

2021 UBCM Annual Report



**ANNUAL REPORT & RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
2021 UBCM CONVENTION**

DATES:

Tues., Sept. 14 - Fri., Sept. 17

FOR MORE DETAILS: ubcm.ca

convention
program

september 14-17



**Obstacles to
Opportunities**
UBCM 2021

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Letter of Transmittal

It is our pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to our local government and First Nations members.

We are proud of UBCM achievements of our membership over the past year. UBCM is a small footprint - high output organization that concentrates our resources on efficient program delivery and effective advocacy. The Annual Report tells the story of our service delivery in detail, including the following highlights:

- Continuing administration of 12 provincial funding programs to support a range of local government priorities, including: emergency preparedness; creating childcare spaces; providing urgent assistance to homeless populations; strengthening asset management; determining housing needs; and building FireSmart communities;
- Continued management of the newly renamed Canada Community Building Fund. The current 10-year agreement will deliver \$2.9 billion to BC communities for local infrastructure priorities. This year saw a top up to the program to provide an additional \$573 million for BC communities;
- Continued advocacy engagement with local government as an order of government to support UNDRIP implementation;
- Conclusion of the work of the joint UBCM-BC Short Term Rental Advisory Group, with recommendations presented to the Province and UBCM's Executive;
- Through the Working Group on Responsible Conduct, delivery of a resource to guide local governments when dealing with matters of elected official conduct;
- Completion of the work of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance, whose report is being presented to delegates at the 2021 Convention;
- Renewed advocacy for expanded community centered funding for addressing the unique mental health and substance abuse needs of communities; and
- Delivery of our Climate Action Recommendations for a Low Carbon Future, which have been highlighted in meetings with 10 different Ministers.

Throughout our program and service delivery, along with our advocacy, has been informed by the diverse needs of our membership. For BC local governments, one size never fits all, so we focus on policy and program solutions that recognize the uniqueness of BC's communities and regions.

The surest indication that we are providing value to our membership is your continuing support. 100% of local governments in our province and each of our First Nations members renewed their membership for 2020-21, and we continue to work to earn the same level of support for the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Brian Frenkel, President



Gary Maclsaac, Executive Director

Corporate Operations



Corporate Operations

Executive Priorities

At the November 2020 Executive meeting, board members identified priorities for the coming year. These priorities are based on the 2020-2021 Work Plan adopted at the July 2020 Executive meeting, with some additions and adjustments due to the impact of COVID-19.

The chart below provides a summary of the past year's priorities, their status at year-end and reflects the additional work and adjustments undertaken in response to the pandemic that carried on into 2021.

Following the chart, UBCM's Advocacy Days 2021 and Provincial Election Advocacy Platform are highlighted. A summary of UBCM's internal operations concludes this section.

Priorities	Progress to Date
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UBCM continues to engage with the Province on wide-ranging housing issues including the Development Approvals Process Review. The Joint Province-UBCM Short Term Rental Advisory Group also completed its work and submitted recommendations to the Province and UBCM Executive• Staff continue to monitor Federal actions on housing
Cannabis Taxation Revenue Sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the fifth consecutive year, UBCM members have endorsed a resolution (2020-SR7) seeking a share of cannabis taxation revenue• In the absence of an agreement with the Province, UBCM delivered correspondence to federal Ministers Freeland and Blair, seeking provisions for the direct transfer of cannabis excise tax revenue to local governments as part of the next FPT excise tax sharing agreement• UBCM continues to seek opportunities for meaningful discussion with the provincial government regarding a taxation revenue sharing model that reflects local government contributions to the legalized cannabis regime.

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Post-Pandemic Economic Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive provided direction in May 2020 to authorize the establishment of a Special Committee on Economic Recovery to advocate for financial support to assist local governments address overall COVID-19 impacts and recovery effort • July 2020 – UBCM Submission to the Province on Building BC’s Recovery, Together • Sept 17 & 18 Restart Funding Announced & Transit Funding • Resolution 2020 - SR7 endorsed at UBCM Convention • UBCM participated in Jan. 2020 Town Hall with Minister Kahlon stressed importance of economic diversification – highlights from UBCM’s election platform
<p>Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) Re-design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBCM’s Presidents Committee endorsed an Approval in Principle that identifies changes to the MPP. As a Plan Partner, UBCM staff will participate in a significant consultation process in the fall of 2020, with implementation in January 2021 • MPP Re-design has now been approved by all parties and the UBCM President has signed off on a formal amending agreement. Work continues on implementation, including the design of a new Benefits Trust for retiree group benefits
<p>UNDRIP Legislation /Provincial Land Use Planning Processes/UNDRIP/TRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the Province to engage on the role of local government in land use, recognition as an order of government, and the importance of engagement and consultation as the Province moves forward with land use planning processes, TRC recommendations and UNDRIP. In regular discussions with MIRR on the roll-out of UNDRIP • UBCM has continued to work through MAH and MIRR to convey the importance of this issue for local governments, including through work to update an MOU on engagement with the Province • UBCM has consistently reinforced the message that ‘local government is an order of government’ • As the Province continues to move forward on implementing the Declaration on the <i>Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>, UBCM continues to seek opportunities for engagement. Progress has been made - MAH staff did initial key message work to educate/share with other ministries and FLNRO revised its Modernized Land Use planning process to provide greater engagement of local governments. Additional work is still needed and will continue through 2021-22

Corporate Operations

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Climate Change/Climate Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBCM Special Committee on Climate Change engaged the membership on draft recommendations through webinars and online submissions • UBCM Executive approved and released the Committee’s recommendations in December 2020 • The recommendations outline concrete actions that can be taken for buildings, transportation, solid waste, resilience, land use-planning, social mobilization and governance. UBCM’s 2020 provincial election platform called for engagement on the Committee’s climate action recommendations • UBCM conducted post-election outreach and advocacy with ministers on the UBCM election platform • UBCM continues to work with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs on advancing the recommendations through discussions on <i>CleanBC</i>, the provincial adaptation strategy, and the Green Communities Committee • The Special Committee on Climate Action’s recommendations inform the work of UBCM’s Select Committee on Local Government Finance.
<p>Public Transit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the financial challenges facing transit communities due to COVID-19 UBCM held a transit forum in June 2020 that reflected a need for united action by transit communities for provincial and federal government support. UBCM sought compensation for financial losses incurred due to COVID; asked that the transit funding model be revised to reduce reliance on fares to sustain and grow the system, rebuild ridership. Resolution 2020-SR4 conveying this request was endorsed by members. • On Sept 18, 2020 an announcement of \$1.5 B funding to support public transit was made (BC Transit - \$86M, TransLink-\$644M and BC Ferries-\$308M)

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Local Government Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 Policy Initiative included refresh and repackage the 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures (SFF) Report • UBCM President’s Committee approved membership of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance (Committee) • Due to COVID 19 Pandemic, Committee suspended activities, but reactivated in January 2021, meeting monthly through to July 2021 • Committee focus was on addressing local government cost drivers-focus; Housing, Climate Change & Community Safety • Executive Summary and Recommendations presented to UBCM Executive in July for endorsement. Final report to be completed mid August 2021 in preparation of 2021 UBCM Convention
<p>Responsible Conduct Working Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Released a guide to provide options for local governments dealing with elected official conduct issues • Work continues to strengthen the practice of responsible conduct by local elected officials through new educational materials
<p>Infrastructure + Infusion of Restart Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in development/delivery of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) • UBCM participates (observer) in Management Committee of ICIP programs; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality Program • Community, Culture and Recreation Program • Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Program • Continue involvement on Management Committees • Provincial government (MMAH) negotiations underway on administrative agreements for Safe Restart Programs (Strengthening Communities Program - \$100m and Development Services Program (\$15m) • Continue to advocate local government interests to both provincial and federal governments as per the 2017 UBCM Infrastructure submission

Corporate Operations

Advocacy Days 2021

UBCM's Executive held its 8th annual Advocacy Days virtually this year during the May Executive meeting. Over two days, Executive members met with over 40 MLAs from all parties, including Premier John Horgan, 8 ministers, the leader of the Official Opposition, and both caucus chairs. Meetings focussed on UNDRIP, local government finance and the mental health and opioid crises.

The Executive discussed the important of engaging with local governments as an order of government and partner as the Province moves forward with the implementation of UNDRIP (*UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*). UBCM called on the Province to:

- Adopt a 'local government implementation lens' that acknowledges areas of interest to local governments in the implementation of UNDRIP and negotiation of agreements with First Nations;
- Clearly communicate the roles and responsibilities of local governments under UNDRIP – and provide guidance to local governments seeking to implement UNDRIP;
- Build on successful consultation models in land and resource management that includes early outreach to local governments;
- Create a mechanism for notifying potentially interested local governments in geographic areas subject to agreements with First Nations; and
- Communicate the need for better engagement with local governments as an order of government across all ministries;

The Executive also raised awareness of the work of the Select Committee on Local Government Finance, which is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of *Strong Fiscal Futures* – UBCM's previous local government finance report. It sought a provincial partnership on new local government revenue sources that support shared provincial-local priorities in the areas of housing, climate action and community safety.

The need for expanded community centered funding for addressing the unique mental health and substance abuse needs of communities was also tabled for discussion with MLAs. Executive members called for expanded funding to the Community Connectedness program, Community Crisis Innovation Fund, and the Community Action Initiative to support innovative projects and services sensitive to local situations. They also identified the need for additional Assertive Community Treatment teams throughout the province, as well as provincial collaboration with the federal government in declaring the overdoes crisis a national public health emergency.

2020 Provincial Election – UBCM Election Platform Priorities

UBCM developed and released an election platform for the 2020 provincial election called *Rebuilding Our Communities – A Path Forward*. The platform focused on the need for a partnership between the Province and local government in order to rebuild the economy. It called for robust public transit service, broadband access in underserved regions, affordable childcare and economic diversification supports for transitioning economies. The

platform called for a stimulus infrastructure investment, new pathways to support a low-carbon economy, financial support for the tourism sector and a new strategy for providing protective and health services.

Specific 'asks' within the election platform include:

Infrastructure

- Preserving the community infrastructure investment within the Province's \$1.5 billion economic recovery plan and ensuring its flow through to local governments.
- Creating a provincial infrastructure stimulus framework which maximizes local government choice and flexibility in ensuring funds are invested in the areas with the greatest need and economic return is important. The framework would:
 - include flexibility on project category, eligible costs, procurement and timelines;
 - provide 100% funding for any recovery program and/or current infrastructure program;
 - support shovel worthy projects over shovel ready projects and removes existing federal stacking rules; and
 - employ the current Gas Tax funding model.

Economic Diversification

Working with local governments in developing transition plans and long- term economic development strategies in response to the changing resource sector;

- Providing the capacity building resources for local governments to implement those plans; and
- Resources to create new tourism infrastructure, partnerships, destination development, skills training, and tour operator financial support.

Transit

- Developing a provincial re-building strategy that seeks to strengthen transit funding models by creating new revenue tools for local governments that reduce the reliance on ridership fares.

Rural Connectivity

- Mandating service providers to make full use of under-utilized network infrastructure, which will augment existing programs that focus on finalizing backbone and last-mile network infrastructure.

Mental Health and Opioid Crisis

- Developing a comprehensive strategy for the provision of protective and health services which includes:
 - sustained funding for the opioid crisis;
 - implementing a province-wide agreement between police and mental health officials on the management of mental health patients in emergency ward;
 - creating integrated teams of health, police, and other officials on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to manage individuals with mental health issues; and
 - introducing additional long-term care beds to address mental health cases.

The election platform was distributed to the three main provincial parties during the campaign period to lay the foundation for post-election advocacy. UBCM also reviewed the campaign commitments of the three main parties in comparison to the priorities set out in UBCM's election platform. Both the election platform and the platform comparison were distributed to the membership via the *Compass* and social media. Following the election, UBCM President Brian Frenkel conducted outreach and advocacy with several ministers on the recommendations of the election platform.

Corporate Operations

UBCM Internal Operations

Resolutions Process Review

UBCM did not have an opportunity to undertake Area Association engagement as planned. Also the 2020 virtual convention provided the Resolutions Committee to evaluate changes made that members supported and could be considered as process changes in coming years.

UBCM Governance Review

Due to the prescriptiveness of our UBCM Bylaws, Executive Policies and other governance documents, establishing a virtual convention and AGM in 2020 was not doable under our present governance structure. UBCM relied on a Ministerial Order to allow us to undertake the 2020 convention process. A governance review would enable us to propose amendments that would make our organization more nimble and responsive to these emergency situations.

Accounting software application replacement

UBCM received notification in 2020 that the existing accounting software, Account Edge would not be compatible with the most current operating system software updates from Apple. It was recommended by UBCM's auditors, KPMG and finance staff that UBCM implement a new accounting software which would be compatible with the current operating system. In April 2021, Accountedge advised that they developed a solution for the operating system issue for Apple. Staff are awaiting the delivery of the solution expected in the fall of 2021 and will not be going ahead with the purchase and implementation of a new accounting system at this time.

Group Benefits

In April 2021 UBCM reduced our staff compliment by eliminating the position of Manager, Member and Association Services. UBCM has entered into an agreement with a third-party administrator, Health Benefits Trust to provide these support services. The new model is expected to provide additional customer service support, enhance the overall client experience, increase program participation in the future and provide the resources needed to increase marketing initiatives and ensure sound governance.

UBCM Staffing Changes

There was one staffing change within UBCM's Richmond Office. As noted under Group Benefits, the position of Manager, Member and Association Services was eliminated.

Within the UBCM Victoria office, Christina Arsens (formally Ross) is currently on maternity leave, returning September 2021. Jonas Woodrow was hired under an 18-month contract as a Program Officer 1, with Local Government Program Services. Patti Rear was hired under an 18-month contract as a Program Administrator with Local Government Program Services. Rebecca Williams returned from maternity leave April 2021 and is currently a Program Administrator, for both Gas Tax Program Services and Local Government Program Services. Holly Yee, who was hired on an 18-month contract, as a Program Administrator, Gas Tax Program Services, will be returning to school in September 2021.

Mission Statement

The **values** we want associated with UBCM as an organization are:

- Credibility and accuracy in what we do
- Timely and effective in how we respond
- Valuing teamwork and respecting diversity in everything we do
- Being non-partisan and objective in how we present ourselves

Our **vision** is to most effectively represent and serve all local governments in BC.

Guided by our values and to achieve our vision the purpose of UBCM is:

To **represent and serve** all local governments in BC by:

- Being the recognized advocate for their common interests
- Meeting the members' common needs

We will be the recognized **advocate** for local government in BC in:

- Policy development and implementation
- Government relations
- Communications externally
- Liaison with other groups

Our priorities for meeting the members' common needs are through:

- Communication to members
- Advice and training for local government officials
- Convention
- Information sharing

We strive for **continuous improvement** in all that we do.



Golden, BC

Corporate Operations

UBCM Executive



Councillor Brian Frenkel
District of Vanderhoof

President
Presidents Committee



Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
City of Quesnel

First Vice-President
Community Economic Development Committee, Chair
Resolutions Committee
Presidents Committee



Councillor Jen Ford
Resort Municipality of Whistler

Second Vice-President
Health & Social Development Committee, Chair
Presidents Committee



Mayor Ange Qualizza
City of Fernie

Third Vice-President
Community Economic Development Committee, Vice-Chair
Presidents Committee



Mayor Maja Tait
District of Sooke

Past President
Convention Committee, Chair
Resolutions Committee, Chair
Presidents Committee



Councillor Pete Fry
City of Vancouver

Vancouver Representative
Health & Social Development Committee, Vice-Chair
Resolutions Committee



Councillor Craig Hodge
City of Coquitlam

Metro/GVRD Representative
Community Safety Committee, Chair
Presidents Committee



Councillor Sarah Fowler
Village of Tahsis

Small Community Representative
Convention Committee
Environment Committee



Director Grace McGregor
Kootenay Boundary Regional District

Electoral Area Representative
Environment Committee, Chair
Health & Social Development Committee



Councillor Trish Mandewo
City of Coquitlam

Vancouver Metro Area Representative
Indigenous Relations Committee, Chair
Community Economic Development Committee



Mayor Val van den Broek
City of Langley

Vancouver Metro Area Representative
Community Economic Development Committee
Community Safety Committee



Mayor Clara Reinhardt
Village of Radium Hot Springs

AKBLG Representative
Community Safety Committee
Environment Committee



Director Ian Morrison
Cowichan Valley Regional District

AVICC Representative
Environment Committee, Vice-Chair
Indigenous Relations Committee



Councillor Laura Dupont
City of Port Coquitlam

LMLGA Representative
Sept 2020-May 2021
Community Safety Committee
Indigenous Relations Committee



Councillor Patrick Johnstone
City of New Westminster

LMLGA Representative
May 2021-September 2021
Community Safety Committee
Indigenous Relations Committee



Mayor Sarrah Storey
Village of Fraser Lake

NCLGA Representative
Convention Committee
Health & Social Development Committee

Corporate Operations



Councillor Lori Mindnich
Village of Lumby

SILGA Representative
Convention Committee,
Vice-Chair
Health & Social Development
Committee



Director Susan Clovechok
Regional District of East
Kootenay

Director at Large
Convention Committee
Indigenous Relations Committee



Councillor Sadie Hunter
City of Kamloops

Director at Large
Community Safety Committee
Community Economic
Development Committee



Councillor Gord Klassen
City of Fort St. John

Director at Large
Community Safety Committee,
Vice-Chair
Resolutions Committee,
Vice-Chair



Councillor Amy Lubik
City of Port Moody

Director at Large
Environment Committee
Health & Social Development
Committee



Mayor Gaby Wickstrom
Town of Port McNeill

Director at Large
Community Economic
Development Committee
Indigenous Relations
Committee

UBCM Executive



Left to Right, back row: Director Susan Clovechok, Councillor Craig Hodge, Councillor Pete Fry, Mayor Ange Qualizza, Mayor Clara Reinhardt

Left to Right, middle row: Mayor Val van den Broek, Councillor Trish Mandewo, Councillor Brian Frenkel, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Mayor Sarrah Storey, Councillor Lori Mindnich, Councillor Sarah Fowler

Left to Right, front row: Mayor Gaby Wickstrom, Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Mayor Maji Tait, Director Ian Morrison, Councillor Jen Ford

Not shown: Councillor Sadie Hunter, Councillor Gord Klassen, Councillor Amy Lubik, Director Grace McGregor

UBCM Staff

Left to Right, back row: Josh van Loon, Senior Policy Analyst; Hervinder Bains, Financial Services Officer; Bhar Sihota, Senior Policy Analyst;

Left to Right, middle row: Marylyn Chiang, Senior Policy Analyst; Kathleen Spalek, Chief Financial Officer; Jennifer Kwok, Event & Corporate Operations Assistant (no longer with UBCM); Kelsey Mackay-Smith, Event & Sponsorship Coordinator

Left to Right, front row: Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst; Marie Crawford, General Manager of Richmond Operations; Gary Maclsaac, Executive Director; Anna-Maria Wijesinghe, Manager, Member & Association Services (no longer with UBCM); Lilliana Kang, Convention Assistant (no longer with UBCM)

Not shown: Raelene Adamson, Office Administrator; Reiko Tagami, Policy Analyst; Julia Carandang, Finance & Corporate Operations Administrator



Left to Right, back row: Peter Ronald, LGPS Program Officer; Brant Felker, CCBF Policy & Program Manager; Rebecca Williams, Program Administrator; CCBF Program Services; Rebecca Bishop, LGPS Program Officer; Gary Maclsaac, Executive Director; Glen Brown, General Manager of Victoria Operations; Jared Wright, Director of Advocacy & Government Relations; Toby Simpson, Program Officer, CCBF Program Services

Left to Right, front row: Karen Borden, BC FireSmart Committee Coordinator; Paul Taylor, Director of Communications; Liz Cookson, Secretary-Treasurer, AVICC; Sasha Prynne, LGPS Program Officer; Christina Arsens, LGPS Program Officer; Danyta Welch, Manager, LGPS

Not shown: Brenda Pittman, Office Coordinator; Gabi Vindisch, Executive Coordinator, LGLA; Jonas Woodrow, Program Officer, LGPS; Holly Yee, Program Administrator





Central Saanich, BC



Burnaby, BC

Policy and Advocacy



Policy and Advocacy

UBCM's mandate is to advocate on behalf of BC local governments and member First Nations for the development and implementation of legislation, regulation, policies and programs that support the membership's needs. Our goal is to effect change that will benefit our members. To facilitate reaching that goal, UBCM participates in policy development and implementation processes in a number of ways:

- proactively – presenting our own independent initiatives to other governments (i.e. UBCM's housing report "A Home for Everyone" sets out member direction and defines our advocacy efforts to provincial and federal governments.)
- reactively – responding to proposed provincial or federal policy changes (i.e. federal legislation to legalize cannabis))
- ongoing involvement – participating in Ministry-UBCM or multi-party policy development processes which are many and varied with some requiring sustained involvement while others may only require limited intervention (i.e. Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee).

Much of UBCM's policy work is done through the Executive and its Committees. The following pages provide an overview of the extensive policy work undertaken and outlines progress to date on various issues identified through annual Committee work plans.

In addition to the Executive and Committees, many policy topics are covered off through ongoing working groups, committees and meetings that UBCM appointments and staff attend. These policy matters are summarized in the section that follows the Committee overviews.



Lillooet, BC

Presidents Committee

Secretariat / Financial Management • Intergovernmental Relations • Best Practices • Member Services

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Provide support to the UBCM Secretariat on member priorities, financial and human resource issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic direction to the Secretariat between Executive meetings • Report quarterly on UBCM finances to the Executive; oversee the annual financial audit and reviewed our corporate investment policy in spring 2021 • Serve as the contact point on staffing matters and HR initiatives • Amended the Convention Code of Conduct to confirm its continued application for the 2020 and 2021 virtual Conventions • Authorized a governance documents review in November 2020 to provide for a thorough review and update of UBCM Bylaws, Policies and procedures to ensure the association is governed efficiently and effectively • Provide strategic direction for staff involvement in Working Group on Responsible Conduct
<p>Serve as the lead on intergovernmental relations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided leadership in UBCM’s advocacy work with the Province, federal government and FCM in response to local government financial and administrative challenges during the pandemic and state of emergency • Provided oversight on development of the second virtual Convention, in coordination with the relevant Executive Committees • Oversaw development of the UBCM’s May 2021 Advocacy Days program and identified three priorities: UNDRIP, Local Government Finance and Mental Health/Opioid Crises; including meetings with provincial elected officials, ministers and MLAs • Provide feedback/comment on the design/development of provincial and federal infrastructure programs • Oversaw the development of UBCM’s provincial election platform, <i>Re-building Our Communities – A Path Forward</i> • Provide recommendations on a variety of UBCM appointments to external committees (i.e. Land Title Survey Authority, Municipal Pension Board trustees, etc.)

Policy and Advocacy

Priorities	Progress to Date
Serve as the lead on intergovernmental relations - Cont'd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs UBCM advocacy work on housing (development approvals process review committee), climate action, asset management, infrastructure funding and oversees UBCM's participation in FCM's international programs • Serves as the contact point for emerging local government issues with the Minister of Municipal Affairs • Act as UBCM spokespersons with media and provincial and federal governments
Promote Best Practices to UBCM Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees UBCM's Community Excellence Awards program; issued call for applications, will review submissions in July/ August and profile winners at 2021 UBCM Convention through video montage • Support promotion of Local Government Awareness Week (LGAW) including a provincial proclamation for 2021 reflective of the local – provincial partnership and designating a specific day to focus on importance of Asset Management; and provided LGAW activity ideas on the UBCM web site
Provide direction on UBCM Member Services and Group Benefits Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure compliance and deliverables with the new Service Performance Agreement and Administrative partnership guidelines with insurance carrier, Pacific Blue Cross; ensure deliverables and adherence to the new Rate Setting Policy for annual renewals; and continue to serve as advocate for the members in the UBCM Group Benefits Plan and increase participation through marketing and communications • Serve as contact point for Plan Partner briefings on the Municipal Pension Plan

Committee Members

Councillor Brian Frenkel, President
 Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, First Vice-President
 Councillor Jen Ford, Second Vice-President
 Mayor Ange Qualizza, Third Vice-President
 Mayor Maja Tait, Past President
 Councillor Craig Hodge, GVRD/Metro Representative

Convention Committee

The 2020 Convention was held virtually from September 22-24, with the theme of Diversity by Design. A total of 1,040 delegates attended the Convention. The overall Convention rating was a strong 4.0 out of 5, with the virtual platform, help desk feature, and overall functionality being highly rated.

This was the first Convention held virtually and to accommodate the new format the program was shorter than an in-person Convention. The program started on Tuesday morning with the Opening ceremony and Annual General Meeting and ended mid-day on Thursday. Programming included a range of workshops, including a Provincial Election Panel – The Campaign Begins, Digitally-enabled, Remote & Ready, Confronting Systemic Racism in Canada, Seniors Homes: What Has the Pandemic Taught Us? and Economic Recovery: Building Back Better and Stronger. The plenary session was one of the highest rated to date, Reimagining Leadership: Lessons from a Pandemic, and included The Honourable Janet Austin, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Kim Baird, and UBCM President, Mayor Maja Tait. Delegates had the opportunity to set policy through a completely virtual Resolutions session, and participate in the Virtual Trade Show, as well as networking through forums and chat boxes.

Committee Members

Mayor Maja Tait, Chair
Councillor Lori Mindrich, Vice Chair
Director Susan Clovechok
Mayor Sarrah Storey
Councillor Sarah Fowler



2020 Virtual Convention

Policy and Advocacy

Environment Committee

Special Committee on Climate Action • Caribou Recovery Planning • *Water Sustainability Act*

Priorities	Progress to Date
Respond to environmental policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recommendations of the Special Committee on Climate Action were approved and released by the Executive and focused on buildings, transportation, solid waste, resilience, land-use planning, governance and social mobilization • Worked with the Province on the development of the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) roadmap, and continue to monitor the Province’s consideration of PACE financing • Continued to provide local government feedback on the BC caribou recovery plan. • Advocated for local government interests on the federal Oceans Protection Plan initiatives
Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local government interests are represented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing representative participation in Recycle BC’s Advisory Committee on the packing and printed paper product stewardship program
Work with the Province, Societies and other associations to seek out greater opportunities for environmental protection and improvement in BC protection and improvement in BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with provincial staff to discuss the <i>Water Sustainability Act</i> objectives • Met with representatives from the Community Energy Association to discuss their work and the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council • Met with provincial staff to discuss the provincial plastics action plan and extended producer responsibility programs • Discussed the Province’s adaptation strategy and <i>CleanBC</i> with provincial staff

Committee Members

Director Grace McGregor, Chair
 Director Ian Morrison, Vice Chair
 Councillor Amy Lubik
 Councillor Sarah Fowler
 Mayor Clara Reinhardt

Indigenous Relations Committee

Treaty and Other Agreements • Indigenous Relations Policy and Initiatives • Relationship Building

Priorities	Progress to Date
Monitor and respond to policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitored, assessed and communicated to members policies, agreements and programs such as the Declaration on the <i>Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> (DRIPA) Regular communication with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and others regarding Indigenous initiatives and policy
Advocate for local government interests through working groups and intergovernmental communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy and communication with MIRR and MMA on issues such as the implementation of DRIPA, in part through a working group to implement an MOU with the Province Work towards updating the MOU with the Province to support ongoing engagement between the Province and local governments on Indigenous Issues
Relationship building between local governments, First Nations and Indigenous organizations through best practices and initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with the First Nations Summit, administer the Regional Community to Community Forum Program Ongoing work with partners to collect and share resources on Reconciliation and related initiatives, including sharing of “Pathways to Collaboration” case studies and creation of a database with the First Nations Summit and CivicInfo on First Nation - local government collaborations

Committee Members

Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair
 Mayor Gaby Wickstrom
 Director Susan Clovechok
 Director Ian Morrison
 Councillor Laura Dupont/Councillor Patrick Johnstone
 Chief Ken Baird, Metro Vancouver IRC Rep



Burns Lake, BC

Policy and Advocacy

Community Safety Committee

Policing • Cannabis Legalization • Liquor Policy • Emergency Management • Flood Protection • Road Safety • Crime Prevention • Bylaw Adjudication • Fire Protection

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Respond to community safety issues falling within the scope of the Committee</p>	<p>Protective Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to monitor and provide input on the delivery of RCMP services through the Committee, and the Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) • Updated and advised members regarding the status of RCMP collective bargaining • Engaged the Province and RCMP, through the Auxiliary Program – BC Model Working Group, regarding the development of a provincial auxiliary policing model • Worked with stakeholders, through the BC RCMP Occupancy Agreement Working Group, to address building lease agreements • Monitored the ongoing <i>Police Act</i> review, while also delivering a submission and virtual presentation to the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act • Monitored the implementation of Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) through the federal BWC Working Group • Solicited feedback from local governments as part of the Five Year Review of the RCMP Police Services Agreements • Monitored the introduction of the provincial <i>Firearm Violence Prevention Act</i> as well as associated federal legislation (Bill C-21) <p>Other Community Safety Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored the regulation of medical and non-medical cannabis • Continued work with the Province to address ongoing cannabis policy issues • Conducted analysis and advocacy related to cannabis excise tax revenue sharing with the provincial government • Monitored provincial and local government efforts to decriminalize the personal possession of illicit drugs

Priorities	Progress to Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored provincial liquor policy, providing input towards relevant policy changes • Monitored changes related to bylaw enforcement and adjudication • Engaged the provincial government regarding flood and wildfire management • Continued work with the Province to facilitate local government input towards the <i>Emergency Program Act</i> review • Monitored the status of provincial road safety initiatives • Monitored the impacts of COVID-19, including all relevant federal and provincial policy changes affecting community safety
<p>Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local government interests are represented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated and participated on the LGCMC, BC RCMP Occupancy Agreement Working Group, Local Government Working Group on Liquor Policy, Cannabis Policy Technical Working Group and EMBC-UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee • Participated on the national RCMP Contract Management Committee, Auxiliary Program – BC Model Working Group, federal Body Worn Camera Working Group, Advisory Committee on Provincial Policing Standards, Counter Illicit Finance Alliance of British Columbia and Canadian Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee • UBCM appointments to the BC Access to Justice Committee, various BC Road Safety Strategy committees, BC Seismic Safety Council, PRIMECorp Board and BC Operation Lifesaver Committee
<p>Work with the Province and other associations on community safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with FCM and other local government associations to discuss community safety issues of importance • Monthly staff meetings with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss community safety issues of mutual concern • Various meetings with RCMP E-Division to discuss policing and communication issues of mutual concern

Committee Members

Councillor Craig Hodge, Chair
 Councillor Gord Klassen, Vice Chair
 Mayor Val van den Broek
 Mayor Clara Reinhardt
 Councillor Sadie Hunter
 Councillor Laura Dupont / Councillor Patrick Johnstone

Policy and Advocacy

Community Economic Development Committee

Natural Resource Sector • Agriculture • Tourism • Economic Diversification • Arts, Culture, Heritage • Jobs, Skills (Re) Training • Telecommunications/Connectivity

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Respond to policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued to advocate for members’ economic development challenges as the Province moves to restart BC’s economy; working with various ministries and associations to support and share tools/resources/best practices to assist local governments with recovery efforts; coordinated Building Back Better and Stronger workshop at the 2020 UBCM Convention highlighting local economic development success stories in partnership with the BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) • Continued to prioritize the importance of local government recognition as an order of government; ensuring consultation and engagement with the Province on matters affecting local government jurisdiction • Provided feedback on the federal government’s new Universal Broadband Fund. As part of this process, engaged FCM and the other provincial/territorial local government associations to better understand challenges and coordinate policy change requests • Provided submission to the federal government’s engagement on establishing new <i>Aquaculture Act</i>; wrote to federal DFO Minister about lack of consultation regarding closure of aquaculture operations in the Discovery Islands and sought local government consultation in the transition plan for open net operations in BC by 2025 • Supported Province’s July 2021 webinar series on modernizing BC’s forest policy/release of intentions paper addressing old growth; forest sustainability; value-added; tenure access; promotion of wood use and mass timber; and strengthening compliance and enforcement • Continued to monitor/participate on the status/update calls with provincial government officials on the Caribou Recovery program • Provided direction on two referred resolutions from the 2020 Convention

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local government interests are represented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBCM President Brian Frenkel serves as the UBCM appointment to the Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC); Forest Products Innovations' BC Innovation Leadership Committee; Private Forest Lands Council; Mass Timber Advisory Council and Land and Natural Resource Operations Roundtable • Committee Chair Roodenburg serves as a member of the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network (RCKN), local government elected officials and senior staff from remote and rural areas in BC who build capacity to improve broadband connectivity in their communities • Working with Commercial Energy Consumers Association to represent local government interests in BC Utilities Commission proceedings related to BC Hydro streetlighting conversion and UBCM monitored BCUC's Municipal Utilities Inquiry • UBCM staff serve on the Community Energy Association board • AVICC and NCLGA local elected officials serve as representatives to DFO's aquaculture management advisory committees (finfish and shellfish)
<p>Work with the Province, Trusts and other associations to seek out greater economic development opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in meetings with Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; Minister of Citizens Services, Minister of State for Land and Natural Resource Operations; Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture as part of 2021 Advocacy Days • Partnering with the Province once again (Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation) to undertake survey in Fall 2021 of local economic development practices • Participated in the BCEDA Virtual Town Hall with Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation • Continue to meet with policy sector-aligned associations in an effort to support greater community engagement and consultation on policy decision-making • Partnering with the Province (Citizens' Services) and NDIIT to study the accuracy of federal internet speed estimates in BC; where inaccuracies may be preventing some communities from securing broadband funding

Committee Members

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair
 Mayor Ange Qualizza, Vice-Chair
 Councillor Trish Mandewo
 Councillor Sadie Hunter
 Mayor Val van den Broek
 Mayor Gaby Wickstrom

Policy and Advocacy

Health and Social Development Committee

Healthy Communities • Child Care Resource Guide • Accessibility Legislation • Mental Health

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Respond to policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the local government child care resource guide, which was funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development • Offered a webinar on the local government child care guide to 100+ participants • Provided feedback to the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction on the accessibility legislation • Identified mental health and addictions as one of three priority issues for the UBCM Executive during the 2021 Advocacy Days
<p>Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local government interests are represented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the BC Healthy Living Alliance, an alliance of province-wide health related organizations addressing the impacts of chronic disease • Chaired the Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund, which offers funding for the training of primary and advanced care paramedics in BC • Member of the Ministry of Health’s Healthy Communities Working Group, which encourages health authorities and local governments to work together to create healthy communities • Member of the Healthy Built Environment Alliance, an alliance of public health, design and land use professionals • Member of the provincial Accessibility Legislation Consultation Advisory Committee to provide feedback on accessibility legislation

Priorities	Progress to Date
<p>Work with the Province, Societies and other associations to seek out greater opportunities for improved health in BC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the BC Alliance for Healthy Living on their Small Town Leaders in Active Transportation project, which will look at the successes and challenges in active transportation in small communities • Provided feedback on the federal government’s national active transportation strategy • Provided feedback to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions on their substance use framework • Provided feedback on Health Canada’s proposed vaping regulations

Committee Members

- Councillor Jen Ford, Chair
- Councillor Pete Fry, Vice-Chair
- Councillor Amy Lubik
- Councillor Lori Mindnich
- Director Grace McGregor
- Mayor Sarrah Storey



Creston, BC

Policy and Advocacy

Resolutions Committee

The resolutions process is the foundation of UBCM’s advocacy on behalf of BC local governments and member First Nations.

Members often ask UBCM about the status or progress of policy arising from a resolution endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention. They want to know if laws have been passed and if change has been made. Through resolutions, UBCM members speak with one voice to express the needs and concerns of BC communities. Issues raised and solutions proposed in resolutions often bring positive change for local governments in BC.

The majority of resolutions are addressed to the provincial government. Those resolutions endorsed by the membership are conveyed to the provincial government. The responses we receive from the Province are analyzed and placed into one of six categories. Staff assess the receptiveness of the Province based on their responses, and report their finding to the UBCM Executive. The table below provides an overview of five years of historical provincial response rates by category.

Provincial Response Types	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Province supports the request	1	4	12	16	9
Willing to consider the changes, suggestions or concerns expressed	4	3	25	17	30
Willing to undertake further study or review of the issues in question	8	18	13	18	23
Issues have already been addressed in whole or in part through existing provincial initiatives	47	57	46	56	51
Proposed changes/suggestions/concerns will not be considered	29	20	25	32	30
Not addressed in provincial response	13	21	15	14	15
Provincial Responses Received Each Year	98	114	126	148	153

** Some resolutions make multiple requests, so the Province provides different responses to different parts of the resolution. Because of this, the combined total of response types tracked in the above table may be greater than the number of responses received from the Province.*

UBCM achieves significant dialogue and success through the resolutions process. The following developments have been noted in 2020/21. Each of the issues was the topic of a resolution from a UBCM member local government.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Child Care - Funding	2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98	The federal Budget 2021 included new investments of up to \$27.2 billion over five years, starting in 2021-22, as part of initial 5-year agreements.
Child Care - Planning Guide	2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98	A child care planning guide for BC's Local Governments was created with funding from the Provincial government. The guide offers local governments promising practices in five key areas: 1) Developing a child care strategy and plan; 2) Local government's role in facilitating, securing and financing child care; 3) Local government's role in designing and building child care spaces; 4) Local government regulations and provincial licensing processes; and 5) Working with child care operators.
Community Safety - Auxiliary RCMP	2016-B3, 2003-B47, 2000-B5, 1999-A12, 1999-A13, 1998-B39, 1998-ER, 1997-B28	The Province is evaluating options for the continued delivery of auxiliary policing services across the province, following the RCMP's decision to terminate its previous Auxiliary Program on April 1, 2020. The short-term option is a temporary implementation of the new Auxiliary Program, Tier 3. The long-term solution is to develop and implement a BC-only auxiliary policing program.
Community Safety - Avalanches	2003-B38	In May 2021, the Province announced a \$10 million contribution to Avalanche Canada to support its vital work in developing and delivering avalanche safety and awareness for the province's mountainous regions.
Community Safety - BC Road Safety Strategy 2025	2018-B12, 2017-B90, 2016-B10, 2015-B10, 2015-B12, 2012-B63, 2009-B64, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B102, 2007-B80	In May 2021, the Province launched BC Road Safety Strategy 2025: A Collaborative Framework for Road Safety. Guided by the Road Safety Strategy Steering Committee, to which UBCM is a member, this revitalized strategy provides a clear vision of provincial road safety to 2025. The framework outlines the tools, initiatives, awareness campaigns and enforcement programs that are creating a road safety network in BC. It recognizes that road safety is a shared responsibility, and supports a vision for working together to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. In alignment with Canada's commitment to and BC's adoption of the 2020 Stockholm Declaration, the Strategy seeks for a 50% reduction in road-related deaths and injuries by 2030.

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<p>Community Safety - Droughts</p>	<p>2020-EB61, 2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25</p>	<p>"In March 2021, the Province proposed to change its existing drought levels to better align with North American best practices. The revised levels would more accurately describe drought and water scarcity conditions and allow experts to better protect local aquatic ecology and make useful comparisons between BC and other jurisdictions across the continent.</p>
<p>Community Safety - Firearms</p>	<p>2019-B5</p>	<p>On March 3, 2021, the Province introduced the <i>Firearm Violence Prevention Act</i> (Bill 4), aimed at reducing gun violence. The proposed legislation incorporates recommendations made by the Illegal Firearms Task Force, and largely targets the purchase, transportation and possession of illegal and imitation firearms. Key provisions, including some that may be of interest to local governments, include the following: 1) Penalizing the drivers of vehicles used to transport illegal firearms, including authorization for peace officers to impound vehicles; 2) Prohibiting individuals from using, carrying or storing low-velocity or imitation firearms in a manner that causes a public disturbance; 3) Prohibiting individuals from possessing low-velocity or imitation firearms if they are already prohibited from possessing firearms or other specified weapons/substances; 4) Prohibiting the discharge of a low-velocity or imitation firearm by minors in an area where the discharge of a firearm or imitation firearm is prohibited; 5) Prohibiting individuals from possessing firearms (real and imitation) in designated locations (e.g. schools, places of worship, hospitals); 6) Prohibiting the sale of low-velocity or imitation firearms to youth – although youth may still use these items and participate in events such as airsoft sports; 7) Liability protection for professionals that breach client confidentiality by reporting risks of firearms violence to police; and, 8) Additional records keeping requirements for shooting ranges.</p>

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Community Safety - FireSmart Fund	2020-SR5, 2020-SR7, 2019-B91, 2018-B96, 2017-B4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5	In January 2021, the Province announced the new FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund. Eligible applicants were able to submit applications for up to \$150,000. The intent of the FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund was to support immediate job creation in order to build local wildfire resiliency and assist communities in recovering from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Project categories included: 1) Job creation for FireSmart projects; 2) Job creation for longer term wildfire resiliency; and 3) Skills development that leads to employment.
Community Safety - Flood Hazard Mitigation	2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B33, 2018-B37, 2018-B94, 2018-B123, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2015-B97, 2014-B75, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2012-B62, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8).	In December 2020, the Province has announced a new one-time funding program, the Adaptation, Resilience & Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) Program, to fund structural and natural infrastructure projects that address the risk of flooding and flood-related hazards up to a value \$10 million. The available funding of \$56.25 million is 80% federal and 20% provincial funding, and is intended to support infrastructure projects in communities across the province.
Community Safety - Medical Cannabis Production	2020-EB16, 2018-B7, 2018-B93, 2013-B9, 2012-B111, 2011-SR1	Health Canada is currently developing a guidance document to address the misuse of the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Program, while also maintaining access for eligible individuals. Stakeholders, including local governments, were invited to provide feedback in spring 2021 regarding a draft guidance document. A key focus of the guidance document is to formalize a list of reasons why an individual's medical cannabis production registration may be refused.
Community Safety - National Disaster Mitigation Program	2020-EB14, 2019-B12, 2018-B94, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3	In December 2020, the federal government renewed the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) for a sixth and final intake, making \$25 million available for eligible projects throughout Canada. The NDMP accepted proposals from local governments seeking to understand and address flood risk. There were four funding streams: 1) Risk Assessments; 2) Flood Mapping; 3) Mitigation Planning; and 4) Investments in Non-Structural and Small Scale Structural Mitigation Projects.

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Community Safety - <i>Police Act</i> Review	2020-EB5, 2020-NR7, 2019-A3, 2016-B75,	In 2020, the Province announced it would be initiating a review of the <i>Police Act</i> . The Act provides the framework for the delivery of police services throughout British Columbia, including responsibilities assigned to the Province and local governments. In February 2021, UBCM prepared UBCM a submission for consideration by the Special Committee on Reforming the <i>Police Act</i> . The Special Committee will make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on reforms related to the modernization and sustainability of policing; the role of police with respect to complex social issues including mental health and wellness, addictions and harm reduction; the scope of systemic racism within BC's police agencies; and whether there are measures necessary to ensure a modernized <i>Police Act</i> is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
Community Safety - Sexual Assault Funding	2019-B86, 2017-B117, 2015-B80	In May 2021, the Province announced an additional \$10 million in funding will go to the Ending Violence Association of BC, to assist more community-based sexual assault response service programs. The money is on top of the \$10 million the organization received in March 2020 to establish and Emergency Sexual Assault Services grant program, which provided trauma support for survivors through 23 organizations throughout the province.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Connectivity - Broadband Internet Speeds	2020-SR6, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23	Beginning in March 2021, local and Indigenous governments, particularly those with rural and remote populations, are invited to participate in a study of broadband Internet speeds experienced in BC. Communities across British Columbia have voiced concerns that federal data on broadband Internet speeds, which is used to determine eligibility for connectivity funding programs, may not accurately reflect the broadband Internet speeds experienced in homes, businesses, and other locations at the community level. Connected Communities within the provincial Ministry of Citizens' Services, UBCM, and Northern Development Initiative Trust are responding collaboratively to these concerns with an independent study of differences between the broadband Internet speeds experienced in some BC communities, and the 50/10 Mbps speed identified on the federal government's National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map.
Connectivity - Broadband Service	2020-SR6, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23	Building on the Province's one-time investments of \$140 million in early 2021, Budget 2021 establishes stable base funding of \$40 million over the plan to further invest in the Province's connectivity strategy to expand broadband services throughout BC.
Connectivity - Universal Broadband Fund	2020-SR6, 2020-EB69, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23	In November 2020, the federal government launched a \$1.75 billion Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) with the objective of providing broadband service to 98% of Canadians by 2026. The UBF is designed to connect Canadians living in rural and remote communities to high-speed Internet at speeds of at least 50/10 Mbps. The program will fund a range of eligible applicants - including local governments and Indigenous entities - to extend broadband infrastructure in areas that do not currently have access to this level of high-speed Internet.
COVID-19 - Safe Restart Funding	2020-SR5, 2020-SR7	The province distributed \$425 million under the federal Safe Restart Agreement to BC's local governments. This federal/provincial funding will support facility reopening and operational costs along with local emergency response.

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
COVID-19 Recovery	2020-SR5, 2020-SR7	In September 2020, the federal and provincial governments announce a joint contribution of close to \$540 million in funding to support local government operations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments in British Columbia have seen a significant decline in revenues from a number of variable sources, including transit fares, parking, recreation fees and others.
Elections - Local Government Campaign Financing Rules	2020-SR3, 2017-A1, 2015-B94, 2013-B95	In March 2021, Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne introduced Bill 9 to address campaign finance issues identified during the 2018 local elections. Amendments would take effect for the October 2022 local elections and address the following: 1) require all elector organizations to register with Elections BC; 2) require elector organizations to file annual financial disclosure reports; 3) ban elector organizations from accepting non-campaign contributions to cover operational expenses thereby prohibiting businesses and corporations from making donations in non-election years to cover those operational expenses; 4) establish a pre-campaign period to lengthen the time election advertising will be regulated; and 5) establish contribution limits for third party advertisers similar to what is in place for other campaign contributors.
Environment - Banning Single Use Plastics	2020-EB53, 2019-B142, 2018-B126	In February 2021, the Province announced the approval of four more municipal single use plastic ban bylaws, joining five other municipalities that are implementing plastic bans tailored to the needs of their communities. The Province has heard from many more municipalities in BC that are looking to enact bylaws to regulate single use plastics. To support these efforts, the Province is moving ahead with the process to bring forward regulatory updates that can allow municipalities to implement bans on single use plastics without requiring provincial approval.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Environment - Beverage Container Deposit	2019-B145, 2012-B27, 2010-B27, 2009-B122, 2006-B30, 2005-B115, 2004-B14	Working with Encorp Pacific, the Province introduced a minimum 10-cent deposit on all beverage containers. Also, for the first time, milk and milk-alternative containers are scheduled to be added to the deposit and refund system in February 2022.
Environment - Contaminated Sites	2020-EB46, 2019-B41, 2018-B25, 2017-B21, 2016-B104, 2013-B26, 2013-B33, 2012-B26, 2011-B37, 2011-B99, 2008-B33, 2007-B29, 2007-B70, 2005-B21	On February 1, 2021 changes to the site identification process within the <i>Environmental Management Act</i> and Contaminated Sites Regulation came into effect. These changes aim to streamline the legal regime by making the process clearer and more predictable and to assist the Ministry's ability to carry out compliance verification and enforcement.
Environment - Organics Collection	2016-B112	In October 2020, the Province announced that the CleanBC Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program will provide up to \$25.7 million in funding, over three years, for new or expanded organics processing infrastructure and residential curbside collections programs. Eligible applicants include regional districts and municipalities and First Nations. Funding will be provided through cost-sharing arrangements, with the province providing up to two-thirds of eligible project costs and applicants contributing the remaining one-third.
Fisheries - Salmon Protection	2018-B118, 2007-B172	In June 2021, the federal government announced \$647 million fund to protect Pacific salmon. The money will be spent over five years on the Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative that will cover four key areas: 1) consideration and stewardship; 2) hatchery production; 3) harvesting; 4) integrated management and collaboration.
Fisheries Act - Modernization	2020-NR45, 2018-B73, 2013-B28, 2012-B80, 2009-B126, 2005-B38, 1997-B48, 1996-B68	From January to June 2021, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP) sought input from Indigenous Peoples, governments and regulators, the regulated community and conservation groups to modernize or develop new policies, frameworks, instruments and guidance to further implement the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> .

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Forestry - Old Growth	2019-B36, 2017-B66, 2016-C27	<p>In September 2020, the Province released a report titled <i>A New Future for Old Forests: What we Heard</i>. It outlines a four-phased process that the Province should undertake to develop and implement an old growth strategy. The Province indicated it would take initial action on 4 of the 14 recommendations within the report, including: 1) engage with Indigenous leaders and organizations to review report; 2) defer old forest harvesting in nine areas throughout the province as a first step; 3) address information gaps, update inventory and improve public access to information and bring management of old forests into compliance with existing provincial targets and guidelines; 4) discuss report recommendations and the future of old-growth forests with industry, environmental groups, community-based organizations and local governments.</p>
Forestry - Wildfire Resiliency Funding	2020-EB12, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B97	<p>In July 2020, the Province renewed and expanded FireSmart funding to assist local governments and First Nations to undertake wildfire prevention activities. Under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports stream eligible applicants with lower risk of wildfire may apply for up to \$50,000 in funding, twice the previous \$25,000 maximum. The funding maximum for applicants with a demonstrated higher risk of wildfire was increased last year to \$150,000 from \$100,000. The program will continue into 2022.</p>

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Forestry - Wildfire Resiliency Workshops	2019-B91, 2018-B96, 2017-B4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5	Throughout 2020/21, FireSmart BC offered Local FireSmart Representative Workshops. The newly-updated Local FireSmart Representative Workshop was developed to assist fire professionals and community leaders to become familiar with and implement all components of the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program. FireSmart Canada also launched its 2021 Community Wildfire Preparedness Day program and provided grants of \$500 and other resources to encourage projects that reduce wildfire risk and increase preparedness. Participating in this annual event strengthens local awareness for wildfire prevention and builds a sense of community.
Homelessness and Supportive Housing	2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109	The Province has continued to make significant investments to address homelessness including \$265 million allocated in 2021/22 to extend supports and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and funding to help maintain more than 3,000 temporary emergency shelter and hotel spaces secured during the pandemic. The Province has also partnered with the Federal Government through the Rapid Housing Initiative to convert existing buildings into supportive housing. New Federal supports include an additional \$567 million over two years, beginning in 2022-23, for the federal homelessness strategy, Reaching Home.
Housing - Affordability	2019-B30, 2019-B183, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109	The Province continues to make significant investments in housing including through an additional \$2 Billion in development financing for HousingHub announced in 2021. The federal Budget 2021 announced an additional \$2.5 billion over seven years, starting in 2021-2022, to the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation to support the construction and repair of affordable housing units, including \$1.5 billion for the Rapid Housing Initiative.
Marine - Compensation for Spills	2018-B66, 2018-B122, 2016-B20	In April 2021, the federal government amended the <i>Marine Liability Act</i> to make sure all eligible claims from any spill can be fully compensated.

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<p>Marine Shoreline Clean Up & Derelict Vessels</p>	<p>Marine Clean Up: 2020-NR46, 2002-B55 Derelict Vessels: 2017-B26, 2016-B22, 2014-B23, 2014-B62, 2013-B30, 2012-B23, 2012-B78, 2010-B30, 2005-B112</p>	<p>In April 2021, the Province announced \$9.5 million from the Clean Coast, Clean Waters (CCCW) Initiative Fund will be used to tackle shoreline cleanups and/or derelict vessel removals from the north coast down to southern Vancouver Island. Up to 1,200 kilometres of BC’s coastlines and more than 100 derelict vessels are the targets of new marine debris clean-up projects, in partnership with coastal Indigenous Nations. The funding is being distributed to four agencies: 1) the Songhees Development Corporation; 2) the Small Ship Tour Operators Association – Wilderness Tourism Association; 3) the Coastal Restoration Society; and 4) the Ocean Legacy Foundation.</p>
<p>Reconciliation and Relationship Building</p>	<p>2018-B23, 2018-B150</p>	<p>UBCM continues to work with the First Nations Summit to deliver the Community to Community Forum Program and other efforts to support reconciliation and relationship building. The Province of British Columbia, CivicInfo BC, the First Nations Summit, and UBCM have partnered to develop a new Joint Indigenous and Local Government Initiatives and Relations research tool. This database pulls together wide-ranging examples of Indigenous communities and local governments working together in a single searchable resource.</p>
<p>Responsible Conduct - Database</p>	<p>2019-B83</p>	<p>The Working Group on Responsible Conduct, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Union of BC Municipalities and the LGMA has developed a database of external resources to support local governments. The Local Government External Resource Database includes consultants who provide a range of services that support responsible conduct by elected officials, including conflict management & resolution; coaching; counselling and elected official training.</p>

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Responsible Conduct - Guide	2019-B83	The Working Group on Responsible Conduct, a joint initiative of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Union of BC Municipalities and the LGMA has developed a guide titled Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct in Your Local Government. The new resource provides guidance on ways to prevent conduct issues by local elected officials, and how best to deal with them if they do arise.
Streetlight Conversion to LED	2019-B33, 2018-B30, 2014-B96	In late 2020, BC Hydro made application to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) to amend the rate schedule to allow for the installation of LED street lighting. UBCM members have advised there will be significant costs to municipalities with the transition to LEDs as a result. UBCM collected and shared member feedback - including costs, other impacts, or suggested alternative approaches - with the Commercial Energy Consumers Association to inform their arguments, which will be brought forward to BCUC proceedings on this issue.
Taxation - Property Tax Interim Relief	2019-B78, 2018-B115	In February 2020, the Province introduced a new Interim Business Property Tax Relief Program to provide an optional tool that would allow municipalities to address the escalating property values experienced by some small businesses and non-profits.
Transportation - Active Transportation & Micromobility	2020-EB24, 2020-EB29, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16	The Province invited interested local governments and Treaty First Nations to submit proposals for micromobility pilot projects for potential implementation by way of provincial regulation in the summer of 2020. Pilot projects for zero-emission micromobility devices (such as e-scooters) support the provincial Active Transportation Strategy objective of working with communities to promote and enable active transportation use.

Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Transportation - Active Transportation Planning	2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2019-B15, 2018-B15, 2016-B9, 2013-B99, 2012-B63, 2010-B16, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B140	The Province provides funding for the Active Transportation Planning program which aims to support local governments to incorporate or enhance active transportation components of formal planning documents (Official Community Plan, Sustainability Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, or Transportation Plan), including research, consultation, and policy development. Local governments with a population up to 25,000 that meet the grant criteria are eligible for up to \$20,000 toward their active transportation planning costs.
Transportation - Electric Bicycles	2019-B44, 2016-B130	The provincial Budget 2021 included a new PST exemption on electric bicycles.
Transportation - Electric Vehicles	2020-EB27, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132	The provincial Budget 2021 announced \$130 million to support incentives for zero emission vehicles, charging infrastructure, electrification of school buses, ferries, provincial government fleets, and commercialization of heavy-duty fleets.
Transportation - Highway #1 Expansion	2020-EB25	The Province is planning for future improvements to Highway 1 between 264th Street and Whatcom Road. Public engagement began in the Spring of 2021 to help determine the full scope of the project. The Province recognizes the importance of Highway 1 to the regional, provincial and national economy, as well as to the quality of life for Fraser Valley residents. Upgrades to the highway between Langley and Abbotsford will keep goods moving smoothly, while making it faster and easier for people to move throughout the Fraser Valley.
Transportation - Public Transit	2020-EB17, 2020-SR4	The provincial Budget 2021 allocated \$1.9 billion for public transit services including free transit for youth 12 and under across the province.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Transportation - Rail Crossing Safety	2016-B11, 2015-B56	The Province of British Columbia has adopted the federal <i>Grade Crossings Regulation and Grade Crossings Standards</i> , which came into effect in 2014. In light of impacts from COVID-19, the Province has extended the timeline for municipalities and provincial railways to bring their existing grade crossings into compliance. The new deadline is January 1, 2028 for municipalities to ensure that existing grade crossings of provincial railways comply with the regulations.
Transportation - Rail Proximity Initiative	2018-B101, 2016-B68, 2014-B56, 2012-B116, 2009-B157, 2007-B107, 2005-B142	Created jointly by the Railway Association of Canada (RAC) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in 2003, the goal of the FCM-RAC Proximity Initiative is to prevent problems from arising between railways and residents. The initiative is led by a committee of elected officials and senior railway representatives from across Canada, who work together to develop strategies to reduce misunderstanding, increase safety, and avoid unnecessary conflict arising from railway-community proximity. In April 2021, new up-to-date resources and information have been released that cover rail infrastructure and operations, community planning guidelines, and a dispute resolution process. The Rail Proximity Initiative aims to bridge gaps between railways and residents, while pursuing common goals that will benefit communities, railways, and the country as a whole. The goal is to work together to achieve safe, livable communities.
UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	2018-B149, 2018-B150, 2015-B106	On December 3, 2020 the federal government introduced Bill C-15 to bring laws of Canada into alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This legislation received Royal Assent on June 21, 2021. As the Province works towards the implementation of the <i>Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i> , UBCM continues to advocate for local government engagement on issues that relate to their jurisdiction, including through work to renew an MOU on engagement with the Province.

These are recent success stories. Not all resolutions achieve immediate results, but they bring important local government issues to the attention of the provincial and federal governments.

Committee Members

Mayor Maja Tait, Chair
 Councillor Gord Klassen Vice-Chair
 Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg
 Councillor Pete Fry

Policy and Advocacy

Emerging and Ongoing Policy Files

In addition to the policy matters covered by UBCM's Committees, there are a number of other issues that are addressed outside the committee structure. The following provides an overview of those issues and how UBCM is representing the members' interests.

Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels

UBCM continued to monitor the federal and provincial governments' actions on abandoned and derelict vessels. In February 2019, the federal government established new legislation, the *Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act*, to ensure that wrecked, abandoned or hazardous commercial and pleasure vessels are removed and remediated at the owner's expense. The Act is one of the six measures introduced under the federal government's \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan to address abandoned vessels. Other measures include a Small Craft Harbours Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels initiative, and an Abandoned Boats Funding program.

On April 28, 2021, the provincial government announced \$9.5 million has been provided from the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund to tackle shoreline cleanups and remove derelict vessels from the north coast of BC to southern Vancouver Island. \$7.1 million of that funding has been allocated to shoreline clean up, and the remainder for the removal of 100 derelict vessels. The funding has been distributed to four agencies (Songhees Development Corporation, the Small Ship Tour Operators Association – Wilderness Tourism Association, the Coastal Restoration Society and the Ocean Legacy Foundation) to address the clean up and removal work.

Broadband Internet Connectivity

The Chair of the Community Economic Development Committee represents UBCM on the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network (RCKN), a peer-driven group of elected officials and technical staff from local and Indigenous governments in the most rural and remote areas of British Columbia. Supported jointly by UBCM and Connected Communities (provincial Ministry of Citizens' Services), the RCKN focuses on learning, building capacity, and accessing expertise to advocate for improved connectivity in their communities.

UBCM actively monitors federal and provincial funding programs for expansion of broadband Internet; and has provided local government feedback on connectivity to both orders of government. Further, UBCM collaborates with FCM and provincial and territorial local government associations to advocate collectively for expansion and upgrading of Internet service, particularly in rural and remote communities.

Securing a grant to improve connectivity is contingent on federal Internet speed estimates. However, some BC communities report that the federal data does not match the actual Internet service speeds available in their area; with the federal data rendering their communities ineligible to receive connectivity funding. UBCM, the provincial Ministry of Citizens'

Services, and Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) are partnering to examine these inconsistencies with federal Internet service speed data for BC. The goal is to improve data accuracy, so all communities that are legitimately eligible can be duly considered for connectivity funding. A report on the outcome of this study is anticipated in fall 2021.

Public Transit

Last year when UBCM reached out to members to identify their financial challenges, public transit was an identified area of concern recognizing that service needed to continue, but fares were not being collected having a significant impact on local government budgets.

In June 2020, UBCM worked with BC Transit, TransLink and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation to host a Forum to get a better understanding of the impacts for all parties. Over 90 local government participants signaled their support for a draft document that requested the Province to work with all transit / community partners on the development of:

- a transit recovery strategy to address the financial impacts associated with fare losses; and
- a rebuilding strategy that would focus on how to sustain, grow and identify alternative funding models to support public transit.

In July 2021, a \$19 billion federal funding announcement identified transit as an eligible expenditure and the Province indicated that financial support would be coming to communities. In follow-up, the UBCM Executive put forward SR-4 Recovery and Rebuild of Public Transit in BC for member consideration at the 2020 Convention, which focused on the two-part ask within the above referenced June Forum draft document. The week before the UBCM Convention, the Province, jointly with the federal government, announced over \$1 billion to support BC Transit, TransLink and BC Ferries.

Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG)

In February 2020, the Honourable Selina Robinson announced that the government planned to defund Office of the AGLG in order to wind down its operations. Since that time, the AGLG worked to complete the remaining audit reports and guides that were in process at the time of the government's decision. The office closed permanently in March of 2021.

RCMP Labour Relations Regime

In January 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the RCMP had the right to collective bargaining, similar to other members of the public service. In June 2021, the National Police Federation (NPF), the sole bargaining agent for RCMP members, and the federal government announced that they had tentatively reached an agreement. Details of the collective agreement have not yet been released, as it awaits ratification from the RCMP membership. If the RCMP is successful in achieving wages and benefits that align with the industry standard, there will be a significant cost to local governments that utilize RCMP services.

UBCM continues to raise local government concerns with federal and provincial stakeholders through participation in the RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee and national Contract Management Committee. In January 2021, UBCM also completed a broad review of recently concluded collective agreements, with findings communicated to the membership via *The Compass*.

Emergency Program Act Review

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) recently began a thorough review of the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA), the framework outlining the management of disasters and emergencies in BC. UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee (FWAC) has

Policy and Advocacy

been meeting regularly with EMBC to provide local government input throughout the modernization process. This work is expected to culminate in the repeal of the EPA, to be replaced by new emergency management legislation in spring 2022.

The most widespread concern, as expressed by local governments in response to an October 2019 discussion paper, is the lack of adequate provincial support and funding to undertake new responsibilities proposed by EMBC. The FWAC continues to raise this and other key issues in advance of legislation being introduced.

Cannabis Taxation Revenue Sharing

The two-year Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Cannabis Taxation sees the federal government retain 25% of excise tax revenue (up to \$100 million per year), with the remaining 75% or more going to provinces and territories. This reflects a federal share that was reduced by 25% in recognition of the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments. The federal government declined to provide revenue to local governments directly, instead leaving that responsibility to provinces and territories. In British Columbia, the provincial government has not disbursed any of its cannabis-related taxation revenue to local governments.

UBCM continues to call on the Province to comply with the intent of the federal excise tax revenue sharing scheme, and recognize the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments by negotiating an equitable cannabis taxation revenue sharing agreement. With the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Cannabis Taxation currently up for renewal, and in the absence of a revenue sharing framework with the Province, UBCM has recently delivered correspondence to federal Ministers Chrystia Freeland and Bill Blair, advocating for a new agreement that directly transfers excise tax revenue to local governments.

Police Act Review

The *Police Act* provides the framework for the delivery of police services throughout British Columbia, including responsibilities assigned to the Province and local governments. In 2020, the Province announced its intention to review the 45-year old *Police Act*, subsequently creating the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* (SCRPA). Under its mandate, the SCRPA has until April 28, 2022 to submit its final report including any recommendations.

UBCM delivered a submission and presented its findings to the SCRPA in early 2021. Included were 17 recommendations that seek to address support for law enforcement; public trust and accountability; responsibility and resourcing for services; efficiency and effectiveness; coordination and communication; and, ongoing engagement.

As the SCRPA continues to meet with stakeholders, UBCM is monitoring the feedback being provided by other organizations, and receiving regular updates from provincial staff regarding the modernization process.

Federal Comprehensive Lands Claims Policy

In February 2018, the federal government announced the launch of a national engagement with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people to develop a Recognition and Implementation of Rights Framework. Legislative and policy elements of the framework could include a new policy reflecting the unique needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples to replace the current Comprehensive Land Claims Policy and the Inherent Right to Self-Government Policy.

In September 2019, the federal government, Province and First Nations Summit endorsed a policy on Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia. This B.C. specific policy establishes a process whereby negotiation mandates are co-developed in recognition of the inherent right to self-determination. The intent of the policy is to provide greater flexibility to develop agreements in an incremental or staged way.

Minister Bennett's current Mandate Letter includes the following priority: "Continue ongoing work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to redesign the Comprehensive Claims and Inherent Rights Policies". Few details on what this entails have been made public since the election.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report on June 3, 2019, built around 231 Calls for Justice. In response to resolution 2019-LR4, UBCM encouraged the Federal Government to move forward on the development and implementation of a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women and others. The federal government released its National Action Plan on June 3, 2021. UBCM is monitoring the implementation of the Calls for Justice.

Elections Education and Advice Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was constituted in fall 2016 to meet the requirements set out in the new *Local Elections Campaigning Financing Act* (LECFA). UBCM has a seat on the TAC Advisory Committee along with the Local Government Management Association, Elections BC, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Education and BC School Trustees Association. TAC members provide information and resources to support election participants and discuss matters of common interest respecting the administration and application of LECFA related regulations.

In advance of the 2022 local general election, TAC members are updating forms and guidebooks to assist all election participants understand campaign finance / election rules, as well as planning a number of educational workshops and webinars in the coming year. During COVID, TAC members were also working to develop guidance documents to support local governments needing to hold by-elections or assent votes in a pandemic environment. Over the course of the pandemic the Minister has issued over 30 ministerial orders in support of local government requests.

Federal Regulations for Railway Grade Crossings

Local governments—as road authorities—and rail companies must ensure that public railway grade crossings meet the requirements of the federal Rail Safety Grade Crossings Regulations (GCR) by November 28, 2021.

However, Transport Canada is proposing a new risk assessment system to prioritize which railway grade crossings should be upgraded. The upgrade requirements would make exemption for existing crossings considered to be low risk. In concert with this risk assessment, the federal government would extend the GCR compliance deadline by one year for high priority

Policy and Advocacy

crossings (to November 28, 2022), and three years for all other crossings—those that are neither low-risk nor high priority (to November 28, 2024). These proposed changes were published in the Canada Gazette, Part I on June 19, 2021, but have not yet been adopted by the federal government.

For grade crossings of provincially regulated railways, the BC government has extended the GCR compliance deadline to January 1, 2028. It is not clear whether the new risk assessment system and deadline extensions proposed by Transport Canada will affect this new compliance deadline set by the Province.

To assist with required improvements to railway grade crossings, the federal Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) provides grant funding, with an August 1 annual deadline for grant applications. UBCM participates in a Transport Canada working group for provincial and territorial local government associations, to ensure that local governments receive clear information about GCR implementation and rail safety funding, and local government perspectives are provided to the federal government.

NAV CANADA: Level of Service Study

In spring 2021, UBCM was apprised that NAV Canada is conducting level of service studies in a number of BC communities to evaluate whether adjustments need to be made to air traffic services at some airports, thereby raising safety concerns. Recognizing this is a federal issue, UBCM reached out to FCM. FCM advised it has met with the federal Minister to raise concerns about the potential impacts on communities, and had follow up conversations with Air Canada and Nav Canada as well as the Regional Community Airports of Canada (RCAC).

A key concern is that NAV Canada may recommend service cuts based on pandemic-level air traffic which is not an accurate reflection of normal conditions. FCM's official policy, adopted in March 2020 calls on the federal government to study the safety impacts of any proposed changes.

FCM International Programs – UBCM Partners with Cambodia

UBCM has been involved in international programming through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for over twenty years. The UBCM Executive has committed to a project involving capacity building with the national local government association in Cambodia and has entered into a MOU with FCM to support this work for a period through November 2020. Due to COVID-19, the mission was extended until August 2021.

UBCM participated in an overseas mission with the National League of Communities (NLC) in Cambodia in January 2020. The focus of the mission was building the capacity of elected women at the local level, and increasing female participation in local government. UBCM also provided ongoing technical assistance to build the advocacy, member outreach and policy development capacity of NLC staff through several virtual sessions during the last year.



Programs and Services



Programs and Services



Duncan, BC

Highlights

- Local Government Development Approvals program: Launched in March 2021, 103 Local Governments have applied for funding through this program.
- Asset Management Planning: Since 2015, 287 asset management projects or subsidies have been approved.
- Community Child Care Planning & Space Creation: Between the two funding streams, over 100 local governments have received over \$16 million for either child care planning or the creation of child care spaces through capital funding.

Local Government Program Services

UBCM has delivered numerous provincially funded programs since 2004. Multiple funding programs were available to local governments and First Nations in 2020/21.

Active Transportation Planning

Administered for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (\$600,000 since 2020), the intent of the Active Transportation Planning program is to support local governments to incorporate or enhance active transportation components of formal planning documents (Official Community Plan, Sustainability Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, or Transportation Plan), including research, consultation, and policy development.

Asset Management Planning Program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and including the contribution of accrued interest from LGPS programs (\$4.85 million since 2014), the program provides assistance to local governments to deliver sustainable services by extending and deepening asset management practices within their organizations and through subsidies for Asset Management BC training events.

Community Child Care Planning & Space Creation

Administered for the Ministry of Children & Family Development and including funding from the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (\$21.5 million since 2018), two funding streams support local governments to engage in child care planning activities and develop child care spaces for children ages 0-5.

Community Emergency Preparedness Program

Administered for the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General (\$77 million since 2017), the CEPF is intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies.

The program ran five funding stream intakes between November 2020 and March of 2021:

- Structural Flood Mitigation
- Emergency Operations Centres and Training
- Emergency Support Services
- Evacuation Route Planning
- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping and Flood Mitigation Planning

Community Resiliency Investment program

The FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program is administered

for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (\$61.8 millions since 2018) and provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

The FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund (\$10 million) was launched in 2021, supporting job creation—with local economic recovery benefits—through the lens of wildfire prevention activities. Eligible applicants included local governments, First Nations, improvement districts and volunteer fire departments.

Housing Needs Report Program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (\$5.0 million since 2018), the Housing Needs Reports program supports local governments in undertaking housing needs reports in order to meet provincial requirements.

Local Government Development Approvals program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Canada-BC Restart Agreement (\$15 million since 2021), the Local Government Development Approvals program supports the implementation of established best practices and to test innovative approaches to improve development approvals processes while meeting local government planning and policy objectives.

Poverty Reduction Planning & Action Program

Administered for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (\$5.0 million since 2019), the Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program supports local governments in reducing poverty at the local level and supports the Province's poverty reduction strategy, TogetherBC.

Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum Program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Indigenous Services Canada, and including the contribution of accrued interest from LGPS programs (\$2.1 million since 1999), the C2C program provides funding for local governments and First Nations to come together in dialogue on topics of mutual interest or concern.

Strengthening Communities' Services program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Canada-BC Restart Agreement (\$100 million since 2021), the Strengthening Communities' Services program aims to support local governments and Treaty First Nations take action in providing urgent assistance to individuals currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation Pilot Program

Administered for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation (\$110,000.00 in 2019), this pilot program supported local governments and eligible Indigenous societies develop events and activities that provide a time and place for dialogue to build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest or concern, and/or to advance tangible outcomes.

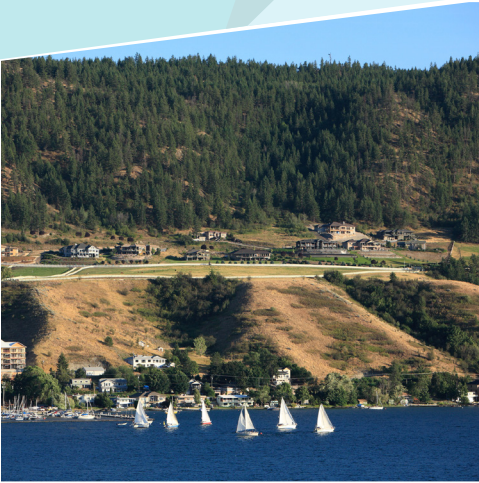


Port Coquitlam, BC

Highlights Cont'd

- **Community Resiliency**
Investment: In three annual intakes to date, the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports stream has funded 370 FireSmart & fuel management projects. The FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund supports another 74 projects.
- **Housing Needs Report Program:** Since 2019, 92 individual or regional applications representing over two-thirds of the local governments in the province have received funding to help recipients meet the legislative requirements to complete a Housing Needs Report prior to April 2022.
- **Poverty Reduction Planning & Action program:** Launched in 2020, this program has so far supported 45 applications for either planning or projects to help reduce poverty at the local level.

Programs and Services



Vernon, BC



Vanderhoof, BC

Gas Tax Agreement

In May 2014, UBCM entered into a ten-year Gas Tax Agreement (GTA) with Canada and British Columbia which will see over \$2.9 billion in federal funding transferred for investments in local government infrastructure and capacity building projects. The GTA provides the administrative framework for the delivery of federal Gas Tax funding to British Columbia local governments and other recipients.

UBCM continues to administer the Gas Tax Fund on behalf of the three parties through three distinct funding programs: the Community Works Fund; the Strategic Priorities Fund; and the Greater Vancouver Regional Fund.

Program Highlights

In March, 2021, the Government of Canada announced the intention to top-up the federal Gas Tax Fund allocation for 2021. This top-up will deliver \$2.2 billion across Canada in addition to the current 2021 Gas Tax Fund allocation. In total, it is expected that the 2021 allocation for BC will exceed \$573 million and be delivered through the three Gas Tax Fund program streams.

Also announced in March, was the intention to change the name of the program to the **Canada Community-Building Fund**. This change is expected to take place in the summer of 2021.

Population Change

In 2019, the Gas Tax Fund moved to the 2016 Canada Census population numbers from the 2011. This change impacted the overall per capita allocation for all local governments in BC and is reflected in a slightly higher or lower amount distributed through the funding programs, based on the relative increase in a local government's population in relation to the population of the province.

Community Works Fund (CWF)

- UBCM will deliver over \$224 million to all local governments in 2021 through the Community Works Fund program
- The payments of GTF to UBCM in 2021 resulted in two CWF transfers. An accelerated payment delivered in June and top-up to be delivered in fall of 2021
- Eligible investment categories for local government capital infrastructure projects include: local roads, bridges and active transportation; public transit; drinking water; wastewater; solid waste; community energy systems; recreational and sport infrastructure; tourism and cultural infrastructure; regional and local airports; broadband connectivity; disaster mitigation; short-sea shipping; short-line rail and brownfield redevelopment

- Local Governments can also invest CWF towards certain capacity building projects such as Asset Management Planning, Integrated Community Sustainability Planning, and Long-Term Infrastructure Planning
- Local Governments CWF allocation is based on a funding floor of \$57,880 and a per capita amount
- In British Columbia, all Local Governments participate in the Community Works Fund program and, on average, expend more than \$110 million of CWF on over 800 infrastructure and capacity building projects each year

Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF)

- The SPF is an application-based Gas Tax program which is available for local governments outside of the Greater Vancouver region
- SPF pools approximately \$30 million each year for eligible projects that are large in scale, regional in impact or innovative and align with the national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment, and strong cities and communities
- The first intake for the Strategic Priorities Fund program was launched in December 2014 and in total, 66 projects were awarded SPF grants valued at \$120 million
- A second SPF intake was launched in February 2017, and in total 112 projects were awarded SPF grants valued at \$193 million
- There is no timeline set for the next SPF intake

Greater Vancouver Regional Fund (GVRF)

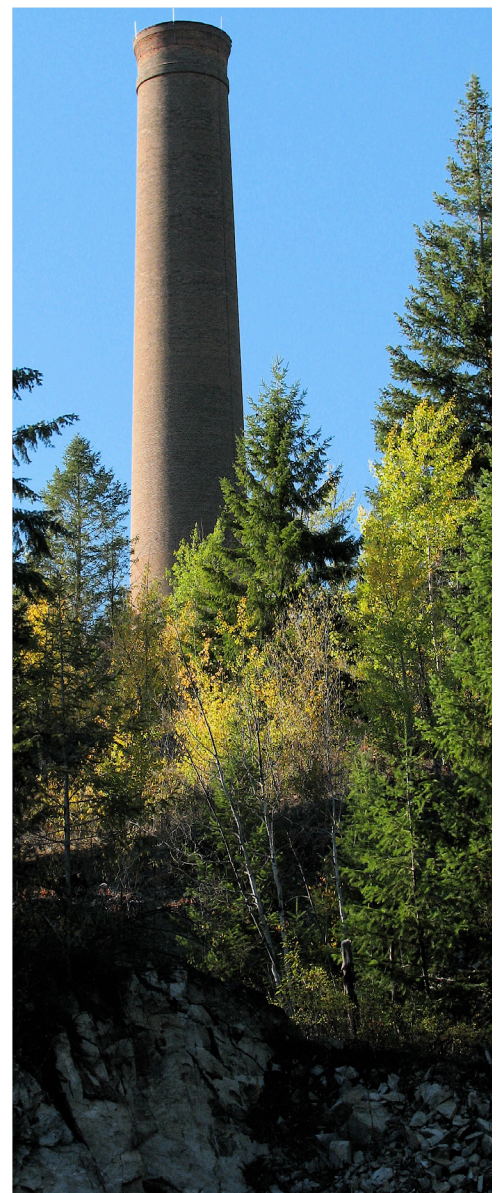
- UBCM continues to deliver pooled funding in the Greater Vancouver region for regional transportation projects
- UBCM entered into a GVRF agreement with TransLink in 2017 which will deliver over \$1.3 billion over 10 years for transportation investments that benefit Metro Vancouver region
- All projects submitted by TransLink are reviewed and approved by the Metro Regional District Board of Directors

Asset Management

- The GTA states that all local governments must work to strengthen Asset Management in accordance with the Asset Management framework developed by the Partnership Committee
- The Partnership Committee approved the Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery: A BC Framework and local government commitments pursuant to the Framework in 2015
- An on-line Asset Management Assessment was launched in June 2016 whereby all local governments provided baseline information on the 'state of asset management' in their respective organization. A report on the findings was released in October 2017
- In 2018, local governments completed an Asset Management Commitment Questionnaire that identifies commitments and/or planned improvements that move forward with strengthening asset management practices
- Asset management, and showing progress made, will be part of the GTA Outcomes Reports, required for 2018 and 2023



Port Alice, BC



Greenwood, BC

Programs and Services

Member Services

UBCM Group Benefits Program

UBCM in partnership with Pacific Blue Cross/BC Life offer a variety of health benefits including:

- Extended Health
- Dental
- Group Life, Dependent Life and Optional Life
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) and Optional AD&D
- Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability
- Administrative Services Only (ASO)
- Critical Illness Benefits (Group and Optional Plans)
- Employee and Family Assistance Plan
- Health Spending Accounts
- Benefits for Elected Officials

There are 102 local governments and 27 affiliated organizations participating in the UBCM Group Benefits Plan, which accounts for more than 3,000 insured individuals. Highlights from the year.

Governance

UBCM has been working on plan governance over the past two years and have completed and signed off on the following agreements:

- Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) - Service Performance Agreement, Administration Partnership Guidelines, Memorandum of Understanding
- Health Benefits Trust (HBT) – Third Party Administrator agreement
- George & Bell Consulting – Rate Renewal Policy, Engagement agreement for ongoing consulting and actuarial support

Annual Renewal

Negotiations with PBC are completed each year in July by UBCM's consultant and actuary, George & Bell Consulting. The renewal timeline runs from April 1 to August 31st with new rates provided in September and effective October 1st.

Current Status and Terminated Plan Members

There has been one termination and no new members to the plan. The Union Bay Improvement District left the plan effective June 30, 2021 because they have amalgamated with the Comox Valley RD.

Petro-Canada SuperPass Rebate Program

UBCM in partnership with Petro-Canada offers UBCM members significant savings, convenience, control and security when using the Petro-Canada SuperPass Credit Card.

Designed to provide innovative security and control features, it can increase the overall efficiency by enabling better management of fleet expenditures. The SuperPass Card can be customized at the individual card level to provide the features (or control) best suited to your particular business needs.

A discount of 2.0 cents/litre on all grades of gasoline and diesel purchased at Petro-Canada retail service stations.

Commercial Vehicle Licensing

Program was cancelled effective December 31, 2019.

Dog/Cat Tags

UBCM provides a discounted rate on dog and cat tags which local governments sell to their residents. In 2021 53 members participated (65 in 2020) and purchased 23,342 tags (28,000 in 2020). Revenues and participants have been declining over the past few years as members move to permanent tags that don't have to be replaced each year.

Publications

UBCM provides a variety of publications for our members, affiliated organizations and the public.

NET•WORK•BOOK

UBCM discontinued producing the NET•WORK•BOOK in 2019. The information contained in the NET•WORK•BOOK is available on the UBCM website.

Local Government in BC

Local Government in British Columbia explains how government works and examines its role in our society.

Community Effort Book

The Community Effort Book provides an excellent overview of local government in BC in an easy to read, colourfully illustrated format, and is available in PDF format by request.

Planners and Wall Calendars

Every year, UBCM produces a very useful Local Government Planner and Wall Calendar, noting dates of importance to local governments. 167 Planners and 799 Calendars were purchased this year by 117 members and 8 non members.



Surrey, BC



Keremeos, BC

Financial Statements of

**UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
MUNICIPALITIES**

And Independent Auditors' Report thereon

Year ended May 31, 2021





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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at May 31, 2021
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at May 31, 2021, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

Financial Statements



Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Page 3

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada
July 16, 2021

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

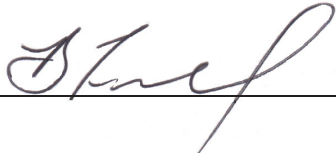
Statement of Financial Position

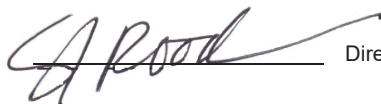
May 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 316,591,085	\$ 5,152,813
Investments (note 3)	578,805,543	527,881,342
Accounts receivables	218,852	108,027
Prepaid expenses	151,113	89,229
	<u>895,766,593</u>	<u>533,231,411</u>
Capital assets (note 4)	2,049,558	2,227,063
Intangible asset (note 5)	345,336	467,220
	<u>\$ 898,161,487</u>	<u>\$ 535,925,694</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 297,340	\$ 187,219
Convention deposits	6,500	39,000
Deferred revenue and contributions (note 7)	883,309,337	521,223,624
	<u>883,613,177</u>	<u>521,449,843</u>
Deferred lease inducement	10,379	19,869
Other liabilities	66,751	61,353
	<u>883,690,307</u>	<u>521,531,065</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in capital and intangible assets (note 8)	2,050,766	2,217,238
Internally restricted (note 9)	5,120,000	5,120,000
Unrestricted	7,300,414	7,057,391
	<u>14,471,180</u>	<u>14,394,629</u>
Commitment (note 12)		
	<u>\$ 898,161,487</u>	<u>\$ 535,925,694</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee:

 Director

 Director

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Statement of Operations

Year ended May 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Revenue:		
Annual member dues (note 7)	\$ 1,267,260	\$ 1,259,730
Convention	446,123	1,995,142
Members' services	654,484	628,646
Administrative fees (note 10)	148,235	141,318
Investment income	578,851	1,054,625
Local Government Program Services (note 7)	31,613,641	25,582,712
Gas tax (note 7)	316,187,093	420,954,396
	<u>350,895,687</u>	<u>451,616,569</u>
Expenses:		
Salaries and benefits	1,810,409	1,656,019
Executive	113,264	266,212
Members' services	140,675	113,999
Office services and supplies	278,439	265,006
Staff travel	2,619	45,118
Professional fees	175,719	93,214
Convention	497,277	1,508,733
Local Government Program Services (note 7)	31,613,641	25,582,719
Gas tax (note 7)	316,187,093	420,954,396
	<u>350,819,136</u>	<u>450,485,409</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 76,551	\$ 1,131,160

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended May 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	Invested in capital and intangible assets (note 8)	Internally restricted (note 9)	Unrestricted	Total
Balance, May 31, 2019	\$ 2,338,094	\$ 5,120,000	\$ 5,805,375	\$ 13,263,469
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(164,624)	-	1,295,784	1,131,160
Net change in invested in capital and intangible assets (note 8)	43,768	-	(43,768)	-
Balance, May 31, 2020	2,217,238	5,120,000	7,057,391	14,394,629
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(166,472)	-	243,023	76,551
Balance, May 31, 2021	\$ 2,050,766	\$ 5,120,000	\$ 7,300,414	\$ 14,471,180

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Statement of Cash Flow

Year ended May 31, 2021, with comparative information for 2020

	2021	2020
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operating:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 76,551	\$ 1,131,160
Items not involving cash:		
Change in fair value of investments	(172,952)	(6,307)
Amortization of capital assets	177,505	173,099
Amortization of intangible asset	121,884	121,884
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(132,917)	(130,359)
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(9,490)	(8,492)
	60,582	1,280,985
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(110,825)	70,581
Prepaid expenses	(61,884)	121,279
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	110,121	(28,852)
Convention deposits	(32,500)	(377,222)
Deferred revenue and contributions	360,422,953	116,386,360
Other liabilities	5,398	-
	360,393,844	117,453,131
Investments:		
Purchase of capital assets	-	(43,768)
Purchase of investments	(385,956,186)	(267,850,000)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	337,000,614	139,950,000
	(48,955,572)	(127,943,768)
Increase (decrease) in cash	311,438,272	(10,490,637)
Cash, beginning of year	5,152,813	15,643,450
Cash, end of year	\$ 316,591,085	\$ 5,152,813
Non-cash activities:		
Investment income accrued and recorded to deferred revenue and contributions (note 7)	\$ 1,795,677	\$ 9,029,162

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended May 31, 2021

1. Operations:

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (the “UBCM”) is incorporated under the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Act and its principal activity is to represent the interests of its members in dealing with other orders of government. The UBCM is a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income taxes.

The UBCM’s operations include the following significant activities:

- (a) *Operating* - Reflects the general operating activities and administration functions of the UBCM.
- (b) *Convention* - Activities directly related to the annual convention.
- (c) *Local Government Program Services (“LGPS”)* - The Province of British Columbia (the “Province”) has provided funding to the UBCM for shared provincial-local government interests in a variety of fields. The service that the UBCM provides is to control and deliver those funds to members for the purposes of the various programs.
- (d) *Gas Tax* - The Government of Canada (“Canada”), the Province, and the UBCM had entered into the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia (the “Gas Tax Agreement”) to transfer funding to the UBCM to control and deliver the funding to local government organizations in British Columbia. The federal Gas Tax Fund/Canada Community-Building Fund provides predictable, long-term and stable funding to local governments in British Columbia for investment in infrastructure and capacity building projects. The Gas Tax Agreement is effective from April 1, 2014 until March 31, 2024.

Impact of COVID-19:

In March 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and has had a significant impact globally, domestically, and locally. UBCM continues to closely monitor the impact of any financial implications.

2. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - *Accounting*. Significant accounting policies include:

(a) Revenue recognition:

The UBCM follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions which include government grants. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Externally restricted contributions are recorded as deferred revenue and contributions in the year received, and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(a) Revenue recognition (continued):

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned. Restricted investment income is recorded as deferred revenue and contributions in the year earned, and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Revenue from annual member dues, special levies, fees and contracts is recognized when the services are provided. Amounts collected relating to subsequent periods are recorded as deferred revenue and contributions.

Contributed capital assets are measured at the fair value at the date of contribution. Contributed capital assets not subject to amortization, such as land, are recorded as direct increases in net assets in the period the assets are received. Contributed capital assets subject to amortization and contributions restricted for the purchase of capital assets are deferred and amortized into revenue on a straight-line basis, at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related capital assets.

(b) Capital assets:

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	Years
Building	25
Office equipment	4
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of useful life of asset and lease term

The UBCM reviews the carrying amount of capital assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset no longer contributes to the UBCM's ability to provide services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its carrying amount. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured and recorded in the statement of operations at the amount by which the carrying amount of the capital asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

(c) Intangible asset:

Intangible asset is recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful life as follows:

Asset	Years
Gas tax management software	7

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(c) Intangible asset (continued):

The UBCM reviews the carrying amount of intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset no longer contributes to the UBCM's ability to provide services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its carrying amount. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured and recorded in the statement of operations at the amount by which the carrying amount of the intangible asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

(d) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The UBCM has elected to carry its investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the UBCM determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the UBCM expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

(e) Deferred lease inducement:

Deferred lease inducement relates to tenant inducements received in a lease agreement, including any rent-free periods and step-rent increases. Amortization of deferred lease inducements is recognized over the initial term of the lease on a straight-line basis against office services and supplies expense.

(f) Employee future benefits:

The UBCM and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to the multi-employer defined benefit plan and, accordingly, contributions are expensed when paid or payable.

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. Investments:

	2021	2020
Money market funds	\$ 571,682,754	\$ 521,186,747
Equities (a)	7,096,182	6,647,988
Other	26,607	46,607
	<u>\$ 578,805,543</u>	<u>\$ 527,881,342</u>

(a) Equities are comprised of investments in various equity and fixed income index exchange traded funds ("ETFs").

4. Capital assets:

	2021		2020	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 252,000	\$ -	\$ 252,000	\$ 252,000
Building	3,347,623	1,623,438	1,724,185	1,858,090
Office equipment	138,599	117,920	20,679	35,222
Leasehold improvements	140,931	88,237	52,694	81,751
	<u>\$ 3,879,153</u>	<u>\$ 1,829,595</u>	<u>\$ 2,049,558</u>	<u>\$ 2,227,063</u>

5. Intangible asset:

	2021		2020	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Gas tax management software	\$ 832,872	\$ 487,536	\$ 345,336	\$ 467,220

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at May 31, 2021 are government remittances payable of \$9,781 (2020 - \$47,231) for GST and payroll-related taxes.

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

7. Deferred revenue and contributions:

	Members' dues	LGPS	Gas Tax (a)	Other	Total
Balance, May 31, 2019	\$ 732,625	\$ 165,259,545	\$ 229,929,300	\$ 16,991	\$ 395,938,461
Amounts received	1,265,052	3,768,508	559,020,980	23,757	564,078,297
Restricted investment income earned	-	2,013,818	7,015,344	-	9,029,162
Recognized as revenue	(1,259,730)	(25,582,712)	(420,954,396)	(25,458)	(447,822,296)
Reallocation of restricted funds (b)	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Balance, May 31, 2020	737,947	145,484,159	374,986,228	15,290	521,223,624
Amounts received	1,272,164	134,510,385	573,579,026	15,693	709,377,268
Restricted investment income earned	-	297,569	1,498,108	-	1,795,677
Recognized as revenue	(1,267,260)	(31,613,641)	(316,187,093)	(19,238)	(349,087,232)
Balance, May 31, 2021	\$ 742,851	\$ 248,678,472	\$ 633,876,269	\$ 11,745	\$ 883,309,337

(a) The UBCM is required to annually report in accordance with the Gas Tax Agreement to Canada and the Province by September 30. As at May 31, 2021, included in gas tax is deferred capital contributions of \$344,128 (2020 - \$477,045). During the year ended May 31, 2021, amortization of deferred capital contributions recognized as revenue was \$132,917 (2020 - \$130,359).

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

8. Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets:

Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets is calculated as follows

	2021	2020
Capital assets	\$ 2,049,558	\$ 2,227,063
Intangible asset	345,336	467,220
Amount financed by deferred capital contributions (note 7(a))	(344,128)	(477,045)
Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, end of year	\$ 2,050,766	\$ 2,217,238

Change in net assets invested in capital and intangible assets is calculated as follows:

	2021	2020
Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, beginning of year	\$ 2,217,238	\$ 2,338,094
Excess of revenue over expenses:		
Amortization of capital assets	(177,505)	(173,099)
Amortization of intangible asset	(121,884)	(121,884)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	132,917	130,359
	(166,472)	(164,624)
Net change in invested in capital and intangible assets:		
Purchase of capital assets	-	43,768
Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, end of year	\$ 2,050,766	\$ 2,217,238

9. Internally restricted net assets:

Internally restricted net assets are comprised of reserves restricted by the Executive Committee of the UBCM for future expenditures related to specific purposes. The Executive Committee approved the establishment of the following reserves:

(a) Business Stabilization Reserve:

This reserve relates to:

- 50% of budgeted member dues restricted for the purposes of providing a stabilization fund in the event of unforeseen future revenue losses or events; and
- 50% of the normal convention expenses in reserve restricted for the purposes of providing funding in the case of an emergency event such as cancellation of a convention.

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

9. Internally restricted net assets (continued):

(b) Technology Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing sustainable funding to support new technology solutions; to upgrade of legacy systems; and to purchase new and to upgrade existing hardware and software.

(c) Legal Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for the assistance of appeals of court decisions that impact members.

(d) Building and Equipment Maintenance Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for replacing hardware, equipment and furniture at the convention; and for repairs and maintenance at the Richmond office and the Local Government House.

(e) Building Replacement Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for the replacement of the Local Government House building.

Amounts restricted are as follows:

	2021	2020
Business Stabilization Reserve	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Technology Reserve	1,500,000	1,500,000
Legal Reserve	500,000	500,000
Building and Equipment Maintenance Reserve	500,000	500,000
Building Replacement Reserve	1,120,000	1,120,000
	<u>\$ 5,120,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,120,000</u>

10. Administrative fees:

The UBCM charges administrative fees to third parties to recover its costs incurred. Administrative fees are comprised as follows:

	2021	2020
Commercial Vehicle License Program Fund	\$ -	\$ 16,000
UBCM professional counsel	132,959	119,318
Rental fee	6,000	6,000
Other	9,276	-
	<u>\$ 148,235</u>	<u>\$ 141,318</u>

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

11. Trust funds:

The UBCM administers the following trust funds where activities and balances are not reflected in the UBCM's financial statements:

(a) Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund:

The Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund was established through contributions from members, the Province of British Columbia and other individuals. Scholarship applications and awards are made within the Union executive's general guidelines by the Board of Examiners.

(b) UBCM / Federation of Canadian Municipalities ("FCM") Travel Fund:

The UBCM administers the UBCM / FCM Travel Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to assist FCM board members with their travel costs to FCM meetings through per capita levies.

(c) Commercial Vehicle License Program Fund:

Participating municipalities remit license fees collected for commercial vehicles to the UBCM in trust. Surplus funds are distributed to the participating municipalities on December 31 annually. The UBCM ceased administering the Commercial Vehicle License Program on behalf of local governments on December 31, 2019.

(d) Local Government Leadership Academy ("LGLA"):

The UBCM holds investments in trust for the LGLA. The LGLA provides local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators with leadership development opportunities in the interest of improving governance at the local level.

The funds held by the UBCM on behalf of the trust funds are as follows:

	2021	2020
Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund	\$ 73,367	\$ 72,365
UBCM / FCM Travel Fund	335,259	326,193
Commercial Vehicle License Program Fund	370	369
Local Government Leadership Academy	930,528	912,170
	<u>\$ 1,339,524</u>	<u>\$ 1,311,097</u>

Financial Statements

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

12. Commitment:

Effective July 1, 2017, the UBCM extended the operating lease for its office space in Richmond, British Columbia for a period of five years with expiry on June 30, 2022. The UBCM is committed to annual basic lease payment plus estimated proportionate share of taxes and common area maintenance costs as follows:

2022	\$ 122,550
2023	10,210
	<hr/> \$ 132,760 <hr/>

13. Municipal Pension Plan:

The UBCM and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The Board of Trustees of the plan, representing plan members and employers is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits provided are based on a formula. As at December 31, 2018, the plan has about 213,000 active members and approximately 106,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 41,000 contributors, of which 23 (2020 - 23) are the UBCM's employees.

The most recent actuarial valuation as at December 31, 2018, indicated a \$2.866 billion funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis. The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2021, with results available in late 2022.

Employers participating in the plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension plan accounting). This is because the plan records accrued liabilities and accrued assets for the plan in aggregate, resulting in no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and cost to the individual employers participating in the plan.

The UBCM paid \$235,484 (2020 - \$220,193) for employer contributions to the plan in fiscal 2021.

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended May 31, 2021

14. Financial risks:

(a) Market risk:

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The UBCM manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to approved policy. The UBCM is not involved in any hedging relationships through its operations and does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. Management does not believe that the UBCM is subject to significant market risk arising from its investments as investments are comprised of money market funds and exchange traded funds.

(b) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. For cash and accounts receivable, the UBCM's credit risk is limited to the carrying value on the statement of financial position. Management does not believe that the UBCM is subject to any significant concentration of credit risk.

(c) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the UBCM will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The UBCM manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash. The UBCM monitors the cash flow to ensure a sufficient continuity of funding.

(d) Interest rate risk:

The UBCM is not exposed to significant interest risk as it does not have amounts payable that are charged interest.

There has been no change to the financials risk exposures outlined above from 2020 other than as described above and the pervasive impact of COVID 19.