas tax revenue collected through federal and provincial excise taxes, carbon taxes, and, in some cities, transit taxes, funds public services and infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved UBCM ask the Province to work with the federal government to develop a fair, creative, and financially viable solution to replace declining gas tax revenue to support public services and infrastructure projects as revenue from gas taxes declines.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee would point out that the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is not tied to revenue collected through gas tax. It is for this reason that the federal government changed the name of the program from the Gas Tax Agreement to the Canada Community-Building Fund. This change occurred in June 2021. The CCBF provides predictable, long-term and stable funding to local governments in British Columbia for investment in infrastructure and capacity building projects. As such, the Committee is recommending Not Endorse.

See resolution NR80

Conference decision: _____

NEB10 Free Transit for Students

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the BC Government’s fare-free transit program for youth aged 12 and under grade 6 saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the province and municipalities reach carbon neutrality targets;

And whereas expanding eligibility to those in grade 12 and under would promote equitable access to transit despite economic disparity amongst youth and families in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to expand the fare-free transit program for youth in grade 12 and under.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2020-NEB4 which sought, in part, free public transit across BC for youth under 19 years of age.

The resolution sponsored by Sunshine Coast Regional District, which identifies youth “in grade 12 and under”, seeks free public transit for an age range equivalent to the “under 19 years of age” specified in non-endorsed resolution 2020-NEB4. In alignment with existing UBCM policy, the Committee recommends that the 2024 resolution not be endorsed.

The Committee also advises that UBCM members considered, but did not endorse, two resolutions which asked the Province to work with local governments on fare-free public transit services (fare-free for all) where supported by communities (2022-NEB2, 2021-NR17).

The Committee further advises that due to time constraints, resolution 2020-NR26 was not considered at Convention but was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Resolution 2020-NR26 sought fare-free public transit services. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse resolution 2020-NR26.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2022-NR58 which sought fare-free transit for youth aged 13 and under (grade 7). At present, youth aged 12 and under can ride transit in BC fare-free.

See resolutions RR30, RR31, RR32, RR33

Conference decision: _____



Selected Issues

NEB11 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

Saanich

Whereas there currently is no provincial legislation to address the need for strategic foresight by requiring public bodies to plan and take action in pursuit of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in their areas and for interconnected objectives;

And whereas short-term thinking, fragmented decision-making, siloed approaches, and a lack of emphasis on the long-term consequences of these decisions have led to the persistence of social, environmental, and economic issues and inequities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a “Wellbeing of Future Generations Act” that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, the same resolution from the same sponsor last year: 2023-NR93.

The Committee would advise that this resolution is requesting the establishment of an Act that would seek to legislate public bodies to “think about the long-term impact of their decisions”; “work better with people, communities and each other”; and “prevent persistent problems such as poverty health inequalities and climate change.” While the objectives raised by the sponsor are laudable it is not clear how these types of behavioural actions could be enshrined in provincial legislation and monitored in a manner that would allow these objectives to be evaluated.

Conference decision: _____

NEB12 Provincial Government Water Panel

Lake Country

Whereas BC faces real threats to a sustainable water supply, droughts flood and fire to name a few;

And whereas increased water supply will be necessary to accommodate the housing growth that the BC Government is mandating, and maintaining and growing the agricultural sector to feed this new population;

And whereas UBCM is the voice of the local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strike a water panel to advocate to the provincial government on water issues pertaining to their local government members.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to create a water panel to advocate to the provincial government on water issues pertaining to their local government members.

The Committee also advises that resolution 2023-RR32 asked UBCM to establish a working committee consisting of local government, provincial, federal and First Nation members to address the future flooding disaster and to restore flood protection by completing and implementing a flood risk assessment to develop strategic flood protection for critical infrastructure and to build back resilient communities. At the 2023 Convention members chose to refer this resolution to the UBCM Executive for consideration as matters related to the establishment of UBCM Committees and UBCM appointments to external committees and working groups is the responsibility of the Executive. In the case of resolution 2023-RR32, the Executive did not endorse the request to establish a new Committee.

The Committee would note that water issues are currently addressed through the UBCM’s Environment Committee.

Conference decision: _____

NEB13 Request for the Province to Set Standards for Municipal Council Remuneration

Victoria

Whereas UBCM has developed a Council and Board Remuneration Guide and despite excellent best practice suggestions Councils are still required to vote on their remuneration;

And whereas this system creates political pressure due to perceived conflict of interest by the public, which often results in remuneration rates not adequately compensating the workload;

And whereas accurate compensation for time commitment could help to reduce barriers to running for local office and attract diverse candidates:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province set a standardized rates grid based on transparent criteria for local government elected-official remuneration.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to set a standardized rates grid based on transparent criteria for local government elected-official remuneration.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B148 which asked UBCM to examine the issue of local government elected-official remuneration and establish an independent process that can assist local governments in setting fair and equitable remuneration for elected officials. As a result the Guide referenced in the first whereas clause was developed to assist local governments.

The purpose of the Guide is to offer practical advice for local governments to consider, based on research findings and the experiences of municipalities and regional districts around the province. It recognizes that each local government is different and will need to determine its preferred course of action. The Guide recognizes that there are considerable differences between local governments so chosen courses of action will need to be sensitive to local conditions.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2012-B134 which asked the provincial government to include in the Terms of Reference of the Municipal Auditor General responsibility for determining the most appropriate methodology for establishing remuneration levels for municipal councils.

The Committee would note that if a 'standardized rates grid' were established it would remove the autonomy and authority of local governments to set their own rates. UBCM members have never been advocates for one size fits all solutions and have always sought out opportunities that provide local governments with the flexibility to make decisions that are in the best interests of their communities. The Committee would also note that elected officials are collectively responsible for policy, service and funding decisions for their local governments, and that includes decisions around remuneration.

Conference decision: _____

NEB14 Union of BC Municipalities Name Change

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) was established to provide a common voice for local governments across BC and has done so since 1905;

And whereas the membership of UBCM consists of more than just municipalities, including regional districts, Indigenous governments, and improvement districts, for which the name of UBCM does not adequately represent:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Union of BC Municipalities Executive, as empowered by the bylaws of the Union of BC Municipalities, to initiate the process of formally requesting an amendment to the *Union of BC Municipalities Act* to change its statutorily established name to be reflective of the diversity of local governments in BC by means of an Extraordinary Resolution to be considered at Convention 2025.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, Extraordinary Resolution 2012-ER1, which asked, in part, for the amendment of the UBCM Act in order to change name of the Union of BC Municipalities to the Union of BC Local Governments. An Extraordinary Resolution requires a super majority, or 60 per cent, to endorse.

The Committee would note that UBCM has just completed a Governance Review which included amendments recently enacted by the Province to the Union of BC Municipalities Act in response to resolution ER1 adopted at the 2022 Convention which asked that the:

“UBCM Executive be authorized to petition the Provincial Legislature to support a Bill that would update the UBCM Act, while not departing from its intent and basic objects, in order to modernize:

- a) language that narrowly defines the UBCM membership, including but not limited to “municipal” and “municipal” government, to better reflect the breadth of the UBCM membership and foster inclusivity;*
- b) out-of-date provisions and provisions that no longer reflect organizational practice; and*
- c) section 7 of the UBCM Act, streamlining provisions by simplifying the incorporation by reference of outside statutes, and amending references to outdated legislation.”*

In the comments to 2022-ER1, the Committee noted that a name change was not sought due to the member direction in 2012. However, amendments to the UBCM Act now specifically identify regional districts, First Nations and Islands Trust as UBCM members, and all references to municipalities have been amended to state local governments.

Conference decision: _____

Section NR Resolutions Resolutions Proposing New Policy

Section NR are the No Recommendation resolutions. Resolutions placed under No Recommendation neither align with, nor contradict, existing policy and are recommended as No Recommendation or No Action Required.

NR Resolutions are:

- resolutions on topics not previously considered;
- resolutions where there is no action required;
- resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with current UBCM policy position.

Included in Section NR are resolutions numbered:

NR1 – NR104

Section NR



Health and Social Development

NR1 Addressing the Impact of Provincial Policy on Local Governments, Taxation Equity, and Interim Policing Cost Support Langford

Whereas the City of Langford acknowledges the vital role of health care, mental health care, and social services in building a resilient and safe community;

And whereas the Province's failure to meet its commitments in these areas has unfairly burdened local governments, straining local resources and compromising public safety, thus exacerbating social inequity through heightened property taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly urge increased provincial funding and support for health care, mental health care, and comprehensive housing initiatives to alleviate the strain on local government resources and enhance public safety;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to demonstrate good faith by covering the heightened share of policing costs, recognizing the provincial responsibility in shifting these public safety costs to local governments due to inadequate provision of social services and health care.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking increased provincial funding and support for health care, mental health care, and comprehensive housing initiatives to alleviate the strain on local government resources and enhance public safety, as well as asking the Province to cover the heightened share of policing costs.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking action and funding from the Province to address:

Health Care:

- *resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks, Clinics and Health Centres (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2016-B44);*
- *recruitment and retention of medical practitioners (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162); and*
- *additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities in BC (2023-SR1).*

Mental Health Care:

- *improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-EB1, 2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).*

Housing:

- *provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-EB11, 2023-NR21, 2022-EB24, 2022-EB25, 2022-*

EB26, 2022-NR14, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

- *improve shelter aid for elderly renters (SAFER) (2023-EB16, 2022-EB28, 2013-E53);*
- *review provincial permitting processes that relate to local government development and infrastructure projects and investigate opportunities to streamline those processes (2023-EB12, 2021-LR3, 2020-EB52, 2019-B153);*
- *request that the Province invest in a new supportive housing model, along with an integrated approach to housing supports and regional health services (2020-EB80);*
- *request for increased funding levels from the Province to BC Housing in order to mandate and assure that community outreach services and the stability of an adequately skilled staff are components of supportive housing developments that are vital in local communities (2020-EB82); and*
- *ensure all forms of social services (mental health services, addiction services, social assistance services, employment services, etc.) also referred to as “wrap-around services” are available to individuals housed in homeless housing at the housing site or within a short walking distance (2019-B68).*

Criminal Rehabilitation/Public Safety:

- *crime prevention and harm reduction solutions in communities across the province (2022-EB44, 2020-EB7, 2015-B54, 2011-B15, 2008-B67, 2005-B3);*
- *consider public safety and fairness when dealing with prolific offenders, and furthermore that guidelines be developed as to what constitutes “the public interest” with respect to pursuing charges for criminal offences (2022-NR36);*
- *improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system (2021-EB11);*
- *enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, as well as the consistent use of electronic monitoring when individuals are released on conditions (2021-NR3);*
- *ensure prolific offenders are “sentenced effectively,” and supported by credible programs to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness (2015-B54);*
- *amend or create laws or policies that will prohibit offenders labeled high risk, following their release from prison, from residing in the community or the vicinity of the community where they committed their crime(s) (2007-A2);*
- *escalate sentences for chronic offenders as part of a national integrated crime reduction strategy that also seeks to re-emphasize the protection of society and the responsibility of individuals for their criminal behaviour (2007-B89); and*
- *change the law with respect to “repeat offenders,” including conditions around release into the community, treatment programs and rehabilitation benchmarks (2006-B137).*

Policing Costs:

- *RCMP cost sharing agreements (2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2016-B75); and*
- *ensure that adequate funding, or provincially funded police resources, be provided to the host local government in order to offset the additional operational impacts that certain provincial facilities (such as mental health and addictions centres, correctional facilities, shelters, and transitional and supportive housing) have on policing services in that community (2022-NR34).*

See resolutions EB62, NR2

Conference decision: _____

NR2 Downloading Costs by the Province to Local Governments for the Resulting Solutions for Homelessness, Mental Health and Addictions Support

Cariboo RD

Whereas local governments are dealing with the results of homelessness without financial supports due to new legislative changes by the Province of BC and funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet the growing demand for services in our communities;

And whereas not enough supports have been put in place by the Province of BC for mental wellness, increased appropriate healthcare workers in communities, and addiction recovery services and supports:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC pay for costs incurred by local governments to address the lack of homelessness support, mental health and wellness issues, and addictions recovery services and supports;

And be it further resolved that UBCM mandate their Executives to engage in discussions with the Province of BC to negotiate a fair and equitable reimbursement framework for downloading services related to homelessness and mental health and addictions;

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of BC, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and all relevant stakeholders to advocate for immediate action.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to pay for costs incurred by local governments to address the lack of homelessness support, mental health and wellness issues, and addictions recovery services and supports. Nor a request for the UBCM Executive to negotiate a fair and equitable reimbursement framework with the Province for downloaded services related to homelessness and mental health and addictions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking action and funding from the Province to address:

Health Care:

- *resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks, Clinics and Health Centres (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2016-B44);*
- *recruitment and retention of medical practitioners (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162); and*
- *additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities in BC (2023-SR1).*

Mental Health Care:

- *improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-EB1, 2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).*

Housing:

- *provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-EB11, 2023-NR21, 2022-EB24, 2022-EB25, 2022-EB26, 2022-NR14, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128);*
- *improve shelter aid for elderly renters (SAFER) (2023-EB16, 2022-EB28, 2013-E53);*
- *review provincial permitting processes that relate to local government development and infrastructure*

projects and investigate opportunities to streamline those processes (2023-EB12, 2021-LR3, 2020-EB52, 2019-B153);

- request that the Province invest in a new supportive housing model, along with an integrated approach to housing supports and regional health services (2020-EB80);
- request for increased funding levels from the Province to BC Housing in order to mandate and assure that community outreach services and the stability of an adequately skilled staff are components of supportive housing developments that are vital in local communities (2020-EB82); and
- ensure all forms of social services (mental health services, addiction services, social assistance services, employment services, etc.) also referred to as “wrap-around services” are available to individuals housed in homeless housing at the housing site or within a short walking distance (2019-B68).

Criminal Rehabilitation/Public Safety:

- crime prevention and harm reduction solutions in communities across the province (2022-EB44, 2020-EB7, 2015-B54, 2011-B15, 2008-B67, 2005-B3);
- consider public safety and fairness when dealing with prolific offenders, and furthermore that guidelines be developed as to what constitutes “the public interest” with respect to pursuing charges for criminal offences (2022-NR36);
- improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system (2021-EB11);
- enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, as well as the consistent use of electronic monitoring when individuals are released on conditions (2021-NR3);
- ensure prolific offenders are “sentenced effectively,” and supported by credible programs to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness (2015-B54);
- amend or create laws or policies that will prohibit offenders labeled high risk, following their release from prison, from residing in the community or the vicinity of the community where they committed their crime(s) (2007-A2);
- escalate sentences for chronic offenders as part of a national integrated crime reduction strategy that also seeks to re-emphasize the protection of society and the responsibility of individuals for their criminal behaviour (2007-B89); and
- change the law with respect to “repeat offenders,” including conditions around release into the community, treatment programs and rehabilitation benchmarks (2006-B137).

Policing Costs:

- RCMP cost sharing agreements (2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2016-B75); and
- ensure that adequate funding, or provincially funded police resources, be provided to the host local government in order to offset the additional operational impacts that certain provincial facilities (such as mental health and addictions centres, correctional facilities, shelters, and transitional and supportive housing) have on policing services in that community (2022-NR34).

The Committee further notes that in 2021, UBCM members endorsed “Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency”, a report from the Select Committee on Local Government Finance that made 20 recommendations towards finance system modernization (the Report). The Report is being used as a guide for the joint Provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group.

The first enactment clause of this resolution, citing financial impacts to local governments, aligns with Recommendation 10 from the Report: Work with the Province and with other key stakeholders, recognizing and reversing the historic downloading of jurisdictional responsibility for mental health and addiction services on local governments and locally-funded police, to develop a comprehensive strategy to address mental health and addictions patients.

See resolutions EB62, NR1

Conference decision: _____

NR3 Resolving the Toxic Drug Crisis

Kamloops

Whereas it has been eight years since the declaration of the toxic drug crisis as a public health emergency;

And whereas local governments need their provincial partners to move from reaction to action by developing and implementing a holistic plan that brings into balance all four pillars: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province develop and implement a balanced holistic plan, based on these four pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement) for resolving the toxic drug crisis.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop and implement a balanced holistic plan, based on these four pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement) for resolving the toxic drug crisis.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2021-NR44, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

See resolutions EB6, EB7

Conference decision: _____

NR4 Impact on Local Government from the Decriminalization of Drugs in BC

Merritt

Whereas the Province of BC was granted an exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* for the personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs for a trial period beginning January 31, 2023 until January 31, 2026;

And whereas communities have seen increased pressure on RCMP and first responders since the implementation of the decriminalization pilot program;

And whereas no statistics or reporting dashboard has been provided to support the continuation of the program or demonstrate the decrease in harm associated with decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of illegal substances:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to create a workable dashboard which reports statistics of the impact decriminalization has had on reducing the harm of criminalization and demonstrates whether the continuation of the pilot program is of benefit to communities.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to create a workable dashboard which reports statistics of the impact decriminalization has had on reducing the harm of criminalization and demonstrates whether the continuation of the pilot program is of benefit to communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions in support of decriminalization (2023-SR3, 2021-NR44); sought legislation to regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in specific areas (2023-SR4) and have called on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province: (2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions publishes data snapshots on building a mental health and substance use system of care, which includes statistics over time on drug checking utilization, prescribed safe supply, decriminalization, police interactions, possession offenses after decriminalization etc.

The most recent dashboard was released in April 2024: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/mental-health/building_a_mental_health_and_substance_use_system_of_care_snapshot.pdf

Staff would suggest that no action is required on this resolution, given that the Ministry publishes the requested information on the provincial website.

Conference decision: _____

NR5 Advocacy for Brain Injury Awareness

Victoria

Whereas Acquired Brain Injury (traumatic and non-traumatic) casts a profound impact on the cognition, personality, and overall well-being of British Columbians and there are over 1.5 million Canadians grappling with this condition;

And whereas in British Columbia alone, more than 180,000 individuals are affected, with brain injuries often serving as a catalyst for mental health challenges, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, violence, and suicide and a staggering sixty people in British Columbia will acquire a brain injury today:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorses the content of, and supports, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to endorse and support the content of the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act.

The Committee would note that the contents of Bill C-277 are not detailed in this resolution, and may contain elements that are not supported by previous UBCM policy. The Committee would recommend that the sponsor provide additional detail in the enactment clause to identify the content of Bill C-277. As well, to clarify if they mean the UBCM Executive or UBCM membership to endorse the content of the Bill.

The Committee further advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, two referred resolutions addressing brain injury, 2021-NR52 and 2019-B204, both of which asked the Province to change the name of the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to the Ministry of Brain Injury, Mental Health, and Addictions

with proper financial support. And also asked the Province to work with grassroots organizations and the federal government to create a National Strategy for Acquired Brain Injury that is adequately funded for this National crisis.

Conference decision: _____

NR6 Mental Health Mandate for Health Authorities

Nelson

Whereas the number of people in BC, including in rural and remote communities, experiencing mental health and addictions issues continues to increase and there is a distinct lack of resources and treatment options for such individuals;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to expanding complex care, treatment, and aftercare across the province to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed but there appears to be a disconnect in how regional Health Authorities are advancing this commitment in rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

While the enactment clause doesn't mention rural and remote communities, the whereas clauses do, so it is worthwhile to note that the membership has supported resolutions seeking to address mental health and addictions in rural and remote communities, including:

- *2019-B61 which asked for more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities;*
- *2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC;*
- *2007-B51 which asked for more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province; and*
- *2006-B8 which asked for more regional detox centres.*

Conference decision: _____

NR7 Standard of Care Discrepancies in Healthcare Services

NCLGA Executive

Whereas there has been a noticeable increase in delays in treatment and testing for all British Columbians, with a particularly significant impact on residents in rural areas;

And whereas there is an expectation of a standard of practice that every individual should be able to rely on, ensuring that test results are promptly reviewed; however, delays in testing and review processes are causing undue stress and potential health risks, especially in rural communities;

And whereas the discrepancy in wait times for test result reviews, such as heart halter monitors, between urban and rural locations can lead to adverse health outcomes, including increased mortality rates:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM jointly lobby the provincial government to compel the Health Authorities to review and address the discrepancies in the standard of care, particularly in wait times for test result reviews, across the province, with a specific focus on addressing the disparities between rural and urban areas;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocate for shared patient records between health authorities.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to compel the Health Authorities to review and address the discrepancies in the standard of care, particularly in wait times for test result reviews, across the province, with a specific focus on addressing the disparities between rural and urban areas. Nor has the membership considered the request to share patient records between health authorities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed Special Resolution 2023-SR1 which sought health care equity for rural and remote communities, to address the need for additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities, where issues such as wait times for result reviews are longer.

The Committee also notes that the Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-NR46 which asked the Province to urge all the health authorities to grant online access to health records for allied health professionals in BC, pending patient approval to share their private health records.

Conference decision: _____

NR8 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees

Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population as shown by closures of beds in local hospitals and closures of emergency rooms at times when no qualified staff are available to work;

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have governed the provision of health care in their respective areas but are not held accountable for poor policy decisions and the negative impact those decisions have on local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to consider augmenting Health Authorities with Regional Hospital Oversight Committees responsible for providing strategic guidance and oversight concerning the operation of their regional hospitals;

And be it further resolved that Regional District Boards appoint Committee members from all areas involved in the delivery of hospital health care including, but not limited to, the Provincial Health Authority, Elected Officials, and Local hospital healthcare providers (ie: doctors, nurses, lab technicians, etc.).

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously considered a number of resolutions regarding the structure of Health Authorities in BC, including the role of local governments in health care decision-making.

Between 1992 and 2001, health care regionalization resulted in a major change in health care planning in BC. Where there were previously 700 different agencies involved in health care planning, the regionalization process resulted in 5 regional health authorities. Previous to this process, local governments had input into health care delivery and services in their communities through the local boards of health and regional health boards.

The UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions requesting a renewed opportunity for local governments to provide input on health care service in their communities.

Resolutions have asked the Province to consider the appointment of local government elected representatives from each regional hospital district to the boards of health authorities in order to enable direct decision making on capital priorities and budgets (2007-B155); that health authorities support local community health advisory committees (2007-B53); and for an amendment to the Health Authorities Act to formally establish and recognize the role of community health advisory councils and require that regional health authorities consult with these organizations prior to establishing local service plans or making changes to local health care (2003-A1). The Committee acknowledges that 2003 is a dated reference.

The Committee also notes that the membership supported resolution 2023-NR10 which called for a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities. The membership also endorsed resolution 2014-C19 which requested legislative change to require the composition of health authority boards to include representation from regional districts.

Conference decision: _____

NR9 Grants to Named Health Facilities

Comox Valley RD

Whereas regional hospital districts are empowered to direct capital funding grants only to hospitals and hospitals facilities named by the Ministry of Health;

And whereas rural, remote and Indigenous communities often rely upon community health clinics for medical care in the absence of any nearby health-authority owned and operated facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC review the *Hospital District Act* to provide enhanced authority to regional hospital districts to direct capital and operational grants to non-profit community health clinics and centres in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to review the Hospital District Act to provide enhanced authority to regional hospital districts to direct capital and operational grants to non-profit community health clinics and centres in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

The UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions regarding the cost-sharing of capital projects between Health Authorities and Regional Hospital Districts. (2021-EB64, 2018-B50, 2018-B144, 2017-B39, 2016-B114, 2014-B35, 2011-B58, 2009-B150, 2008-B129, 2007-B184, 2005-B42, 2004-B28).

Staff would note that Community Health Centers (CHC) are primarily funded by the provincial government and encompassed in their primary care strategy. This resolution would provide additional local taxpayer/RHD funds to the provincial government; rather than using the funds for RHD priorities such as hospitals, MRI machines and other health care capital.

Conference decision: _____

NR10 Addressing Challenges Faced by Rural Seniors in British Columbia

NCLGA Executive

Whereas a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing;

And whereas rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032;

Whereas the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the NCLGA and UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

1. Develop and implement strategies on rural seniors housing, rural health, rural seniors home and community care, and rural transportation.
2. Create and implement a long-term care and assisted living plan and community care based on equity.
3. Improve upon and better promote the Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to facilitate access to healthcare services for rural seniors.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in BC. Nor has the membership considered the request that the Province take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate: 1. Develop and implement strategies on rural seniors housing, rural health, rural seniors home and community care, and rural transportation. 2. Create and implement a long-term care and assisted living plan and community care based on equity. 3. Improve upon and better promote the Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to facilitate access to healthcare services for rural seniors.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- *increase the number of care beds in rural communities to allow seniors to age in place (2021-EB65);*
- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and*
- *create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects*

(2016-B46).

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient’s home (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

After contacting the sponsor, the Committee can confirm that the “recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate” as noted in the first whereas clause, is referring to a report titled: Resilient and Resourceful: Challenges Facing BC’s Rural Seniors, which was published in February 2024.

See resolutions EB13, NR11, NR12, RR40

Conference decision: _____

NR11 Ministry for Rural Seniors

NCLGA Executive

Whereas a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing;

And whereas rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032;

Whereas the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM call upon the provincial government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

- Establish a ministry or minister devoted to addressing the unique needs of rural communities in BC.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate’s report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in BC. Nor has the membership considered the request that the Province take immediate action by implementing the following recommendation put forth by the Seniors Advocate: Establish a ministry or minister devoted to addressing the unique needs of rural communities in BC.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- increase the number of care beds in rural communities to allow seniors to age in place (2021-EB65);
- adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);

- enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and
- create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).

After contacting the sponsor, the Committee can confirm that the “recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate” as noted in the first whereas clause, is referring to a report titled: *Resilient and Resourceful: Challenges Facing BC’s Rural Seniors*, which was published in February 2024.

See resolutions EB13, NR10, NR12, RR40

Conference decision: _____

NR12 Ensuring the Implementation of the Recommendations Found Burnaby
in the Seniors Advocate Reports

Whereas the Ministry of Health set a guideline that residents in senior long-term care facilities should receive, on average, at least 3.36 hours of direct care daily;

And whereas direct care hours include all care provided by registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), health care assistants (HCAs) and professional and non-professional allied health providers (such as physiotherapists);

And whereas not-for-profit facilities delivered 93,000 more direct care hours than they were funded to deliver, and for-profit facilities failed to deliver 500,000 hours of direct care they were funded to deliver:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to create a standardized funding formula and reporting system to ensure that funding for seniors' care is spent on direct care only.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to create a standardized funding formula and reporting system to ensure that funding for seniors' care is spent on direct care only.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- increase the number of care beds in rural communities to allow seniors to age in place (2021-EB65);
- adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);
- enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and
- create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).

See resolutions EB13, NR10, NR11, RR40

Conference decision: _____

NR13 Fighting Period Poverty and Endorsing the Period Promise Campaign

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas almost one quarter of Canadian menstruators say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children (period poverty), and that people who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience social isolation, financial instability and increased mental health concerns by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame;

And whereas the United Way’s Period Promise is a campaign that calls for increases to access to menstrual products in our community, and that local governments play a pivotal role in addressing period poverty within their communities, and may need support implementing practical solutions to provide free menstrual products to community members:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Period Promise Campaign, and work with menstrual equity advocates and community partners to facilitate the development of, and help disseminate, a Period Promise Local Government Toolkit that will help provide local governments with the tools necessary to make menstrual products freely available in their washrooms and beyond.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution on this issue.

Staff note that they are available to work with various stakeholders on the development of resource guides, and encourage interested parties to reach out to UBCM staff.

The Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR67 which called upon the Province to provide policy direction and funding to cover the costs associated with providing free and accessible menstrual products in local and regional government run civic facility restrooms, including parks, libraries, shelters, service centres, police, judicial and incarceration centres.

See also resolutions NR14, RR9

Conference decision: _____

NR14 Gender Equity: Provisions for Menstrual Supplies

**Port Coquitlam,
Port Moody**

Whereas the 2024 British Columbia Building Code contains updated accessibility features for universal washrooms and that they must contain full-sized adult changing tables; and no new updates were made to the provincial Building Code and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to include accessibility features for free menstrual supplies or sanitary disposal bins for those who menstruate;

And whereas equity-based policies around access to menstrual products as a health and human rights imperative will support inclusion, accessibility, mobility, reduce stigma, and promote gender equality for all people;

And whereas in December 2023, the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations were revised to include free menstrual products in all federally regulated workplace restrooms:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to update the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and the British Columbia Building Code to include provisions for sanitary disposal bins,

and courtesy menstrual supplies as is currently required for toilet paper in restrooms outside the home, thus supporting accessibility and gender equity for people who menstruate.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to update the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and the British Columbia Building Code to include provisions for sanitary disposal bins, and courtesy menstrual supplies as is currently required for toilet paper in restrooms outside the home, thus supporting accessibility and gender equity for people who menstruate.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR67 which called upon the Province to provide policy direction and funding to cover the costs associated with providing free and accessible menstrual products in local and regional government run civic facility restrooms, including parks, libraries, shelters, service centres, police, judicial and incarceration centres.

See also resolutions NR13, RR9

Conference decision: _____

NR15 Routine Mammogram Screening Program

Harrison Hot Springs

Whereas access to regular routine mammogram screening is inadequate within the Province of BC;

And whereas an increasing number of women are being diagnosed with more aggressive breast cancer between the ages of thirty to forty;

And whereas early detection of breast cancer is paramount to diagnosis and treatment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to increase the number of mobile mammogram screening units available to rural and remote communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to lower the age of MSP coverage for routine mammogram screening to the age of thirty and modify the program so that participation in the screening program can occur whether or not the person has a primary care provider.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to increase the number of mobile mammogram screening units available to rural and remote communities, nor to lower the age of MSP coverage for routine mammogram screening to the age of thirty and modify the program so that participation in the screening program can occur whether or not the person has a primary care provider.

The Committee is aware that BC Cancer Breast Screening provides free screening mammograms for eligible BC women age 40 and up.

According to the BC Cancer website, those without a primary care provider are already able to participate in the screening program, with several options available to access screening mammograms:

- walk in clinic or virtual clinic that you have registered with and currently use;
- virtual clinics listed on the BC Cancer Breast Screening website, that have volunteered to support screening participants in northern BC, Metro Vancouver, Victoria, Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands; or
- a naturopath can receive screening mammogram results, and can connect with a local provider to manage follow-up if required.

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

NR16 Reducing Neurodevelopment Assessment Wait Times

Mackenzie

Whereas the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions is unacceptable at 2 years;

And whereas these extended wait times puts delays on youth getting the support they need and deserve and puts pressure on other institutions to fill the gaps while families wait:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to reduce the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reduce the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2011-B62 which made a number of requests of the Province around autism, including "Increase funding for universal early screening and identification of infants and toddlers who are at risk for autism...".

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

NR17 Barrier Free Hearing Health

Saanich

Whereas a large and growing proportion of our citizens has hearing loss, including three quarters of seniors;

And whereas hearing loss leads to delayed speech and language development in children, as well as affecting social development;

And whereas a significant factor contributing to lack of hearing aid usage is the high cost of hearing aids, with BC lagging behind other provinces and territories when it comes to consistent hearing health coverage:

NR19 Reasonable Access to Insured Medical Services

Elkford

Whereas one of the five principles of the *Canada Health Act* is portability with the intent that residents who are temporarily absent from their home province or territory, such as on business or vacation, are permitted to receive necessary services in relation to an urgent or emergent need when absent;

And whereas British Columbia residents are restricted from accessing specialized or non-urgent services in Alberta, even when the services are located geographically closer than services in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petitions the Province to work toward a solution to ensure that all residents of British Columbia also have reasonable access to insured specialized or non-urgent medical services in Alberta in cases where the services are geographically closer.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure that all residents of British Columbia also have reasonable access to insured specialized or non-urgent medical services in Alberta in cases where the services are geographically closer.

British Columbians receive health care in their own Province. When temporarily out of province, MSP will cover unexpected medical services provided the services are medically required, rendered by a licensed physician and normally insured by MSP.

Conference decision: _____

 **Housing**

NR20 Consultation and Review of Recent BC 2023 Fall Housing Legislation Maple Ridge

Whereas the provincial government recently introduced a suite of new housing legislation, Bill 44 – Residential Development, Bill 46 – Development Financing and Bill 47 – Transit Oriented Areas;

And whereas there is a need for more municipal consultation to reflect on the impacts of legislative implementation and identify policy gaps:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate the Province review the new housing legislation after 2 years from introduction; immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated; and increase the Official Community Plan review requirement to every 7 years.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review the new housing legislation after 2 years from introduction; immediately allow

exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated; and increase the Official Community Plan review requirement to every 7 years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently supported resolutions requesting greater consultation and engagement with the Province on policy, programs and initiatives that have the potential to impact local governments. In 2019 members endorsed SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives. And in 2022, EB75 was endorsed which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will be impacted by provincial policy.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions seeking more and improved consultation and communication between the Province and local governments on a variety of specific topics including:

- 2023-EB8 which asked the Province to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC;
- 2023-EB62 which asked the Province to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways;
- 2021-SR2 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper;
- 2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;
- 2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land; and
- 2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people.

The membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-SR1, 2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).

As part of information received from the sponsor, it is understood that “immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated”, as referenced in the enactment clause, refers to exemptions for such isolated sites where upfront rezoning for increased density may make less sense in part due to less servicing and infrastructure available.

Conference decision: _____

NR21 Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 - Financial Assistance for Local Governments Langley City

Whereas local governments allocated the Building Community Funding to various community needs prior to the introduction of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 and the Province has provided some limited funding support to assist local governments in implementing the housing initiatives;

And whereas local governments have limited staffing, resources, and budget capacity to undertake the required updates to their Official Community Plans (OCP), updates to their Engineering Servicing Plans (ESP), as well as review and analyze the impacts on all local government infrastructure with the implementation of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 on communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM demand the provincial government expand the scope and provide local governments additional financial support for the hiring of additional staff and or consultants to complete the required updates to Official Community Plans, Environmental Servicing Plans as well as to review the impacts on all community infrastructure, including but not limited to public amenities, recreation centres, hospitals,

schools, first responders and aging infrastructure in order to comply with provincial mandates as stipulated in the legislation.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide local governments additional financial support for the hiring of additional staff and or consultants to complete the required updates to Official Community Plans, Environmental Servicing Plans as well as to review the impacts on all community infrastructure, in order to comply with provincial mandates as stipulated in the legislation.

See resolution RR13

Conference decision: _____

NR22 Funding to Offset the Cost of Waiving Development Fees for Attainable Housing Pemberton

Whereas local governments are increasingly expected to contribute financially to the development of attainable housing by waiving development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions;

And whereas local governments rely on revenues from development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions to provide the infrastructure, amenities, and services that support housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province, as part of their housing initiatives, to provide funding to local governments to offset the revenue losses resulting from the waiving of development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions associated with the development of attainable housing.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to, as part of their housing initiatives, provide funding to local governments to offset the revenue losses resulting from the waiving of development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions associated with the development of attainable housing.

See resolutions NR62, RR12

Conference decision: _____

NR23 Incorporating Tree Canopy and Climate Goals into Housing Action Port Moody

Whereas the Province of BC, along with the rest of the world, is experiencing increasing incidents of extreme weather, including deadly heat waves which are intensified by the urban heat island effect and lack of neighbourhood greenness;

And whereas the Province has committed to addressing climate risk mitigation and adaptation at the same time as providing needed housing but may not be foreseeing potential negative consequences that can be ameliorated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revise Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy and ensure local governments retain clear authority to:

- protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods; and
- implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to revise housing Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy or ensure local governments retain clear authority to: protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods; and implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects (2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

See resolution NR73

Conference decision: _____

NR24 Provincial Funding for Energy Efficient and Zero Emissions Metro Vancouver RD Equipment for Existing Buildings

Whereas energy efficient and zero emissions building equipment provide benefits such as lower annual energy costs and improved resilience to extreme heat events;

And whereas the CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings programs provide incentives and rebates to reduce the significant cost barriers to implementing energy efficiency and zero emissions retrofits for existing buildings, yet multi-unit residential buildings including affordable housing have limited access to these incentive programs:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Government of BC to significantly increase funding for provincial incentive programs to support energy efficient and zero emissions equipment for existing buildings, to ensure that incentives can leverage pre-2030 replacement cycles for residential and commercial building equipment;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to ensure that existing and future incentives and support programs are available for all building types, prioritizing multi-unit rental, affordable and non- market housing, and building types that are not covered in current incentives and rebates.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase funding for provincial incentive programs to support energy efficient and zero emissions equipment for existing buildings, to ensure that incentives can leverage pre-2030 replacement cycles for residential and commercial building equipment; and to ensure that existing and future incentives and support programs are available for all building types, prioritizing multi-unit rental, affordable and non-market housing, and building types that are not covered in current incentives and rebates.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2023-EB20, 2023-EB21, 2022-EB31, 2022-NR18, 2021-EB40, 2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).

Conference decision: _____

NR25 Housing Authority Feasibility Study Work

**Comox Valley RD, Courtenay,
Cumberland, Powell River**

Whereas non-market housing is in critical need throughout the province, and the provision of such housing is currently severely challenged by supply conditions, lack of adequate funding, and lack of capacity by local governments to support the provision and management of such housing;

And whereas some municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia have created entities, such as housing authorities, which successfully increase the supply of non-market housing by providing and managing such housing, the process of planning and then creating these entities involves significant staff time and other costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of BC to provide grant funding for municipalities and regional districts to plan and create entities that provide and manage non-market housing in their communities.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that while UBCM membership has supported wide ranging policy calling for more supports and funding for housing, the membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide grant funding for municipalities and regional districts to plan and create entities that provide and manage non-market housing in their communities.

The Committee notes that while housing has historically been the responsibility of federal and provincial governments, local governments continue to seek innovative ways to address the housing crisis, including via the creation of housing authorities.

Conference decision: _____

NR26 Provincial Housing Coordinator

Nanaimo City

Whereas the number of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability across the Province has been increasing at an unprecedented rate;

And whereas the Province has invested considerable funds in supportive housing, the majority of which operate as low barrier facilities making it challenging for individuals in recovery to secure housing options that support an addiction-free lifestyle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to establish a Provincial Housing Coordinator to work directly with those persons who are experiencing homelessness and who are not in need of supports, to find suitable housing.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a Provincial Housing Coordinator to work directly with those persons who are experiencing homelessness and who are not in need of supports, to find suitable housing. The Committee notes that background materials elaborate on the proposed role of the coordinator, noting that they “could assist individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to secure stable housing outside of the low barrier options currently available in most supportive housing facilities”.

Membership has supported special resolution 2020-SR10 titled Minimal Barrier Shelter Standards, which asked the Province to direct BC Housing to ensure that its policies support adequate shelter space throughout the province for those individuals needing to be sheltered in a safe, clean and sober environment.

More generally, the membership has also endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-NR14, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

See resolutions SR3, EB23, EB24, EB25, NR27, NR28, RR10

Conference decision: _____

NR27 Cold Weather Shelters

Kamloops

Whereas the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) reports people at risk of hypothermia include:

- People experiencing homelessness (persons who are unsheltered, unhoused, or living in places not fit for human habitation)
- People who use substances, including alcohol, that modify their ability to feel the effects of cold exposure or to respond or modify their responses to cold conditions
- People who spend long hours outside for work or recreation
- People with disabilities, limited mobility, certain medical conditions such as diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, and diseases affecting blood vessels and people taking certain medications
- Older people (over 60 years of age), infants and young children;

And whereas the BCCDC has established guidelines to open cold weather shelters when temperatures drop below 0° C or enacted at higher degrees when the weather forecast includes wet, snowy, or windy conditions as recommended by the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee’s cold-weather response:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee’s cold-weather response.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions that asked the Province to provide funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response shelters and warming and cooling centers (2023-EB18, 2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy as part of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness (2022-NR64, 2020-NR70, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109). As well, the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-LR5.

The provincial government's website offers a list of expenses and their eligibility for reimbursement during an extreme weather emergencies: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/policies/514_eligibility_assessment_addendum.pdf

See resolutions SR3, EB23, EB24, EB25, NR26, NR28, RR10

Conference decision: _____

NR28 Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code and BC Fire Code Nanaimo City

Whereas many communities are experiencing a crisis-level influx of homeless individuals and the existence of emergency shelters is critical to addressing the safety of people experiencing homelessness;

And whereas due to the urgent nature of the need and the lack of suitable building stock in many communities, emergency shelters are frequently operating from buildings that do not meet the major occupancy classification requirements of the BC Building Code, nor the requirements of the BC Fire Code, placing local governments at risk of incurring liability if they do not enforce the codes and risking shutting down emergency shelters if they do enforce the codes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province work with the Building Safety Standards Branch to establish some reasonable variances to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code to enable emergency shelters to remain open.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to work with the Building Safety Standards Branch to establish some reasonable variances to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code to enable emergency shelters to remain open.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed wide ranging resolutions calling for increased supports in the provision of shelter for homeless and vulnerable individuals, including 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2020-SR10.

The Committee would note that the sponsor has confirmed that in addition to keeping shelters open, part of the intent of this resolution is to reduce liability exposure for local governments.

See resolutions SR3, EB23, EB24, EB25, NR26, NR27, RR10

Conference decision: _____

NR29 BC Secondary Suite Incentive Program

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC government aims to create more housing in all of BC through the introduction of the pilot Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP);

And whereas eligibility for the Secondary Suite Incentive Program does not include properties within many regional district electoral areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the BC government to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include all electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.

The Secondary Suite Incentive Program provides up to 50 per cent of the cost of renovations, up to a maximum of \$40,000 for homeowners create a new secondary suite on their property to be rented out for below market value, subject to specific requirements, link: <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/secondary-suite>

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128). In particular, resolution 2022-EB26 asked for tax exemptions for all income derived from the rental of secondary suites as a measure to encourage the provision of safe and affordable housing.

The Committee also notes that the Province has indicated the intent to review expansion of the program, in part based on whether or not building permit/inspection services are in place:

“Fifteen of B.C.’s 27 regional districts have the necessary building bylaws, and building-permit and inspection services across their electoral areas that make them eligible for the SSIP pilot. The Province will review whether it can add some of the remaining regional districts in years 2 or 3 of the SSIP, as either they do not have building bylaws and permit/inspection services or they are only provided to some areas.” Link: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2024HOUS0015-000107>

Conference decision: _____

NR30 Increased Fine for Short-Term Rentals

Burnaby

Whereas short-term rentals (STRs) are taking away from long-term rental housing stock and in turn contributing to the housing crisis in Burnaby;

And whereas the Province intends to increase the maximum fine a local government may issue to any bylaw non-compliant operator from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per day utilizing the Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system;

And whereas under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* (LGBNEA), the current mechanism to enforce bylaws in Burnaby, a maximum fine of \$500 per day is permitted, with no increase proposed by the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000;

And be it further resolved that local governments have the ability to add unpaid bylaw violation penalties to property taxes, to better allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions addressing regulation of short-term rentals, including (2023-EB15, 2022-NR11, 2018-A4).

As well, the Joint UBCM-Province Advisory Group on Short Term Rentals prepared a series of recommendations based in part on these policies, that informed many elements of the Province's recent legislation on short-term rentals. The recommendations can be found via this link:

https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2021-11/Policy%20Areas_Housing_Priorities%20for%20Short-Term%20Rentals%20Report_2021-10.pdf

However the Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution which asks the Province to permit the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000, and allow local governments to have the ability to add unpaid bylaw violation penalties to property taxes, to better allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.

See resolution EB38

Conference decision: _____

NR31 Agricultural Land Commission and BC Builds

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the BC Building Code contains a definition for floor area, and floor area measures the total inside space of a building;

And whereas the Agricultural Land Commission has resolved on a definition of "total floor area for principal residences" and "total floor area of an additional 90m² or 186m² residence" that is not consistent with the BC Building Code:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Agricultural Land Commission to adopt the definition of floor area within the BC Building Code Regulations for buildings in the Agriculture Land Reserve.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Agricultural Land Commission to adopt the definition of floor area within the BC Building Code Regulations for buildings in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions addressing dwellings on ALR land, including:

- 2019-B168 which asked the Province to reinstate the previous provisions of the legislation which facilitated the construction of additional dwellings for farm help, manufactured homes for immediate family members, accommodation above an existing farm building, or a second single family dwelling, on ALR land;*
- 2017-B139, which asked in part, that the ALC allow the siting of other moveable dwellings on ALR land; and*
- 2014-B115, which asked the ALC to allow permanent secondary residences to be built on ALR land.*

In February 2019, the Agricultural Land Commission Act was amended and the ALR Use Regulation was created and, subsequently in 2021, the regulation was updated to allow ALR landowners to have both a principal residence and small secondary residence on their property with a streamlined approval process. As part of the 2021 updated, permitted residential uses were linked to property size: on a property 40 ha or less, the principal residence is limited to a total floor area of 500 m2 or less and a secondary residence is limited to a total floor area of 90m2 or less. On a property larger than 40 ha, where there is a lawfully constructed principal residence, one 186m2 additional residence may be permitted. In both cases, the residential uses must be permitted by local government bylaw.

For the purpose of the ALR Use Regulation, total floor area is the inner surface of exterior walls, to account for prefabricated construction methods, including corridors, hallways, landings, foyers, staircases, stairwells, enclosed or partially enclosed (covered roof and/or sidewalls) balconies, enclosed porches or verandas, basements, attached garages and unenclosed carports as part of the total floor area, with exceptions for attached garages, attics and crawl spaces.

The BC Building Code defines floor area as the space on any storey of a building between exterior walls and required firewalls, including the space occupied by interior walls and partitions, but not including exits, vertical service spaces and their enclosing assemblies.

Conference decision: _____

NR32 Achieving Complete Streets through Building Permit Burnaby

Whereas the *Local Government Act* permits municipalities, as part of rezoning and subdivision, to secure land dedication for highway purposes, and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services, and public access;

And whereas there is a desire on behalf of the Province to reduce rezoning applications by having municipalities permit higher density developments as-of-right as per recent provincial legislation to expedite housing delivery;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* does not currently permit a municipality to obtain dedications for highway purposes, or the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services and public access as conditions of Building Permit issuance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to allow municipalities to obtain highway dedications, and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services, and public access through Building Permit issuance without the approval of subdivision or rezoning.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR15 which made a similar request, asking the Province to expand the tools for local governments to request road dedications, statutory-rights-of-way and infrastructure servicing upgrades through the development permit and/or building permit process; and to provide a legislative framework for amenity contributions, tenant relocation requirements, and other requirements to be applied at the development permit or building permit phase rather than being tied to rezonings.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB76 which sought to maintain local government autonomy and authority for development approvals.

The Committee would note that with the passage of Bill 16 Housing Statutes Amendment Act, (https://lims.leg.bc.ca/pdms/file/ldp/42nd5th/3rd_read/gov16-3.htm), local governments may in part address what is being sought by the resolution.

Conference decision: _____



Community Safety

NR33 Managing Fire Risk on Crown Land

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia needs to review its policy for backcountry closures during periods of extreme wildfire risk;

And whereas Regional Districts have no ability to mitigate the considerable risks associated with Crown land hazards nor respond to emergencies on Crown land under the Regional District service area model;

And whereas Regional District electoral area lands have the largest Crown to community exposure to these hazard areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to aggressively pursue strategic proactive messaging strategies about restricting access to vulnerable areas during periods of extreme wildfire risk to mitigate human-caused wildfires on Crown land;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province to update their policy for backcountry closures to ensure proactive closures are a priority during periods of wildfire risk and in advance of conditions reaching unacceptable risk levels and include a process that ensures access by First Nations who use forest service roads to travel to and from their residences and territorial areas, as well as businesses who require access to Crown land.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to mitigate human-caused wildfires on Crown land by undertaking strategic and proactive messaging strategies about restricting access to vulnerable areas during periods of extreme wildfire risk; and, that the Province update its policy for backcountry closures to reflect the following:

- Prioritize proactive closures during periods of wildfire risk and in advance of conditions reaching unacceptable levels of risk;
- Ensure backcountry access by First Nations who use forest service roads to travel to and from their residences and territorial areas; and
- Ensure backcountry access by businesses who require access to Crown land.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed a number of resolutions relevant to this request, including:

- 2020-NR14, which requested that the Province be required by legislation to undertake disaster mitigation work on all lands and facilities under the care and control of the Province where emergency events could negatively impact adjacent communities;
- 2019-B51, which requested that there be no closures of backcountry areas in BC until and unless local governments and other stakeholders are consulted regarding social and economic impacts, and a sustainable solution for both be considered; and
- 2018-B107, which requested that the provincial and federal governments stop downloading wildfire mitigation costs and responsibilities onto local governments and First Nations, and take responsibility for wildfire mitigation costs on Crown land and areas surrounding local governments.

In 2019, the provincial government initiated a multi-year review of its emergency management legislation. Local governments, in response to a provincial discussion paper and through other forums, consistently requested that the Province assume responsibility for managing hazards on Crown land. The new Emergency and Disaster Management Act includes clarification that local authority jurisdiction for hazard management will include Crown land, reflecting the Province's unwillingness to assume these responsibilities.

Conference decision: _____

NR34 Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation

Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Tumbler Ridge

Whereas the BC Wildfire Initial Attack Crews are a critical component of the wildfire response and rapid wildfire suppression in the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas Initial Fire Attack Crew Base locations are key to providing timely wildfire suppression efforts; especially in remote and rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to maintain the Initial Fire Attack Crew Bases in their current locations, and not relocate them without significant local stakeholder consultation.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to keep all initial attack fire crew bases in their current locations, and to not relocate any of them without significant local stakeholder consultation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding and/or support for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, preparedness,

response and/or recovery (2023-NR33, 2023-EB28, 2022-NR26, 2022-NR27, 2022-EB36, 2022-EB37, 2022-EB88, 2020-EB12, 2019-B13, 2019-B26, 2019-B27, 2019-B76, 2019-B77, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2019-B95, 2019-B10, 2018-B22, 2018-B43, 2018-B96, 2018-B97, 2018-B99, 2018-B100, 2018-B107, 2017-B4, 2017-B84, 2017-LR1, 2017-LR2, 2017-LR4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1).

Conference decision: _____

NR35 Year-Round Forest Fire Management Program Fort St. John

Whereas current fire management practices do not adequately address the unique challenges posed by holdover fires, necessitating a comprehensive and year-round approach to forest fire management;

And whereas a comprehensive and year-round forest fire management program can help reduce the risks associated with holdover fires, protect ecosystems, and enhance the safety and well-being of communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to allocate the appropriate resources and adopt a comprehensive and sustainable year-round forest fire management program to address the threat of holdover fires.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to allocate additional resources and adopt a comprehensive and sustainable year-round forest fire management program to address the threat of holdover fires.

The Province's Budget 2022 included financial and operational commitments to improve emergency management, including through shifting the BC Wildfire Service to operate with a year-round workforce, transitioning to a more proactive approach and also focusing on the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparation, response and recovery) in relation to wildfire management. This shift has impacted BC Wildfire Service's management of holdover fires, as indicated on its webpage:

"Over the winter, the BC Wildfire Service manages holdover fires by establishing fire guards where needed to protect people and infrastructure, as well as actively monitoring holdover fires and reporting on these fires publicly. When activity resurfaces and further wildfire response is needed, response tactics and priorities are established as conditions allow."

Conference decision: _____

NR36 Priority of Post Wildfire Debris Cleanup in Riparian Areas Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas BC has experienced unprecedented wildfire activity resulting in significant detrimental and toxic environmental impacts, especially within riparian areas;

And whereas many homeowners who have been impacted by wildfires are unable to afford the expensive assessments due to financial constraints thereby not proceeding with cleanup on their properties;

And whereas the lack of a timely and flexible Riparian Area Protection Regulation (RAPR) permit process has not only hindered legitimate cleanup efforts but has also given rise to an increase in reports of illegal dumping causing additional environmental harm;

And whereas the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship was responsive to developing an expedited and flexible assessment process for wildfire debris cleanup:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to prioritize the development and implementation of an expedited process for cleaning up wildfire debris in riparian areas and develop clear policy guidelines to support the post-wildfire debris cleanup in riparian areas in preparation for future wildfires.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to prioritize the development and implementation of an expedited process for cleaning up wildfire debris in riparian areas and develop clear policy guidelines to support the post-wildfire debris cleanup in riparian areas in preparation for future wildfires.

Conference decision: _____

NR37 Provincial Funding for PFAS-Free Firefighting Gear in BC Vancouver

Whereas the health and safety of firefighters across British Columbia are routinely compromised by exposure to Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), through the use of PFAS-containing fire retardant foam and through dermal absorption from the water-repellent inner liner of their turnout (bunker) gear, particularly during periods of extreme heat and high physical exertion commonly experienced by firefighters in the line of duty;

And whereas the City of Vancouver recently approved a one-time budget increase of \$2.8 million to procure Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl free (PFAS-free) bunker gear for all Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) personnel, thereby becoming the first fire department in North America to transition to PFAS-free turnout gear to significantly reduce the health risks associated with PFAS exposure and the persistent nature and resistance to degradation of these "forever chemicals" in the environment and the human body:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the province of British Columbia to allocate provincial funds specifically for the procurement of PFAS-free bunker gear for all BC firefighters, to prioritize their health and safety while ensuring their gear meets the highest standards of protection and safety without the use of PFAS and exposure to the harmful effects of these forever chemicals, and work towards the introduction of alternatives to PFAS-containing fire retardant foam.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allocate funding specifically for the procurement of PFAS-free bunker gear for all BC firefighters, and to work towards the introduction of alternatives to PFAS-containing fire retardant foam.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking more provincial funding, training and resources to support fire departments, including 2019-B27, 2018-B20, 2018-B22, 2016-B4, 2015-B3, 2012-B10, 2011-B6, 2009-B63.

The Province of British Columbia recently filed a national class action proceeding in BC Supreme Court against the manufacturers of PFAS 'forever chemicals' related to the contamination of drinking-water systems. The intent is to recover the costs of detecting and removing these chemicals from drinking water systems.

Conference decision: _____

NR38 Search and Rescue - Capability Approval Process

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the current response capability approval process for individual ground search and rescue (SAR) teams is hindering the ability of teams to respond to known hazards and utilize local capabilities and innovative technology;

And whereas while the Province is responsible for administration of the SAR Program, local SAR expertise, community needs, and local authorities and agencies input must be a greater part of the capability approval process;

And whereas capability decisions must not include call volume, as saving one life makes the investment of time and money worthwhile, and strengthens the overall SAR capacity to assist our counterparts across the region and province when called upon:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to change the search and rescue capability approval process from the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Search and Rescue (EMCR SAR) Unit, to a collaborative process involving the ground search and rescue team, local authorities, and the EMCR SAR Unit.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to change the search and rescue capability approval process for the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Search and Rescue (EMCR SAR) Unit, to a collaborative process involving the ground search and rescue team, local authorities, and the EMCR SAR Unit.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions seeking consistent, adequate and predictable funding for search and rescue services (2019-B10, 2018-B6, 2015-B2, 2013-B5, 2009-B11, 2009-B69, 2008-B10, 2006-B17).

See resolution NR39

Conference decision: _____

NR39 Search and Rescue Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Moratorium

Fort St. James

Whereas the current search and rescue director of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) imposed a moratorium on all of the Province's search and rescue teams, prohibiting those groups from expanding their capabilities until the Province has conducted a needs assessment study;

And whereas Search and Rescue groups provide invaluable services crucial to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, tourist safety, and overall community well-being:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to promptly lift this moratorium and allow Search and Rescue groups to add to their list of capabilities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to lift its moratorium on certifying new skills for search and rescue teams and their members.

This moratorium has left some search and rescue teams unable to train, purchase equipment or pursue new skills. Impacts have been felt across B.C., notably in rural and remote communities where under these rules search and rescue teams do not always have provincial approval to use the necessary capabilities to respond to mutual aid calls. It is understood that this moratorium, which began approximately three years ago, is expected to continue while the Province conducts a needs assessment. There are currently 78 ground search and rescue teams in British Columbia.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions seeking consistent, adequate and predictable funding for search and rescue services (2019-B10, 2018-B6, 2015-B2, 2013-B5, 2009-B11, 2009-B69, 2008-B10, 2006-B17).

See resolution NR38

Conference decision: _____

NR40 Equitable Funding of Police Services

Port Alberni

Whereas the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other local governments in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

And whereas systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop an equitable police services funding model for all BC local governments that

takes into consideration the financial capacity and population of each jurisdiction, as well as additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported numerous resolutions related to police funding and resources, including those seeking changes to the RCMP cost-sharing formula (2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2016-B75); as well as, requests for police resource allocation in rural areas and/or increases to the authorized strength of the provincial police force (2020-EB7, 2019-A3, 2018-B88, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-A4, 2012-B1).

In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). As part of its submission to the SCRPA, UBCM recommended that the Province undertake a comprehensive, cross-departmental and cross-governmental public safety review to ensure necessary resources are available in all services areas (e.g., policing, healthcare, housing, etc.). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province "create and appropriately fund a continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues." The Special Committee also recommended that the Province create a fair and equitable funding model for local governments that includes "consideration of local needs, health and social supports, and the geography of a service delivery area." UBCM continues to work with the Province, through the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, to address these and other policing modernization priorities.

See resolutions NR41, NR42

Conference decision: _____

NR41 Funding of RCMP Services for Small Municipalities

Pemberton

Whereas the current funding model for municipal RCMP police services imposes an immense financial burden on small municipalities when their census population reaches 5,000;

And whereas implementation of the Province's Homes for People plan, accelerating housing development and population growth, will push many small municipalities to the 5,000 census population trigger point sooner than previously anticipated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to immediately increase the population threshold for RCMP contract policing costs payable by local governments from 5,000 to 10,000 and to develop, in partnership with local governments, a more fair and equitable shared funding model between all policing partners in British Columbia.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution asking the Province to shift only one RCMP population threshold, from 5,000 to 10,000, while leaving the 15,000 person threshold unchanged; and that a more fair and equitable shared funding model be developed between all policing partners in BC.

However, the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions with the same general request, to ease the financial burden associated with moving to a new RCMP policing population tier. Relevant resolutions include:

- 2023-NR34 which asked for the introduction of additional RCMP policing population tiers;
- 2022-NR33 which requested incremental RCMP cost-sharing adjustments as communities grow beyond 5,000, 10,000 and 15,000 residents;

- 2020-EB5 which asked the Province to review the current RCMP funding model with consideration towards a gradual annual cost increase from the Police Tax to responsibility for 70 per cent of the cost-base over a five-year period for municipalities that have reached the 5,000 person threshold;
- 2020-NR7 which asked the Province to review the current model of funding RCMP police services, with the intent to make policing more affordable for contract partners; and
- 2016-B75 which asked that the current RCMP funding model be reviewed with consideration towards an incremental cost increase based on population growth.

The Resolutions Committee also notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse several other resolutions related to the RCMP cost-share for local governments, including:

- 2022-NR32, which asked provincial and federal governments to consider increasing the RCMP population thresholds (5,000 and 15,000) to recognize the increased burden on emerging municipalities;
- 2021-NR7 which asked the Province to review the current model of funding RCMP police services with consideration given to equitable funding of police services through a provincial police tax based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments; and, that any provincial contribution towards policing be shared equally with all police taxpayers;
- 2021-NR6 which asked the Province to implement a police funding formula that fairly and equitably distributes RCMP expenses to all governments throughout the province;
- 2020-NR8 which asked the Province to develop a funding model whereby provincial RCMP resources are increased and allocated to various regions of BC based on tourism, industrial activity growth, and/or rural population increase in the specified region; and
- 2016-B81 which asked the Province to develop an equitable police funding program for all municipalities and regional districts.

The cost-sharing models for municipalities over 5,000 in population are outlined in the 20-year Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) that these municipalities have signed with the Province, and which do not expire until March 31, 2032. The provisions in these Agreements, including the cost-sharing model, may be reviewed through the Five Year Review process (see article 21.0 of the MPUA). During each of the first two Five Year Reviews (2017 and 2022), UBCM has sought input from the membership through The Compass and other forums.

In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province create a fair and equitable funding model for local governments that includes "exploring options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of policing costs." UBCM continues to work with the Province, through the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, to address these and other policing modernization priorities.

See resolutions NR40, NR42

Conference decision: _____

NR42 Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas

[View Royal](#)

Whereas inflation, officer burnout, rising equipment costs, and rapidly increasing officer salaries have made the existing cost sharing formulas and RCMP policing costs unsustainable for local governments;

And whereas the Province's housing legislation, including Bill 44 and Bill 47, could potentially lead to increased policing costs, while Bill 46 will allow for police facilities to be funded through development cost charges, but will not help address the issue of police capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments to develop a new RCMP funding framework that gradually increases the cost-share rate for local governments at the 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 40,000 population thresholds.

And be it further resolved that the above amendments be implemented immediately, prior to the 2026 federal census.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking changes to the RCMP cost-sharing formula (2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2016-B75), but has not considered a request that would establish three new population tiers in addition to the 5,000-person threshold or that the proposed cost-sharing framework be implemented prior to the 2026 federal census.

The cost-sharing models for municipalities over 5,000 in population are outlined in the 20-year Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) that these municipalities have signed with the Province, and which do not expire until March 31, 2032. The provisions in these Agreements, including the cost-sharing model, may be reviewed through the Five Year Review process (see article 21.0 of the MPUA). During each of the first two Five Year Reviews (2017 and 2022), UBCM has sought input from the membership through The Compass and other forums.

In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province create a fair and equitable funding model for local governments that includes "exploring options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of policing costs." UBCM continues to work with the Province, through the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, to address these and other policing modernization priorities.

The Committee notes that Bill 44 and Bill 47 refer to the Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, and the Housing Statutes (Transit-Oriented Areas) Amendment Act, respectively, both of which are intended to increase housing supply in part through densification. Bill 46 refers to the Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act, 2023, which updates the development financing regime by establishing a framework for 'Amenity Cost Charges' and expanding eligible categories for development cost charges.

See resolutions NR40, NR41

Conference decision: _____

NR43 Port Policing

Delta

Whereas the Ports Canada Police was disbanded in 1997 and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority discontinued its financial contribution to the RCMP-led Waterfront Joint Forces Operation in 2015;

And whereas this loss of police resources has weakened the security of Canada's ports and allowed organized crime elements to proliferate, as evidenced by the 2023 Peter German report Policing our Ports;

And whereas the provincial and federal governments have statutory authorities in respect of taxation and fees related to the port and the transportation of shipping containers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with the Canadian government and port municipalities to develop a shipping container levy as a funding mechanism to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, including the Port of Vancouver, in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to establish a shipping container levy, as a funding mechanism for dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, in order to address the issue of organized crime.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse a somewhat similar resolution 2019-B90, which asked the federal government and port municipalities to develop a strategic plan to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports. As part of its response to this resolution, the Province noted that port policing is a federal responsibility.

This resolution and the 2023 report, *Policing our Ports*, commissioned by the City of Delta, highlight decisions made by the Government of Canada to download federal responsibilities (e.g. border integrity, national security, serious and organized crime) onto local governments. It is a UBCM general policy that "access to additional revenue should be provided when local government is assigned new responsibilities."

Conference decision: _____

NR44 Fail to Appear Charges

Duncan

Whereas 100 per cent of Fail to Appear charges at provincial courthouses are assigned to the policing statistics of the local government in which the courthouse is located, having a disproportionate impact on the policing costs assigned to small municipalities with courthouses that serve a much broader area outside their jurisdiction;

And whereas this inflates the Criminal Code case load for all local governments with courthouses within their jurisdiction and results in an unfair burden to the taxpayers of those local governments, especially considering that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to direct that Criminal Code Section 145(2)-(5) and 732.1(2b) and 3(a) be excluded from the policing statistics of local governments with courthouses.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to exclude certain Canadian Criminal Code sections, related to charges for failure to appear in court, from the policing statistics of local governments with courthouses.

There are several sections of the Canadian Criminal Code that are referenced in the enactment clause of the resolution:

- s. 145 (2)-(5) pertains to failure to attend court, or failure to comply with an appearance notice, summons, undertaking or condition in an order;
- s. 732.1 (2b) pertains to compulsory conditions of a probation order regarding appearance before a court when required to do so by the court; and
- s. 732.1 (3a) pertains to conditions of a probation order that require reporting to a probation officer.

Conference decision: _____

NR45 Equitable Court Access

Langley City

Whereas gaps in service within the Provincial Courts continues to deny timely and equitable access to justice services for all British Columbians and will only be exacerbated by rapid population growth; thus, resulting in harms by prolonging closure for individuals awaiting court judgements, inefficient use of police time for travel, and greater challenges for those with limited access to public transit or transportation;

And whereas although recent investments made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) have increased capacity at specific courthouses, the investments have not facilitated equitable access for all British Columbians or met service level requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM direct the Province of BC to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and further, release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and to release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan that reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking increased funding and judicial resources, including specialized courts and other alternatives to the traditional court system (2023-EB30, 2021-EB11, 2019-B207, 2018-B89, 2018-B9, 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2012-B2, 2011-B9).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management (2021-NR2) and to lower the charge approval threshold (2019-B5, 2018-B91), in order to address the perceived high volume of court delays.

Conference decision: _____

NR46 Automated Licence Plate Recognition Funding

Langford

Whereas the City of Langford recognizes the importance of safety and compliance to the *Motor Vehicle Act* for all road users;

And whereas the discontinuation of vehicle licence plate validation decals in British Columbia has negatively impacted law enforcement officers in their ability to detect and enforce uninsured motor vehicle violations:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition to the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funds to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funding to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.

ALPR technology is currently being used in a limited capacity by B.C. police agencies to remove unlawful drivers from the road, and to identify Motor Vehicle Act infractions and criminal activity.

The Resolutions Committee advises that under section 3(2) of the Police Act, a municipality with a population greater than 5,000 persons must provide policing and law enforcement. In the absence of provincial and/or federal funding, local governments could face increased ongoing costs following the implementation of any new provincially-funded hardware.

Conference decision: _____

NR47 Noise Camera Pilot Project Port Moody

Whereas noise pollution has wide-ranging and well documented negative effects on public health and well-being and social connectedness, and vehicular noise pollution, from such sources as aftermarket exhaust systems are a particularly acute source of noise pollution, and these impacts disproportionately affect residents living near major thoroughfares, which are often more affordable housing types;

And whereas many jurisdictions have sought to address the numerous challenges to the effective monitoring and enforcement of existing vehicular noise regulations through conventional law enforcement approaches by deploying noise cameras:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of using noise cameras to effectively enforce vehicular noise regulations through the creation of a noise camera pilot project for municipalities to opt into.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to create a noise camera pilot project for municipalities to opt into, as a means to explore the feasibility of using noise cameras to help enforce vehicular noise regulations.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2021-NR14 which asked the Province to amend Motor Vehicle Act regulations to prohibit the use or installation of aftermarket exhaust systems that exceed legal noise limits.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions related to noise issues from the exhaust systems of trucks, motorcycles and motor boats, including:

- *2013-B67 seeking for amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act to require that exhaust noise from motorcycles and motor boats meet Transport Canada's noise level standards;*
- *2007-B17 seeking a province-wide ban on modifications to transport truck exhaust systems; and*
- *2005-B79 seeking to have truck exhaust systems inspected.*

Conference decision: _____

NR48 Metal Theft

Mission

Whereas the theft of copper wire costs the local taxpayers of British Columbia thousands of dollars each year to repair and can create a danger to public safety through the loss of electricity, lighting and communications;

And whereas the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* is more than 10 years old and metal thefts are an ongoing problem:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province, in collaboration with police agencies in BC, to complete a review of the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* to address metal theft.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province, in collaboration with police agencies in BC, to complete a review of the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* to address metal theft.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions related to this issue, including:

- 2011-B7 which requested that the Province implement a system to licence and regulate the scrap metal economy in British Columbia;
- 2011-B77 which requested that the Province create a provincial regulation governing pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers to deal with metal theft;
- 2007-SR1 which requested an amendment to the Community Charter to enable local government to regulate pawnshops and second hand dealers;
- 2007-B92 which requested that the Province establish legislation regulating scrap metal recycling;
- 2007-LR10 which requested that local government be given the power to require scrap dealers to provide information to police; and
- 2006-B5 which requested that the Province amend Section 59 of the Community Charter to more clearly articulate local government’s authority to impose requirements on businesses selling goods that might endanger health or public safety. The ability to impose requirements on scrap metal dealers would be one example of the expected range of this proposed authority.

Conference decision: _____

NR49 Provincial Funding Program for Radon Mitigation

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking amongst Canadians and many British Columbians are exposed to unsafe levels of radon within their own homes every day;

And whereas professionally-installed radon mitigation systems are effective at reducing radon exposure levels in homes but are financially prohibitive for many British Columbians to pursue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to establish a funding program to help residents with the costs of installing radon mitigation measures in their homes to increase the health and safety of British Columbians from the harmful effects of radon.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a funding program to help residents with the costs of installing radon mitigation systems and other measures in their homes to address the harmful effects of radon.

Conference decision: _____

NR50 Diking Standards

Pemberton

Whereas diking authorities in British Columbia are currently mandated to design, repair, construct, and maintain dikes to a 200-year event standard, which entails significant financial and logistical burdens;

And whereas a 100-year event standard would provide a sufficient level of protection against flooding and associated risks and allow for the development of more diking infrastructure, while reducing the financial strain on local governments and enabling diking authorities to allocate resources more efficiently, prioritize critical infrastructure projects, and enhance community resilience against natural disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to amend existing regulations pertaining to diking requirements, relaxing the current 200-year event standard to a more practical and financially sustainable 100-year event standard, or to a lesser return period that can be shown to provide valuable protection and phased implementation through engineering, geomorphological and geotechnical professional review and recommendations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, diking authorities, and interested parties to develop and implement revised standards that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and mitigating undue financial burdens on local governments.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the current 200-year event diking standard to a 100-year event standard, or to a lesser return period that can be shown to provide valuable protection and phased implementation through engineering, geomorphological and geotechnical professional review and recommendations. Nor has the membership considered the request for the Province to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, diking authorities, and interested parties to develop and implement revised standards that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and mitigating undue financial burdens on local governments.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing diking standards and upgrades, including:

- *2022-EB39 which called on the Province to, in part, fund dike maintenance in order to bring BC dikes up to regulatory requirements and proactively forestall catastrophic dike failures during weather events and spring freshet;*
- *2020-EB14 which called on the Province to consider applications for funding essential and cost-effective minor dike upgrades that may not meet seismic standards;*
- *2018-B33 which, among other things, called on the Province to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local governments in relation to dike upgrades and climate change, and provide long-term funding to support municipal dike corridor upgrade strategies; and*
- *2017-B85 which called on the Province to revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to reflect predicted local ground settlement conditions with the primary goal of community flood protection.*

The Resolutions Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions calling on the Province to be established as the diking authority in all local governments (2023-EB29, 2022-SR3, 2015-B52 and 2014-B75 (in local governments under 20,000 in population)).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2022-SR3, 2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1).

In March 2024, the Province introduced, "From Flood Risk to Resilience: a BC Flood Strategy to 2035." The Flood Strategy outlines the Province's direction for flood management, and includes 25 concepts to improve flood resilience. As part of its approach towards investments in flood resilience, the Province is seeking to "support diking authorities in upgrading dikes to meet provincial standards, particularly in areas where high-value land uses and settlements are vulnerable to flood risks."

Conference decision: _____



Environment

NR51 Addressing Climate Challenges in Agriculture and Supporting Farmers NCLGA Executive

Whereas farmers across British Columbia face escalating challenges due to climate change, including increasingly frequent and severe droughts, highlighting the urgent need for regionally relevant agricultural research to address these issues effectively;

And whereas the government of British Columbia has demonstrated commendable leadership by allocating substantial funding, including an additional \$80 million, to expand the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program, aimed at enhancing water management practices and resilience in the agricultural sector;

And whereas while investments in infrastructure are crucial, there is also a critical need for targeted funding for regionally relevant agricultural research to develop innovative solutions tailored to the specific challenges faced by farmers in different regions of British Columbia;

And whereas regionally relevant research is essential for identifying sustainable agricultural practices, crop varieties, and water management strategies that are best suited to the unique climatic conditions and agricultural landscapes of each region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the federal and provincial governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2014-A3 which asked the Province, in part, to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in BC.

Conference decision: _____

NR52 Availability of Replacement Parts for Agricultural Fraser-Fort George RD
Equipment Leased and Sold in BC

Whereas the increasing cost of agriculture equipment has lead to agricultural producers having to finance and utilize equipment over longer periods of time, resulting in replacement parts no longer being available even before the lease or loan is paid off;

And whereas there are currently limited legislative standards in only a few provinces that have legislation in place requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment to have replacement parts available for a 10-year period, and this is placing increased financial hardship and, in many cases, affecting the overall financial viability of producers' operations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact legislation requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment leased or sold in BC to be required to have replacement parts available for a 20-year period.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment leased or sold in BC to be required to have replacement parts available for a 20-year period.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR37 which asked the Province to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation which would require manufacturers to have parts available to make it easier to repair items.

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

NR53 Black Bear Cub Conflict Response North Vancouver District

Whereas the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service currently can independently decide how to handle black bears and cubs in conflict situations, without the oversight of an independent external public board;

And whereas there is no mandate for orphaned black bear cubs to be taken to a Wildlife Sanctuary for health assessment and treatment by a qualified wildlife veterinarian, and be the sole authority to perform a humane euthanasia of black bear cubs if needed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiate changes to the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, Human-Black Bear (Single) Conflict Response Guideline, to include a review of actions through an independent civilian-led oversight board, orphaned bear cubs to be transported to a wildlife sanctuary for health assessment of cubs by qualified wildlife veterinarian, for treatment or euthanasia, and an audit done by the Solicitor General of British Columbia Conservation Officer Service actions, policies and procedures.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to initiate changes to the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, Human-Black Bear (Single) Conflict Response Guideline, to include a review of actions through an independent civilian-led oversight board, orphaned bear cubs to be transported to a wildlife sanctuary for health assessment of cubs by qualified wildlife veterinarian, for treatment or euthanasia, and an audit done by the Solicitor General of British Columbia Conservation Officer Service actions, policies and procedures.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management and to reduce human-wildlife conflict (2021-NR38, 2018-B36, 2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2012-B72, 2013-B27, 2012-B21, 2010-B25). In particular, resolution 2021-NR38 sought to support the work and informed decision-making by Conservation Officers to consider (not require) orphaned and /or injured juvenile wildlife for rehabilitation, by providing up-to-date information on licensed rehabilitation facilities located in the Province; and to develop a standardized procedure for the assessment of suitability for rehabilitation, capture, emergency treatment, and transfer to a wildlife rehabilitation facility for orphaned and injured wildlife.

See resolution EB52

Conference decision: _____

NR54 Ban on Rodent Glue Traps

**Saanich,
View Royal**

Whereas glue traps are an ineffective method for controlling rodents as they fail to address the root causes of an infestation, including access to food and shelter, and they cause fear, pain and distress for captured animals, including rodents and non-target animals like birds, bats, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and household pets;

And whereas most users are not capable of humanely killing trapped animals, leaving them to suffer for hours, and even days, before dying of suffocation, dehydration, starvation, exhaustion, or exposure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of rodent glue traps.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported other resolutions addressing rodents, including:

- 2021-NR40 which called on the Province to allow local governments to enact bylaws regulating rodenticide use in the newly created Urban Interface Areas;

- 2020-LR2 (UBCM Executive endorsed) which called on the Province to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and call for the Minister of Health to initiate a special review of the regulation of anticoagulant rodenticides; and
- 2017-B108 which sought the development and funding of a strategy to reduce and/or control the rat population in BC.

Conference decision: _____

**NR55 Provincial Funding for Accessible and Transparent
Natural Resources Data**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas accurate understanding and management of British Columbia’s natural resources are essential for informed decision-making;

And whereas there is a need for an updated and objective data on natural resources such as aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams and timber, for various aspects of the Province’s natural resource management and for sustainable development and environmental stewardship:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province of BC allocate funding to ensure that objective data on natural resources is easily accessible by all stakeholders, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and ongoing maintenance.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province allocate funding to ensure that objective data on natural resources is easily accessible by all stakeholders, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and ongoing maintenance.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported several resolutions that address the protection of ecosystem health, biodiversity, species and habitat, including:

- 2023-EB33 which asked the Province to proceed with legislation that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia;
- 2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public;
- 2010-B35 which asked the Province to develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC; and
- 2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact a strong Species and Ecosystem Protection Act to safeguard British Columbia’s exceptional biological richness - in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change - recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action to address climate change, calling on the provincial and federal governments to commit to meeting reduction targets for greenhouse gas emission, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects (21022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B139, 2016-B58, 2014-B26, 2012-B25, 2011-B98, 2010-B40, 2010-B71, 2010-B76, 2010-B84, 2010-B86, 2009-B113, 2009-B134, 2008-B72, 2008-B74, 2008-B76, 2008-B79, 2008-B91, 2008-B148, 2007-B33, 2007-B35, 2007-B177, 2007-LR4, 2006-B27, 2006-B109, 2006-B145, 2005-B28, 2004-B79).

Conference decision: _____

NR56 BC Hydro Projects - Establishment of Funding for Climate Action Ecosystem Restoration

Saanich

Whereas the *BC Hydro Power and Authority Act* and associated statutes references other Acts within its scope, including the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and *Environmental Management Act*;

And whereas various communities have experienced that their operations do not fully comply with these Acts or the provincial government’s Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets to protect land, preserve nature, and reverse diversity loss;

And whereas the Authority does not allocate a budget for adequate eco-restoration in areas where its activities have harmfully impacted biodiversity, and financial support is crucial to the success of hydro projects and the realization of provincial climate change targets;

And whereas to prepare the Province for the impacts of climate change, it is essential that BC Hydro collaborates with local governments, stakeholders, and landowners, and the *Hydro and Power Authority Act* must also prioritize ecosystem retention in its mandate to provide affordable power while minimizing environmental impact, restoring biodiversity and in the process support local governments' Climate Action Plans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM recommend the provincial government mandate an amendment to the *Hydro Power and Authority Act* to incorporate a budget for Climate Change Ecosystem Restoration as well as technologies that support tree retention and/or re-planting in all its projects, thus demonstrating the provincial government’s commitment to its Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Hydro Power and Authority Act to incorporate a budget for Climate Change Ecosystem Restoration as well as technologies that support tree retention and/or re-planting in all its projects, thus demonstrating the provincial government’s commitment to its Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR27 which asked the Province to amend the Utilities Commission Act to expand the scope of the BC Utilities Commission’s mandate and give it clear direction to consider environmental, equity, resilience, and reconciliation objectives in its decision-making.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include (2023-EB31, 2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

Conference decision: _____

NR57 Soil Fill Location Sourcing

Central Saanich

Whereas in January of 2023, the provincial government implemented Protocol 19 of the *Environmental Management Act* which increased the definition of contaminants in soil and fill provisions;

And whereas since this legislation has come into effect, municipal infrastructure projects and housing projects have seen a 200+ per cent increase to civil costs due to unavailability of placement locations for fill deemed contaminated under the new legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC source regional contaminated soil fill locations, for the storage of contaminated soil from locations slated for priority infrastructure and priority housing projects.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to source regional contaminated soil fill locations, for the storage of contaminated soil from locations slated for priority infrastructure and priority housing projects.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported a number of resolutions that address soil and fill, including:

- *Contaminated soil permitting process (2016-B34);*
- *Contaminated soil relocation (2013-B37, 2012-B120);*
- *Placement of fill on ALR land and its impact on surrounding lands (2012-B82); and*
- *Soil removal fee (2011-B32, 2008-B135).*

Conference decision: _____

**NR58 Restrict Export of Non-Compliant Waste to Foreign Waste Cache Creek
 Disposal Sites**

Whereas the province of British Columbia has stringent regulations governing the disposal of municipal solid waste;

And whereas the transportation of waste containing recyclables to the United States serves as a loophole in these regulations, undermining their effectiveness:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the provincial government for comprehensive measures to close the loophole allowing waste disposal in the United States and the implementation of stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with provincial waste management regulations.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the closure of the loophole allowing waste disposal in the United States and urges the implementation of stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with provincial waste management regulations.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B107 which asked the Province to prohibit the wholesale international export of British Columbia's local government solid waste.

Conference decision: _____

NR59 Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice

Islands Trust

Whereas there have been barriers to uptake of alternatives to plumbed sewage disposal systems despite their allowance under the Sewerage System Regulation and the 2016 Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice;

And whereas these barriers to uptake may include overly conservative requirements (and their application) for onsite application criteria for residuals in the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia’s Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners’ professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners’ professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR44 which asked the Province to enact legislation to empower local governments to require water conservation and grey water use in relation to plumbing and drainage requirements for new buildings or the retrofitting of old buildings. The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B145 which sought the use of reclaimed or non-potable water (greywater) sources in plumbing systems.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2018-B125 which sought to conserve water usage in new buildings by requesting an update to the Building Code to make the installation of waterless urinals mandatory in all new dwellings built.

Conference decision: _____

NR60 Boat Launch Fees to Fund Watercraft Inspection Stations at Boat Launches

Lumby

Whereas the provincial government has only six permanent and two mobile watercraft inspection stations and these stations are the last point of potential inspection before a watercraft enters a body of water or waterway;

And whereas stopping at watercraft inspection station is the obligation of the individual transporting the watercraft;

And whereas the fine for failing to stop at an inspection station carries a maximum fine of \$345;

And whereas the cost to mitigate invasive zebra and quagga mussels exceeds the cost of the fine by millions of dollars:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to establish additional watercraft inspection stations at boat launches to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a fee at boat launches to assist with funding additional watercraft inspection stations at boat launches to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions addressing watercraft and invasive mussels:

- 2023-EB36 which asked the province to introduce legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels when entering BC and establish mandatory watercraft inspections to ensure the protection of our watercourses; and
- 2021-EB26 which asked the provincial and federal governments to adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a watercraft inspection station.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2023-EB36, 2021-EB26, 2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

See resolutions EB51, RR23, RR24, RR25

Conference decision: _____



Regional Districts

NR61 Allow Regional Districts to Become Taxing Authorities

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas regional districts are not taxing authorities and not able to change the tax multipliers, unlike municipalities that are allowed to adjust to swings in assessments between residential and business classes;

And whereas municipalities are able to change the multiplier which creates a consistency in taxes from year to year, while regional districts are not;

And whereas the taxpayers within a regional district are charged by the Province a 5.25 per cent collection fee, which for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is over \$900,000:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry to allow regional districts, at their discretion, to become a taxing authority.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions asking for a review and modernization of the Local Government Act, seeking more legislative authority for regional districts, including:

- *2023-EB66 which asked the Province for a comprehensive review and modernization of the Local Government Act, during the current municipal term of office;*
- *2022-EB80 which asked the Province to further a legislative reform initiative for the purpose of comprehensively reviewing and modernizing the Local Government Act, in order to grant regional districts legislative authority in a variety of areas, [including taxation which was referenced in the whereas clause];*
- *2018-B4 which asked for a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act to ensure it meets modern needs and addresses the issue of equity between municipalities and regional districts (e.g. scope of regulatory authority, requirements for service establishment, etc.); and*
- *2015-B1 which asked the Province to act upon its commitment to modernize and harmonize the legislation governing regional districts.*

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR19 which asked the Province to reduce the provincial collection fee (5.25 per cent) on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

Conference decision: _____

NR62 Permissive Tax Exemptions for Not-For-Profit or Community Housing qathet RD

Whereas offering permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies is a valuable tool to support the creation of non-market housing;

And whereas municipalities have the authority to grant permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies which create non-market housing but regional districts do not:

Therefore be it resolved the UBCM urge the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to expand regional districts' authority to include granting permissive tax exemptions to not-for-profit societies for non-market housing.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Local Government Act to expand regional districts' authority to include granting permissive tax exemptions to not-for-profit societies for non-market housing.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2005-B90 asking the Province to amend the Community Charter to permit permissive exemptions to property owners leasing to not-for-profit groups, and that a mechanism be established to ensure that the not-for-profit group receives the benefit.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2009-B94 which addressed the issue of the provincial government eroding the local government tax base and removed local government opportunity to decide property tax exemptions through Bill 11, the 2008 Small Business and Revenue Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, which amends the Assessment Act to establish a new supportive housing assessment class to provide property tax relief by reducing assessment values to a nominal value.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB66 which asked the Province to undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the Local Government Act as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts.

The Committee would also reference the following recommendation from the 2021 report from the Select Committee on Local Government Finance related to this matter:

Recommendation 5: The Province commit to working with UBCM on a comprehensive review of funding mechanisms for financing growth-related infrastructure services including Development Cost Charges and Amenity Agreements, to:

- *Better capture growth related capital costs that are increasingly strained as a result of pressure for local governments to incentivize attainable housing;*
- *Provide local governments with flexibility to better reflect community circumstances and community objectives; and,*
- *Create a consistent approach to land value capture and amenity charges that reduces the uncertainty associated with negotiated agreements.*

See resolutions NR22, RR12

Conference decision: _____



NR63 Municipal and Regional District Tax Fund Overhaul to Enable Fernie
Investment in Infrastructure

Whereas the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) serves as a vital revenue source for communities in British Columbia, particularly in resort areas, through its application to short-term accommodations;

And whereas recognizing the evolving needs of communities, there is a growing demand for flexibility in utilizing MRDT funds to address critical infrastructure projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for a comprehensive overhaul of the Municipal and Regional District Tax funding framework to expand the allowable usage of funds, including directing a portion towards essential infrastructure projects;

And be it further resolved that UBCM collaborate with relevant provincial authorities to review and amend existing legislation, ensuring that Municipal and Regional District Tax funds can be strategically utilized for infrastructure development, thereby enhancing the resilience and sustainability of communities.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for a comprehensive overhaul of the Municipal and Regional District Tax funding framework to expand the allowable usage of funds, including directing a portion towards essential infrastructure projects.

The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) is an up-to three percent tax applied to sales of short-term accommodation provided in participating areas of British Columbia on behalf of municipalities, regional districts

and other eligible entities. The tax is intended to help grow BC revenues, visitation, and jobs, and amplify BC's tourism marketing efforts in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

The MRDT was originally introduced by the provincial government in 1987 (as the Additional Hotel Room Tax) to provide funding for local tourism marketing, programs, and projects. The program was significantly overhauled in 2015, including the addition of the major events program. Under Budget 2018, affordable housing was added as a permissible use of funds and online accommodation platforms were enabled to collect MRDT and PST.

The Province does consider proposals to use revenue from the MRDT to finance capital expenditures (beyond affordable housing) such as new tourism facilities or infrastructure in special circumstances. Proposals for capital spending must be included in a designated recipient's five-year Strategic Business Plan, and must demonstrate strong local stakeholder support in order to be considered as an authorized use of MRDT program funds.

See resolution NR64

Conference decision: _____

NR64 Tax Restrictions for the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program Revelstoke

Whereas local governments collect taxes through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT);

And whereas the current restrictions on what this money can be spent on are restrictive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to investigate expanding the eligible expenditures of the funds collected through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program, to allow each local government to have a larger say in what projects these funds should go towards to directly support their community and impacts of tourism, allowing for better long term planning and the ability to adapt the funds to the specific needs of the community it serves.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to investigate expanding the eligible expenditures of the funds collected through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program, to allow each local government to have a larger say in what projects these funds should go towards to directly support their community and impacts of tourism, allowing for better long term planning and the ability to adapt the funds to the specific needs of the community it serves.

The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) is an up-to three percent tax applied to sales of short-term accommodation provided in participating areas of British Columbia on behalf of municipalities, regional districts and other eligible entities. The tax is intended to help grow BC revenues, visitation, and jobs, and amplify BC's tourism marketing efforts in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

The MRDT was originally introduced by the provincial government in 1987 (as the Additional Hotel Room Tax) to provide funding for local tourism marketing, programs, and projects. The program was significantly overhauled in 2015, including the addition of the major events program. Under Budget 2018, affordable housing was added as a permissible use of funds and online accommodation platforms were enabled to collect MRDT and PST.

The Province does consider proposals to use revenue from the MRDT to finance capital expenditures (beyond affordable housing) such as new tourism facilities or infrastructure in special circumstances. Proposals for capital spending must be included in a designated recipient's five-year Strategic Business Plan, and must demonstrate strong local stakeholder support in order to be considered as an authorized use of MRDT program funds.

See resolution NR63

Conference decision: _____

NR65 Equitable Distribution of Gaming Revenue

Port Moody

Whereas the City of Port Moody advocated for more equitable distribution of gaming revenues, and was subsequently asked by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide viable options for the Ministry’s review and consideration to remedy significant funding inequities created by revenue sharing agreements with local governments hosting casinos;

And whereas more broadly and equitably sharing gaming revenue with municipalities will reduce the financial inequity that has been inadvertently created by providing significant revenue windfalls to host municipalities and support non-host communities in enhancing the livability of their communities across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend gaming revenue distribution policies to include advancing equity;

And be it further resolved that the Province establish a working group with Port Moody and other non-host communities to discuss gaming revenue sharing and equity policy changes.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking to amend the distribution of gaming revenues, but has not asked for the establishment of a working group of non-host communities to discuss gaming revenue sharing and equity policy changes.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to share a portion of lottery revenue with:

- *all BC local governments (2011-B28, 2008-B119); and*
- *communities under 10,000 (2020-EB37).*

Further, the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting that BCLC eGaming revenues be used as follows:

- *2023-NR57 which asked to allocate a portion of BCLC’s online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend;*
- *2019-B131 which asked to share 10 per cent of net revenue from online gambling with local governments on the basis of population; and*
- *2018-B112 which asked to fund a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support non-host communities with populations of less than 25,000.*

The Resolutions Committee would note that they contacted the sponsor asking them to clarify whether the resolution was intended to cover only casino gaming revenue or also include egaming and other gaming revenues. The Committee also recommended that the enactment clause remove the specific reference to Port Moody, and include both host and non-cost communities in the proposed working group. Both suggestions were declined by the sponsor.

Conference decision: _____

NR66 Servicing Agricultural Land Reserve Properties

Summerland

Whereas the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) plays a critical role in protecting and promoting food security for all British Columbians;

And whereas distances between agricultural parcels makes the cost of maintaining infrastructure to those properties disproportionately expensive and cannot be recovered from farm-class property taxes;

And whereas as a result, the cost of servicing farmland for the benefit of all British Columbians falls unfairly on residential taxpayers within agricultural communities and limits the ability of the local governments of those communities to adequately serve their residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the government of British Columbia to develop a reliable and consistent revenue source for local governments to adequately service their Agricultural Land Reserve lands.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a reliable and consistent revenue source for local governments to adequately service their Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for increased financial support from the Province to support the viability of agricultural initiatives including funding for local governments (2019-B32, 2014-A3, 2011-B52, 2009-B89, 2008-B47).

Conference decision: _____

NR67 Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries Nanaimo City, Oak Bay, Powell River, qathet RD

Whereas core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

And whereas the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, and increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province’s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;

And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking an increase in annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million with yearly increases in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2023-EB54, 2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

See resolutions EB63, RR29

Conference decision: _____



Land Use

NR68 Enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission Decisions Langley Township

Whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the administrative tribunal that adjudicates applications in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the provincial zone in British Columbia that preserves agricultural land;

And whereas the ALC ultimately determines the usage of the ALR land, taking precedence over other legislation and bylaws applying to the land;

And whereas the responsibility for ALC decisions, including rectifying violations and enforcing decisions, often falls to local governments, regardless of whether the local government supports the decision, which transfers provincial responsibilities and costs down to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Government of British Columbia to assume responsibility for the enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decisions and any local government costs incurred as a result of ALC decisions.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to assume responsibility for the enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decisions and any local government costs incurred as a result of ALC decisions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB45 which specifically asked the Province follow through on changes made to the Agricultural Land Commission Act that would in part “invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste on agricultural land.” While this resolution is specific to illegal dumping, it does reflect the membership’s support for additional resources needed by the ALC to ensure compliance and enforcement of its own legislation. In its response to the EB45, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food advised that the ALC “is responsible for the enforcement of the Agricultural Land Commission Act.”

As well, the membership endorsed resolution 2011-B48, which asked the Province to increase the resourcing of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), so that the ALC could more effectively carry out its mandate of preserving agricultural land for agriculture.

Conference decision: _____

NR69 Agricultural Land Commission Notice of Intent Requirements for Ancillary Residential Structures

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has unilaterally changed their interpretation of the ALC regulation, requiring a notice of intent for the import of soil or fill onto properties and its subsequent approval prior to construction of any detached ancillary residential structure;

And whereas local governments are prohibited from issuing building permits prior to receipt of such approvals, creating an unnecessary regulatory burden on both land owners, local governments, and ALC staff for structures which are regulated through size restrictions in local government zoning bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Agricultural Land Commission to cease requiring notices of intent to be made under section 20.3 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* for residential ancillary buildings and structures on lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve;

And be it further resolved that any future requirements conform clearly with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and enabling Regulations, and changes to requirements be done through legislative and regulatory amendments, not interpretive judgment.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Agricultural Land Commission to cease requiring notices of intent to be made under section 20.3 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act for residential ancillary buildings and structures on lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve. Nor the request that any future requirements conform clearly with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and enabling Regulations, and changes to requirements be done through legislative and regulatory amendments, not interpretive judgment.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions in support of secondary or ancillary dwellings on ALR land, including:

- *2020-EB64 which asked the ALC to keep amendments that allow for additional dwellings on ALR land, to remain permanent and not expire;*
- *2019-B168 which asked the Province to reinstate the previous provisions of the legislation which facilitated the construction of additional dwellings for farm help, manufactured homes for immediate family members, accommodation above an existing farm building, or a second single family dwelling;*
- *2017-B139 which asked, in part, that the ALC allow the siting of other moveable dwellings on ALR land; and*
- *2014-B115 which asked the ALC to allow permanent secondary residences to be built on ALR land.*

The Committee would note that ALR Use Regulation (Part 5) provides direction on when soil can be removed for a principal residence: total area of soil removal or placement of fill is 1,000 m2 or less and, in the case of a floodplain, minimum elevation is consistent with the local flood plain protection bylaws.

If a landowner intends to place fill or remove soil for reasons other than an Exempted Activity under Part 5 of the ALR Use Regulation, the landowner must submit the Notice of Intent (NOI) and pay the \$150 fee. The ALC responds to complete NOI submissions within 60 days.

Conference decision: _____

NR70 Farming Event Rules

Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas events can support the feasibility of farming in BC;

And whereas current Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Use Regulations are permitting events that hinder farming, and further local regulation is hindered by large geographic areas and limited resources, especially in Regional Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):

- number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;
- stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and
- ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the ALC to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):

- *number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;*
- *stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and*
- *ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.*

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR60 which asked the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

The Committee is aware that farm retail sales, non-farm use home occupation and gatherings for non-farm use events (i.e. weddings) are currently permitted in the ALR under certain circumstances. As well under the regulation, seasonal, harvest activities, corn mazes, heritage exhibits, tours, tractor rides, etc. are all permitted. Additionally, present provincial policy allows a winery to establish a restaurant or lounge to promote the products that it produces and sells.

Conference decision: _____

NR71 Provincial Watershed Security

Lake Country

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services and most supply irrigation for agriculture to their communities and BC faces real threats to the health, security and supply of water to our rapidly growing communities over the next decade and beyond, and all BC municipalities have high growth targets to achieve;

And whereas the \$100 million announced in the BC 2023 budget to kickstart support for watershed security is insufficient to ensure adequate restoration and long-term security for drinking water, cultural heritage values, and agriculture needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province of BC build on their initial investment in the BC Watershed Security Fund to create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source that provides \$100 million annually for community-driven watershed security initiatives.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

The Committee also notes, that while we have policy supporting additional provincial funding for water stewardship and security, the membership has not previously asked for an annual set amount of funding to be allocated, so we are offering No Recommendation.

Conference decision: _____

NR72 Funding Mechanism for Small Community Water Systems Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas BC regional districts, at the direction of the Province, have assumed responsibility for many small community utility systems (water and wastewater);

And whereas small community utility systems are not sustainable if funded by user fees alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish an annual funding mechanism for small community utility systems (less than 500 connections) which matches the revenue from user fees charged by the regional district;

And be it further resolved that the Province consider using funding from Property Transfer Tax of the homes connected to the utility systems for this purpose.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish an annual funding mechanism for small community utility systems (less than 500 connections) which matches the revenue from user fees charged by the regional district; nor has the membership considered asking the Province to consider using funding from Property Transfer Tax of the homes connected to the utility systems for this purpose.

However, the Committee notes that the membership supported two recent, identical resolutions addressing funding for small water systems, both submitted by Thompson-Nicola RD: 2023-EB47 and 2022-EB81. These resolutions asked for sustainable funding for very small water systems to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) with local governments to address new and aging infrastructure needs (2023-EB52, 2012-B18); and to address affordable housing and homelessness (2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).

Conference decision: _____

**NR73 Enhanced Stormwater Management Requirements, North Vancouver District
Bills 44 and 47**

Whereas provincial and municipal stormwater management guidelines were developed and implemented prior to the introduction of Bill 44 and Bill 47, the subsequent rapid increase in density will be accompanied by a dramatic rise in impermeable surfaces on a wide array of landscapes throughout the province;

And whereas urban stream health is directly impacted by stormwater runoff that is both increased in volume and reduced in quality by impermeable surfaces associated with development;

And whereas public education, outreach and environmental protection legislation, bylaws and regulations have not been successful in protecting our streams and environment, current resources available to municipalities to support stormwater management under the implementation of these bills will prove inadequate to ensure protection of these fragile resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province amend current legislation to include enhanced stormwater management through zoning bylaws and development permit requirements to slow, sink and spread stormwater.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend current legislation to include enhanced stormwater management through zoning bylaws and development permit requirements to slow, sink and spread stormwater.

The Committee notes that this resolution is requesting provincial changes to areas of local jurisdiction (zoning and development permit requirements), however background information shared by the sponsor confirms that the intent is to seek legislative amendments through consultation with relevant parties, including provincial authorities, local Indigenous communities and stewards of the land, environmental organizations, and municipal governments.

The Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved stormwater management, including:

- *2022-EB63 which asked the Province to bring together the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and local governments to collaborate on the development of an action plan that implements best practices for stormwater management, assigns clearly defined jurisdictional responsibilities and includes strategies to address risks to property, critical infrastructure and the natural environment;*
- *2020-EB62 which asked for the development of management strategies for stormwater management, responsiveness to the pressures of climate change, oversight of the implementation of stormwater components of subdivision approvals, address concerns about property damage from stormwater and drainage problems, and incorporate impacts of upstream forestry on drainage; and*

- 2012-B90 which asked the Province to improve their approach for the effective management of stormwater and drainage in electoral areas of the province.

See resolution NR23

Conference decision: _____

NR74 Amendments to the *Land Title Act*

Courtenay

Whereas the BC Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16 per cent below 2007 levels by 2025, 40 per cent by 2030, and 80 per cent by 2050;

And whereas the *Land Title Act*, RSBC 1996, c 250, permits the registration of a building scheme that imposes restrictions consistent with a general scheme of development;

And whereas these building schemes have been used to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels;

And whereas such prohibitions or restrictions are a barrier to the generation of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General to consider amendments to the *Land Title Act* that would prohibit and render void any portion of building schemes that purport to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels, or any other renewable energy systems.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for amendments to the Land Title Act that would prohibit and render void any building schemes that purport to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels, or any other renewable energy systems.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions that seek to financially incent and make it easier to add solar panels to homes (2022-NR18 and 2009-B166).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).

Conference decision: _____

 **Taxation**

NR75 Taxation on School District Property

Prince George

Whereas there does not readily appear to be a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property, a placement that is encouraged by provincial policy;

And whereas local governments need every opportunity to collect the appropriate revenue for providing our wide range of services considering inflationary pressures and the challenges posed by asset management:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Minister of Education and Child Care that a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property be established.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for a mechanism that would allow local governments to recuperate the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property be established.

However, the Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for the provincial government to provide funding to support the provision of childcare while recognizing it is not a core mandate or service for local government (2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB22, 2017-B50, 2016-B51, 2016-B50, 2016-B49, 2012-B50, 2011-B65, 2007-B54).

Conference decision: _____

NR76 School Tax Exemption

Pitt Meadows

Whereas the *School Act* exempts 50 per cent of the assessed value of a parcel of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from school taxation if the land is vacant and unused, or used only for a residential purpose;

And whereas to encourage farming in the ALR to ensure local food security, school tax exemptions should only apply to ALR land that is being used for a farm purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the *School Act* to remove the 50 per cent school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the School Act to remove the 50 per cent school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 which asked the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses.

The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2008-B101 which urged the provincial government to increase the tax benefit for those who are using their land for agriculture.

The Committee further notes members endorsed resolutions:

- 2003-B20 on Farm Classification that questioned the extent of exemptions provided and the eligibility of some properties for tax exemptions citing the strain this can put on other property classes; and
- 2002-B48 which asked that section 130(2)(b) of the School Act be amended by deleting the reference to “residential purposes”, thus ensuring that every parcel of land used for a residential purpose pay equitably for school, hospital and local service purposes.

The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.

The Committee further advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, two resolutions seeking the 50 per cent school tax exemption for Class 6 properties (2012-B129, 2009-B80).

Conference decision: _____

NR77 Unfarmed Land Tax

Pitt Meadows

Whereas the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is to preserve much-needed land for farming to ensure local food security, and not real estate speculation;

And whereas speculation in the ALR can lead to increased land values and the underutilization of ALR land for farming:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that seek reforms that will encourage farm use of ALR land, including:

- 2023-NR71 which asked the Province to extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries to help promote fairness among farmers and reduce barriers to agricultural activity within urbanized areas;
- 2018-B105 which asked for taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary ‘farm uses’;
- 2014-A3 which asked the provincial government to work with the agricultural community, UBCM and local governments to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in British Columbia; and
- 2013-B111 which asked for strengthened powers for the Agricultural Land Commission and taking measures to protect the agricultural land base from price speculation.

See resolution NR92

Conference decision: _____

NR78 Allowing Local Governments to Apply Commercial Rent Controls

New Westminster

Whereas the Province of British Columbia regulates annual allowable residential rent increases through the Residential Tenancy Regulation, BC Reg. 477/2003, to protect lower income renters from housing insecurity;

And whereas there is currently no similar provincial policy to protect small businesses or community-serving commercial tenants from unsustainable, unpredictable, and increasingly significant rent increases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR70 which called on the Province to establish a rental limit increase on commercially zoned properties operated by small businesses similar to the rental increase limitation(s) that govern residential rental properties.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to assist commercial property owners with their assessments and property taxes or rents:

- *2019-B78 which asked the Province to create new assessment sub-classes for small businesses to allow local governments to apply differentiated non-residential property tax rates to smaller businesses and cultural hubs;*
- *2018-B160 which sought a Legacy Business Registry and Grant program to provide relief from prohibitive increases in rent or property tax for independently-owned local businesses; and*
- *2018-B115 which sought relief for independent small businesses through Provincial assessment and taxation reform.*

The Committee further notes that Section 198.1 of the Community Charter now enables a municipality to provide tax relief to class 6 properties meeting certain criteria that would be passed on to a tenant under a triple net lease; and advises that there would be operational and budget impacts for local governments to take on the job of monitoring and enforcing rent control policies and demo/renoviction policies.

Conference decision: _____



Transportation

NR79 Traffic Count Systems Improvements

Saanich

Whereas the provincial government has set a Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction target as part of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and local governments are expected to act to help achieve this important climate target;

And whereas many municipalities and regional districts may not have adequate traffic count systems in place to rigorously evaluate Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction interventions and measure progress towards achieving this target, and that will be a financial cost to design, create and operate improved traffic count systems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government support local governments to improve traffic count systems for evaluating Vehicle Kilometre Traveled reduction interventions and measuring progress towards the CleanBC Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction targets.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for funding so that local governments can improve traffic count systems for evaluating Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction targets under CleanBC.

The Committee notes, however, that members have supported resolutions seeking data from ICBC to track vehicle kilometres traveled, in order to try to address transportation GHG emissions (2022-EB57, 2020-EB59, 2020-NR35, 2010-B83).

Conference decision: _____

NR80 Road Usage Charge for Vehicles

Kent

Whereas the provincial government continues to advocate for drivers to switch to zero-emission vehicles from internal combustion engine vehicles;

And whereas the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) receives dedicated funds through the sale of fuel products for transportation infrastructure;

And whereas zero-emission vehicles use the same transportation highways and impacts infrastructure as internal combustion engine vehicles but do not contribute to funding of the BCTFA:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government consider implementing a road usage fee per kilometre driven by vehicles to maintain funding levels for the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to consider implementing a road usage fee per kilometre driven by vehicles to maintain funding levels for the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority.

The Committee also advises that members considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2022-NR54, which called on the Province to shift taxation for road infrastructure to a more equitable, user-pay model through alternative funding mechanisms such as tolling, vehicle taxes, or other means that are not reliant on fuel sales.

The Committee further notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2022-EB74, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132) and increasing sales of electric vehicles (2023-NR80.1, 2020-EB28, 2020-EB27, 2018-B130, 2019-B142, 2019-B143, 2018-B131).

In a scan of other jurisdictions, the Committee is aware that in March 2024, Alberta announced that it will implement a \$200 registration tax on electric vehicles starting January 2025, in an attempt to make up for reduced fuel tax revenue. Saskatchewan introduced a \$150 registration fee on zero-emission vehicles in 2021.

See resolution NEB9

Conference decision: _____

NR81 Provincial Funding for Active Transportation Infrastructure Metro Vancouver RD

Whereas BC local governments face significant capital funding challenges in delivering new active transportation infrastructure, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide lower-cost transportation options to BC residents, bring economic and health benefits to BC communities, and increase resilience of transportation networks, as demonstrated by similar investments in other jurisdictions;

And whereas the Government of BC has invested over \$40 million since 2014 to fund new active transportation infrastructure, has committed an additional \$30 million to fund active transportation infrastructure in Budget 2022, and has introduced rebates to support BC residents in choosing e-bikes which were quickly over-subscribed, demonstrating that there is significant latent demand by residents across BC for active transportation options, and Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities for TransLink calls for \$1.5 billion over the next ten years for capital investments for active transportation infrastructure in the Metro Vancouver region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand funding for active transportation infrastructure to at least \$300 million annually over the next ten years to support the development of protected, connected, and accessible local cycling and walking infrastructure networks across BC, that are integrated into larger regional active transportation and public transit networks.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically asked the Province to expand funding for active transportation infrastructure to at least \$300 million annually over the next ten years.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that support the increased use of active transportation:

- development of active transportation infrastructure (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99); and

- *improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57).*

See resolutions EB74, EB75, NR82, RR36

Conference decision: _____

NR82 Provincial Funding of Active Transportation Planning and Infrastructure Pemberton

Whereas the provincial government offers grant funding to support the development of active transportation network planning and infrastructure, based on local governments contributing between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of project costs;

And whereas a local government’s required contribution to an active transportation infrastructure project can far exceed a small community’s financial capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government fund 100 per cent of the cost of active transportation network planning and infrastructure projects for communities with a population of less than 15,000.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fund 100 per cent of the cost of active transportation network planning and infrastructure projects for communities with a population of less than 15,000.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support the increased use of active transportation:

- *development of active transportation infrastructure (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99); and*
- *improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57).*

The Committee would observe that this resolution singles out smaller local governments, with population less than 15,000, for 100 per cent funding. In general, the UBCM membership has supported resolutions that would benefit all local governments across BC, rather than providing funding solely to a particular sub-group of local governments.

See resolutions EB74, EB75, NR81, RR36

Conference decision: _____

NR83 Provincial Highway Construction and Maintenance Princeton

Whereas private highway contractors primarily aim to generate profit, which can lead to compromised safety and quality in highway construction and maintenance;

And whereas the essential goal of highway management should be to prioritize public safety and infrastructure integrity over financial gains;

And whereas recent evidence suggests that highways under private management are experiencing deteriorating conditions, posing risks to public safety and transportation efficiency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call for the re-establishment of public management of highway contracts to prioritize safety, durability, and public service over private profit;

And be it further resolved that a review and transition plan be developed for existing private highway contracts, ensuring effective public sector oversight and safeguarding the rights and employment of the current workforce.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the re-establishment of public management of highway contracts; nor calling on the Province to develop a review and transition plan to move existing private highway contracts to public sector oversight.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2016-B141, which asked the provincial government to protect the rights and employment of the current workforce by awarding highway maintenance contracts to companies that will maintain local employment and successorship rights.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions addressing road and highway maintenance contracts and plans, including:

- *2023-EB62 which asked the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to be more transparent and start to share the Road Maintenance Plans and the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments and that a process be developed to do so; and*
- *2021-EB14 which asked the Ministry of Transportation, when working on arterial provincial highways, to conduct meaningful consultation with local governments and residents of all municipalities located within the highway corridor throughout the planning stages of the project and before the work has commenced.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved road and highway maintenance, including:

- *regular provincial government audits and performance assessment of highway maintenance services, and communication of the audit findings to local governments (2017-B10, 2008-B113);*
- *improved snow clearing on roads and highways (2022-EB67, 2021-EB15, 2018-B85, 2007-B98); and*
- *improved maintenance and funding for roads and bridges (2022-EB69, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2015-B75, 2014-B53, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).*

See resolutions EB76, EB78

Conference decision: _____

NR84 Support for Transit Services Related to Housing Growth Acceleration Pemberton

Whereas implementation of the Province's Homes for People plan, designed to accelerate housing development and population growth, will increase pressures on local governments to provide transit services necessary to develop and support new housing;

And whereas local government transit service deficits may pose barriers to the development of attainable housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for transit services integral to the development of attainable housing.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to, as part of their housing funding initiatives, provide funding to local governments for transit services integral to the development of attainable housing.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB17, which connected the need for rental housing and transit, asking the Province, in part, to enable a rapid and significant increase in the approvals, construction and supply of rental housing in areas near transit, active transportation infrastructure, and community destinations (workplaces, schools, shopping).

The Committee further notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (including 2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

The Committee recognizes that the necessity of transit services to support new housing is a significant issue, raised by the TransLink Mayors Council (Metro Vancouver), and separately, discussed extensively at the 2024 UBCM Housing Summit in a session focused on Bill 47 (transit oriented development).

See resolutions EB81, EB83, EB84

Conference decision: _____

NR85 Free Transit for Seniors in BC

Langford

Whereas transportation costs can serve as significant barrier to mobility for many British Columbian seniors, and this barrier can contribute to social isolation and adversely affect mental and physical well-being;

And whereas removing barriers to seniors using transit encourages a shift towards more sustainable transportation, helping lower emissions and reducing congestion, while simultaneously increasing affordability, access to essential services, social inclusion, health, and well-being:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make all public transit free for seniors (aged 65 years or older).

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to make all public transit free for seniors (aged 65 and older).

The Committee notes that UBCM members considered, but did not endorse, two resolutions which asked the Province to work with local governments on fare-free public transit services where supported by communities (2022-NEB2, 2021-NR17); nor did members endorse resolution 2020-NEB4 which sought, in part, free public transit across BC for youth under 19 years of age.

The Committee further notes that due to time constraints, resolution 2020-NR26 was not considered at Convention but was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Resolution 2020-NR26 sought fare-free public transit services. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse resolution 2020-NR26.

To date, the Committee notes that the only age specific resolution that has been endorsed by the membership is 2022-NR58 which sought fare-free transit for youth aged 13 and under (grade 7). At present, youth aged 12 and under can ride transit in BC fare-free.

The Committee would observe that UBCM members have supported resolutions seeking to curb, not eliminate, transit costs for persons with disabilities:

- 2017-B49 called on the Province to stop charging \$52 per month bus pass fees and reinstate the \$45 per year bus pass for persons with disabilities; and
- 2016-B134 called on the provincial government not to deduct the cost of transportation assistance from disability assistance.

See resolution RR34

Conference decision: _____

NR86 Ports Maintenance

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for maintaining the roads leading to public ports and continues to approve subdivision applications for water-only access residential developments;

And whereas evolving transportation technology and climate change requires a complete reconsideration of the design of small ports to meet future needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to fund the creation of engineering best practices for building ports to meet future transportation needs and climate resilience and provide financial support for the primary access ports.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to fund the creation of engineering best practices for building ports, to meet future transportation needs and climate resilience and provide financial support for the primary access ports.

See resolution NR87

Conference decision: _____

NR87 Ports Prioritization

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the federal government divested government wharves, and the responsibility for maintenance and management of public ports has fallen entirely on local taxpayers and nonprofit groups, and the provincial government does not have a ministry responsible for dealing with for the complex issues involving public ports, especially in unincorporated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to review BC's marine network as a whole and identify ports that are vulnerable to long-term funding concerns as well as extreme weather

events for more sustained public support to maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline to meet the long term economic, social, and emergency needs of coastal residents.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to review BC's marine network as a whole and identify ports that are vulnerable to long-term funding concerns as well as extreme weather events for more sustained public support to maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline to meet the long term economic, social, and emergency needs of coastal residents.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2014-B52, which called on the federal government to retain, operate, and manage its infrastructure—including coastal infrastructure such as ports and wharves. The membership also endorsed resolution 2012-B20 which asked for a share of resource revenues to be returned to communities in recognition of the services and infrastructure that local governments provide to support economic development in their region (ports being noted in a whereas clause).

The Committee further notes that at the time of the federal government's Ports Divestiture program, the membership endorsed resolutions asking the federal government to maintain fiscal responsibility for dock facilities, and minimize the cost impacts to local governments, including:

- annual federal funding for essential dock facilities in BC to be maintained to safe public access and cargo transportation standards (2001-B25); and
- federal review of the intent and relevance of the National Marine Policy (1995), with particular focus on the record of the divestiture process, the effects of its implementation on coastal communities, and its cumulative costs (2000-A16).

The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-NR45 seeking a BC coastal protection strategy to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.

See resolution NR86

Conference decision: _____



NR88 Strengthening the Legislation for Alternative Approval Processes Nanaimo City

Whereas the Alternative Approval Process as a means to obtain approval of the electors as outlined in Section 86 of the *Community Charter* is lacking clarity as it relates to public notice requirements stated in Section 94.2;

And whereas the document "Alternative Approval Process: A Guide for Local Governments in British Columbia" states that "local governments may choose to allow electors to submit response forms by e-mail or by fax" but

provides no clear process or guidelines though noting that these electronic response forms are not covered by provincial legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia amend the legislation in the *Community Charter* pertaining to Alternative Approval Processes to clarify:

1. how Section 94.2 interacts with Section 86 in terms of publication of the first and second notice;
2. the timing as to whether a local government can receive a completed elector response form before the second publication; and
3. clear requirements for accepting elector response forms electronically including:
 - a) acceptable methods of receipt;
 - b) whether electronic elector response forms require an original copy to be submitted with the original signature; and
 - c) if electronic elector response forms are received and an original copy is required if the original copy must also be received before the deadline.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the legislation in the Community Charter pertaining to Alternative Approval Processes to clarify:

1. *how Section 94.2 interacts with Section 86 in terms of publication of the first and second notice;*
2. *the timing as to whether a local government can receive a completed elector response form before the second publication; and*
3. *clear requirements for accepting elector response forms electronically including:*
 - a) *acceptable methods of receipt;*
 - b) *whether electronic elector response forms require an original copy to be submitted with the original signature; and*
 - c) *if electronic elector response forms are received and an original copy is required if the original copy must also be received before the deadline.*

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that call for a review and amendments to the Local Government Act and Community Charter to address the statutory advertising provisions that require newspaper advertising for public notices (2021-EB1, 2019-B1, 2018-B1, 2017-B1, 2016-B1, 2015-B88).

The Committee would note that the Province amended provisions related to public notice requirements in the Fall of 2021 and these new provisions came into effect in February 2022 which now allow for 'local choice' thereby providing local governments with the ability to determine and specify, by bylaw, the means of public notice that will have the broadest reach in their communities, newspaper or electronic means.

Conference decision: _____

NR89 Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials Central Kootenay RD

Whereas in recent years, there has been an alarming rise in incidents of harassment, intimidation and acts of violence aimed at local elected officials, compounding the already strenuous work conditions faced by many local leaders and hindering their retention;

And whereas severe abuse, both online and in-person, has the potential to discourage candidates for local governments from joining and remaining engaged in local politics, limiting the diversity of opinion needed in healthy democracies:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC government, work with UBCM, to identify and implement measures to protect all elected local government officials from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with UBCM to identify and implement measures to protect all elected local government officials from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.

See resolutions EB88, NR90, NR91

Conference decision: _____

NR90 Bullying and Harassment by Local Elected Officials Kamloops

Whereas there is currently no legislation in place that effectively safeguards local government staff or elected officials from bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of other local elected official;

And whereas Worksafe BC does not include local elected officials as “workers” pursuant to the *Workers Compensation Act*, thus preventing municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from utilizing Worksafe BC policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And whereas local government codes of conduct are ineffective against a local elected official who chooses to blatantly ignore and disregard council or board resolutions, including protective measures put in place to safeguard local government staff and elected officials from that local elected official;

And whereas the absence of statutory or common law authority to practically and effectively prevent a local elected official from continuing to bully, harass, and mistreat municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board can seriously jeopardize the mental health and safety of staff and other members of council or the board;

And whereas due to the risk of continued and unconstrained bullying and harassment of staff at the hands of local elected officials, local governments and their taxpayers face significant legal exposure arising out of the unsafe workplaces in the form of costly investigations, wrongful termination claims based on constructive dismissal law, and increased legal costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of British Columbia amend the *Workers Compensation Act* to include local elected officials in the definition of “worker” as defined in section 1 of that Act, thereby affording access to Worksafe BC’s existing policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And be it further resolved that the Government of British Columbia adopt statutory provisions to effectively safeguard municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from the ethical misconduct of local elected officials, including, without limitation, repeated bullying, harassment, and inappropriate treatment, up to and including suspension or disqualification from participation in elected office.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions seeking an amendment to the Workers Compensation Act to include local government elected officials in the definition of “worker” (2021-EB2, 2014-B98). In response to 2014-B98, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and Minister Responsible for Labour indicated that it did not have plans at that time to amend the Workers Compensation Act to provide worker coverage to elected officials.

However, the Committee advises that the membership has not considered prior resolutions seeking suspension or disqualification for bullying by elected officials.

Resolutions calling for the disqualification of elected officials for serious criminal offenses have been endorsed in 2018-B83 and 2018-B84. In 2022 the Province introduced legislative amendments providing local governments with additional tools when elected officials are charged with or convicted of a criminal offense. The first amendment makes a change to the existing disqualification rules to ensure that a local elected official is disqualified at the time of conviction for an indictable offence. The second will require an elected official be put on mandatory paid leave when charged with a criminal offence until the criminal process is complete or the charges are resolved.

The Resolution Committee also notes that a locally elected official who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter and contravenes the ethical standards provisions in the Community Charter may be disqualified from holding public office and sets out the procedure for applying to the Supreme Court of BC to have an elected official declared disqualified.

See resolutions EB88, NR89, NR91

Conference decision: _____

NR91 Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders Osoyoos

Whereas local governments recognize the importance of fostering respectful and constructive dialogue within the community;

And whereas personal and defamatory attacks on local government leaders, including both senior staff and elected officials, undermine the integrity of the democratic process and create a hostile working environment;

And whereas current legislative and legal frameworks, including those of WorkSafeBC and *Workers Compensation Act*, do not provide adequate protection against such attacks, thereby hindering the ability of local government leaders to carry out their duties effectively:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks by members of the public on local government leaders;

And be it further resolved that these changes should aim to strengthen protections for local government leaders against unfounded, defamatory and malicious accusations by members of the public while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency;

And be it further resolved that UBCM is encouraged to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial and federal governments for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks by members of the public on local government leaders, while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency; and that UBCM collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed three resolutions seeking assistance for local governments with matters relating to conduct, including investigation and enforcement of Codes of Conduct:

- 2023-EB69 which asked the Province to create a shared local government ethics commissioner's office(s) to serve local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of Code of Conduct policies;
- 2022-B77 which asked the Province to create an Office of the Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and
- 2021-2020 NR1 which asked the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials.

See resolutions EB88, NR89, NR90

Conference decision: _____

Assessment

NR92 Minimum Income Requirements for Farm Classification

Pitt Meadows

Whereas the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation establishes minimum gross income requirements for farm operations to be classified as Farm under the *Assessment Act*, that were last increased in 1993;

And whereas farm property tax reform that confers tax benefits to farm operations would help to encourage farming and support local food security:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000; and to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 that encourages the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses, as laid out in the Homes for BC companion document to the 2018 Provincial Budget. The response from the provincial government to this resolution noted that the Minister of Agriculture had set up an Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The Committee submitted its Final Report in December 2018 which included Recommendation 23 calling for a review and increase to the income threshold for farm properties qualifying for the BC Assessment Farm Class.

The Province's response to the 2018 resolution further advised that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs administers the BC Assessment Act and has authority for seeking amendments to income thresholds for farm property tax status. Ministry of Agriculture staff were working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to explore potential options to better ensure farm property tax benefits support the intended recipients. However, the thresholds in the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation has not been revised since the Committee's report.

See resolution NR77

Conference decision: _____

NR93 BC Assessment Property Value Accuracy

Squamish

Whereas assessing and appraising real estate is primarily an information business and the *Assessment Act* requires BC Assessment to value similar properties consistently and equitably recognizing that similar unsold properties are consistently under-assessed, sometimes for consecutive years;

And whereas the *Assessment Act* has no meaningful consequences for withholding information vital to BC Assessment to obtain critical information necessary to properly assess properties and this results in taxation rates based on flawed assessment/valuation data:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to update the *Assessment Act* to significantly reduce the number of drastically under-assessed properties year over year.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to update the *Assessment Act* to significantly reduce the number of drastically under-assessed properties year over year.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR86 which addressed the assessed valuation of major industrial and electrical properties, advocating for greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2014-B111 which noted that limited and infrequent property sales may not accurately reflect market values in many rural areas of British Columbia, and asked the provincial government to provide the BC Assessment Authority with more flexibility when assessing properties in rural British Columbia.

The Resolutions Committee notes that Section 16 of the Assessment Act provides BC Assessment with broad access to property information, including the right to examine the property and access books and accounts for the property. Section 19 of the Assessment Act prescribes in detail the assessment methodology to determine market value. The Resolutions Committee is unable to confirm whether the current process results in flawed assessment/valuation data.

Conference decision: _____



Community Economic Development

NR94 BC Forestry Sector

Kamloops

Whereas BC's broader forest sector (including harvesting, pulp and paper product manufacturing, and wood product manufacturing) continues to make a vital contribution to BC's overall economic and social well-being, supporting some 44,000 direct jobs and close to 100,000 more jobs in total, generating billions of dollars in wages, exports, and government revenues, and forming the economic foundation of dozens of rural and remote communities;

And whereas in the last two decades, BC's forest industries have experienced a perfect storm of repeated and interesting crises, and a combination of economic, environmental, and global challenges continues to destabilize the broader forestry sector:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be lobbied to enact measures for stronger BC forestry sector, including:

- creating a permanent province-wide Forestry Sector Council;
- developing a province-wide plan for stable, sustainable, economic fibre supply;
- creating a Forest Adjustment Bureau to redesign and integrate worker and community adjustment supports; and
- developing a strategy to maximize value-added jobs from stable fibre harvesting.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to enact these specific measures for a stronger BC forestry sector:

- *creating a permanent province-wide Forestry Sector Council;*
- *developing a province-wide plan for stable, sustainable, economic fibre supply;*
- *creating a Forest Adjustment Bureau to redesign and integrate worker and community adjustment supports; and*
- *developing a strategy to maximize value-added jobs from stable fibre harvesting.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2023-NR88, 2021-SR2, 2020-EB66, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

The Committee further notes that the membership has supported the allocation of funding for training and re-training/transition for workers and communities affected by changes in resource-based activities (2008-B46, 2006-B46).

The Committee would note that the Province has established a Provincial Forestry Forum, a Value Added Accelerators Table as well as the Mass Timber Advisory Council but despite these initiatives members have continued to express concerns about a lack of support and programs to assist communities that have been impacted by the transition taking place within the forest sector.

See resolutions EB95, EB96, EB97, EB98, EB99, NR95

Conference decision: _____

NR95 Equitable Stumpage Rates to Support Local Economies NCLGA Executive

Whereas stumpage rates play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the timber industry and local economies;

And whereas while increases in stumpage rates may generate additional revenue for the Provincial Government, there is a risk of unintended consequences, including economic hardship and reduced revenue for local businesses and governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for equitable stumpage rates that balance the need for provincial government revenue generation with the economic sustainability of forestry-dependent communities.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for equitable stumpage rates that balance the need for provincial government revenue generation with the economic sustainability of forestry-dependent communities.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions asking the Province to share resource revenues with local governments (2022-EB83, 2019-B23, 2014-B59, 2012-B20, 2011-B30, 2009-B30, 2009-B42, 2005-B39, 2005-B40, 2004-B21). In particular, resolution 2022-EB83 asked the Province to establish a mechanism to share a portion of all stumpage fees collected or add on a collection of an additional increase to stumpage fees from the forest companies to the local governments within the said region of the tree farm licences.

See resolutions EB95, EB96, EB97, EB98, EB99, NR94

Conference decision: _____

NR96 Tourist Information Centres Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas museums across British Columbia are providing tourist information services and promoting our province for free to thousands of visitors each year;

And whereas without the designation of “Tourist Information Centre,” these museums do not receive funding from the province and must assume the costs involved with providing services to visitors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to provide funding to museums that act as Tourist Information Centres and simplify and expedite the process for museums to receive Affiliate Information Centre status.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to simplify and expedite the process for museums to attain Affiliate Information Centre status, as well as provide additional funding to museums that provide tourist information to the public.

Conference decision: _____

Selected Issues

NR97 Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

Vernon

Whereas burning carbon-based fuel causes climate warming with harmful socio-economic and environmental consequences; and in response Canada and BC have developed legislation, targets and incentive programs to rapidly decarbonize the economy; and local governments must assist in achieving these goals, and have developed Climate Action Plans and decarbonization programs to do so;

And whereas the fossil-fuel industry funds conventions and meetings of local government associations, which benefits the industry while the rising costs of delay are borne by governments and society:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM will no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.

Not Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on SILGA and UBCM to no longer accept funding from the fossil fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.

The Committee is aware that similar resolutions were considered at the AVICC and LMLGA Conventions in 2023, and both were not endorsed. The Committee would note that this resolution was considered at the SILGA 2024 Spring Convention and was not endorsed by their membership.

The Committee would note that a resolution seeking MFA to divest from the fossil-fuel related companies and endeavours; or move forward with plans for a Socially Responsible Investment fund free from investments in fossil-fuel related companies and endeavours was not endorsed by members in 2018 (B113). Prior to the 2018 resolution, UBCM members did endorse 2016-B77 which asked MFA to create a fossil fuel free investment fund to provide local governments with an investment choice that aligns with the priorities for climate action and social responsibility.

The matter of corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel companies was recently reviewed by the UBCM Executive at the February, 2024 Executive meeting. The Executive chose not to take any action with respect to amending UBCM Sponsorship Policy at this time, but supported direction to improve transparency about sponsor contribution to the Convention revenues, including fossil fuel companies.

Conference decision: _____

NR98 Provincial Employee Support

Zeballos

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide subject specific provincial employees on a regional level to support local governments with the increased legislative changes.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide subject specific provincial employees on a regional level to support local governments with the increased legislative changes.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking additional staffing help in a variety of areas, including:

- *sought more judicial resources (judges and crown counsel lawyers) (2018-B60, 2018-B89, 2011-B9);*
- *more health care workers in rural and remote communities (2023-SR1);*
- *managing recruitment and retention of paramedics, maintaining adequate staffing levels and delivery of service in rural communities (2022-EB5, 2022-EB7, 2021-EB61, 2021-EB62, 2020-EB74, 2017-B133); and*
- *increasing police resource allocation in rural areas and/or the need to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force (2023-NR35, 2020-EB7, 2019-A3, 2018-B88, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-A4, 2012-B1).*

As well, members endorsed resolutions seeking more public sector housing for essential service personnel (2021-NR55).

The Committee would note that after communicating with the sponsor, they were able to explain that the “increased legislative changes” referred to in the enactment clause includes: Wildfire recovery, Accessibility legislation, BC Emergency Health Services, NextGen 911, Emergency and Disaster Management Act, Drinking Water Guidelines, Housing legislation, Asset Retirement requirements, Declaration Act requirements, Climate Action reporting, Pre-Tax Sales requirements and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy requirements.

Conference decision: _____

NR99 Provincial Service Level Expectations to Prioritize Customer Service

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have reliable modernized call for service systems or channels for the Ministry of Environment (Report All Poacher and Polluters (RAPP) Line), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Agricultural Land Commission, or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;

And whereas the lack of a reliable call for service system or channels creates public confusion, frustration, and safety concerns over service level expectations due to a lack of communication regarding queue status, outcome of reporting feedback, or additional follow-up:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to modernize call for service systems by implementing a variety of contact channels, including digital interfaces, and establish service level expectations amongst the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to support customer service.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to modernize call for service systems by implementing a variety of contact channels, including digital interfaces, and establish service level expectations amongst the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to support customer service.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing minimum staffing levels to address illegal dumping, 2021-EB30 and 2017-B64, both of which asked the Province, in part, to provide adequate funding to the designated Ministry to ensure minimum staffing levels can be maintained in all areas of the Province to address the issue of illegal dumping.

Conference decision: _____

NR100 Mandatory Holocaust Education in BC’s Elementary Schools

Prince George

Whereas Statistics Canada reported that there were 750 police-reported hate crimes targeting religious minorities during 2022, of which 502 or 66.9 per cent were aimed at Jews;

And whereas Ontario recently became the first province to introduce mandatory Holocaust education into the elementary school curriculum:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM recognizes the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion, which so often targets our young people, and urges the Ministry of Education and Child Care to introduce mandatory Holocaust education to elementary schools.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Education and Child Care to introduce mandatory Holocaust education to elementary schools.

However, the Committee notes that there have been resolutions seeking specific education content, including:

- 2019-B199 (UBCM Executive endorsed) which asked the Province to implement environmental education with the most current scientific data and projections on global climate heating and carbon emissions in the atmosphere as well as the ecological breakdown of the planet into the curriculum of K - 12 in all BC schools; and
- 2007-B200 which asked the Province to include concepts on resource conservation, waste reduction and recycling in the environmental education curriculum at the elementary school level.

The Committee would note that on October 30, 2023, the Province announced that it would be broadening the scope of the Grade 10 social studies curriculum to include Holocaust education.

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

NR101 Implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure

Nelson

Whereas Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), comprising of smart meters, data management systems, and communication networks, is a key tool in providing efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable utility services;

And whereas the implementation of AMI comes at a significant cost for public utilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to begin exploring a funding model to support the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across public utilities in the province.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province for a funding model to support the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across public utilities in BC.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2011-B174 which sought a moratorium on the installation of wireless smart meters by BC Hydro, until health, privacy, and other concerns could be addressed.

Conference decision: _____

NR102 Legislative Changes to Permit Alkaline Hydrolysis Funerals

**Cariboo RD,
Williams Lake**

Whereas Alkaline Hydrolysis Process funeral services present an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of preparing and interring human remains by significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from burials and land use requirements for storing human remains;

And whereas the *Cremation, Interment, and Funeral Services Act* does not permit Alkaline Hydrolysis as an acceptable process for preparing a deceased person's remains:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier to prepare and introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly of BC to amend the *Cemetery, Interment, and Funeral Services Act* to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Cemetery, Interment, and Funeral Services Act to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.

The Committee would note that the alkaline hydrolysis process, also known as aquamation, is a cremation process using water, rather than fire.

The Committee acknowledges that this issue is outside the scope of local government jurisdiction, and as such, it cannot provide comments as to the merit, impact or consequences of this resolution's request.

Conference decision: _____

NR103 Reactivation of Public Library Association Model

New Denver

Whereas many BC libraries are currently operating efficiently under the 'grandfathered' Public Library Association model;

And whereas BC libraries not currently operating under the PLA model but wishing to, are not allowed to apply:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC reactivate the Public Library Association model.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to reactivate the Public Library Association model.

The Committee understands that historically in British Columbia, prior to August 1994, community members were permitted to form a "public library association" for the purpose of establishing and operating a public library in a community. This public library association would be an independent organization, not affiliated with any local government.

After 1994, the provincial government required new library services to be established by a municipality or regional district, not through the formation of an independent public library association. The Province does, however, permit public library associations that existed prior to 1994 to continue operations. Upon request by a public library association, the Province will facilitate conversion of a public library association to a municipal library or regional district library.

If a BC community wishes to establish new public library services that receive provincial funding under the Library Act, they could:

- a) if the community is a municipality, establish a municipal library; or
- b) if the community is unincorporated or is a particularly small municipality, negotiate to join an existing regional district library; or
- c) if the community is unincorporated, or is a particularly small municipality, and no regional district library yet exists in the region, enter into an agreement with one or more regional districts and one or more other municipalities to establish a new regional district library.

The Resolutions Committee would point out the statutory reality that since 1994 the provincial government has not permitted the formation of new public library associations, and has been working with communities to convert existing public library associations to a municipal library or regional district library. Both municipal and regional district libraries receive provincial funding to support library services.

Conference decision: _____

NR104 BC Arts Council Funding

North Vancouver City

Whereas investing in arts, culture, and heritage has proven social, economic, and educational benefits for communities small and large across the province;

And whereas the arts, culture, and heritage sector has been chronically underfunded in BC compared to other regions in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC increase the BC Arts Councils' annual budget to a minimum of \$55 million in the 2025/26 budget.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to increase the BC Arts Council's annual budget to a minimum of \$55 million in the 2025/26 budget.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported past resolutions addressing arts funding:

- 2010-B48 which asked the provincial government to restore funds to community arts and cultural organizations to earlier levels; and
- 2009-B24 which asked the provincial and federal governments to reinstate full funding to the creative sector and related programs and further consider additional investment as part of the economic stimulus programs.

Conference decision: _____

Section RR Resolutions

Section RR contains Referred Resolutions. These are resolutions that are similar to others in the same year; that relate to larger UBCM policy initiatives underway, such as policy papers, working groups or intergovernmental consultation processes; that are being referred back to the sponsor as they require more work; that are being referred to an Area Association as they regionally focused; or that are recommended Refer to UBCM Executive. Resolutions placed in Section RR will not be admitted for debate.

Part One of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the Resolutions Book.

RR1 – RR38

Part Two of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred back to the sponsor for fine-tuning.

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Part Three of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to Area Associations due to being of a regional nature.

RR39

Part Four of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to the UBCM Executive as the request put forward is the decision/responsibility of the UBCM Executive.

RR40 – RR41

Section RR – Part One

RR1 Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Split

Peace River RD

Whereas capital infrastructure project costs for healthcare facilities in North and Central British Columbia have been shared between the provincial government and Regional Hospital Districts with 60 percent contributed by the Province and 40 percent contributed by Regional Hospital Districts;

And whereas since 2004 local governments in British Columbia have raised concern that the 60:40 cost-sharing split is financially unsustainable because it necessitates continuous increases in local property taxation being the primary source of revenue available to local governments; this revenue already stretched to meet the diverse and growing demands facing local governments further impacted by escalating construction costs and inflation:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM continue to lobby the provincial government to consult with Regional Hospital Districts to reconsider the existing capital infrastructure project funding split as the 60:40 percentages are not legislated in the *Hospital District Act*.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution SR1

See also resolutions RR2, RR3

RR2 Transparent Cost Estimates for Healthcare Infrastructure Projects

NCLGA Executive

Whereas local governments are crucial stakeholders in ensuring the provision of essential healthcare infrastructure within their communities;

And whereas transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects are essential to enable effective budget planning and financial management by local governments;

And whereas recent experiences with escalating costs for hospital projects highlight the importance of transparent cost estimates and equitable funding arrangements to mitigate potential financial strain on taxpayers;

And whereas equitable funding arrangements are necessary to ensure that the financial burden of healthcare infrastructure projects is distributed fairly among communities, taking into account factors such as population density and tax base:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the provincial government for transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects, enabling accountability and effective financial planning by local governments.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution SR1

See also resolutions RR1, RR3

RR3 Equitable Funding for Healthcare Infrastructure Projects

NCLGA Executive

Whereas local governments are crucial stakeholders in ensuring the provision of essential healthcare infrastructure within their communities;

And whereas transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects are essential to enable effective budget planning and financial management by local governments;

And whereas recent experiences with escalating costs for hospital projects highlight the importance of transparent cost estimates and equitable funding arrangements to mitigate potential financial strain on taxpayers;

And whereas equitable funding arrangements are necessary to ensure that the financial burden of healthcare infrastructure projects is distributed fairly among communities, taking into account factors such as population density and tax base:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the provincial government for equitable funding arrangements for healthcare infrastructure projects, ensuring that the financial burden is distributed fairly among communities based on their capacity to contribute.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution SR1

See also resolutions RR1, RR2

RR4 First Responder Calls by Fire Rescue Departments

Tofino

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls in support of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do not receive remuneration or funding for their critical support within the BCEHS system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a remuneration system for BC fire rescue service departments providing medical care in conjunction with the BCEHS system, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, and replacement of consumed supplies.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB9

See also resolutions RR5, RR6, RR7, RR8

RR5 Pre-Hospital Care - Cover Costs of Local Governments

Port Alberni

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB9

See also resolutions RR4, RR6, RR7, RR8

RR6 Medical Emergency Service Alarm Calls Cost Recovery Langley City

Whereas gaps within the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) service delivery continue to be filled by local government fire departments, by way of their regular response to a high-volume of Medical Emergency Service Alarm (MESA) calls; resulting in significant direct costs to local governments;

And whereas to date the solution provided by the Province of BC recommends that concerned local governments stop responding to select MESA calls; thus, failing to rectify the gap in service internally or financial impacts externally, and simultaneously shifting the accountability for health decisions onto local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM demand that the Province of BC immediately review their Resource Allocation Plan to implement an equitable cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to MESA calls.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB9

See also resolutions RR4, RR5, RR7, RR8

RR7 Pre-Hospital Care - Demands on Local Governments Port Alberni

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB9

See also resolutions RR4, RR5, RR6, RR8

RR8 Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire Department First Responder Programs Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas in rural and remote areas ambulances are not able to get to medical calls in a timely manner because of distances travelled and members of community fire departments are able to arrive on scene much more quickly;

And whereas when first on scene first responders of community fire departments can assist the ambulance team by accessing the patient, gathering information, taking vitals and packaging the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival;

And whereas community fire departments are funded through local government taxes while BC Emergency Health Services are funded through provincial monies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for rural and remote volunteer fire department first responder programs.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB9

See also resolutions RR4, RR5, RR6, RR7

RR9 Fighting Period Poverty Radium Hot Springs

Whereas almost one quarter of Canadian menstruators say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children (period poverty), and that people who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience social isolation, financial instability and increased mental health concerns by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame;

And whereas local governments play a pivotal role in addressing period poverty within their communities, and may need support implementing practical solutions to provide free menstrual products to community members:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM Executives work with menstrual equity advocates and community partners to develop and distribute a Period Promise Local Government Toolkit that will help provide local governments with the tools necessary to make menstrual products freely available in their washrooms and beyond.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution NR13

See also resolution NR14

RR10 Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Shelters

Richmond

Whereas with increasing global migration, Canada is experiencing a rise in the number of people claiming asylum, some of whom do not have accommodation and seek temporary shelter in local emergency shelters, thus taking capacity from the increasing number of local residents experiencing homelessness in many local governments thereby leaving residents without shelter;

And whereas immigration and refugee services are a federal responsibility and local governments frequently lack adequate numbers of shelter beds for members of their community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to lobby the Government of Canada for funding and that this funding be provided to local governments to enable the provision of temporary shelter and services for asylum claimants that will provide relief to emergency shelters and allow the local homeless population to access shelters in their own communities.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution SR3

See also resolutions EB23, EB24, EB25, NR26, NR27, NR28

RR11 Provincial Support for Services Associated with Housing Development

Pemberton

Whereas implementation of the Province’s Homes for People plan, designed to accelerate housing development and population growth, will increase pressures on local governments to provide the services necessary to develop and support new housing;

And whereas local government service deficits will pose barriers to the development of attainable housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for services, including transit, daycare, recreation, garbage collection, and protective services including police, fire, and emergency management, that will contribute to the development of attainable housing.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution SR2

See also resolutions RR26, RR27, RR28

RR12 Development Cost Charges for Affordable Housing

Comox Valley RD

Whereas municipalities and regional districts are able to levy development cost charges (DCC) on new development to help pay for the capital costs of growth-related infrastructure;

And whereas local governments are challenged with both adequately funding infrastructure and providing waivers or exemptions to development cost charges for certain types of supportive and rental housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to further increase funding levels to BC Housing and mandate the inclusion of funding to pay for development costs charges as part of all capital grants for affordable housing projects.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution NR22

See also resolution NR62

RR13 Increased Funding for the Implementation of New Provincial Housing Development Requirements Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas the Province provided funding in January 2024 for local governments to implement the requirements of new housing legislation;

And whereas the actual expected costs of implementation have been estimated by multiple local government speakers at the UBCM Housing Summit to be two to three times the amount of the provided funding:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request of the provincial government that the initial funding to support the implementation of new housing development requirements be increased to reflect actual costs.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution NR21

RR14 Intersection Safety Cameras Delta

Whereas speed continues to be a leading contributor to traffic-related crashes and incidents;

And whereas intersection cameras, for both speed and red light infractions, can be implemented quickly while also deterring drivers from speeding and intentionally running red lights:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the BC government to install speed and red light cameras at intersections upon a reasonable request from local municipalities.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB41

See also resolutions RR15, RR16, RR17, RR18

RR15 Intersection Safety Cameras Lake Country

Whereas intersection safety is a matter of paramount importance for the well-being and security of for the residents and visitors in British Columbia;

And whereas intersection safety cameras have been proven to reduce the incidents of traffic violations, collisions, and fatalities at high-risk intersections across various jurisdictions;

And whereas several local governments across British Columbia have expressed the desire to install intersection safety cameras at key intersections to enhance road safety and reduce traffic related incidents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM supports the installation of intersection safety cameras at the request of local governments in BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide the necessary funding and resources to facilitate the installation, maintenance, and operation of intersection safety cameras in local governments that request them.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB41

See also resolutions RR14, RR16, RR17, RR18

RR16 Intersection Cameras for Safer Streets

North Vancouver City

Whereas most crashes in British Columbia happen at intersections and speed was the number one contributing factor in fatal crashes in BC between 2018 and 2022;

And whereas intersection cameras, for both speed and red light infractions, can be implemented quickly and have been proven to be a cost-effective method of improving intersection safety:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the BC government to install speed and red light cameras at all intersections across BC with 20 or more casualty crashes recorded between 2018-2022;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the BC government to allow local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own expense and directly collect fines to be invested in implementing road safety improvements.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB41

See also resolutions RR14, RR15, RR17, RR18

RR17 Creating Safer Streets for Everyone with Intersection Safety Cameras

New Westminster

Whereas the City of New Westminster adopted “Safe Movement of People” as a strategic priority for 2022

-2026 and has committed to advance a “Vision Zero” mindset across the city which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries;

And whereas the Government of BC’s Road Safety BC website states that:

1. “Most crashes in British Columbia happen at intersections. To reduce injuries and save lives, BC installs intersection safety cameras – sometimes called red light cameras – at intersections where crashes occur frequently. Warning signs let drivers know the intersection has cameras.”
2. “The cameras are proven to be effective at reducing side-impact, head-on and pedestrian crashes, and are located where red light running and high speed cause serious crashes.”;

And whereas the City of New Westminster has been working towards improving road safety through a variety of initiatives and infrastructure improvements, limited by capital budget funding and staff resources while the use of speed and red light cameras can be quickly implemented;

And whereas secondary benefits would include directing the revenue from these cameras toward road safety initiatives across the community and complementing the work of traditional police enforcement, enabling police officers to focus on other critical and time-sensitive tasks:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM call on the provincial government to expand the implementation of speed and red light intersection safety cameras in local governments across BC, prioritizing intersections near schools and those with a high rate of crashes that result in injuries or fatalities as identified by ICBC, and that the provincial government provide all revenue from additional speed and red light cameras to local governments as grants to be invested in implementing local and safety improvements;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM request that the provincial government allow BC local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own cost and set and collect fees directly to be earmarked for road safety improvements.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution***

Refer to resolution EB41

See also resolutions RR14, RR15, RR16, RR18

RR18 Intersection Safety Camera Process Transparency

Saanich

Whereas the process for local governments to request installation of new intersection safety cameras is not well known and there is no clear process regarding decision-making and timelines about future intersection safety cameras, and as a result, municipalities are not able to identify new locations and/or secure additional intersection safety cameras;

And whereas intersection safety cameras have proven to be an efficient and effective deterrent to ensure compliance with speed and traffic regulations, which exist to ensure road safety and help achieve Vision Zero:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a more transparent process for municipalities to be involved in the identification and installation of new intersection safety cameras.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution***

Refer to resolution EB41

See also resolutions RR14, RR15, RR16, RR17

RR19 Provincial Regulation of Fireworks

Delta

Whereas local governments have the ability to regulate the sale and use of fireworks within their local government boundaries;

And whereas there exists discrepancies among local bylaws regulating the sale and use of fireworks across the province and fireworks are also readily available from sources outside of British Columbia and Canada through online purchase;

And whereas fireworks are often obtained and used by individuals in an irresponsible manner leading to personal injuries, damage to property, harm to the environment and risk to pets and wildlife:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with local governments to amend the BC *Fireworks Act* and concurrently work with the federal government to address the online sale of fireworks, to establish a consistent approach with respect to the sales and permitting of fireworks with an objective to reduce the unauthorized and unsafe use of fireworks within the province.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

Refer to resolution EB42

See also resolution RR20

RR20 Fireworks Sales Ban During Wildfire Season

Cariboo RD

Whereas fireworks are a known fire hazard which can start wildfires when conditions are dry with sufficient forest fuels:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to prohibit the sale of fireworks in any area for which an open burning ban has been issued.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

Refer to resolution EB42

See also resolution RR19

RR21 Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities

Nelson

Whereas local governments across British Columbia are increasingly being impacted by severe weather events that are creating complex emergency situations;

And whereas local governments are legislated to plan for, respond to, and assist their communities in recovering from these emergencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for each phase of emergency management.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

Refer to resolution EB36

RR22 Funding for Youth Climate Corps

Nelson

Whereas local governments recognize the urgent need to address climate change and the impact that climate change is having on communities through extreme weather such as wildfires, floods, and extreme heat, which is causing major infrastructure damage and loss of life to residents;

And whereas there is a need to engage young people in local governments, and train the next generation of low carbon sector workers and leaders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government of British Columbia to expand and scale a Youth Climate Corps that will provide good green jobs and training to young adults to work on important climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB55

RR23 Funding Increase for Invasive Mussel Defense Program Salmon Arm

Whereas it is widely acknowledged that the infiltration of invasive mussels in British Columbia waterways would have catastrophic environmental and economic impacts on local governments;

And whereas the primary mechanism for invasive mussels entering the province is on or in watercraft:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for the Invasive Mussel Defense Program, introduce supportive legislation and update the Early Detection, Rapid Response Plan;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to work with the Government of Canada to support these efforts to prevent invasive mussel infestation in BC waterways by allocating significant, long-term funding.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB51

See also resolutions NR60, RR24, RR25

RR24 Provincial Funding Towards Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Nelson

Whereas the presence and proliferation of invasive species, specifically zebra and quagga mussels, pose a significant threat to our province's aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, and infrastructure;

And whereas the negative impacts of zebra and quagga mussels include the disruption of native ecosystems, damage to water supply infrastructure, and economic implications for industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism;

And whereas effective prevention measures require substantial financial resources for research, monitoring, and implementation of strategies to prevent the introduction and spread of zebra and quagga mussels:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to recognize the urgency of addressing the zebra and quagga mussel issue and commits to allocating additional funding for comprehensive prevention efforts including research and monitoring, prevention measures, public awareness and education, collaboration and partnership and infrastructure protection.



Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB51

See also resolutions NR60, RR23, RR25

RR25 Federal Funding for BC’s Invasive Mussel Defence Program Sicamous

Whereas invasive mussels represent one of the biggest national and regional transboundary threats to our waterways;

And whereas the threat of invasive mussels has dramatically increased with Idaho announcing quagga mussels were detected in the Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia River and less than a day’s drive to the BC and Alberta borders;

And whereas none of the \$750 million allocated to the Canada Water Agency addresses this threat or supports existing gaps in BC’s Invasive Mussel Defence Program, including the need for additional watercraft inspection stations;

And whereas the Province of BC allocates over \$1 million a year to the Invasive Mussel Defence Program, and it would only take \$4 million a year to protect the Canadian Columbia Basin, the Fraser Basin, Peace Region and other major western river systems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) lobby the Government of Canada to protect our waterways by allocating and matching the provincial funding for BC’s Invasive Mussel Defence Program.



Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution EB51

See also resolutions NR60, RR23, RR24

RR26 Prioritizing Infrastructure Investments to Support New Housing in Municipalities Vancouver

Whereas the recent enactment of Bills 44, 46, and 47 – Housing Statutes Amendments related to residential development, development financing and transit-oriented areas have mandated increased housing density across the province, thereby accelerating the need for substantial infrastructure investments to support this new housing;

And whereas the current provisions of Bills 44, 46, and 47 do not adequately address the full spectrum of infrastructure needs and costs that accompany increased housing density, such as, but not limited to, sewer and water systems, transportation, roads, and active transportation infrastructure, as well as social infrastructure such as community centres, schools, parks and health services necessary to growing communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to prioritize and increase provincial investments in municipal capital infrastructure.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution SR2

See also resolutions RR11, RR27, RR28

RR27 Increased Funding for Local Government Infrastructure

Comox

Whereas local governments across BC are facing infrastructure funding shortfalls to maintain current infrastructure and as a result are implementing significant municipal tax increases;

And whereas continued population growth and housing demand is resulting in the need for local governments to expand their recreation, fire, police, parks, and administration services at a level greater than can be accomplished through the use of the newly introduced Amenity Cost Contribution authority:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to provide increased funding to support capital expansions of local government service infrastructure.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution SR2

See also resolutions RR11, RR26, RR28

RR28 Funding for Community Infrastructure

Maple Ridge

Whereas the Lower Mainland is seeing unprecedented levels of immigration and increasing pressures to build more housing, roads, employment lands and associated community infrastructure:

And whereas there is a need for local governments to meet a variety of servicing demands in rapidly growing communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates for the Province to invest in long term infrastructure programming for communities including for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and community buildings;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocates to the federal government to renew Infrastructure Canada funding.



Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

Refer to resolution SR2

See also resolutions RR11, RR26, RR27

RR29 Core Funding for BC Libraries

New Denver

Whereas BC's libraries have become the widely acknowledged "go to" place for programs and services that support community cohesion and resilience, connecting and equipping residents to survive and thrive as BC adapts to a fast-changing economy, social conditions and climate change;

And whereas BC's libraries are finding it increasingly difficult to meet these new challenges while relying on intermittent, sporadic and unpredictable funding:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC implement budgeted annual core funding for BC libraries.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB63

See also resolution NR67

RR30 Free Transit for Young People in BC Langford

Whereas the Get On Board Program allows children aged 12 and under to ride all BC Transit and TransLink transit services free of charge, and this program saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the Province and municipalities reach emissions and transportation mode share targets;

And whereas encouraging young people to use public transportation early in life can lead to lifelong habits of sustainable transportation use, and this in turn can have long-term benefits for cities in terms of reduced congestion, lower emissions, and increased social inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the Get On Board program to include all youth up to the age of 18.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution NEB10

See resolutions RR31, RR32, RR33

RR31 Free Transit for Young People in BC Saanich

Whereas the Get on Board Program allows children aged 12 and under to ride all BC Transit and TransLink transit services free of charge, and this program saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the Province and municipalities reach emissions and transportation mode share targets;

And whereas encouraging young people to use public transportation early in life can lead to lifelong habits of sustainable transportation use, and this in turn can have long-term benefits for cities in terms of reduced congestion, lower emissions and increased social inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the Get on Board Program to include all youth up to the age of 18.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution NEB10

See resolutions RR30, RR32, RR33

RR32 Supporting Free Transit for BC Youth Metchosin

Whereas the Get On Board Program allows children aged 12 and under to ride all BC Transit and Translink transit services free of charge, and this program saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the Province and municipalities reach emissions and transportation mode share targets;

And whereas encouraging young people to use public transportation early in life can lead to lifelong habits of sustainable transportation use, and this in turn can have long-term benefits for cities in terms of reduced congestion, lower emissions, and increased social inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide sufficient additional funding to double services in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB82

RR36 Highway Active Transportation

Central Saanich

Whereas the Province has jurisdiction over provincial highways, many of which are critical active transportation corridors and provide connections to services, workplaces, ferries, parks and recreation areas, and neighbouring communities;

And whereas many provincial highways require new or upgraded active transportation infrastructure to enable local governments to realize comprehensive, interconnected, safe, active transportation networks for residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to assess all provincial highways with active transportation corridors in accordance with the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, and in consultation with municipalities, regional districts, and Indigenous Nations, develop a provincially-funded plan or program to address gaps and shortfalls, and local active transportation priorities on provincial highways.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB75

See also resolutions EB74, NR81, NR82

RR37 Legislative Changes Consultation Process

Zeballos

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide a more fulsome consultation process with local governments of all sizes prior to making sweeping legislative changes.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities



UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB87

See also resolution RR38

RR38 Consultation with Local Governments

Fort St. John

Whereas effective communication, collaboration, and engagement between provincial ministries and local governments are essential to ensure that decisions made at the provincial level are well-informed and considerate of the unique needs and perspectives of local governments;

And whereas a lack of meaningful consultation and collaboration between provincial ministries and local governments may lead to unintended consequences, challenges, and dissatisfaction within local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge all provincial ministries to seek input from local governments during the early stages of decision-making processes to identify potential impacts and explore collaborative solutions that benefit both provincial and local interests, and to provide timely and relevant information to local governments regarding proposed changes.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Refer to Similar Resolution

Refer to resolution EB87

See also resolution RR37

Section RR – Part Three

RR39 Urgent Investment in Healthcare for Central and Northern British Columbia

NCLGA Executive

Whereas healthcare facilities in Central and Northern British Columbia (BC) are confronting a myriad of pressing challenges, including but not limited to limited emergency room capacity, insufficient operating room hours, inadequate capital upgrades, and critical staffing shortages;

And whereas the residents of Central and Northern BC endure significant hardships as they are compelled to undertake extensive journeys to access essential medical procedures, owing to the dearth of specialized healthcare facilities in the region, thereby leading to considerable delays in receiving vital healthcare services:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM vehemently call upon the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive audit of healthcare services throughout Central and Northern BC, with the explicit aim of identifying areas for enhancement and utilizing the findings to inform future healthcare planning initiatives.



Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Refer to Area Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-SR1 on health equity for rural and remote communities. The resolution asked the Province to introduce metrics and policy to identify reasonable travel distances from each community to health care services and facilities, to ensure transparent, accountable, and equitable health care access for those living in rural and remote communities in BC. As well, the resolutions asked the provincial government to move quickly to increase the health care workforce in rural and remote communities by:

- creating additional licensing and training opportunities for internationally-trained medical graduates;*
- establishing recruitment and retention programs for health care professionals willing to work in rural areas;*
- approving physician assistants to work alongside physicians and other health professionals; and*
- expanding the use of nurse practitioners and pharmacists to increase access to health services.*

The UBCM membership has also consistently endorsed resolutions that have called on the provincial government to provide increased funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (2022-EB20, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146).

The Committee notes that this resolution has a regional focus, of Central and Northern BC, as such the Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the Area Association, which can engage in advocacy on this issue.

Section RR – Part Four

RR40 Addressing the Needs of Rural Seniors in British Columbia

Port Alberni

Whereas rural BC has a proportionately larger and faster growing seniors' population than urban BC, yet has less infrastructure and resources to support its aging population;

And whereas a greater and more focused provincial response to ongoing concerns about inequities in services and supports for seniors in rural BC is required to address the inadequacies of current approaches to such issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the recommendations of the Office of the Seniors Advocate's report titled "Challenges Facing BC's Rural Seniors" and dated February 2024, as follows:

- Development and Implement a Rural Seniors Housing Strategy
- Development and Implement a Rural Health Human Resource Strategy
- Develop and Implement Rural Seniors Home and Community Care Strategy
- Develop and Implement a Provincial Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Plan Based on Equity Throughout the Province
- Develop and Implement a Provincial Rural Transportation Strategy
- Improve and Better Promote Both the Provincial Travel Assistance Program [TAP] and Hope Air
- Increase Rural Representation in Government Through the Creation of a Ministry or Minister of State for Rural BC

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the Provincial Government to implement said recommendations beginning with the creation of a Ministry or Minister of State for Seniors in Rural BC in recognition of the geographic imbalance of regional representation in the Legislative Assembly;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM establish a rural seniors caucus within the UBCM membership made up of a combination of elected officials and government staff to serve as a platform for collaboration, advocacy, and policy development to address the specific challenges faced by rural seniors at the local government level.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to endorse the recommendations of the Office of the Seniors Advocate's report titled "Challenges Facing BC's Rural Seniors" dated February 2024. Nor has the membership considered the request for the Province to implement said recommendations beginning with establishing a Ministry or Minister of State for Seniors in Rural BC in recognition of the geographic imbalance of regional representation in the Legislative Assembly. Nor has the membership considered the request that UBCM establish a rural seniors caucus within the UBCM membership.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- *increase the number of care beds in rural communities to allow seniors to age in place (2021-EB65);*
- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and*
- *create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).*

The Committee would note that rural issues are discussed at the UBCM's annual Electoral Area Directors Forum. As such, asking UBCM to create a rural seniors caucus may be duplication of effort.

The Committee is recommending that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, as this is the most appropriate body to make decisions regarding the potential use of UBCM resources.

See resolutions EB13, NR10, NR11, NR12

RR41 UBCM First Nation Membership

Zeballos

Whereas First Nation representation within the Union of BC Municipalities membership are underrepresented; And whereas the Province of BC has adopted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM provide an outreach program to British Columbia's First Nations on becoming full UBCM members.



Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that requests UBCM to provide an outreach program to BC's First Nations on becoming full UBCM members.

However, the Committee notes that resolution 2016-B101 was referred to the UBCM Executive, who upon consideration, chose to endorse this resolution. 2016-B101 asked that the UBCM membership formally recognize the ability for all First Nation governments (both treaty and non-treaty) to join UBCM as members, so long as they meet the UBCM membership criteria of a) elected representation; b) ability to tax; and c) ability to exercise regulatory power or provide local services. The resolution also asked UBCM to inform First Nations of UBCM membership criteria and advise those that meet UBCM criteria and agree to pay annual dues, that they may join UBCM.

To fulfill the intent of second part of the 2016 resolution, awareness of UBCM membership eligibility, UBCM wrote to First Nations Summit to make them aware of the resolution but also to share the fact that UBCM membership was open to both treaty and non-treaty First Nations, who met the eligibility criteria for membership. We encouraged First Nations Summit to share the information with their membership as an awareness raising exercise to the broader First Nations community. The First Nations Summit was UBCM's contact point as we have a long-standing working relationship with the organization by way of a Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation since 2001, as well as through the co-management of the Community to Community (C2C) funding program, and co-host of the Province-wide C2C Forum for local governments and First Nations.

UBCM is pleased to advise that our First Nations membership currently includes both treaty and non-treaty First Nations.

The Committee is recommending that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, as this is the most appropriate body to make decisions regarding the potential use of UBCM resources.