

RESPONSE TO THE 2023 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

FEBRUARY 2024

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR1 Health Equity for Rural and Remote Communities

UBCM Executive

Whereas rural and remote communities in BC experience significant health care challenges, including a lack of access to emergency services, on-demand mental health and addictions facilities, physicians, paramedics, and other health professionals;

And whereas the long distances, limited public and private transportation options to travel to the nearest health care service, and high costs for accommodations to stay near those sites while receiving treatment, are substantial barriers for people living in rural communities across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government introduce metrics and policy to identify reasonable travel distances from each community to health care services and facilities, to ensure transparent, accountable, and equitable health care access for those living in rural and remote communities in BC;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government move quickly to increase the health care workforce in rural and remote communities by:

- creating additional licensing and training opportunities for internationally-trained medical graduates;
- establishing recruitment and retention programs for health care professionals willing to work in rural areas;
- approving physician assistants to work alongside physicians and other health professionals; and
- expanding the use of nurse practitioners and pharmacists to increase access to health services.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health Standards of Accessibility and Guidelines for Provision of Sustainable Acute Care Service by Health Authorities sets the framework to ensure sustainable and quality of care for BC residents.

In particular, residents of rural areas need to be assured of accessibility to acute care services. Health authorities and the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) establish provincial standards of accessibility so that health services provided ensure sustainability and quality of care for BC residents. This guideline document has been attached for your reference.

Our Government is focused on reducing barriers for international educated health professionals to help increase the supply of those professionals working successfully in our health care system. That is why we have announced additional actions to recruit more doctors by expanding pathways for international medical graduates (IMGs) to enter BC's workforce, including:

- A further expansion of the Practice Ready Assessment-BC program for internationally trained family physicians which will triple from 32 seats to 96 seats starting March 2024;
- The introduction of a 'USA certified' class of licensure through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) to fast-track eligible US-trained physicians to practice pediatrics, internal medicine, or emergency medicine in community settings such as in urgent and primary care centres, community clinics, and family practices;
- The introduction of 'Associate Physicians', a new class of registration that provides a route for IMGs not eligible for licensure as independent medical practitioners, to work under the direction and supervision of an attending physician within structured, team-based care settings.

The Ministry's Rural Practice Programs works with health authorities and other partners to improve health services in rural areas of the province. The programs provide a range of supports, including financial incentives, to assist and

facilitate the recruitment and retention of physicians in rural communities. The Rural Programs guide has been attached for your reference.

The Province also funds Health Match BC, a free health professional recruitment service that helps both internationally educated and Canadian-trained health professionals relocate and practice in BC.

In September, the Ministry of Health announced it is working with the CPSBC to introduce physician assistants into BC's emergency departments. This will support health care workers to provide services to patients and help patients access the services they need as we continue to build out team-based care across the health care system.

Expanding the scope of health care professionals is part of BC's Health Human Resources Strategy. The strategy supports patients by ensuring they get the health services they need and are cared for by a healthy workforce. It focuses on 70 key actions to retain, recruit and train health-care workers, while redesigning the health care system to foster workplace satisfaction and innovation.

Actions taken to build out team-based care for patients include the expanded scope of practice for pharmacists to prescribe for 21 minor ailments, the tripling of nurse practitioners, the new payment model for family physicians, the new collective agreement with nurses, the building of a second medical school at Simon Fraser University, the increase of 602 new nurse training seats, and the building of primary care networks.

SR2 911 Emergency Communications Service Delivery

UBCM Executive

Whereas there is a growing need for a more resilient and reliable emergency communications system, especially in light of the increasing severity and frequency of disasters and emergencies, 911 service disruptions and a growing annual emergency call volume;

And whereas 911 is a universally recognized number for British Columbians to call when there is an emergency (e.g., medical issue), but 911 calls related to mental health are oftentimes directed to police agencies as the first point of contact;

And whereas the improvement of the 911 emergency communications system has been a long-standing priority for local governments, as well as the UBCM Executive, which has made calls for improvements related to funding, governance and standards:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC work with local governments to modernize the 911 emergency communications system in a manner that is consistent with recent UBCM advocacy, and which includes the following:

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government is working to protect B.C. communities and make them stronger.

The Ministry is reviewing this recommendation including the need for a provincial framework for B.C.'s public safety and emergency communications systems, including oversight, and response standards, how to better support communities from a long-term financial perspective for a modernized 911 system and better integrating mental health supports.

SR3 Addressing BC's Toxic Drug Health Emergency

UBCM Executive

Whereas BC local governments recognize the urgent need to address the opioid crisis, and support decriminalization as one of the tools to tackle BC's toxic drug health emergency;

And whereas there is insufficient province-wide access to resources and services to support and ensure the safety of persons who use illicit drugs:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government immediately provide financial investments to ensure the provision of geographically accessible, on-demand mental health and addiction treatment, detox and recovery services; overdose prevention sites with inhalation; and access to safe supply and drug testing for all regions of BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Government is committed to improving access to culturally safe, effective, seamless, and integrated services across the full spectrum of mental health and substance use care, from prevention and early intervention through aftercare.

Budget 2023 added more than \$1 billion to support people who struggle with mental health or substance use challenges so they can access the care they need when they need it.

Budget 2023 included funding for:

- 195 more treatment and recovery beds throughout BC, with no out of pocket fees.
- A new model of seamless care, called Road to Recovery, to support people through their entire recovery journey, enhancing wrap-around supports.
- Expansion of Indigenous-led treatment, recovery and aftercare.
- New recovery communities to support people and their recovery through the long term; and,
- Expanding the Red Fish model of care to other areas of the province so people can get specialized care closer to home.

The Ministry continues to work across government, with Indigenous partners, communities and families to expand mental health and substance use treatment supports that meet the diverse needs of people across BC. Additional key actions include:

- Expanding harm reduction services such as drug checking and naloxone distribution.
- Increasing access to supervised inhalation services across the province to provide safe spaces for those who smoke substances and are at risk of drug toxicity events.
- Implementing prescribed safer supply, providing pharmaceutical grade alternatives to illicit drugs to people at risk of drug toxicity events and deaths to help separate people from the toxic illicit drug supply, save lives, reduce harms, and enhance connections to health and social supports.
- Expanding and optimizing medication assisted treatment by increasing the number of physicians and nurses who can prescribe opioid agonist treatment.
- Investment of \$164 million over three years through Budget 2022 to provide phase 1 complex care housing services to approximately 500 people throughout BC.
- Budget 2023 invests an additional \$75.11 million over three years for phase 1 complex care housing services, bringing the three-year total for phase 1 to \$238.25 million.
- Expanding team-based care by adding new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and implementing new substance use integrated teams.
- Funding through Budget 2022 to support a rent supplement program that will include mental health and substance use supports.

SR4 Decriminalization and Public Use

UBCM Executive

Whereas BC local governments recognize the urgent need to address the opioid crisis, and support decriminalization as one of the tools to tackle BC's toxic drug health emergency;

And whereas concerns have been raised by local governments since the pilot project began in January 2023 on the public use of illicit drugs in child focused spaces such as parks and playgrounds;

And whereas the federal government recently announced that effective September 18, 2023 the Health Canada exemption will be expanded to prohibit the possession of illicit drugs within 15 meters of any play structure in a playground, a spray park or wading pool, or a skate park:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government introduce Fall 2023 legislation to further regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in parks, beaches, sports fields and bus stops where children also gather.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Provincial Government values the feedback of local governments on this issue and is grateful for the Union of BC Municipalities' continued support for decriminalization as a tool to connect people to care while fighting the shame and stigma of addictions.

On October 5, 2023, the Government introduced the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act* (the Act), which allows police to keep community spaces accessible for everyone while also enabling people who use drugs to be connected to spaces where they can use safely and receive supports. Under the Act, drug use will not be allowed at parks, beaches, sports fields, and outdoor community recreation areas, as well as within six metres of public transit bus stops and entrances to businesses or residential buildings next to public areas like sidewalks. Public use will also be prohibited within 15 metres of playgrounds, spray and wading pools, and skate parks, where possession is already illegal.

The Act received Royal Assent on November 8, 2023, and will come into force by Regulation.

Government is committed to remaining engaged with UBCM and other local government partners throughout the implementation, evaluation and monitoring of decriminalization and the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*.

SR5 Funding and Capacity for Police Training in BC

UBCM Executive

Whereas changes to the Justice Institute of BC's (JIBC) Police Academy funding model have included the Province limiting its contribution to approximately two million dollars per year, with remaining costs transferred to UBCM members with municipal police departments;

And whereas the demand for new police officers continues to increase, as does the population of British Columbia, creating additional demand on the JIBC Police Academy with resulting impacts on all municipal police departments in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC increase its annual contribution to the JIBC Police Academy to help build additional capacity and offset training costs for communities with municipal police departments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government has carefully considered the request and will look to assess future funding models for municipal policing costs in the context of police training and public safety modernization.

The Province commits to maintaining the existing funding contribution and we appreciate the Justice Institute of BC's continued commitment to work collaboratively with the Province and police stakeholders to provide quality and defensible training for independent police officers in British Columbia.

The Province has recently engaged several partners including the Justice Institute of BC, senior police leaders from the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police, and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills in discussions about additional capacity for recruit training at the Police Academy. The ministries and stakeholders are aware of the necessity of meeting the demand for new police officers in the short and long term and consideration will be given to training models that balance the demand and the existing financial arrangements.

ENDORSE BLOCK (EB) RESOLUTIONS

EB1 Investment in Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery

Kelowna, Kamloops

Whereas additional mental health and substance use programs and associated funding is needed to meet the complex needs of people living with challenges in BC communities that has contributed to an unprecedented level of deaths, poverty, criminal activity, social disorder, stress on first responders and health care professionals contributing to increased pressure on hospitals;

And whereas the lack of innovative models to treat patients with severe, complex mental health and substance misuse conditions has contributed to a health care and safety crisis in communities, urban and rural, throughout British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to further increase investment into 'on demand' mental health treatment, withdrawal management and substance use programs throughout the province, that meets the diverse needs of the people suffering from severe substance misuse and mental health challenges;

And be it further resolved that an update to "A Pathway to Hope" strategy includes a plan to fully fund and establish regional campuses of care, similar to the innovative model of Red Fish Healing Centre, to provide a safe, stable and compassionate environment for people requiring highly specialized mental health support with severe mental illness diagnoses.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Government is committed to improving access to culturally safe, effective, seamless, and integrated services across the full spectrum of mental health and substance use care, from prevention and early intervention through aftercare.

Budget 2023 added more than \$1 billion to support people who struggle with mental health or substance use challenges so they can access the care they need when they need it.

Budget 2023 included funding for:

- 195 more treatment and recovery beds throughout BC, with no out of pocket fees.
- A new model of seamless care, called Road to Recovery, to support people through their entire recovery journey, enhancing wrap-around supports.
- Expansion of Indigenous-led treatment centres.
- New recovery communities to support people and their recovery through the long term; and,
- Expanding the Red Fish model of care to other areas of the province so people can get specialized care closer to home.

The Ministry continues to work across government, with Indigenous partners, communities and families to expand mental health and substance use treatment supports that meet the diverse needs of people across BC.

EB2 Treatment on Demand

Maple Ridge

Whereas the addictive substances emergency claims the lives of many British Columbians on a daily basis in addition to its adverse economic effects;

And whereas treatment facilities have a wait time that is beyond that of those struggling with active addiction further exacerbating the costs to British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to fund, develop, and implement a wide spectrum of treatment on demand programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Government is committed to improving access to culturally safe, effective, seamless, and integrated services across the full spectrum of mental health and substance use care, from prevention and early intervention through aftercare.

Since 2017, the Province has implemented over 436 new adult and youth substance use treatment and recovery beds to increase access to services when people need them. To continue expanding the spectrum of treatment and recovery services available, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions has made an historical investment of \$586 million through Budget 2023.

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- New recovery communities to support people and their recovery through the long term; and,
- Expanding the Red Fish model of care to other areas of the province so people can get specialized care closer to home.

The Ministry continues to work across government, with Indigenous partners and with communities and families to expand mental health and substance use treatment supports that meet the diverse needs of people across BC.

EB3 Safe Drug Supply

Victoria

Whereas the British Columbia provincial government declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016, in response to rapidly escalating fatalities caused by the unregulated and toxic drug supply;

And whereas despite some action by the provincial government to mitigate harm linked to the unregulated drug supply, interventions to-date have not been proportionate to the scale and scope of the crisis, with over 11,390 preventable deaths of British Columbians due to accidental overdose linked back to the toxic drug supply between April 2016 and December 31, 2022;

And whereas offering a safe, predictable, and regulated supply of drugs (“safe supply”) is widely recognized by health officials, policy makers, academic researchers, and advocates as a key intervention for addressing the drug poisoning crisis, and structural, policy and legal impediments to a “safe supply” are yet to be resolved:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for increased access to accessible, culturally safe, and reliable safe supply in collaboration with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders to create an educational resource for engaging civic actors on the benefits of safe supply services as part of a continuum of critical health interventions including harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery, enforcement, and housing with the objective of reducing unregulated drug poisoning deaths.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The provincial government is committed to bringing an end to the toxic drug crisis which is currently claiming six lives every day in our province. We are working with urgency to confront this emergency from every angle, making the large, systemic changes necessary to turn the tide on this crisis.

The government has made an historic \$1 billion investment to build an integrated system of mental health and substance use system of care that works for all British Columbians. Budget 2023 provides \$184 million over the next three years to support safer substance use. This includes \$68 million to expand access to prescribed safer supply.

BC’s Prescribed Safer Supply Policy was developed with the engagement of health and drug policy experts, medical doctors, nurses, pharmacists, people with lived and living experience, the First Nations Health Authority, and all regional health authorities. We continue to work with health authorities and relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of prescribed safer supply including the expansion of existing and creation of new programs, increasing staffing capacity through hiring new full-time-equivalent positions, and robust monitoring and evaluation of the policy’s implementation.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is committed to hearing and being responsive to the voices of communities, including people who use drugs, public health, local governments, and civic actors. We continue to scale up efforts to support education and knowledge mobilization around prescribed safer supply and other harm reduction services as part of a continuum of critical health interventions to address the toxic drug crisis.

There is more to do, and government will not stop working until we turn this crisis around. We will continue to evaluate and enhance our response to ensure that no person is left behind.

**EB4 Reimbursing Local Governments for Medical Services
Provided by Local Government Fire and Rescue Service**

Prince George

Whereas communities across British Columbia are facing a significant increase in calls to respond to emergency medical incidents;

And whereas local governments provide for their fire departments to support prehospital patient care in their community by providing emergency medical services that assist the Provincial Government's BC Ambulance Service;

And whereas the costs associated with supporting prehospital care by local government fire departments has increased significantly in relation to response hours and increased use of first aid and other medical supplies and that such costs are funded solely through local government property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a funding model to compensate local governments who provide emergency medical services through their fire and rescue services fulfilling the responsibility of the provincial government with consideration given to community population and the fire department's authorized level of emergency medical response.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The support provided by First Responders (FRs) during medical emergencies is an essential part of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency health services to the people of British Columbia. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Province value the role that FRs play in pre-hospital emergency care.

BCEHS notifies first responder agencies who have agreements with BCEHS of time critical calls. Establishing an agreement with BCEHS is voluntary and each municipality, including the City of Prince George, can determine the extent of their participation and the calls they respond to. This approach provides municipalities with the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in pre-hospital care. Some municipalities have chosen to have FRs continue to attend both urgent and routine non-emergency calls, while others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent medical calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

Through continued and increased investment, the BC government is supporting BCEHS to take targeted action to improve emergency health services throughout the province. Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, BCEHS announced 800+ new hires across BCEHS paramedics, dispatch, and support services into existing vacancies and new positions – the largest expansion of staffing in BCEHS history. BCEHS has also increased ground and air ambulances coverage throughout the province, implemented a more efficient 9-1-1 system, increased training for paramedics and provided funding to support the mental health and wellness of BCEHS employees.

In addition, to improve ambulance services in 60 rural and remote communities, a new staffing model has launched to provide consistent and reliable community-based out of hospital care which adds 271 new full time paramedic positions to the province. As part of this new approach, 55.2 stand alone, full-time community paramedic positions will be dedicated to providing community-based care and community outreach through the new model.

BCEHS is committed to providing timely, high quality and safe pre-hospital care for patients throughout British Columbia, while using public resources in an effective and efficient manner. As part of this commitment, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with BCEHS, fire departments, municipalities and other stakeholders, are working together to implement a coordinated approach to pre-hospital care that will ensure people throughout the province have access to the out-of-hospital care they need.

BCEHS understands that an essential part of the delivery of emergency health services is working together to ensure a responsive system. BCEHS remains committed to working with stakeholders and local government to find ways to

improve services.

**EB5 Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire
Department First Responder Programs**

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas in rural and remote areas ambulances are not able to get to medical calls in a timely manner because of distances travelled and members of community fire departments are able to arrive on scene much more quickly;

And whereas when first on scene first responders of community fire departments can assist the ambulance team by accessing the patient, gathering information, taking vitals and packaging the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival;

And whereas community fire departments are funded through local government taxes while BC Emergency Health Services are funded through provincial monies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for fire department first responder programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The support provided by First Responders (FRs) during medical emergencies is an essential part of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency health services to the people of British Columbia. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Province value the role that FRs play in pre-hospital emergency care.

BCEHS notifies first responder agencies who have agreements with BCEHS of time critical calls. Establishing an agreement with BCEHS is voluntary and each municipality can determine the extent of their participation and the calls they respond to. This approach provides municipalities with the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in pre-hospital care. Some municipalities have chosen to have FRs continue to attend both urgent and routine non-emergency calls, while others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent medical calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

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Whereas medical first responder call volume data taken locally and provincially reflects an upward trajectory year over year;

And whereas this increased trajectory of medical first responder call volume is disproportionately higher for municipal emergency responders than those reported by British Columbia Emergency Health Services [BCEHS];

And whereas BCEHS is responsible for the delivery, co-ordination and governance of emergency health services and can and does consent to other organizations, primarily fire departments, providing these services as part of a co-ordinated response;

And whereas a number of challenges are present in achieving a coordinated approach to the access and provision of emergency health services including that of increased service demands congruent to the varied capacity for fire departments to provide first responder services across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Health to work with local governments and BCEHS to improve the coordinated approach to emergency health services that results in adequate funding and staffing levels so as to not overburden local government first responders.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The support provided by First Responders (FRs) during medical emergencies is an essential part of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency health services to the people of British Columbia. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Province value the role that FRs play in pre-hospital emergency care.

BCEHS notifies first responder agencies who have agreements with BCEHS of time critical calls. Establishing an agreement with BCEHS is voluntary and each municipality, including the City of Port Alberni, can determine the extent of their participation and the calls they respond to. This approach provides municipalities with the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in pre-hospital care. Some municipalities have chosen to have FRs continue to attend both urgent and routine non-emergency calls, while others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent medical calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

Through continued and increased investment, the BC government is supporting BCEHS to take targeted action to improve emergency health services throughout the province. Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, BCEHS announced 800+ new hires across BCEHS paramedics, dispatch, and support services into existing vacancies and new positions – the largest expansion of staffing in BCEHS history. BCEHS has also increased ground and air ambulances coverage throughout the province, implemented a more efficient 9-1-1 system, increased training for paramedics and provided funding to support the mental health and wellness of BCEHS employees.

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BCEHS is committed to providing timely, high quality and safe pre-hospital care for patients throughout British Columbia, while using public resources in an effective and efficient manner. As part of this commitment, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with BCEHS, fire departments, municipalities and other stakeholders, are working together to implement a coordinated approach to pre-hospital care that will ensure people throughout the province have access to the out-of-hospital care they need.

BCEHS understands that an essential part of the delivery of emergency health services is working together to ensure a responsive system. BCEHS remains committed to working with stakeholders and local government to find ways to improve services.

Whereas the investment in primary care is consistent with the strategic direction of the Ministry of Health and supports a team-based primary care model;

And whereas new physicians are choosing team based health and provincial incentives are targeting new graduates who want to work with teams of other clinicians;

And whereas the approval of new Rural Growth Plans and expansion of their Primary Care Networks includes capital funding to help streamline access to primary care for patients and families:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional funding, according to regionally defined needs, for expansion of existing Primary Care Networks to address regular health care needs closer to home.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province is transforming everyday health care for more communities in BC and the Interior through Primary Care Networks, including the South Okanagan Similkameen (SOS) Primary Care Network (PCN). SOS PCN is a partnership between the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), Interior Health, South Okanagan Similkameen Division of Family Practice, Indigenous partners, patients, and other local community partners.

Through the PCN, community partners work together to ensure tens of thousands of people have access to comprehensive, team-based primary care services for all their day-to-day health care needs in the region.

For people and families in the network's new communities, it means better access to their primary care team or provider, as well as being connected to appropriate services and supports closer to home.

In October 2022, the Province, Doctors of BC, and BC Family Doctors co-developed a new payment model for family doctors to help protect and improve BC's health-care system, supporting continued quality health care for patients.

The Ministry is also improving access to primary care through the Longitudinal Family Practice (LFP) Payment Model that launched February 2023. The LFP model allows greater flexibility for people to access their primary care provider in-person or virtual, and it means people can discuss multiple issues or concerns during a single visit.

Additionally, on July 1, 2023, with new family doctors and nurse practitioners ready to accept patients, the Province expanded the Health Connect Registry, hosted by HealthLink BC, from select communities to all communities throughout BC.

These actions are part of BC's Health Human Resources Strategy. The strategy, announced on September 29, 2023, puts people first by ensuring they get the health services they need and are cared for by a healthy workforce, now and in the future. The strategy focuses on 70 key actions to recruit, train and retain health care workers while redesigning the health care system to foster workplace satisfaction and innovation.

The Ministry will continue working with PCNs to understand and address community primary care needs as they evolve over time.

EB8 Ministry of Health Communication

Williams Lake

Whereas health care is a critical need for all British Columbians;

And whereas transparent and open communication between levels of government is required, and citizens should be assured their leaders are working together as they were elected to do:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry recognizes the importance of local voices in delivering the healthcare that people need. BC’s primary care strategy continues to connect people to primary care providers and improving coordination of primary-care services through local primary-care networks throughout BC.

Local health authorities are the Ministry of Health’s liaison with communities. They live and work within the communities they represent. We encourage communities to reach out to their health authorities. As well, the Primary Care Division within the Ministry of Health is open to sharing any information on the important work we’re doing together to expand access to care for people.

We encourage all communities to work with the Ministry of Health, their regional Primary Care Network, and their local health authority to support communications and collaboration to support healthcare for all British Columbians.

EB9 Homes for People Action Plan

Nanaimo RD

Whereas on April 3, 2023, Premier Eby announced that the Province of BC is taking action to address the housing shortage by proposing to implement the Homes for People Action Plan that includes provisions to allow up to four homes on a parcel where currently only one home is permitted;

And whereas when the Homes for People Action Plan is implemented through legislation, such legislation, while very appropriate in many urban settings, could, in numerous situations, be in conflict with the ability to service an influx of residents, direct density away from floodplains and other hazards, or protect areas of ecological importance:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested to ensure that legislation to implement the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Communities throughout the province, both urban and rural, are facing significant housing needs. The Homes for People Action Plan outlines the suite of initiatives that the Province of BC is acting on to address this urgent problem.

Legislation introduced in Fall 2023 requires local governments to amend their bylaws to allow small-scale, multi-unit housing in single family zones. The policy development for this legislation was done in consultation with a wide range of interested parties including local government representatives from both urban and rural communities.

Under the small-scale, multi-unit housing legislation, the number of housing units that will be required to be allowed on a single-family zoned lot varies depending on its size, applicable land use bylaws, servicing levels and proximity to transit. The higher densities of four to six housing units are not expected to generally apply to rural areas, in particular, areas that are outside of an urban containment boundary or not serviced by public water and wastewater systems. In these areas, the zoning bylaw must allow either one secondary suite or one accessory dwelling unit per lot.

The existing authorities of local governments to protect development from hazardous conditions and protect the natural environment are not expected to be affected by the legislation providing they are not used to unreasonably restrict the required densities.

EB10 BC Housing Delays

Williams Lake

Whereas there is a significant housing shortage in most areas of the province;

And whereas BC Housing has been put in place to assist communities with this issue, especially with low income/emergency housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to commit to a timeline to address the ongoing delays with BC Housing that contribute to the lack of progress in providing housing for communities that are experiencing an ongoing housing crisis.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, and other factors have contributed to labour-force challenges, supply-chain delays, and construction cost pressures, creating additional complexity for BC Housing as it collaborates with developers, operators, local governments, and other partners to develop new housing across communities.

The creation of new housing can be complex, and the Province remains committed to accelerating and streamlining development processes where they fall under the purview of the provincial government. This includes working in partnership with local governments to speed up approval processes with the continued implementation of Local Government Density Initiatives, efforts to streamline provincial permitting across ministries, and development of a new digital permitting process.

Concurrently, the Province has also implemented many initiatives to help build homes faster in areas with the greatest needs, including through establishing housing targets in communities that face challenges in meeting growing housing demands.

With BC Housing, work is underway to open additional project opportunities and initiate new projects faster, particularly for low-income housing, through pre-development funding as well as intakes for Community Housing Fund and Indigenous Housing Fund projects. These new intakes will help add to the more than 77,000 new units that have been delivered or are underway since 2017. Through historic investments in the Homes for People and Belonging in BC plans, the Province and BC Housing are continuing this important work to deliver affordable, attainable housing for people in B.C.

EB11 Affordable Housing Infrastructure Upgrades

Cranbrook

Whereas BC local governments recognize the current housing crisis and lack of affordable housing across BC;

And whereas local government infrastructure deficits and land availability may be a significant barrier to the creation or provision of affordable housing;

And whereas provincial grant opportunities generally do not fund new or upgraded linear infrastructure or land acquisition:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for new or upgraded infrastructure and land acquisition that would directly contribute to the creation of affordable housing in BC communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province continues to explore options to improve the local government land use planning framework to speed up housing approvals and get more of the right housing built in the right places. The province is currently exploring additional tools to support local governments to secure affordable housing and outcomes from new developments necessary for building complete communities.

Density bonusing is a tool available to local governments that allows them to offer developers the option of building additional density or floor space in exchange for a contribution to the local government. This contribution can take the form of a specific number of affordable housing units or funding to the local government for affordable or special needs housing.

In March 2023, the province provided \$1 billion in new funding to all 188 BC local governments through the Growing Communities Fund, so communities can prepare for future growth and build the infrastructure needed to support new home construction. The funding has assisted communities in addressing their unique needs – such as recreation facilities, water-treatment plants, but also allowing local governments to use the funding to support affordable housing projects in their communities.

In Fall 2023, the province passed new legislation (Bill 46 – 2023) to provide new and updated development finance tools that local governments can use to help fund the costs of infrastructure and amenities needed to support complete and livable communities.

The legislative changes included amendments to the existing Development Cost Charge frameworks that have now expanded the scope of eligible infrastructure projects beyond, water, sewer, drainage, roads, and parks, to now include fire protection facilities (e.g., fire halls), police facilities, and solid waste facilities.

Furthermore, the province also provided local governments with the new authority to impose Amenity Cost Charges (ACCs). ACCs are a new development finance tool that allow local governments to collect funds for amenities like community centres, recreation centres, daycares, and libraries from new development that results in increased population. These amenities support livable and complete communities in areas of growth.

The province continues to explore ways to support local governments with the necessary supports and resources required to build more homes for people in their communities. That is why the province has partnered with the Union of BC Municipalities through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Local Government Financial Resiliency to ensure we are working together to continue to discuss ways to improve the local government finance system in B.C.

EB12 Development Approvals

Cranbrook

Whereas the Province is seeking to increase the speed of development across British Columbia amidst a shortage of affordable housing and housing supply options for British Columbia;

And whereas development approval processes within municipalities can be streamlined to expedite approvals;

And whereas these development approvals can be significantly delayed by the development review processes within the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, or BC Hydro;

And whereas UBCM recognizes the efforts by the Province to try and improve the development approval process through the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province to expedite the review timeframe for all development applications that require approval from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and BC Hydro.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The Province initiated the [Development Approvals Process Review](#) in 2018, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local development approvals processes. Extensive local government and stakeholder engagement identified provincial referrals and regulatory requirements as a challenge.

Through the recently released [Homes for People](#) action plan, government is taking action to speed up permitting and approvals to get homes built faster. This includes reducing costs and delays associated with the time-intensive re-zoning processes and expediting provincial permitting.

Legislative changes introduced in Fall 2023 support local governments to shift to upfront planning (i.e., pre-zoning) and reduce the number of site-by-site rezonings.

Ministries are working closely to integrate different types of permits across the housing development process, with a common goal of making permitting processes for housing more transparent and easier for homebuilders and developers to understand how to comply with permit and regulatory requirements.

In September 2023, an updated single window approach was launched by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), for all housing-related permits overseen by the Provincial Natural Resource Ministries. The Single Housing Application Service (SHAS) connects homebuilders to dedicated staff called Navigators, who partner and guide applicants through all stages of the permit process, act as the single, dedicated point of contact for all information related to housing-related permits and co-ordinate the permitting process across the natural resource ministries.

The SHAS will help deliver more homes faster by identifying opportunities to coordinate and integrate the provincial permits that homebuilders need for their projects. The Housing Action Taskforce (HAT) led by WLRS and supported by the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Forests and Transportation and Infrastructure are identifying and prioritizing housing-related permits. HAT is focused on clearing natural resource ministry permit backlogs and developing strategic solutions to accelerate housing-related permits while maintaining high environmental standards. With the introduction of SHAS, the Province expects permit timelines to be reduced by two months.

These improvements in provincial permitting and the new legislation being introduced will improve system-wide efficiency of development approvals, help local governments improve their processes and bring in the changes needed to reduce delays in approving housing projects.

EB13 Expanding Property Transfer Tax Exemptions

Burnaby

Whereas the high cost of land is one of the greatest barriers to non-market housing development in British Columbia;

And whereas municipalities have been asked by the Province to support the development of new non-market housing developments, including by forgoing market value of their own lands to provide to not-for-profit organizations at a nominal rate and for extended periods of time to facilitate the development of affordable housing;

And whereas municipalities view not-for-profit organizations as partners in non-market housing development, regardless of their registration status as a society or charity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review the Property Transfer Tax and other provincial legislation to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies, co-operatives or corporations incorporated and in good standing under the BC *Societies Act*, *Cooperative Association Act*, or the Canada *Not-for-profit Corporations Act* who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing from payment of Property Transfer Tax to eliminate this financial burden on the creation of non-market housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The *Property Transfer Tax Act* was introduced in 1987. The purpose of the tax was to diversify the tax base, provide a fair return for the public on rising property values, and reduce reliance on other provincial taxes.

Currently, registered charities are exempt from property transfer tax (PTT) when they purchase or receive property that will be used for a charitable purpose. To be eligible for these exemptions, an organization must be registered as a charity with the Canada Revenue Agency. Provincial policy is to only provide the exemption to charitable organizations that meet the federal government's criteria.

Many non-profit societies cannot meet these requirements because they are not exclusively created for a charitable purpose. Further, non-profit societies may be organized for reasons other than charitable purposes, provided they do not operate to generate a profit. Providing an exemption to non-profit organizations/housing societies which have varied purposes would set a difficult precedent for government.

While not always practical due to third party financing and funding arrangements, leases under 30 years are exempt from PTT.

In Budget 2023, the province announced partial PTT exemption for new purpose-built rental buildings to further encourage construction of this type of housing to address housing affordability.

The Province appreciates the suggestion and will take it under advisement.

EB14 Municipal Authority for Empty Homes Tax

Burnaby

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

And whereas the authority to adopt an Empty Homes Tax is not currently available to municipalities operating outside of the *Vancouver Charter*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Community Charter* to enable municipalities to administer a specific property tax on unoccupied Class 1 Residential properties, with net revenues to be used by the municipality towards affordable housing projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Housing

The Ministries of Municipal Affairs, Finance and Housing are committed to working with our local government partners to address affordable housing issues in BC.

The Speculation and Vacancy Tax was recently expanded to 13 new communities including Vernon, Coldstream, Penticton, Summerland, Lake Country, Peachland, Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Salmon Arm, and Kamloops. This tax is continuing to contribute to the ongoing moderation of BCs housing market and now applies beyond the initial large urban centres to address affordability in more communities.

This tax is designed to turn empty homes into housing for British Columbians. All revenue generated by the speculation and vacancy tax is required to go into the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account, which supports affordable housing initiatives in the areas where the tax is collected. The province has committed to an investment of \$7 billion in housing affordability over 10 years. In 2023 the Growing Communities Fund provided an additional one-time total of \$1 billion in grants distributed among all of B.C.'s local governments to support the delivery of infrastructure projects necessary to enable community growth.

Speculation and vacancy tax is just one initiative to support these significant housing investments. In 2023, the province passed legislation to reduce the number of short-term rentals, freeing up more properties for homes. The province also passed new housing legislation that aims to address persistent permitting and zoning challenges, speed up delivery and increase the supply of middle-income housing.

As local governments vary greatly in resources and needs, assessment of the impact of the measures in the Homes for People Plan and recent legislative initiatives is required before consideration of a local vacancy tax for other local governments similar to what was granted to the City of Vancouver in 2016.

EB15 Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms

Revelstoke

Whereas resolution 2018-A4 – Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms’ Responsibility in Compliance asked the Province to negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally- active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short- term rental (STR) platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service, was endorsed by UBCM;

And whereas the provincial response was to continue to closely monitor the issue of STRs and their impact on communities across BC;

And whereas the local governments continue to recognize the impact of short-term rentals on the long- term rental market by reducing the amount of available long-term rentals for permanent residents and increasing the speculative value of traditional residential properties;

And whereas the required staffing resources to pursue active and reactive enforcement of illegal short- term rentals is beyond the ability of smaller local governments to be able to effectively respond to;

And whereas the tracking of illegal short-term rentals requires significant resources (time and capital) from small local governments as booking platforms are designed to withhold location details of rental properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Housing to expedite the drafting and subsequent consideration of provincial legislation that would accomplish the following:

- Require short-term rental booking platforms to verify that local government approvals have been obtained, and those that are advertising without appropriate approvals would be removed from the booking platform;
- Require short-term rental booking platforms to list the civic address of the rental property to support with local municipal tracking and verification of compliance; and
- Provide additional enforcement mechanisms for local governments with respect to noncompliant operators including, but not limited to, the issuance of municipal tickets that, should they not be challenged or paid, could be placed on property taxes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Government is committed to addressing the impacts of short-term rentals in British Columbia.

In Fall 2023, Government passed the *Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act* to support local government enforcement of short-term rental bylaws, return short-term rentals to the long-term rental market, and establish a provincial role in the regulation of short-term rentals.

This legislation requires short-term rental hosts to include a valid business license number on their short-term rental listing, where a business license is required by the local government (to take effect as of May 1, 2024). Listings without a valid business license number are to be removed by the platform upon request of the local government.

The legislation also requires short-term rental platforms to provide the province with the personal and business information of all short-term rental hosts operating in BC. The province will share this information with local governments to support tracking and verification of bylaw compliance.

The Province has also increased the maximum fine amounts local governments may use for bylaw enforcement, including the enforcement of short-term rentals. The maximum fine a regional district can implement for prosecuted bylaw offenses has been increased to \$50,000, and the maximum fine a local government may issue under the Municipal

Ticketing Information (MTI) system has been increased to \$3,000 per infraction per day.

EB16 Review of Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters Subsidies

Vernon

Whereas the rent ceiling caps for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program have not been increased since 2018 and, as they range from \$734 to \$803, in no way reflect the reality of market rents paid by seniors in the Province;

And whereas their income cannot exceed \$30,600 for a single renter in Vancouver or \$29,352 in the rest of the province leaving seniors living on less than minimum wage unable to access rent supports;

And whereas the average income of a SAFER recipient is \$23,660, and two out of three seniors who rent in this province receive no subsidy from government;

And whereas in addition to the overall inadequacy of the subsidy amount resulting from the rent and income ceilings, the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) formula can result in a senior's subsidy being decreased if their rent increase is greater than their income increases, due to the formula not being adjusted for inflation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the formula used to calculate the SAFER subsidy to accurately reflect both the current incomes of low-income seniors and the average market rents throughout the province as calculated by CMHC;

And be it further resolved that these amounts be reviewed and updated on an annual basis going forward.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The government is working hard to improve housing stability and reduce homelessness. Rental Assistance programs, and the rent supplements they provide, improve affordability by assisting low-to-moderate income renters access the private market. As one component of a broader housing strategy, rent supplements are a cost-effective and flexible way to support people with low incomes renting in the private market.

In 2021/22, the B.C. government, through BC Housing, conducted a review of the SAFER program to better understand challenges and opportunities for improvement, including the degree to which the programs are achieving the intended outcomes. Discussions are underway to address recommendations and prepare options to improve the SAFER program and ensure that it supports the principles of accessibility and affordability.

To help seniors stay in their communities, we are also building thousands of new affordable rental homes through the Community Housing Fund and other new investments under the Building BC initiative.

EB17 Emergency Homelessness Prevention Strategies to Protect Renters in Core Housing Need

Victoria

Whereas the Province of BC is making historic investments in affordable housing, has initiated zoning and regulatory reform and has introduced demand-side measures to address the housing crisis;

And whereas despite these actions, 13.4% of British Columbians live in core housing need, and as of May 2023 the average listed rental price for a two-bedroom unit in BC is \$2,714;

And whereas the share of units affordable to renters with the lowest 20% of incomes in Vancouver and Victoria is 1%;

And whereas province wide from October 2021 to 2022 the average change in rent on turnover of a two- bedroom unit was a 27% increase, vacant units in Victoria rented for 33% more than occupied units, in Vancouver the average rent for unoccupied units surpassed the overall average rent for occupied units by 43%, residents of BC face the highest rates of eviction in Canada, and 85% of those evictions are no-fault evictions;

And whereas to prevent homelessness and protect low-income renter households, emergency homelessness prevention strategies are required:

Therefore be it resolved that the province explores ways, in at least the major urban centers, to:

- Rapidly increase the rental stock, especially for households in core housing need, through provincial legislation and programs that will, directly or indirectly, enable a rapid and significant increase in the approvals, construction and supply of rental housing in areas near transit, active transportation infrastructure, and community destinations (workplaces, schools, shopping);
- Mitigate the number of no-fault evictions in BC using methods such as gathering data on and investigating rent increases and evictions through adequate resourcing of the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB), regulate providing RTB rules and regulations to tenants upon signing a lease, increasing the compensation owed to tenants from landlords when exercising no-fault evictions, and regulating price increases in between tenancies to be reasonable and fair; and
- Close the gap between households in core housing need and rental housing costs including considering income supports such as income and disability assistance, guaranteed annual incomes, and an increase to the province's already successful rental assistance programs for households in core housing need until supply meets demand in the rental housing market.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

In 2023, Government announced Homes for People, an action plan to meet the challenges of today and deliver more homes for people, faster. The four pillars of this plan include unlocking more homes, faster; delivering better, more affordable homes; supporting those with the greatest housing need; and creating a housing market for people, not speculators. One of the initiatives in this plan is to get tougher on bad faith evictions and provide greater protections to tenants. More information can be found in the [Homes for People action plan](#).

Government also recently announced \$15.6 million in additional funding for the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) over the next three years. This funding has allowed the RTB to add 50 new positions, enabling a significant reduction in backlogs and delays. Additionally, the RTB has completed some much-needed improvements to streamline processes, improve service delivery, and ensure the timely resolution of disputes.

Funding has been increased for the BC Rent Bank that prevents homelessness by providing interest-free loans (or, in some cases, grants) to renters with low to moderate incomes who are facing a temporary financial crisis and are at risk of eviction or essential-utility disconnection. More information can be found on the [BC Rent Bank](#) website.

Rental Assistance programs are intended to improve affordability by assisting low-to-moderate income renters access the private market. The province supports many rent supplement programs including the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program, Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) and Homeless Prevention Program (HPP) and the Supported Rent Supplement Program (SRSP)

As part of Budget 2023, the Province committed approximately \$400 million for land acquisition and project planning to support delivery of thousands of units at or near transit over the next 10 to 15 years by accessing land that is suitable to be acquired near transit hubs and transforming it into thriving communities.

Finally, Government has capped the annual allowable rent increase during a tenancy at 3.5 per cent for 2024. This decision aims to strike a balance between a tenants' right to find safe, secure, and affordable housing with the landlord's need to maintain their property and realize a return on investment.

EB18 Extreme Weather Response

Nanaimo City

Whereas the Province, through BC Housing and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), supports year round emergency shelters and temporary winter shelters (operational from November 1st to March 31st);

And whereas since 2022 extreme weather response warming/cooling centres to support vulnerable populations which often tend to be for those with acute mental health and substance use disorders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Housing, EMCR and health authorities ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long- term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Extreme weather events, including extreme heat or cold, are becoming more frequent, and projected to become more severe, due to climate change.

The province has made historic investments to support communities in preparing for the risk of natural disasters related to climate change, including contributing \$180 million to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund in 2023 – for a total of \$369 million.

This funding can support our common goal of mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events.

For example, this fund supported the City of Kelowna’s response plan for extreme cold weather, which is primarily focused on risks to vulnerable populations. Kelowna is using this fund to develop a collaborative approach with community service providers and those with lived experience to mitigate the related health and safety risks.

Additionally, the province provides guidance and incremental funding for local authorities to proactively open cooling and warming centres to keep people safe. Communities may request an Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) Task number when Environment Canada issues a Weather Notification, or when a community activates their extreme weather emergency plan.

The supports through EMCR are intended to provide additional mechanisms to support a community response to extreme weather events. These supports are not intended to be ongoing program supports, such as the shelter programs that are supported through BC Housing including the Extreme Weather Response program that complements permanent and temporary shelters during the winter season.

In the absence of a community extreme weather emergency plan, incremental funding support is provided following the parameters as listed under the Assistance to Shelter Regulation.

A warming centre is a place for people to go to warm up and get information on how to safely stay warm where they reside, they are not a substitute for overnight shelters.

Community-based mental health and substance use services are provided by regional health authorities and available to people who require support. Examples include:

- *New teams to keep people connected to services and treatment:*
 - Sixteen substance-use teams throughout the province help people stay connected to health-care services, treatment and recovery. Services are tailored to each community, provided by a range of professionals, including nurses, counsellors, social workers and peers. Teams support adults, including

young adults, in communities throughout B.C., including Vancouver, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Prince George and Nanaimo.

- *24/7 support for people living with serious mental-health challenges:*
 - People living with severe mental-health challenges have access to 32 Assertive Community Treatment teams throughout B.C. that provide 24/7 supports. Teams are in every health authority in B.C, including Kelowna, Kamloops, Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Prince George. Services include crisis assessment and intervention, psychiatric or psychological treatment, medication management and more.

EB19 Mitigating Heat-Related Health Impacts in Residential Buildings

Delta

Whereas extreme heat events are becoming more common and, during such heat events, temperatures inside residential buildings can rise significantly;

And whereas vulnerable populations, including seniors and people with mobility challenges may have difficulty leaving their homes during extreme temperature events, and may suffer from heat-related health impacts, including heatstroke and death;

And whereas stratas and landlords can restrict the ability of residents to install window or portable air conditioners, or use heat-shielding window-coverings:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to enact legislation to prohibit stratas and landlords from disallowing lifesaving temperature controls, subject to reasonable safety considerations, including portable or window air conditioners and window coverings that keep out heat, to protect the health and safety of people living in those buildings during periods of extreme heat.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Addressing overheating in homes is a key part of protecting the health and safety of British Columbians, and it is important for strata corporations and rental landlords to reduce unnecessary barriers to installing cooling measures. The *Strata Property Act* currently allows strata corporations to approve alterations and create bylaws that govern the installation of cooling systems. There are many factors to consider when installing mechanical cooling systems such as A/C units and heat pumps in buildings including the integrity of the building envelope, noise, electrical capacity, and responsibility for alterations.

While the *Residential Tenancy Act (RTA)* does not currently require A/C units or window coverings in rental units, tenants can use these devices in their unit if they are not prohibited by an additional term in the tenancy agreement.

Given the negative health impacts experienced by British Columbians as a result of rising temperatures, the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) will continue to explore policy options to meet the needs of tenants and recognize the potential impacts on landlords. As part of this work, the RTB will work closely with partners, such as the Ministry of Health, to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather.

EB20 Incentives for Heat Pumps and Other Climate Resilience Retrofits in Multi-Residential Buildings

Port Moody

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, and existing multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) are some of the most vulnerable and housing the most vulnerable populations;

And whereas the CleanBC Better Homes program provides incentives and rebates for some, but not all, dwelling types, excluding MURBs (such as high-rises and apartment buildings) yet over 30% of British Columbians reside in these dwellings:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province make the necessary changes to the CleanBC Better Homes program to ensure that all dwelling types are eligible for incentives and rebates for retrofits to ensure the health and safety of all British Columbians, particularly the most vulnerable, while working towards the Province's GHG reduction targets.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Province remains committed to advancing key CleanBC policies and programs for energy efficiency in all dwelling types including multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs). CleanBC offers a growing suite of supportive measures (including CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings, CleanBC Social Housing Incentive, and the CleanBC Custom Program, and a Low-Interest Financing Program, along with often-stackable utility and federal energy retrofit programs, such as the Canada Greener Homes Loan) that incentivize comprehensive building energy retrofits in the residential and commercial sectors. There are currently provincial, utility, and federal offers available to MURBs. To meet our ambitious emission reduction targets, Government also currently offers several incentive programs supporting electrification and the installation of heat pumps in MURBs through the CleanBC Better Buildings program.

Due to B.C.'s clean electricity system, CleanBC Better Buildings incentives are primarily focused on fuel-switching from natural gas, propane, or oil to electric heat pumps, and envelope energy efficiency measures in fossil fuel-heated buildings. Capital incentives to encourage fuel-switching (i.e. electrification) retrofits in medium to large buildings and funding for energy studies are provided through the Custom Program, Custom-Lite Program, Commercial Express Program and Social Housing Incentives Program (<https://www.betterbuildingsbc.ca/incentive-search-tool/>). These programs focus on upgrades made to the entire building rather than to individual units.

Rebates for buildings heated by electricity (e.g., baseboards), which is the most common heating fuel source in apartments and condos, are provided by BC Hydro. Rebate values are based on the amount of energy saved from an energy efficiency upgrade and must be cost-effective, as determined by the BC Utilities Commission. BC Hydro has not historically offered rebates for individual condo units heated by electricity because total energy reductions are significantly less than other types of homes with higher energy consumption. However, a recent amendment to the Demand-Side Measures Regulation is expected to enable utilities to increase investment in energy efficiency and electrification programs for MURBs.

To make retrofit opportunities more accessible to participants, the Province is exploring the possibility of offering specialized energy coaching services, such as strata energy coaching advisors, to help stratas navigate programs and better understand available retrofit opportunities.

In 2023, the Province and BC Hydro expanded access to cooling through BC Hydro's air conditioning retail rebate offer and through the expansion of the Energy Conservation Assistance Program, which provides free portable air conditioning installations for income-qualified and medically vulnerable individuals. This program will help meet the immediate need for cooling and is available to residents of apartment and condo buildings.

In alignment with the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and to further increase access to cooling, the Province and BC Hydro are also exploring expanded program options for heat pumps in individual apartments and condo units. The Province is also actively seeking ways to improve its commercial portfolio to provide better support for electrifying and completing retrofits in commercial, institutional, social housing, and MURBs and is open to receiving feedback on this matter.

In addition to provincial and utility rebates, the federal Canada Greener Homes Grant incentivizes energy efficiency upgrades and certain climate resiliency measures (e.g., moisture proofing, backup battery power for solar photovoltaic systems, etc.). Low-rise MURBs less than three stories in height and less than 600 m² in building footprint are eligible for federal rebates for insulation, air sealing, windows and doors, renewable energy, and resiliency measures, but are not eligible for heat pumps. More information on the Canada Greener Homes Grant is available at: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/canada-greener-homes-grant/canada-greener-homes-grant/23441>.

EB21 Enhanced Retrofit Programs for Part 3 Buildings

Saanich

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has set sectoral targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 59% to 64% below 2007 levels by 2030 for buildings and communities, but is so far falling short of those targets with only a 10% reduction achieved in 2020 as reported in the 2022 Climate Change Accountability Report;

And whereas encouraging building retrofits and electrification are critical strategies to address health risks associated with overheating in buildings as a result of warming temperatures, and to reduce GHG emissions from the operation of existing buildings, which represent a significant proportion of community emissions for local governments;

And whereas the current rate of low-carbon retrofits and the uptake of current CleanBC programs for Part 3 commercial and multi-family buildings are inadequate to meet provincial and local government climate targets and support market development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province improve the programs available to Part 3 buildings of all types, including increasing the incentive amounts available for feasibility studies and retrofits, addressing key gaps such as in-suite measures for multi-family buildings, and providing enhanced support services to help Part 3 building owners and managers navigate the retrofit process from beginning to end.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Province remains committed to advancing CleanBC policies and programs that promote energy efficiency and emission reduction in buildings, including Part 3 buildings. To achieve our ambitious emission reduction targets, the government currently offers a range of incentive programs that support retrofitting of multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs), which are complementary to the utility and federal programs.

Due to B.C.'s clean electricity system, CleanBC Better Buildings incentives are primarily focused on fuel-switching from natural gas, propane, or oil to electric heat pumps, and envelope energy efficiency measures in fossil fuel-heated buildings. Capital incentives to encourage fuel-switching (i.e. electrification) retrofits in medium to large buildings and funding for energy studies are provided through the Custom Program, Custom-Lite Program, Commercial Express Program and Social Housing Incentives Program (<https://www.betterbuildingsbc.ca/incentive-search-tool/>). These programs focus on upgrades made to the entire building rather than to individual units.

Rebates for buildings heated by electricity (e.g., baseboards), which is the most common heating fuel source in apartments and condos, are provided by BC Hydro. Rebate values are based on the amount of energy saved from an energy efficiency upgrade and must be cost-effective, as determined by the BC Utilities Commission. BC Hydro has not historically offered rebates for individual condo units heated by electricity because total energy reductions are significantly less than other types of homes with higher energy consumption. However, a recent amendment to the Demand-Side Measures Regulation is expected to enable utilities to increase investment in energy efficiency and electrification programs for MURBs.

To make retrofit opportunities more accessible to participants, the Province is exploring the possibility of offering specialized energy coaching services, such as strata energy coaching advisors, to help them navigate the programs and better understand available retrofit opportunities.

In 2023, the Province and BC Hydro expanded access to cooling through BC Hydro's air conditioning retail rebate offer and through the expansion of the Energy Conservation Assistance Program, which provides free portable air conditioning installations for income-qualified and medically vulnerable individuals. This program will help meet the immediate need for cooling and is available to residents of apartment and condo buildings.

In alignment with the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and to further increase access to cooling, the Province and BC Hydro

are also exploring expanded program options for heat pumps in individual apartments and condo units. Options for increasing the uptake of existing offers are also being considered.

In addition to provincial and utility rebates, the federal Canada Greener Homes Grant incentivizes energy efficiency upgrades and certain climate resiliency measures (e.g., moisture proofing, backup battery power for solar photovoltaic systems, etc.). Low-rise MURBs less than three stories in height and less than 600 m² in building footprint are eligible for federal rebates for insulation, air sealing, windows and doors, renewable energy, and resiliency measures, but are not eligible for heat pumps. More information on the Canada Greener Homes Grant is available at: <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-initiative/canada-greener-homes-grant/canada-greener-homes-grant/23441>.

EB22 Cost of Emergency Response

Fernie

Whereas the cost of emergency response to highway motor vehicle accidents has increased for local governments, but the compensation from the province has not increased commensurately:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revisit the funding formula to ensure that first responder costs incurred on the Province's behalf by local government responders are fully covered.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

We are fortunate in British Columbia to have dedicated and skilled emergency responders who support public safety by responding to incidents on our highways. This work is important and Ministry staff are undertaking work on this issue, with three immediate areas of focus:

1. Establishing a committee comprised of road rescue service providers with internal and external partners to work with government for road rescue response. This committee is intended to be a forum to guide the work of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and provide a voice to road rescue service providers across BC.
2. Policy development and support with immediate attention to address the rate coverage previously provided under the Inter-Agency Agreement, refresh for the Road and Medical Rescue policy suite, and policy development to better address non-road rescue out of jurisdiction fire rescue.
3. Advice and support to EMCR operations staff and road rescue service providers throughout British Columbia.

Future work includes developing relationships with other provincial ministries that have relationships with local government fire services for out of jurisdiction work, such as BC Emergency Health Services for First Responder response and BC Wildfire Service for wildfire response.

EB23 Improved Level of Funding for Highway Rescue Services

Chase

Whereas British Columbia highways handle large volumes of traffic, with vehicle crashes occurring in all parts of BC in all seasons;

And whereas many small community volunteer fire departments and societies provide vital highway rescue services for crashes occurring on Provincial highways;

And whereas while some costs are reimbursed to the communities providing this service, costs for the service exceed the reimbursed costs, meaning local taxpayers, most of which reside in small communities, are subsidizing up to 50% for a Provincial highway system service, including a portion of on-call payments for highway rescue responders, training costs, fuel, vehicle provision, maintenance and replacement;

And whereas the Province of BC funds 100% of other emergency services attending to vehicle crashes on Provincial Highways including BC Ambulance Service and BC Coroners Service:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to seriously commit to the development and implementation of a comprehensive funding model for Highway Rescue Services such that small community taxpayers are not subsidizing a provincial service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

We are fortunate in British Columbia to have dedicated and skilled emergency responders who support public safety by responding to incidents on our highways. This work is important and Ministry staff are undertaking work on this issue, with three immediate areas of focus:

1. Establishing a committee comprised of road rescue service providers with internal and external partners to work with government for road rescue response. This committee is intended to be a forum to guide the work of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and provide a voice to road rescue service providers across BC.
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3. Advice and support to EMCR operations staff and road rescue service providers throughout British Columbia.

Future work includes developing relationships with other provincial ministries that have relationships with local government fire services for out of jurisdiction work, such as BC Emergency Health Services for First Responder response and BC Wildfire Service for wildfire response.

EB24 Fire Department Compensation for Attendance at Traffic Incidents

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas there is an increasing need for fire departments to attend traffic incidents;

And whereas this is unfairly increasing the tax load on rural residents;

And whereas continued downloading on volunteer fire departments is adding to the potential failure of these small departments as taxation costs are starting to overtake house insurance benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require ICBC to compensate rural fire departments for first responder attendance at traffic incidents at a per call out rate plus use of expendables/consumables.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

We are fortunate in British Columbia to have dedicated and skilled emergency responders who support public safety by responding to incidents on our highways. This work is important and Ministry staff are undertaking work on this issue, with three immediate areas of focus:

1. Establishing a committee comprised of road rescue service providers with internal and external partners to work with government for road rescue response. This committee is intended to be a forum to guide the work of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and provide a voice to road rescue service providers across BC.
2. Policy development and support with immediate attention to address the rate coverage previously provided under the Inter-Agency Agreement, refresh for the Road and Medical Rescue policy suite, and policy development to better address non-road rescue out of jurisdiction fire rescue.
3. Advice and support to EMCR operations staff and road rescue service providers throughout British Columbia.

Future work includes developing relationships with other provincial ministries that have relationships with local government fire services for out of jurisdiction work, such as BC Emergency Health Services for First Responder response and BC Wildfire Service for wildfire response.

EB25 Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras

Saanich

Whereas local governments, with limited and competing resources, must address traffic safety challenges to ensure the well-being of our residents;

And whereas the enforcement of traffic regulations, such as speed regulations in residential areas, playgrounds, and school zones, is labour intensive and the ability to use traffic enforcement cameras as a deterrent has proven to be effective and efficient in the management of speed and other traffic regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Intersection Safety Camera program is a provincial program operated by RoadSafetyBC, in partnership with the Insurance Corporation of BC and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The goal of the program is to reduce injuries and save lives at intersections where crashes occur frequently.

The current Intersection Safety Camera program needs to allow for seamless data transmission, legal ticketing forms, the management and processing of violations to driving records, as well as allow for pre-existing revenue sharing agreements. The program must also reflect a uniform legislative and regulatory framework within the *Motor Vehicle Act*, the *Offence Act Forms Regulation*, and the *Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation*.

At this time, there are no plans to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

EB26 Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities

Nelson

Whereas local governments across British Columbia are increasingly being impacted by severe weather events that are creating complex emergency situations;

And whereas local governments are legislated to plan for, respond to, and assist their communities in recovering from these emergencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for, and respond to, local emergencies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Government recognizes the importance of supporting communities in being prepared for emergencies and reducing disaster risk through mitigation investments. This was demonstrated through the record contribution of \$180 million (for a total of \$369 million) in Budget 2023 towards the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for local priority projects that are designed to help mitigate and prepare for disasters and emergencies. Since 2017, more than \$164 million has been provided through CEPF for almost 1,600 local projects across the province.

Emergency Management and Climate Management (EMCR) has heard feedback from local governments and First Nations across BC on the administrative burdens and other challenges they face with funding program application and reporting processes.

The ministry is currently reviewing the feedback on funding program challenges from the What We Heard reports from the BC Flood Strategy and the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy (CPAS), amongst others. This feedback will inform current and future funding program design to ensure communities have easier access to funding opportunities.

Budget 2023 included new funding for EMCR to increase staffing dedicated to disaster mitigation programs. This added capacity is supporting funding program improvements including more support to communities to navigate funding options and strengthen applications, and updates to program requirements to streamline application processes.

EMCR is also exploring ways to reduce the burden of application and reporting processes.

The Province will continue to support community emergency management priorities as our emergency management framework is modernized.

**EB27 2022 Emergency Support Services Program Guide
George RD**

Fraser-Fort

Whereas the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) released in December 2022 the new Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide;

And whereas less than sufficient broad-based meaningful consultation was undertaken including responsible local authorities under the current legislation and associated Indigenous Nations;

And whereas the EMCR has committed to having multiple updates in the first year of release and yearly updates afterward noting that feedback can be provided to the ESS Program Office:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness proactively consult with local authorities and associated Indigenous Nations throughout the province as part of the commitment to provide regular updates to ensure practices are consistently reflected in its resources.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

The Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide was updated in December 2022 to better support ESS teams by providing access to accurate, current information about program practices. The Program Guide is considered a living document and will continue to be updated to reflect the evolution of ESS service delivery and wise practice.

Following release of the Program Guide in 2022, Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) received feedback from local authorities that identified further opportunities for improvements to the Program Guide, as well as concerns about how communities were engaged. To better understand and address these concerns, EMCR held engagement sessions across all six of EMCR's regions with local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies in May and June 2023. These engagement sessions resulted in updates to the Program Guide in October 2023.

EMCR carried out further engagement on ESS throughout Fall 2023 and updates will be made to the Program Guide as needed. EMCR remains committed to continued collaboration with local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies.

EB28 FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Funding

West Kelowna

Whereas the Province of BC faces ongoing and increased risk of wildfire, with more aggressive fires, that grow larger and threaten more lives and property each year;

And whereas the Province spends hundreds of millions of dollars on wildfire suppression (\$263 million/year - 10-year average);

And whereas the amount dedicated to local governments for wildfire prevention via the Community Resilience Investment Grant is exponentially smaller (\$13 million in 2022);

And whereas the existing grant process is onerous and resource intensive, whereby local governments must apply every year and compete for limited dollars, and does not allow for long term planning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

Starting in 2024, First Nations and local governments with a higher risk of wildfire—generally demonstrated by risk class 1 to 3—that have a FireSmart Position, participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee, and have an acceptable Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan/Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be eligible to receive FireSmart Community Funding and Supports for FireSmart activities through an allocation-based model. This will support communities with longer-term planning and reduce administrative burdens. Under the allocation-based model, recipients will be required to submit a brief allocation-based funding request form to confirm that the eligibility criteria have been met. If approved, recipients would receive an approval agreement which includes the terms and conditions of the grant.

The Province continues to fund community wildfire resiliency through the FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program in a risk-based, equitable, and transparent manner, as well as the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program. These funding programs are complimented by funding provided to the Community Forest Association, BC Cattlemen's Association, Investment Agriculture Foundation, and is now working on a new funding agreement with the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations – all of which focus on wildfire suppression areas adjacent to communities and critical infrastructure.

EB29 Provincial Government Re-Established as Diking Authority

Abbotsford

Whereas the Province has designated municipalities as diking authorities and established a wide range of authoritative powers over them including requirements to fully administer and resource ongoing dike maintenance, flood protection planning, monitoring, inspection, as well as to substantively fund disaster prevention and relief initiatives;

And whereas the Province of BC completed a Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for BC in 2019 that found that extreme weather events will continue to worsen across the province in coming years including heat waves and severe river flooding with extreme precipitation events continuing to increase toward 1 in 20 year events becoming 1 in 10 year events or lower;

And whereas the administrative and financial resources required for local governments to undertake the responsibilities as diking authorities are an increasingly unsustainable burden on local communities with no dedicated funding sources from senior government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to be re-established as the diking authority in local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Province works closely with local governments, First Nations and other partners to address flood risks. Together we strive to reduce the social, economic and ecological disruption from flooding.

Dikes are an important part of a community's integrated flood management plan, complementing a variety of other local government approaches, such as development and zoning decisions behind dikes, stormwater and pump station infrastructure, and other structural/non-structural flood mitigation, including nature-based solutions. In addition, some dikes also have significant local amenity interest as part of a community's active transportation, recreational trail and economic development plans.

The authority for most regulated dikes across the province was established at the time of dike construction, often decades ago. This placed authority for inspection and maintenance with local diking authorities, with costs for design and construction often shared across local, provincial, and federal levels. Since the time of construction, many communities have successfully incorporated dike infrastructure into their asset management plans.

To support communities with diking and other flood risk reduction investments, the Province will continue to explore enhancements to flood mitigation funding opportunities for local governments, including opportunities to leverage federal government programs to improve flood resilience in B.C. The Province has made an investment of \$181 million for 429 flood mitigation projects since 2017 through programs such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) and Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program (ARDM).

The Province is also Investing in foundational approaches to understand and share information on flood risks in a changing climate. This includes delivery of a Provincial Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment in 2024 and an \$8.69 million investment for flood-hazard mapping by March 2024, in support of B.C.'s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy.

This work will support decisions on floodplains and holistic local approaches to flood risk reduction that are stronger when made in the context of relationships and values at the community-level with support and guidelines from the Province. The Province is committed to continue to work collaboratively with local governments, First Nations and other

partners to explore and implement a broad range of flood risk reduction options through integrated floodplain management plans, including structural measures such as dikes.

Please note that effective October 19, 2023, the responsibility for the *Dike Maintenance Act*, along with several authorities for the administration of water, were transferred from the B.C. Ministry of Forests to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship to better align with the broader Ministerial responsibilities for water.

EB30 Diversion Court

Maple Ridge

Whereas the court system is experiencing an overwhelming number of cases;

And whereas the current justice system including bail system challenges of dealing with crime rarely results in reforming individuals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to support further funding for diversion courts with dedicated judges so as to implement greater capacity in the restorative justice system, complimented by sufficient treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

Specialized courts are alternatives to the traditional court process, and may include a diversion element, i.e. into community programs and services. Their operations are structured to respond to a particular justice system challenge or a community problem. They expand the role of the court from adjudication and sanctions into other areas, including offender management, health and social services, and improving efficiencies of justice services.

While many communities are anxious to respond to highly visible crime problems through specialized courts, they may not always be the most effective solution. Addressing specific gaps in social services or improving coordination of existing resources may better address some of the factors that place individuals at risk for entering the criminal justice system.

The Province is working to address repeat violent offending in our communities through the Safer Communities Action Plan, launched in November 2022. The Action Plan aims to improve coordination between law enforcement, community service organizations, justice system actors, and health providers, to address the issues people are seeing in their communities.

Examples of measures under the Action Plan include:

- Launching new repeat violent offender coordinated response teams, made up of police, dedicated prosecutors, and probation officers;
- Expanding mental-health crisis response teams into more communities so police can focus on crime, and people in crisis are met early on by health-care workers and community members; and
- Opening 10 new Indigenous Justice Centres to provide culturally appropriate support for Indigenous Peoples involved in the justice system, to address the root causes of their involvement in the system and help them break the cycle.

The Province looks forward to evaluating the impact of these measures in helping address repeat offending in communities throughout British Columbia.

EB31 Increased Funding for Climate Adaptation Costs

Saanich

Whereas climate change is collectively, and increasingly, costing BC local governments billions of dollars in the form of increased maintenance, construction and upgrading of infrastructure, disaster relief and other climate costs;

And whereas current provincial and federal funding falls considerably short of what is needed to properly protect communities in BC from current and future projected climate changes such as floods, wildfires and extreme heat:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province increase funding available for climate adaptation measures, commensurate with B's climate risks.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

The safety of all British Columbians is a top priority for the Province. Government is committed to supporting First Nations and local governments in getting better prepared for emergencies and increasing their resiliency towards climate-related risks through a number of different funding programs.

The [Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) (CEPF) supports First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate. Recognizing the increasing risk of disasters communities face due to climate change, we committed an additional \$180 million to the CEPF earlier this year, bringing the total investment to \$369 million. Additionally, we increased the funding stream for disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation from \$2 million to \$5 million per project.

Funding for wildfire resiliency projects is available through [the Community Resiliency Investment program's FireSmart Community Funding](#) and Supports (FCFS) stream. The program supports community based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce wildfire risk and can provide funding of up to \$200,000 for high-risk communities and \$100,000 for low-risk communities.

The Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) provides local governments and Modern Treaty Nations with predictable and stable funding to support local climate action that reduces emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate.

More information on funding programs for climate change adaptation can be found on the BC [Community Climate Funding Guide for Indigenous communities & local governments](https://communityclimatefunding.gov.bc.ca/) (<https://communityclimatefunding.gov.bc.ca/>)

Climate resilience will be a key point of consideration when the Province enters into negotiations on future bilateral infrastructure funding programs with our federal partners.

EB32 Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities

Metchosin

Whereas British Columbia and Canada have committed to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Together for Wildlife Strategy;

And whereas protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities by establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund and other legislative and promotional measures to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is working closely with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) to implement all 14 recommendations of the 2020 strategic review report [A New Future for Old Forests](#). A key component of this work is leading the collaborative development of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework ('the Framework') with First Nations.

The Framework will set policy intent and serve as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in the way we think about biodiversity, helping to ensure our ecosystems and communities remain healthy and resilient in light of climate change and other threats. The Framework will create a vision and tools to support the prioritization of ecosystem health and the conservation of biodiversity. It will help align ongoing initiatives that support ecosystem health (e.g., Together for Wildlife Strategy, Watershed Security Strategy) and the commitment to achieving the goal of 30% protection of B.C.'s land base by 2030.

The draft Framework includes a commitment to co-developing with First Nations new legislation and updates to existing legislation. It also includes a commitment to work with local governments and British Columbians as part of a whole of society approach, to support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity (including looking at potential financial incentives).

The draft framework was released on November 15, 2023. Consultation with First Nations and engagement with industry, local governments, and Non-Government Organizations was conducted via virtual webinars between November 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024. These included two local government specific sessions. The Framework will be finalized in spring 2024, followed by co-development of the related legislation.

EB33 New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Species at Risk

Islands Trust

Whereas in 2022 UBCM endorsed resolutions calling on the Province of BC to work in cooperation with First Nations to enact species at risk legislation and to work towards new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;

And whereas in November 2022 the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada Report which documents an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years;

And whereas in December 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to urgently proceed with legislation, informed by new agreements and reports, co-developed with First Nations, that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is working closely with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) to implement all 14 recommendations of the 2020 strategic review report [A New Future for Old Forests](#). A key component of this work is leading the collaborative development of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework ('the Framework') with First Nations.

The Framework will set policy intent and serve as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in the way we think about biodiversity, helping to ensure our ecosystems and communities remain healthy and resilient in light of climate change and other threats. The Framework will create a vision and tools to support the prioritization of ecosystem health and the conservation of biodiversity and species at risk. It will help align ongoing initiatives that support ecosystem health and biodiversity (e.g., Together for Wildlife Strategy, Watershed Security Strategy), support the commitment to achieving the goal of 30% protection of B.C.'s land base by 2030, and will align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The draft Framework includes a commitment to co-developing with First Nations new legislation and updates to existing legislation. It also includes a commitment to work with local governments and British Columbians as part of a whole of society approach, to support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

The [draft Framework](#) was released on November 15, 2023. Consultation with First Nations and engagement with industry, local governments, and Non-Government Organizations was conducted via virtual webinars between November 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024. These included two local government specific sessions. The Framework will be finalized in spring 2024, followed by co-development of the related legislation.

EB34 Invasive Species – Amendment to the *Weed Control Act*

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas the *Weed Control Act* [RSBC 1996] Chapter 487 provides that an occupier must control noxious weeds growing or located on land and premises, and on any other property located on land and premises, occupied by that person;

And whereas the proliferation of invasive plants has grown exponentially throughout British Columbia;

And whereas invasive plants continue to be sold commercially to uninformed property owners and landscapers;

And whereas S. 4(1) of the Weed Control Regulation provides that no person shall transport, keep for sale, offer to buy or sell, or buy or sell any screenings containing seeds of a noxious weed, it says nothing about plants:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Weed Control Act* to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the Weed Control Regulation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The risks and impacts of invasive plant species are well recognized by the Government of British Columbia. The BC *Weed Control Act* is an older piece of legislation that does not fully provide the foundation for improved regulation that could address invasive plant / noxious weed sale, movement or trade.

The Ministry of Forests recognize that there have been consistent, collective requests over the past 15 or more years for improved legislation to better address invasive species in BC and that this has been reflected in the Invasive Species Strategy for BC.

The BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group has completed a legislative gap analysis and policy work to address invasive species legislation needs. Closing pathways of introduction and spread of invasive plant species (e.g. sale, movement, trade) is a cost-effective and critical approach to reduce risk and future impacts.

EB35 Ban on the Sale of Invasive Plant Species

West Vancouver

Whereas invasive plants can cause significant economic harm by damaging crops, fisheries, forests, and infrastructure, and impose costs on industry and taxpayers for control and eradication efforts;

And whereas regulating the sale and distribution of invasive plants is a key strategy for preventing their introduction and spread, and for protecting native ecosystems and economies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province ban the sale and distribution of invasive plants within the jurisdiction of the Province of British Columbia, except for plants that have been determined to be non-invasive.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

Preventing the introduction and distribution of invasive plant species continues to be a priority for Government, as we recognize the significant impacts invasive plants can have on economic, ecological, social and cultural values across BC.

The Ministry of Forests leads invasive plant management and is aware of the gaps in the current invasive species legislative framework. High-risk invasive plant species and their pathways of introduction and spread are not adequately controlled and there are limited provisions to stop the retail sale, trade, barter, gifting or movement of regulated species.

The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) is the coordinating body for invasive species prevention and management and has representation from all resource and land management ministries. The IMISWG has completed a review of legislation and policy and identified invasive species that are not adequately addressed, and areas where improvements to policy would support preventing the introduction and spread of high-risk invasive plants and animals, which includes preventing their sale, trade, barter, gifting and transport.

This review also determined that the *Weed Control Act* is antiquated and not feasible to update to make the improvements required to include needed prevention and movement prohibition provisions. Exploring the development of a new, comprehensive Act with supporting Regulations and policy has been recommended as the best approach to adequately address all high-risk invasive species and their pathways of introduction and spread.

Creating new legislation is a large undertaking, however, in the interim, the province is committed to continuing to pursue improved policy solutions to address invasive plant species.

EB36 Greater Enforcement for Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program

Sicamous

Whereas the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels poses a serious threat to watercourses in British Columbia and the primary vector for invasive mussels is watercraft entering the province;

And whereas the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) is the first line of defence and remains grossly underfunded with less than 10 watercraft inspection stations throughout the province;

And whereas the Province has yet to introduce 'pull-the-plug' legislation, legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels or mandatory watercraft inspections for vessels entering British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province increase funding for the IMDP, introduce legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels when entering BC and establish mandatory watercraft inspections to ensure the protection of our watercourses.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Keeping B.C. waters free of invasive mussels is an ongoing priority for our government. Both the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (the Conservation Officer Service (COS) in particular) remain committed to the shared delivery of the Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) and its watercraft inspections, enforcement actions, lake monitoring, and education.

The Province will continue to monitor changes in information, knowledge, and threats, as well as collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions in Canada and the United States (U.S.) to ensure our prevention measures are commensurate to the risks posed by invasive mussels.

Regulatory tools to enforce 'Clean, Drain, Dry' such as Pull the Plug legislation has been identified for consideration in the current *Wildlife Act* review. We encourage recommendations to be submitted through the *Wildlife Act* review process (WildlifeActReview@gov.bc.ca).

IMDP funding relies on funding partners and fluctuates annually. In direct response, the Government of B.C. has either maintained or increased support in recent years, to maintain fundamental program operations. In 2023,, financial support has come from B.C. Hydro, the Columbia Basin Trust, Columbia Power, and three B.C. ministries. Having your support in seeking funding increases is critical to our Ministries' ability to work with funding partners to keep the IMDP a collective priority.

It is mandatory for anyone transporting a boat in B.C. to stop at an open inspection station along their travel route during the boating season, from April to October. Watercraft and related equipment include sailboats, motorboats, car toppers, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards being transported.

EB37 Water Sustainability Act

Lake Country

Whereas the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was brought into force and effect to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of BC residents today and in the future, and the Okanagan, like most of BC, faces real threats to watershed security over the next decade and beyond;

And whereas inadequate enforcement tools, compliance monitoring, resources and penalties for contraventions under the WSA are perpetuating damages to streams, watersheds and aquifers that provide drinking water, irrigation and fisheries resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests to allocate more staffing, funding and enforcement tools, prioritize enforcement to ensure watershed security is maintained and work collaboratively with local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Province is committed to continuing to improve British Columbia's drought response. The Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship have worked closely on both strategic and operational water management priorities since a ministry reorganization was initiated in April 2022. On October 19, 2023, water authorizations and operations staff in the Ministry of Forests, along with the responsibility for implementation of the *Water Sustainability Act*, were transitioned to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship in order to strengthen our integrated approach to water resource stewardship.

The Province is committed to continue to implement the *Water Sustainability Act* and the specialized tools within the legislation in response to drought conditions such as Temporary Protection Orders, including declaration of significant water shortage and Fish Population Protection Orders. In addition, regulations are being drafted to implement administrative monetary penalties under the *Water Sustainability Act*. This will allow further action to be taken as needed to ensure the health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems during times of drought.

Following the 2023 drought season, the Province will be undertaking a review of the response, actions taken, and feedback received on the drought response to incorporate learnings and new approaches to better respond to future drought challenges.

Furthermore, the Province is co-developing a Watershed Security Strategy. This work acknowledges the people and livelihoods in a watershed that are directly affected by extreme water events such as drought, and also recognizes that many people and businesses are already doing important work to protect and restore local watersheds. Engagement on the development of this strategy gathered feedback from internal and external groundwater experts, and Indigenous Peoples. Reports and updates may be found at: [Watershed Security Strategy – Government of British Columbia](#).

As stated above the Province is committed to implementing the *Water Sustainability Act* to ensure healthy watersheds and continuing to work with Indigenous Nations, local governments and groups of interests.

EB38 Regional Water Supply Strategies

Nanaimo RD

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

And whereas there are many different purveyors involved in the supply of drinking water including governments and private companies, as well as many agencies responsible for development planning for the growing population:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Watershed security and drinking water source protection are priorities for the provincial government. We recognize that across the province communities are experiencing challenges by being serviced by different water suppliers from different water sources and that there are emerging needs to redistribute water allocation to meet the needs of communities. We also recognize that many communities are dealing with aging infrastructure which not all communities have the funding to maintain.

Municipalities and regional districts can apply for grants that support projects related to the development of sustainable community infrastructure through the [Infrastructure Planning Grant Program](#). Eligible projects may be granted up to \$10,000 to support development or improvement of long-term comprehensive plans including but not limited to water plans and asset management plans.

The Province is also looking at options to support local water security through the [Watershed Security Strategy](#) (WSS). The WSS will set the foundation for a future Source to Tap Strategy to better protect drinking water sources. While the WSS will take time to develop, there are several existing tools that can be considered to protect drinking water sources, including water objectives and water sustainability plans under the *Water Sustainability Act*, and drinking water protection plans under the *Drinking Water Protection Act*.

Recognizing the diversity of local area circumstances, regional districts and local governments are encouraged to collaborate with local water providers to clarify needs, explore options and build proposals for a path forward. WLRS is happy to meet to discuss proposals and work with regional districts to define a path to resolving issues of concern.

EB40 Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

Comox Valley RD

Whereas reasonable and free consumer access to recycling collection facilities or collection services is the cornerstone of British Columbia's recycling framework;

And whereas the 2021 Accessibility Framework within the Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia's Guidance on Accessibility of Stewardship Programs will not provide for the service levels expected within many remote communities in British Columbia, as Extended Producer Responsibility programs are only provided "where practical":

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for improved access to recycling for rural and remote communities with tiered and funded solutions based on the remoteness index and developed in collaboration with local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

B.C.'s Recycling Regulation requires extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs to adequately provide for "reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities or collection services."

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ministry) reviews EPR plans for reasonable consumer access and expects continuous improvement in this area. The ministry is aware of concerns raised with the Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia's 2021 Accessibility Framework.

In spring 2023, the ministry concluded a contract with a consultant who developed a framework for enhancing consumer access to EPR collection facilities and services in B.C. Access in rural and remote communities was a key consideration in the contract. The consultant's framework uses Statistics Canada's Index of Remoteness to categorize communities from easily accessible to very remote.

The ministry is currently reviewing the consultant's framework for consideration prior to introducing new policy on consumer access. As this work progresses, the ministry intends to engage with interested parties including local governments and Indigenous partners.

EB41 Expansion of the Recycling Regulation to Include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging and Printed Paper Recyclables

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (BCMOECCS) Recycling Regulation regulates the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for residential packaging and printed paper (PPP), which is managed by Recycle BC;

And whereas PPP recyclables from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sources, is not currently part of the Recycling Regulation, which is allowing the financial burden of diverting this recycling stream from landfilling onto the ICI sector and local governments;

And whereas the Provincial Government has instituted a phased study of ICI PPP recyclables as part of the EPR 5-year Action Plan which will not be completed until 2025:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province expedite the inclusion of industrial, commercial and institutional packaging and printed paper recyclables into the Recycling Regulations much sooner than 2025.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) has heard the concerns of local governments and many impacted parties regarding the challenges of managing Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste responsibly, through recycling and waste prevention. The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Five-Year Action Plan (released in 2021) outlines priorities to advance recycling and it sets out a policy approach for improved recovery and recycling of packaging and products.

The ICI sector includes a complex variety of packaging types and sources, compared to residential waste streams. ICI sector packaging includes both business to consumer and business to business packaging, as well as many specialized packaging types for different businesses and institutions ranging from food and beverage to retail to construction to education and medical sources. This complex variety of packaging types and sources will require a measured, phased approach to support effective packaging and paper waste prevention, diversion, and recycling.

ENV has undertaken several actions towards a commitment to develop a policy based approach for ICI packaging and paper. ENV has completed a baseline data report for ICI waste (released January 2023) and supported the creation of a working group in the Spring of 2023 to identify potential interim non-regulatory opportunities to increase diversion of ICI packaging in rural and remote communities. The working group was comprised of interested parties to identify potential interim opportunities to reduce select ICI packaging waste in North-Central B.C.

Continuing from this work will be the release of a discussion paper, on the prevention of ICI packaging waste, anticipated for release in early 2024. This discussion paper is the next important step in working towards the identification of policy approaches for ICI packaging and paper by 2025. The discussion paper, and accompanying engagement, will provide important opportunities to hear from local governments and impacted parties about the challenges and options within the ICI sector to prevent packaging waste and increase recycling.

EB42 ICBC Data

Saanich

Whereas local governments require baseline and consistent data to inform policy design, implementation, and evaluation, and to measure progress towards achieving greenhouse gas and vehicle kilometers travelled reductions targets;

And whereas the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is now committed to usage/distance- based insurance discounts that require odometer data:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province mandate ICBC to collect odometer readings for all licensed vehicles annually and provide greenhouse gas and vehicle kilometers travelled data sets to local governments to help inform their climate policy decisions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government and ICBC support measures that protect a healthy environment and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and vehicle kilometers travelled.

In keeping with government's commitment to transparency, ICBC provides useful vehicle population data on its website that can be sorted by municipality, vehicle type, or area based on the first three characters of the postal code. The data is public in a customizable, convenient format that makes it available in a timely manner and can be found online: <https://www.icbc.com/about-icbc/newsroom/Pages/Statistics.aspx>. Data requests including full postal codes and detailed vehicle information require information sharing agreements between ICBC and municipalities to ensure customer privacy is maintained. More detailed information, including odometer readings currently collected, are shared through an information sharing agreement with the Ministry of Environment's Climate Action Secretariat to help inform CleanBC initiatives and help GHG emissions targets.

Since 2019, ICBC has been collecting odometer readings from customers which are provided on a voluntary basis. This is primarily for customers seeking low-kilometre discounts, which begin at less than 10,000 kilometres per year, for their automobile insurance. ICBC is working towards expanding the tiers for distance-based discounts which will increase the proportion of customers that voluntarily provide their odometer readings.

Government has directed ICBC to work with ministry partners to explore odometer disclosure requirements for licensed motor vehicles, including the ability to share non-personal information including vehicle kilometers travelled data sets to help inform climate policy decisions.

EB43 Clean Transportation Action Plan for Rural and Northern Communities

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the Province of BC has released the Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 outlining measures to reach its legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas zero-emission vehicles may not be a suitable alternative for remote rural resource based industries including forestry, oil and gas, and agriculture;

And whereas public transit is not available in many rural and remote communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a Clean BC Transportation Plan specific to rural and northern communities that addresses the unique challenges and identifies how the GHG targets can be achieved.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Government included a commitment to develop a Clean Transportation Action Plan (CTAP) in the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 to outline the next steps to reducing emissions in transportation and work toward additional CleanBC transportation targets. This includes targets for increasing the percentage of trips made by walking, cycling and public transit, reducing the energy intensity of goods movement, and accelerating zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales targets for light-duty passenger vehicles while also developing requirements for commercial vehicles. CTAP is intended to be released in early 2024.

The Province recognizes that Indigenous, northern, rural, and remote communities face different challenges, opportunities, and a different transportation landscape than urban and suburban areas. CTAP will include a dedicated section on considerations for Indigenous, northern, rural and remote communities. As policies are developed and implemented, some may first (or only) apply to larger, more urban communities. Other policies and programs may be developed specifically for Indigenous, northern, rural, and remote communities.

To support clean transportation in northern and rural British Columbia, here are some actions already underway:

- Support for the First Nations Low-Carbon Transportation Project, with the BC Assembly of First Nations which is working to accelerate access safe, affordable, and reliable low-carbon and active transportation.
- Continued funding for rural transportation, including BC Bus North and the Northern Community Shuttle Program through 2026/27 (funded by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure).
- The B.C. Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants Program provides enhanced funding levels for communities with smaller populations (funded by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure).
- The Province is investing in capacity building programs such as the Go Electric Emotive and Community Outreach Incentive Program, and training for upskilling of automotive technicians. For example, the Go Electric outreach funding has supported videos on ZEV performance in northern climates and ride-and-drive events throughout northern B.C. Seven colleges around the province now offer training on ZEVs for automotive technicians, including the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, and the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook.
- In the Roadmap to 2030, the Province committed to complete the Electric Highway in 2024, enabling ZEVs to travel every highway and major road in the province. Approximately 79% of the Electric Highway is now complete, and plans are in place for the remaining stations to be complete in 2024.
- The Province is also working with other levels of government, utilities, and industry to meet the Roadmap goal to have 10,000 public charging stations across the province by 2030.

- Lastly, in response to input received from northern communities, the ZEV Act also allows for the sale of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to count towards the legislated ZEV requirements, even in 2035 and beyond. This provides an option to British Columbians for whom range and charging might still be barriers.

EB44 Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward

Courtenay

Whereas in 2021, 37 local governments from across BC, as well as UBCM, passed resolutions supporting Help Cities Lead, a campaign advocating for the implementation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residential and commercial buildings;

And whereas the Province has not met its commitment to move forward with next steps on a PACE program in the RoadMap to 2030 climate strategy, which is a form of financing for energy retrofits designed to help building owners save on energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has yet to advance the program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation to support a province-wide PACE program for residential and commercial buildings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Province remains committed to advancing key CleanBC policies and programs for energy efficiency in buildings. To meet our ambitious emission reduction targets, Government has already implemented policies phasing out utility incentives for conventional gas heating equipment and making it easier for utilities to offer income-qualified retrofit programs. We continue to work on introducing the highest efficiency space and water heating equipment standards, implementing greenhouse gas requirements in the BC Building Code, enhancing our existing program portfolio and developing a virtual home energy rating system that will provide energy performance and retrofit guidance to homeowners, home buyers and renters.

CleanBC has a growing suite of supportive measures (including CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings, CleanBC Social Housing Incentive, and the CleanBC Custom Program, and a Low-Interest Financing Program, along with often-stackable utility and federal energy retrofit programs, such as the Canada Greener Homes Loan) that can incentivize comprehensive building energy retrofits in the residential and commercial sectors. As the Province transitions to more stringent building codes and standards we recognize the potential for PACE to promote energy-efficient building retrofits in some market segments and continue to explore the next steps on a timeframe that aligns with these regulations.

EB45 Illegal Dumping on Agricultural Lands

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia amended the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* in 2018 under Bill 52;

And whereas these changes included new prohibitions for dumping waste and other damaging substances on farmland, with significant penalties and new tools for enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to follow through on these changes and invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste on agricultural lands.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is responsible for the enforcement of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* (ALCA). The public may submit complaints and agencies may provide referrals of activities that may contravene the ALCA to the ALC. There are currently six ALC compliance and enforcement officers and one supervisor serving the Province.

ALC Compliance and Enforcement Officers (ALC Officers) may coordinate with local government (LGs) and other agencies, depending on the site issue. When coordinating with LGs, ALC Officers may:

- Conduct joint inspections with by-law enforcement officers;
- Discuss who is going to take the lead in enforcement (depends on the site-specific issues);
- Advise the LG on what actions the ALC will be doing (i.e., issue stop work, remediation, and/or penalty orders); and/or,
- Discuss issues with LG legal counsel to support their legal case for by-law violations.

ALC Officers also coordinate with other agencies, such as the Ministry of Environment (ENV) and Climate Change Strategy and the Ministry of Forests (FOR). The level of coordination depends on the site-specific issues and other applicable legislation. Recent examples include coordinating with ENV on a site leading to the issuance of a remediation order and with FOR at another site leading to a contravention order.

ALC Officers have the authority to enter and inspect land. The officers can issue stop work orders for actions that contravene (or are about to contravene) the ALCA or its regulations. They can also make recommendations to the ALC's CEO to issue remediation orders and administrative penalties. Remediation orders can now be added to an ALR property's title to encourage enforcement. Further, the ALC can also apply to the B.C. Supreme Court to assist in enforcing its orders.

Whereas regional districts currently have no regulatory authority to prevent tree cutting except as it relates to areas affected by flooding or other hazards;

And whereas municipalities have broad powers to regulate tree protection under Section 8(3)(c) and Division 7 of the *Community Charter*, including bylaws for protection, removal, replanting, and replacement of trees;

And whereas some regional districts, particularly regional districts experiencing development pressure, share similar concerns as municipalities with respect to protecting trees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide regional districts authority over tree cutting/tree protection that is equal to the regulatory power municipalities have for tree protection.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs understands that tree cutting regulation authority continues to be of concern to regional districts and the issue has been the subject of past UBCM resolutions. The Ministry is aware that regional districts have raised concerns about tree management and that increased development and the resulting increase in tree logging on private lands continues to present challenges.

Municipal councils have a broad authority to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to trees. This authority is consistent with the broad regulation making authorities municipal councils have under the Community Charter. However, the authority to regulate tree cutting within municipal boundaries does not extend to regulating forestry-type activities.

Regional districts and the Islands Trust already have the authority to regulate tree cutting under certain circumstances as part of their land use regulatory powers. Specifically, tree cutting can be regulated by designating development permits areas and designating tree cutting permit areas on land that may be subject to flooding, erosion, land slip or avalanche.

The Ministry continues to consider the inclusion of the issue for further policy work, recognizing that any additional authorities will have to be considered within the special context of regional districts. This policy work would seek to understand the full range of implications, including climate change considerations and consistency around forestry practices on private land within the province. The Ministry welcomes further discussion from individual communities or regional districts to better understand their challenges, desired objectives, and the perceived limitations of the current tree protection authorities.

Engagement with the Ministry of Forests is ongoing, and any legislative changes will need to consider the outcomes and any recommendations from the Private Managed Forest Land Program (PMFL) Review and how best to address local government concerns for land not registered in the PMFL Program. The Ministry of Forests will begin Phase 2 of the PMFL Program Review following the development of the Watershed Security Strategy process so that any changes contemplated for the PMFLA are consistent with it.

EB47 Regional District Funding for Small Water Systems

Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas in the interest of providing a safe potable drinking water supply, Regional Districts are encouraged by the Province to assume ownership and operation of failing or deficient water systems owned by improvement districts, water users' communities, societies and private development;

And whereas these water systems are not financially viable as they are very small in size (frequently less than 100 customers) with limited access to funding, they are located in rural or remote rural communities with a very limited tax base, and with no opportunity to amalgamate with other water systems to achieve economies of scale:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province recognizes the challenges in managing small water systems, and the desire to ensure small water systems are built, operated, and maintained in a safe and sustainable manner. Local services are encouraged to work toward cost recovery from user fees, taxes, and where applicable, development costs. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs will work with regional districts on ways to scale those elements of water provision that are most effective to reduce costs and to explore the range of options and alternatives for small service areas.

The province's current funding to local government systems is project based to help meet emergent capital costs associated with changing regulatory requirements around public health and safety, as these costs are more challenging to plan for, where systems are largely self-sustaining and also contribute towards the costs of the upgrade. Infrastructure funding programs can provide support for capital works to meet drinking water requirements where conversion to local government service areas is undertaken.

Regional districts are encouraged to administer small water systems where these systems serve communities as the preferred model to deliver rural services. The administrative structure provides good governance and financial accountability, integrated planning, and where practical, economies of scale.

The Ministry will continue to assess and explore solutions to address the on-going financial challenges of small water systems, as well as the needs of local governments who are considering assuming ownership of water systems.

Whereas government funding programs such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Building BC Community Housing Fund have been established to realize government priorities;

And whereas local governments expend considerable effort and expense to prepare applications for government funding programs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to review the granting process to improve efficiency and ensure its funding programs are adequately resourced so that shared objectives can be realized.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Programs such as the federal-provincial Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) are application based and designed for capital projects that support community priorities and align with federal and provincial priorities. Program intakes, under the ICIP, were competitive with high oversubscription of funding requests. The province continues to advocate the federal government for additional bilateral funding programs to meet the scale and range of needs of local governments.

In these merit-based programs, applications are assessed with consistent process to ensure that those applications that best meet program objectives and demonstrate effective risk management are selected for funding. Applications must also demonstrate that they will meet federal requirements for bilateral funding programs. The Ministry recognizes that it is challenging to invest financial resources into the feasibility work that supports the project details required as part of a funding applications; however, this work is required to advance a capital project. The Ministry's Infrastructure Planning Grant Program can assist in completing engineering or related planning work for a project.

The province recognizes the importance of ongoing collaboration with local governments and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). In addition to feedback and input about infrastructure funding programs, the province has a Memorandum of Understanding with UBCM to collectively review the local government finance system.

EB51 Top-Up to Provincial Grants

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to rising global inflation, labour shortages and supply-chain issues, which in turn have led to higher costs for consumers;

And whereas provincial grants provided to local governments for projects will likely not cover the increased costs associated with supplies and construction, therefore leaving jurisdictions unable to complete projects aimed to benefit their communities and citizens:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC top up those grants given to local governments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that projects can be completed.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province appreciates the importance of infrastructure projects that benefit communities, and that recent construction and material cost changes have been challenging. Programs administered by the province, or as bilateral programs with federal partners, provide fixed funding amounts at the time of decision, are fully allocated and do not have funds for cost increases. This is outlined at the point of application and in the project contribution agreements, with cost increases on a project remaining the responsibility of the proponent.

The Growing Communities Fund (GCF) distributed conditional grants to local governments at the end of March 2023 to help build community infrastructure and amenities to meet the demands of unprecedented population growth. The Fund provided a one-time allocation of \$1 billion to all 188 municipalities and regional districts for core public infrastructure. Funding from the Growing Communities Fund can be utilized for cost overruns on approved projects.

EB52 Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments

Sechelt

Whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased community growth in many areas;

And whereas the revenue from property transfer tax is due in large part to the attractiveness of the local community to homebuyers which is in part the result of local government efforts, as such local governments should benefit from this tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share property transfer tax revenue with local governments in British Columbia for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The province is not actively considering property transfer tax (PTT) revenue sharing with local governments, instead government is collaborating with local governments, and making direct investments on local priorities.

PTT flows in the consolidated revenue fund which is used along with other provincial taxes to fund core government services including education, health care and affordable housing. The revenue loss from lowering the PTT would have to be offset by increases to other provincial taxes or reduced services.

EB53 Downtown Revitalization Grant Program

Port Hardy

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has historically administered a downtown revitalization program that generated incredible long-term benefits and returns to those communities who participated in the program and to the Province through increased commerce, tourism, and tax revenues;

And whereas forestry, fishing, and mining-oriented rural communities have been significantly economically impacted in relation to the economic vitality of these industry sectors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program and to provide adequate financial resources to enable rural resource communities to improve their downtowns for the benefit of residents, businesses, and tourism.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry administers funding that provides flexibility for local governments to identify their priorities. The Growing Communities Fund (GCF) is intended to help local governments make their own decisions about eligible infrastructure projects. The GCF provided a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants to all 188 of B.C.'s local governments, to use to address their community's unique infrastructure. The Community Works Fund, under the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF), allocates funding to all local governments in BC, providing flexibility in directing funding towards their priorities within a broad range of eligible categories. The Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) is a tri-party agreement between the federal government, the province, and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The CCBF is administered in BC by the UBCM. The province continues to advocate to the federal government for new funding to meet a range of local government priorities.

Related to downtown spaces, aside from ministry programs and partnerships such as GCF and CCBF, the province has advanced funding toward Island Coastal Economic Trust's Community Placemaking Program and the Main Street Revitalization Program administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Local governments have tools that can be used to undertake downtown revitalization programs. The Municipal Finance Authority provides access to short and long-term capital financing at competitive interest rates. Local governments have the authority to establish a revitalization tax exemption program to provide an incentive for businesses to improve their property in exchange for a reduction in property taxes. With the agreement of the property owners, local governments can establish a business improvement area and collect property taxes from that area for economic development activities or improving municipal streetscapes in the area.

EB54 Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries

qathet RD, Powell River

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources including Internet, computers, digital tools and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion:

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

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Libraries are critical community hubs that serve all British Columbians.

The province heard the need for increased funding to supplement core local library funding from communities across the province and provided \$45 million for public libraries, service partners and library federations in March 2023. This funding is helping libraries extend operating hours, programs, spaces, digital collections, improve access to technology and keep communities connected through a love of learning.

This new investment is in addition to regular annual grants of \$14M and the previous one-time \$8-million investment in March 2022 and \$3 million for digital services in 2020.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs remains committed to working with communities and library stakeholders to strengthen public library services and province-wide programs.

EB55 Protection of Old Growth Forests

Metchosin

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors." (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Government of B.C. has accepted all 14 recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) report, A New Future for Old Forests. The Ministry of Forests is preparing an Action Plan that will report on the progress made implementing the recommendations, and further will identify additional actions to complete implementation.

We have already made significant progress responding to the OGSR recommendations, including recent announcements on conservation financing, accelerated action to protect old growth forests, and our commitment to conserve 30 per cent of B.C.'s land base by 2030. All these efforts are fundamental to protecting against the worst effects of climate change and creating a healthier future for everyone.

A key component of this work is leading the collaborative development of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework (the Framework) with First Nations.

The draft framework sets policy intent and serves as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in the way we think about biodiversity, helping to ensure our ecosystems and communities remain healthy and resilient in light of climate change and other threats. The Framework will help align ongoing initiatives that support ecosystem health (e.g., Together for Wildlife Strategy, Watershed Security Strategy) and the commitment to achieving the goal of 30% protection of B.C.'s land base by 2030.

The draft Framework includes a commitment to co-developing with First Nations new legislation and updates to existing legislation. The draft Framework also includes a commitment to work with local governments and British Columbians as part of a whole of society approach, to support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

The draft Framework was released on November 15, 2023. Consultation with First Nations and engagement with industry, local governments, and Non-Government Organizations was conducted via virtual webinars between November 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024. These included two local government specific sessions. The Framework will be finalized in spring 2024, followed by co-development of the related legislation.

We are seeking to continue the work to implement the 14 recommendations in partnership with First Nations, and in consultation with local governments, industry, scientists, and non-governmental organizations. Provincial forums were held early in 2023 and a series of regional sessions were held from March to May 2023 to seek input on the development of the Action Plan and Framework. Information on our progress in developing those products was presented at the UBCM Convention in September of this year. Additionally, all First Nations were invited to a series of webinars to discuss the OGSR recommendations and were provided draft Action Plan content for comment.

The Action Plan and Framework will have significant impacts on forest-dependent communities, and we are clear that significant support must be offered to communities which identify the need for economic transition. New measures were announced in February 2023 to support communities which identify the need for transition, including launching value-added accelerator tables in partnership with the First Nations Forestry Council, the Council of Forest Industries and the BC Value-Added Wood Coalition and doubling the new B.C. Manufacturing Jobs Fund to \$180 million and making it open to projects provincewide.

Whereas communities across British Columbia relying on surface water systems as their only source of drinking water are facing historic droughts and becoming increasingly aware of the need to maintain the integrity and hydrological production capacity of their community watersheds while they continue to be adversely impacted by other tenure holders or developers;

And whereas community expectations are often not aligned with requirements for tenure holders and developers to prepare and provide comprehensive watershed mapping and management plans in collaboration with such water user communities and licencees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation prescribing tenure holders and developers to prepare detailed watershed mapping including LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery and comprehensive community watershed management plans in collaboration with water user communities and licencees prior to any development or incursion into consumptive use watersheds to avoid the risk of adversely impacting the hydrological production capacity of these watersheds.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship and Ministry of Forests

Water Sustainability Act planning tools, such as Water Objectives and Water Sustainability Plans, can be used to set goals for community watersheds and address conflicts among water users or risks to water quality. They are meant to be collaborative and consensus-building planning tools including First Nations, local governments, the Province and other interested parties.

The *Drinking Water Protection Act* (DWPA) also provides mechanisms for protecting community drinking water sources. Drinking Water Protection Plans (DWPPs) (DWPA Part 5) are regulatory tools that can create legally binding provisions to protect drinking water sources. In addition, under section 4.2 of the DWPA, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) must report to the minister any situation that the PHO believes significantly impedes the protection of public health in relation to drinking water.. A water supplier can report such a risk to their drinking water officer, who can then report it to the PHO.

For example, the Ministry of Forests Kootenay Boundary Region is actively engaging with First Nations to identify their interests, values, capacity and potential candidate areas for initial Forest Landscape Planning (FLP). The intention is for the entire Kootenay Boundary region to have FLP coverage. The development of collaborative FLPs with First Nation partners takes time to complete.

Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP) will remain in effect until they are replaced by FLPs. The FSPs are plans prepared to comply with the Forest and Range Practices Act and associated regulations which contain requirements related to Community Watersheds.

The *Forests and Range Practices Act* regulates forest activities and ranch operations on Crown land in community watersheds to protect water used for drinking. The Act sets out requirements for various activities, such as road-building or harvesting, within community watersheds.

On April 19, 2023, the province announced a \$38 million dollar investment in a six year provincial LiDAR program. Under this program, all LiDAR data and products for the entire province will be made free and open to the public, First Nations, local governments and industry. This foundational data can be used to support watershed mapping and planning activities by the province and involved stakeholders. All existing and future publicly available LiDAR acquired by the province will be available through the LidarBC website (lidar.gov.bc.ca).

EB57 Crown Land User Fee

East Kootenay RD

Whereas increasing usage of crown land for overnight camping and other recreational uses requires additional amenities, such as pit toilets, to protect the environment and additional trail and road maintenance and litter pick-up, to provide for sustainable and enjoyable usage;

And whereas with increased backcountry use there is additional need for education and compliance resources to mitigate aesthetic and environmental impacts, human/wildlife conflicts, and improve public safety:

Therefore be it resolve that UBCM petition the Province to implement a crown land camping fee structure, with the revenues to be used to provide sustainable use amenities and increased funding to the Conservation Officer service for improved education and enforcement.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

A Land Act tenure and associated fees for camping on Crown land is not available at this time. Opportunities to camp on Crown land for up to 14 days without a tenure are authorized through the Land Policy – Permissions. Permission activities are limited and must be undertaken in a manner which does not negatively impact the environment and wildlife, including the removal of all garbage and materials brought onto the land as part of those activities. A Director of Authorization and/or a District Manager and/or a Compliance and Enforcement Regional Manager may limit or rescind this Permission, with or without notice, even if the activity is in compliance with this policy. This may occur at any time, including while the use or activity is occurring.

**EB58 Better Management and Maintenance of Forest
Recreation Sites**

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has a mandate to provide safe, quality recreation opportunities by developing, maintaining and managing a network of recreation sites and trails throughout the province for the use and enjoyment of British Columbians;

And whereas some users of these sites and trails are holding events and gatherings that hinder others' enjoyment of these public assets and threaten to harm the natural and built environments through vandalism and wildfire:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC commit greater resources to the management and maintenance of forest recreation sites, trails and facilities to ensure that user safety and sanitary conditions are maintained and that facilities, infrastructure and the environment are protected.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The provincial government is interested in supporting local governments explore ways to ensure forest recreation sites, trails and facilities are user safe, conditions are sanitary and facilities, infrastructure and the environment are protected in their local areas.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has received an annual operational budget increase of \$800K provincially, to support critical maintenance requirements in response to growing pressure, limited program capacity and related management challenges at recreation sites and trails.

Additionally, RSTBC received a 3-year budget (\$900K/yr, 2023-25) to deliver a Seasonal Maintenance Crew (SMC) program, resulting in the ability to place 13 crews of 3 in many Recreation Districts to support critical maintenance and infrastructure replacement projects. Local RSTBC staff are the primary contact to discuss RSTBC resources and priorities.

EB59 Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archaeological Requirements

Sechelt

Whereas local governments acknowledge the critical importance of archaeology to reclaim the history and heritage of the Indigenous Peoples particularly while undertaking critical local government infrastructure renewal;

And whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased archaeological costs, including the cost of project delays:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and
2. Provide local governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

To improve *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) permitting timelines and sound decision-making, the Archaeology Branch is undertaking a multi-year Continuous Improvement Initiative, resulting in enhancements to systems, processes, policies, and the Branch's organizational structure, in addition to participating in Ministry initiatives to support permitting. The Ministry of Forests' 2023 Budget included \$86.83M over three years to support permitting processes, resulting in six net new positions for the Branch between fiscal years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

As committed in the Ministry's mandate letter and identified in the Declaration Act Action Plan commitment 4.35, the Ministry of Forests, with support from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, initiated the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (HCATP), with the aim to address current challenges with the HCA and its administration and ensure consistency with the UN Declaration. Several concerns and challenges were identified through engagement to date (in Phase one, 86 participants represented 49 local governments; in Phase 2 of this multi-year engagement, 89 participants represented 63 local governments), including funding and capacity for First Nations, local governments and provincial programming. Analysis of feedback received to date will inform recommendations for change.

The Archaeology Branch has developed a suite of tools to support local governments in informing residents of their responsibilities under the HCA. More work to develop educational and guidance resources is anticipated through the HCATP.

The Archaeology Branch does not provide funding to support archaeological assessments; the request for additional funding has been shared with the Ministries of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Municipal Affairs for their consideration. However, ongoing improvements are anticipated to result in a decrease in permitting timelines.

The Province remains committed to continuing to work collaboratively with local governments and First Nations to explore opportunities to support archaeological resource management.

EB60 BC Transit Expansion Funding

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the current Annual Operating Agreements between BC Transit and local governments provide for base service levels that are equal to the previous year but do not reflect agreed upon expanded transit service levels;

And whereas local governments are expected to authorize future commitments for transit expansion which are subject to cost increases at the discretion of BC Transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide a rolling 5-year funding commitment to BC Transit in order to provide and secure longer term funding assurances necessary for local governments to adequately budget and plan for transit expansion beyond the current year.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry, through BC Transit, supports transit service in over 130 communities in B.C (outside Metro Vancouver) some with as few as 5,000 residents, making B.C. a leader in the country in the delivery of transit service.

The provincial government shares the costs of transit services with local governments. Decisions on service levels, routes and fares are made by the local government partners based on public feedback and information provided by BC Transit.

Budget 2023 included \$512 million over the next three years to support over \$1.2 billion in significant investments in BC Transit infrastructure. Along with the Federal Government, the province invested over \$116 million in Safe Restart funding for BC Transit during the pandemic to ensure service levels were maintained and the system was available for people who needed it.

EB61 Provide Funding to Double Transit Services in Rural BC

Nelson

Whereas adding more routes between our rural communities and more trips on existing routes will benefit our health system by helping seniors and others access healthcare services;

And whereas reliable regional rural transit is a critical component of a British Columbia wide affordable housing strategy;

And whereas improving our rural transit systems will deliver significant economic benefits by providing more reliable transportation for students and frontline workers;

And whereas an expanded rural transit system will deliver significant GHG reduction, by shifting kilometers travelled from costly and polluting single-occupancy vehicles to high-occupancy buses:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide sufficient additional funding to double services in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Reliable and affordable rural transportation coverage is something people need to travel for work, to appointments, and to see loved ones. Government is committed to looking for solutions that will maintain and improve passenger transportation connections that support British Columbians.

BC Transit currently provides service in over 130 communities across the province, including regional routes and services in rural areas. In these communities, the provincial government shares the cost of transit services with local governments. Decisions on service levels, routes and fares are made by the local government partners based on public feedback and information provided by BC Transit.

Following the loss of Greyhound as an inter-city bus carrier in 2018, the ministry encouraged private operators to apply for passenger transportation licenses under a fast-tracked process.

As part of the StrongerBC plan, Government provided \$6.2 million to 20 inter-city bus operators in 2021/22 to help them remain operational through the pandemic recovery period.

In 2021, the Province and the federal government provided \$7.9 million to Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to provide safe, reliable and affordable transportation services in northern BC.

In 2023 an additional \$5.25 million was provided to NDIT to continue BC Bus North and the Northern Community Shuttle Program through 2026/27 and support development of a trip planning and booking platform for Northern BC. \$2.5 million was also provided to three regional economic development trusts, (NDIT, Economic Trust of the Southern Interior and Island Coastal Economic Trust), to conduct regional engagement and for other tangible initiatives that support regional passenger transportation. The three trusts are administering grant programs to support planning and capacity for passenger transportation services.

Information learned from the regional economic trusts, along with other research, analysis and engagement, will help inform the approach we take to addressing rural transit and transportation needs. We are committed to continuing to support existing services, and where needed, to looking at ways to improve passenger transportation options that support British Columbian.

EB62 Improved Information Sharing Between Local Governments and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas road maintenance contracts between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (the “Ministry”) and its contractors contain a requirement to develop 2-year summer road quantified maintenance plans (the “Road Maintenance Plans”) but the Ministry does not share the Road Maintenance Plans with local governments;

And whereas the Ministry develops Infrastructure Improvement Priorities and Plans (the “Infrastructure Priorities”) but the Ministry does not share the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments until the Infrastructure Priorities are fully developed and funded:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to be more transparent and start to share the Road Maintenance Plans and the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments and that a process be developed to do so.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Input for both the maintenance contractors quantified plan and the Ministry’s multi-year investment plans aim to balance the priorities raised by local governments with investment needed for maintenance and preservation of existing infrastructure. Maintenance contractors’ plans are intended to be flexible and change year-over-year to meet the needs of the inventory and timing specific activities. Cyclical maintenance activities such as sweeping, mowing, grading and dust control take up a large portion of these plans.

MOTI investments into rehabilitation, maintenance or expansion are based on a wide range of factors including safety, traffic volumes, lifecycle costs, and integrated planning benefits such as mode shift and greenhouse gas reduction, resilience and overall community benefits.

Local ministry staff are happy to meet directly with local governments and elected representatives to discuss upcoming works that are delivered by the Province or are part of maintenance contractors’ two-year plans.

EB63 Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards and there is continued concern regarding the state of roads in rural communities including poor road surfaces and drainage;

And whereas the provincial government periodically makes economic investment announcements and it is understood that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure may require assessment of impacts to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development, and which may direct improvements to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request that the Province direct enhanced investment into rural road network improvements in areas where provincial economic investments are made.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Maintaining B.C.'s vast network of rural highways and side roads is a priority for the Ministry. We recognize that rural roads provide a critical lifeline to rural and remote communities, including many B.C. First Nations and Indigenous communities.

The Ministry completes road surface condition analysis on main highway corridors annually and side roads semi-annually to help prioritize road surface rehabilitation in the province. We support this work with dedicated annual funding. This fiscal year, the Ministry will spend an estimated \$176 million on side road improvements. This is an increase of approximately 70% since 2019/20 when the budget was \$104M.

This funds side road resurfacing projects as well as road repairs and stabilization, surface gravelling, culvert replacements, ditching, drainage improvements, brushing, shouldering, guardrail replacements, paint and durable pavement markings.

The Ministry's Development Services staff continue to work with developers, local governments and community groups to ensure development-related impacts to the highway network are identified and improvements are completed where required.

EB64 Public Safety and Speed Limits

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards, including the setting and adjustment of speed limits;

And whereas rural areas are experiencing traffic management issues including increasing speeding as development and populations increase in areas shared by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; this requires a greater attention to community public safety concerns and necessary safety improvements:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The *Motor Vehicle Act* establishes the basic or “statutory” speed limit on all public roads: 80km/h outside municipalities and 50km/h within municipalities.

The Ministry is committed to improving road safety for all road users, including pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, and speed limits play an important role in road user safety and comfort.

The Ministry will work with local communities to review statutory speed limits or posted speed limits on rural community roads based on request and can establish posted speed limits or lower speed limits where community support and engineering review indicate that the statutory speed is no longer appropriate.

EB65 Trans-Canada Highway Improvements

Sicamous

Whereas the Trans-Canada Highway is BC's primary southern east-west corridor and is essential for trade and travel;

And whereas the 400-kilometre section of highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border is home of the most challenging terrain in Canada and is used by up to 12,000 vehicles a day;

And whereas in 2021 the Province committed to \$837 million over the next three years to allow traffic to move more safely and efficiently within the corridor, however, several projects identified in the Provincial plan are not yet underway, including the deteriorating RW Bruhn Bridge that poses significant public safety concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province initiate projects currently identified in the 2021 "Highway 1 - Kamloops to Alberta – Four-Laning" plan to improve the safety, reliability and capacity of the Trans-Canada Highway.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Improving the safety, reliability and capacity of Highway 1 to the Alberta border is a priority for this government. This commitment was supported by Budget 2021, with \$837 million being invested over the next three years on the Highway 1 four-laning program.

Construction is complete on the Illecillewaet Project near Revelstoke, the western segment of the Chase four-laning project near Chase and the western segment of the Salmon Arm West four-laning near Salmon Arm. Construction has begun on the Ford to Tappen project near Tappen.

Construction continues on the eastern segment of the Chase four-laning Project, the Quartz Creek Bridge Project, and the Kicking Horse Canyon Phase 4 project just recently reached substantial completion and opened to 4 lanes.

The province recently approved the Selkirk four-laning and the Jumping Creek to MacDonald project is now moving into the Request for Proposals phase of the contract.

The Bruhn Bridge project is a design bid-build project with a 2-phase procurement process. The project is currently in phase 1, Request for Qualifications, to pre-qualify constructors who will then be eligible to participate in phase 2, the project tender. The RFQ phase will complete in early 2024 with tender to follow.

EB66 Modernization of the *Local Government Act*

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas a comprehensive review of the legislation governing regional districts has not been done; however, the social, political and economic environments in which local governments operate has dramatically evolved in areas including increased populations living in unincorporated areas, response to climate change, and First Nations' participation in regional governance;

And whereas the accountabilities of regional districts continue to increase, most recently with updates to emergency management legislation, but regional districts lack the tools and authority needed to meet these expanded responsibilities;

And whereas UBCM has endorsed multiple resolutions asking for a review of the *Local Government Act* as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts; most recently in 2015, 2018, and 2022, and the province has been promising these urgently needed legislative updates for over twenty years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional districts to ensure that a comprehensive review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* is prioritized during the current municipal term of office.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry recognizes that regional districts play a key role in British Columbia's local government system and will be critical to the system's success in the 21st century. The Ministry recognizes that regional districts are diverse and can face unique challenges that may require customized solutions. As the expectations of residents on regional districts continues to change and evolve, the province will need to work closely with UBCM and regional districts to ensure they have effective, flexible, and up-to-date tools to fulfill their distinct roles and responsibilities within BC's local government system.

While the challenges that regional districts face are significant, it is important to note that UBCM and the Ministry have worked closely together since the 1990s to develop and maintain a statutory framework that, for the most part, has proven flexible enough for regional districts to adapt to the diverse and evolving needs of their communities.

For example, the *Local Government Act's* innovative regulation-making authorities have been used regularly to empower regional districts that are ready to design a regulatory framework with targeted authorities (e.g., business licensing, dangerous dogs, fireworks authority). In certain circumstances, use of these targeted authorities by individual local governments can inform future discussions about the potential for general authorities. Historically this has been a reliable approach to evolving local government authorities and is evident in the recent amendments to the *Local Government Act* enabling any regional district to implement a business licensing service. Those amendments build on an earlier *Local Government Act* regulation that provided business licensing authority by regulation for a specific regional district.

Given the challenges associated with broad legislative changes, regional districts facing unique challenges may have an interest in working with the Ministry to explore the possibility of developing a regulation to implement solutions tailored to those challenges. Those regional districts are encouraged to reach out to Ministry staff to explore potential approaches that can address their unique challenges. Additionally, the Ministry is interested in hearing specific areas where a targeted approach to regional district challenges could benefit from direct authorities in the *Local Government Act*.

Whereas climate change induced extreme weather events regularly overwhelm local government infrastructure;

And whereas this creates liability risks, even in the absence of negligence on the part of BC local governments because of the wording of Section 744 of the *Local Government Act*, whose protection is qualified by the inclusion of the phrase "breakdown or malfunction", while every other Canadian province and territory provides local governments with similar protection without this qualification;

And whereas the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia has deemed this is the most extreme climate change liability risk facing local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that Section 744 of the *Local Government Act* be amended to: remove the words "breakdown or malfunction"; include language consistent with other provincial legislation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Local governments, through UBCM, have expressed increasing concerns about liability risk related to climate change impacts and an interest in amendments to address these concerns. This request to consider changes to expand the language of section 744 of the *Local Government Act* addresses a specific liability risk that is related to climate change impacts on infrastructure such as dikes and levees.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs recognizes that local governments are facing mounting pressure from the impacts of increasingly common extreme weather events, such as past flooding events and most recently the catastrophic 2023 fire season. The ministry is committed to working collaboratively with local governments to develop a shared understanding of these liability risks and to address the feasibility, effectiveness, and implications of potential amendments. This work must include consideration of complex public policy issues such as the extent to which the proposed changes would address liability concerns of local governments and how potential changes would affect the balance of risks and potentially see greater burden shifted onto affected citizens in communities.

Local governments are encouraged to share information with the Ministry about specific incidents related to infrastructure damage or inadequacy to further inform the Ministry about specific liability risks associated with overland water flooding and infrastructure failures during and after extreme weather events. Ministry staff are conducting a review of the issue and will consult with UBCM and local governments on any potential legislative changes.

Whereas First Nations are constitutionally recognized as a level of government in Canada and British Columbia, and have the inherent right to self-government, including decision-making over their own lands, resources, and governance through the provisions outlined in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

And whereas Section 90 of the *Community Charter* provides for the ability for confidential government to government negotiations, but does not include First Nations in this provision:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be called upon to amend Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, in consultation with First Nations and in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, to recognize First Nation governments as an order of government, thereby recognizing and affording equitable protection for government-to-government meetings on par with other orders of government that are already listed within this act.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Government is committed to true, lasting reconciliation with First Nations in BC by fully adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The province also recognizes the importance of ensuring local governments and First Nations can engage in a manner that respects the need for certain information to be held in confidence.

The Ministry continues to examine this issue to understand the scope of topics and circumstances that local governments may wish to see included in a broadened authority for closed meetings with First Nations.

In considering amendments to the closed meeting provisions of the *Community Charter*, the Ministry will need to understand the implications and to strike the right balance between the openness needed for transparency and accountability to the public and confidence that supports intergovernmental relations with First Nations. In undertaking this review, the Ministry recognizes the importance of balancing the transparency and accountability principles of the local government system with the need to support and facilitate strong relationships between local governments and First Nations in British Columbia.

EB69 Shared Ethics Commissioner's Office

Nelson

Whereas all local governments are required to decide on the implication of code of conduct within the first 6 months of a new term, which may include the designation of a local ethics commissioner officer;

And whereas local governments may often lack the resources or expertise to develop local ethics commissioner's role:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to create a shared local government ethics commissioner's office(s) to serve local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of Code of Conduct policies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry recognizes that how elected officials conduct themselves in their relationships with elected colleagues, staff and the public is directly connected to how a community is governed. Since 2016, the Ministry, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, and the Local Government Management Association have been working collaboratively through the Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC) to research and develop new responsible conduct tools to support local governments.

The code of conduct provisions introduced in 2021 requires councils and boards to consider establishing or updating a code of conduct within six months of their first regular meeting following a general local election. This new requirement builds upon and complements the existing responsible conduct framework to support local government elected officials in discussing and setting norms and consequences for conduct in their local governments. The deadline for boards and councils to consider a code of conduct following the 2022 general local elections was May 2023. The Ministry continues to collect and review data on the number of local governments who have adopted a code of conduct and the content and impact of those codes. However, it will take time to gain a full understanding of the impact this will have on the conduct of elected officials.

Currently, local government legislation neither specifically authorizes nor prohibits the voluntary establishment of an integrity commissioner for individual local governments. Both the City of Surrey and the City of Vancouver have established their own integrity commissioners to operate independently for their local governments.

The WGRC recognizes that embedding a culture of responsible conduct in the daily activities of local government elected officials is an incremental process, and further work and collaboration is required. Any future work related to independent third-party approaches (e.g., integrity or ethics commissioners) would involve working with our local government partners and include an evaluation of current responsible conduct tools. Changes in this policy area are complex and multi-faceted and require consideration of issues such as the role of council and boards, funding arrangements, and the impact on existing responsible conduct tools.

The WGRC is developing a discussion paper that explores responsible conduct frameworks and integrity commissioner systems in different jurisdictions and identifies key considerations about integrity commissioners in the B.C. context. This paper can be used to inform future conversations with local governments about a path forward on this issue.

EB70 Local Government Involvement in Broadband Improvement Projects

Cariboo RD

Whereas local governments are the level of government which are closest to the communities they serve and are which best understands local needs, knowledge, and opportunities of these communities;

And whereas the current framework for planning, funding, implementing, and announcing broadband improvement projects excludes local governments at every stage beyond the funding application phase, particularly as projects are implemented, resulting in disconnection between projects being supported and projects being delivered:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the BC Ministry of Citizens Services and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to include local governments at all stages of every internet and broadband improvement project and funding application to provide effective means of keeping local elected officials informed and providing an avenue for local knowledge to be incorporated.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizen Services

Connectivity funding is provided through competitive application-based funding programs, such as the Canada's Universal Broadband Fund and B.C.'s Connecting British Columbia and Connecting Communities BC. The current Connecting Communities BC program is funded in partnership with the federal government, and eligibility is tied to applicant and project criteria defined by the Universal Broadband Fund.

All applications to the Connecting Communities BC program go through extensive review by the provincial and federal governments and are required to meet all criteria and pass a series of assessments to ensure the funding provides a cost effective and technically sound solution for each community or locale. Once a project application begins the assessment and negotiation stages with funding programs, proceedings are confidential between the applicant and funding programs due to proprietary and competitive commercial business nature of the information.

The Province agrees that local and First Nation governments should be involved in public funding decisions for connectivity projects in their areas. Local and First Nation governments can partner with service providers to submit funding applications to the program. Every application to the provincial funding program, Connecting Communities BC is required to include a letter of support from the local government for the area to be served and/or a Council Resolution from the First Nation. This step in the process ensures service providers are communicating directly with communities benefiting from program funding and local and First Nation governments are directly engaged with the service provider in the project design.

EB71 Review of Stumpage Rate for Community Managed Forest Tenures

Mission

Whereas the Province assesses the same stumpage rates against small Tree Farm Licences as it does for large industrial forest tenures;

And whereas smaller tenures near urban centres must manage for multiple resource users at higher costs and typically invest surplus funds within the community for the benefit of the general public and province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider new allowances to reduce market stumpage rates that account for the higher management costs required to effectively manage forest resources for municipally held Tree Farm Licences in urban interface areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Forests continues to explore ways to support local governments and expand opportunities for communities to benefit from the forest sector.

Stumpage is the fee collected by the government when it sells trees to a licensee. The fees go to general revenue where it is used to fund critical programs like healthcare and education. Overall, stumpage supports the services all British Columbians depend on, and contributes to communities across the province.

As part of the Modernizing Forest Policy - Intentions Paper project, government is looking at harmonizing stumpage with respect to area-based tenures.

EB72 Support for Local Governments Implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Cariboo RD

Whereas all levels of government in British Columbia have a role in advancing the principles of reconciliation as set out in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

And whereas local governments have statutory obligations in relation to a number of provincial Acts and regulations, which has resulted in expectations on local government to more broadly consider the principles of reconciliation when exercising those statutory obligations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to provide timely clarification, support, and involvement for local governments regarding the expectations and requirements of local governments in advancing commitments to reconciliation and UNDRIP when fulfilling their statutory obligations under relevant provincial legislation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Truth and reconciliation is the responsibility of all individuals and governments.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) is the province's framework for reconciliation. It establishes a path forward that respects and upholds the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, while introducing additional transparency and predictability in the work the Province and Indigenous Peoples do together. The Act mandates the province to bring provincial laws into alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration), in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples.

Through the Declaration Act, B.C. is fundamentally shifting the approach to how provincial laws are developed and implemented, to support this work, the Province has established the [Declaration Act Secretariat](#). Across government, steady progress has been made to implement the Declaration Act Action Plan. Details of the work underway are highlighted on the Declaration Act website: declaration.gov.bc.ca. The Action Plan includes 89 tangible, achievable cross-government actions in the areas of self-determination and self-government, rights, and title, ending anti-Indigenous racism, and enhancing social, cultural, and economic well-being.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs advises local governments that it is important to use the articles of the UN Declaration and the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a policy lens to apply to their bylaws, policies, and initiatives. Local governments are also encouraged to examine the Declaration Act Action Plan to look for opportunities to implement actions locally and embrace the principles in the UN Declaration.

Financial support for local government and First Nation relationship building is available through the [Community to Community Program](#) administered by UBCM with annual funding provided by the Ministry. The province also renewed the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) between the UBCM and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, supported by Ministry of Municipal Affairs at the 2021 UBCM Convention. This MOU affirms local governments are key partners in advancing reconciliation at the community level.

EB73 Equitable Communities North Vancouver City, New Westminster, Burnaby, Port Moody

Whereas systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life, but numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (e.g. Gender-Based Analysis Plus);

And whereas the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have adopted Gender- Based Analysis Plus to assess how diverse Canadians experience policies, programs, and government initiatives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical process for the assessment of systemic inequalities (i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The B.C. government agrees that it is important to ensure policies, programs and services work for all people and there is a need to better understand the different ways people experience the world. GBA+ is a tool that can help governments better understand how diverse groups of people experience public policy and identify where changes should be made.

We encourage all local governments to adopt GBA+.

Currently, there are resources and training available through the federal Ministry of Women and Gender Equality. The B.C. government is in the early stages of developing further training on GBA+ for provincial public servants, and we welcome the opportunity to share the training with local governments as new modules become available in the coming years.

In alignment with the UBCM Equitable Communities resolution, new provincial initiatives such as the Anti-Racism Data Act are also building B.C.'s capacity to identify and reduce systemic inequities in provincial government services. The Province looks forward to sharing its learning with local governments as we move forward.

NEB2 Varied Taxation Rate for Residential (Class 1) Properties

Langley City

Whereas the Province of British Columbia specifies that there is one assessment class for all types of residential properties even though the assessed value of attached and detached residential properties change values at different rates and other jurisdictions, such as Ontario, allow different tax rates for attached and detached residential properties;

And whereas in Langley City, a 4.94% property tax increase in 2018 resulted in a 0.4% decrease for detached residential properties and a 14.31% increase for attached residential property, and in 2022, a 4.35% property tax increase resulted in a 12.49% increase for detached residential properties and 3.37% decrease for attached residential properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to amend the *BC Assessment Act* and the *Community Charter* to allow the residential class to be split into two distinct residential classes so that a different rate may be applied to each type to account for the difference in the rate at which attached and detached residential properties change their value and to allow local government to more accurately charge for the cost of providing services to attached and detached residential properties.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The market relationship between single family (detached) and attached properties may vary year over year and can also be impacted by local and regional factors. Over the last decade, single family dwellings have increased in value more than multi-family dwellings, largely due to rising land values.

Although implementing residential property sub-classes would allow for a more targeted approach to taxation, it would add further complexity to the assessment process and may lead to inconsistency across the province where municipalities differ their approach in applying tax rates.

Government is committed to support people throughout BC and to improve housing affordability for those who need it most. Providing local governments with the tools to shift the tax burden from single family detached homes to denser housing such as condos or townhomes would not align with provincial priorities of affordability or support a progressive tax system.

BC has more property classes than most provinces and is not actively considering creating new property classes.

NO RECOMMENDATION (NR) RESOLUTIONS

NR1 \$10/Day Child Care Coordination and Funding

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day childcare program, and Child Care BC's growing system of universal childcare has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal childcare relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded childcare needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal childcare that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education and Child Care

The Province of British Columbia is committed to building child care as a core service available to every family that wants it, when they need it, at a price they can afford. The Province has invested in expanding access to child care through funding the creation of new child care spaces supported by both provincial and federal funding. Significant grant funding has been invested to support long-term community investments for infrastructure, including for child care centres owned by local governments and First Nations.

The Ministry recognizes that not-for-profit, public, and Indigenous organizations may require additional support to complete grant-based applications. The Ministry is actively exploring options to meet this need and continues to adjust based on feedback from partner groups. Most recently, in summer 2023, the Ministry engaged with external partners, to inform next steps within the approach to funding space creation, including the development of child care facility design standards.

The development of child care as a core service represents one of the biggest social policy changes in recent history and changes of this scale and nature take time. The Ministry is aware that many more families need access to child care as a core service and that this will require collective efforts by all levels of government including First Nations, community organizations and child care providers. As BC moves into the final years of the ten-year ChildCareBC Plan, the Ministry will continue to engage and consult with the child care sector, advocates and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples and Indigenous partner organizations to help inform the ongoing implementation of the ChildCareBC Plan.

NR2 Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Support for Municipally Owned Child Care Facilities

Vancouver

Whereas the provision and funding of childcare is the mandate of the Province of British Columbia, yet there is no funding provided from the Province of British Columbia for sustainable and sufficient funding related to costs for the ongoing maintenance, repair and replacement of childcare facilities, leaving municipalities to provide land and buildings for the expansion of new childcare spaces to fill the significant gaps in need;

And whereas these facilities are typically provided at nominal lease rates in efforts to keep parent fees more affordable and to ensure long-term operational viability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to adequately fund ongoing operational costs associated with the maintenance, repair and replacement of municipally owned childcare facilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education and Child Care

The Ministry is aware of the ongoing need for funding to support proactive maintenance, repair and replacement of child care facilities. This is a complex issue in BC as child care facilities reflect a range of ownership and lease arrangements. Currently, the Ministry provides funding to licensed child care providers in emergency circumstances through the [Maintenance Fund](#). This funding assists licensed providers with the costs of addressing necessary repairs or replacing eligible items or to help with relocation costs.

The Ministry is also testing a new Operational Funding Model with select child care programs. One of the key learnings for this test will be better understanding of maintenance repair and replacement costs to determine next steps for supporting child care programs to meet these costs.

The Ministry will take this resolution under advisement as BC continues to work towards the ChildCareBC Vision for child care to be a core service available to every family that wants it, when they need it, at a price they can afford.

NR3 Accessibility Plan Funding

Nelson

Whereas the Province has required all local governments to develop accessibility plans that must be renewed every 3 years:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The B.C. Government is committed to supporting the implementation of the *Accessible B.C. Act* and Regulation and supporting all public sector organizations with requirements under the Act.

The following programs are available specifically to support local governments with accessibility projects:

- *Disability Alliance BC (DABC) – Accessible Organizations Project:* Government has provided \$3M over three years to DABC to develop resources that will support public-sector organizations to meet the legal requirements of the Accessible BC Regulation.
- *SPARC BC – Local Community Accessibility Grant Program:* Government has provided SPARC BC with \$5 million for the Local Community Accessibility Grant Program. Under this grant program all local and regional governments are eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 to support the implementation of projects identified within their Accessibility Plan or by their Accessibility Committee.
- *Rick Hansen Foundation – BC Accessibility Grant Program:* The Rick Hansen Foundation is seeking to support 5 additional municipalities who are ready to improve accessibility in their communities through the BC Accessibility Grants 2023/24 Program.

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continues to champion government’s leadership in advancing our accessibility goals and this means an ongoing conversation about the support that is available for local governments and other organizations who are helping to advance this work

NR4 Review of Benefits for People with Disabilities

Mission

Whereas a single person with a disability receives \$1,358 per month in disability assistance from the provincial government;

And whereas the cost of living has increased substantially making it very challenging for a person with a disability to make ends meet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government review the current assistance rates and increase the assistance amount to no less than \$1,800 per month for a single person and that the rate be reviewed annually to keep pace with cost of living increases.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) is committed to assisting persons with disabilities in gaining greater independence and security of income, enhancing well-being, and increasing participation in the community.

Cost of living increases and global inflation have disproportionately impacted persons with disabilities, and improving affordability for recipients of income and disability assistance continues to be a priority for the ministry.

SDPR is currently leading the cross-government work to update TogetherBC, BC's first poverty reduction strategy, by Spring 2024. As part of this update, the ministry has also undertaken a comprehensive review of our income and disability assistance legislation. This review is an important part of the ministry's ongoing work to improve the BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program to better support British Columbians in need. This work builds on improvements already accomplished over the past six years, including five increases to income and disability rates, raising the total rate for a single on income assistance by \$450 and a single on disability assistance by \$502 per month. This means we have increased rates for a single person on income assistance by 74% and a single person on disability assistance by 51%.

NR5 Removing the Financial Barrier to Home Support for BC Seniors

Courtenay

Whereas the Province's Home Support Program allows seniors to stay in their own homes as long as possible, the preference of most seniors and the option which is far more cost-effective for the health care system at \$14,000 per annum than moving to publicly subsidized long-term care at \$60,000/year;

And whereas 70% of BC seniors are charged a fee of up to 30% of their income for Home Support, which many cannot afford, leading to poor health outcomes, caregiver burnout and premature placement in long-term care, resulting in BC having twice as many people in long-term care who could be supported at home than in provinces that don't charge for home support like Alberta and Ontario:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to waive the fees associated with the Home Support Program in order to make it accessible to all seniors regardless of income.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is reviewing and assessing options related to affordability and accessibility of home support services.

Government recognizes the importance of access to home support for seniors and those needing care. That is why fees for long-term home support services are based on an income-tested, sliding scale daily client rate.

The majority of long-term home support clients do not pay a client rate because they receive one or more of the following:

- Income benefits [i.e., Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)]
- Income Assistance
- Disability Assistance
- War Veteran's Allowance
- BC's Palliative Care Benefits

For example, approximately 64% of long-term home support clients are assessed a \$0 rate (i.e., no co-payment/daily rate) and 14% of clients have their rate capped at \$300 per month.

Additionally, if a client or their family will experience serious financial hardship by paying the assessed client rate, the client may apply for a waiver of all, or a portion, of the client rate for up to one year.

NR6 Transitional Housing with Supports

Kelowna, Kamloops

Whereas there is a lack of publicly funded, evidence-based and accredited treatment options and outpatient services, including managed withdrawal (detox) and aftercare supports, while ensuring a variety of treatment options to support individual and family needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to urgently provide a substantial increase and investment into affordable, accessible on demand withdrawal management and substance use treatment programs building on existing community supports with diverse, culturally appropriate, recovery driven transitional housing options (including abstinence and faith based) to support their commitment to wellness;

And be it further resolved that residents committed to a path to recovery, be eligible to participate in an provincially wide expanded version of the Addiction Recovery Program and/or the 'Single Parent Initiative' while being connected with the program coordinators who encourage optimal recovery by assisting with counselling, life skills, job training and more to help individuals to build confidence, hope as well as a sense of purpose, all while living in safe, affordable transitional housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Government is committed to improving access to culturally safe, effective, seamless, and integrated services across the full spectrum of mental health and substance use care, from prevention and early intervention through aftercare.

Budget 2023 added more than \$1 billion to support people who struggle with mental health or substance use challenges so they can access the care they need when they need it.

Budget 2023 included funding for:

- 195 more treatment and recovery beds throughout BC, with no out of pocket fees.
- A new model of seamless care, called Road to Recovery, to support people through their entire recovery journey, enhancing wrap-around supports.
- Expansion of Indigenous-led treatment centres.
- New recovery communities to support people and their recovery through the long term; and,
- Expanding the Red Fish model of care to other areas of the province so people can get specialized care closer to home.

The Ministry continues to work across government, with Indigenous partners and with communities and families to expand mental health and substance use treatment supports that meet the diverse needs of people across BC.

NR7 Tackling BC's Toxic Drug Health Emergency

Vancouver

Whereas the continued illegal supply of increasingly toxic street drugs has led to over 12,000 toxic drug overdose deaths since the BC Provincial Health Officer's declaration of a Drug Overdose Public Health Emergency in 2016, and government measures to date have failed to reduce the criminal supply of toxic drugs and toxic drug overdose deaths;

And whereas there is insufficient province-wide access to resources and services that would increase users' safety, which include drug testing and overdose prevention sites as well as detox beds and treatment services on demand, and preventative programs, especially for youth, and now even current safe injection sites are now hampered in providing safety since more users are now inhaling rather than injecting drugs and provincial regulations restrict indoor smoking and vaping:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to increase safety by:

- Quickly amending the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* to enable supervised consumption and other harm reduction facilities to allow inhalation or smoking of drugs where operations can otherwise be demonstrated as WorkSafe compliant; and
- Increasing prevention by investing in mental health treatment and life-enhancing youth, family and community well-being programs, including early childhood detection, intervention and ongoing supports for learning differences.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

People in BC have struggled to get the mental health and substance use care they need when they need it. Government is working hard to change that. In December 2022, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions released a technical policy Framework that outlines the vision for a coordinated and integrated adult substance use system of care to guide policy and investment planning.

Government has also taken action to address the current gaps in the adult system of substance use care and implemented new initiatives. Key actions include:

- Investment of \$149.5 million over three years to expand adult substance use treatment and recovery services across the care continuum, including 195 new substance use treatment and recovery beds.
- Expanding harm reduction services such as drug checking and naloxone distribution.
- Meet the needs of people who use drugs by increasing access to supervised inhalation services across the province to provide safe spaces for those who smoke substances and are at risk of drug toxicity events.
- Implementing prescribed safer supply, providing pharmaceutical grade alternatives to illicit drugs to people at risk of drug toxicity events and deaths to help separate people from the toxic illicit drug supply, save lives, reduce harms, and enhance connections to health and social supports.
- Expanding and optimizing medication assisted treatment by increasing the number of physicians and nurses who can prescribe opioid agonist treatment.
- Investment of \$164 million over three years through Budget 2022 to provide complex care housing services to approximately 500 people throughout BC. Budget 2023 builds on this investment by committing an additional \$266 million to fund these services, including \$169 million in capital funding to build 240 new complex care housing units.
- Expanding team-based care by adding new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams and implementing new substance use integrated teams.
- Funding through Budget 2022 to support a rent supplement program that will include mental health and substance use supports.

The province understands that wellness promotion, prevention of mental health problems and early intervention can

stop small problems from becoming bigger down the road, and the earlier we provide support, the better the outcome. Since 2017, our government has invested across the continuum of child and youth mental health and substance use services and has brought in new ways for young people to access care, including through the following:

- Expansion of youth substance use services across the spectrum of care, along with new youth treatment beds,
- Investment in the expansion of Foundry in-person and virtual services for young people aged 12-24 and their families (Foundry services include youth-friendly primary care, mental health and substance use services, peer and family support, and social services),
- Expansion of Integrated Child and Youth teams into 7 new school districts, for a total of 12 school districts across BC, and
- Implementation of the Mental Health in School strategy which embeds positive mental health and wellbeing in all aspects of BC's education system including culture, leadership, curriculum, and learning environments.

NR9 Increasing Rural Health Center Autonomy

Logan Lake

Whereas the Ministry of Health works together with a provincial health authority, five regional health authorities, and a First Nations health authority to provide high quality, appropriate and timely health services to British Columbians;

And whereas most British Columbia hospitals are over capacity and demand for hospital care is at an all- time high;

And whereas all hospitals care for many types of injuries and emergency conditions ranging from minor to severe, but not all Health Centers are designated as a Trauma Center resulting in patients travelling long distances for minor trauma and experiencing long waiting periods in those Centers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to look at granting more autonomy to rural and remote health care centers in order to be able to administer minor trauma care and alleviate pressure on emergency room wait times.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) and health authorities use the Standards of Accessibility and Guidelines for Provision of Sustainable Acute Care Service by Health Authorities to set the framework to ensure sustainable and quality of care for BC residents.

Logan Lake Health Centre is defined as a Diagnostic and Treatment Centre in S.1(a) of the Hospital Insurance Act and designated under the Hospital Act to offer only scheduled, outpatient services. The Health Authorities Act states that health authorities are responsible for determining the health care services that should be provided in all or part of the region; the type, size, and location of facilities in the region; and the programs for the delivery of health services provided in the region.

The Ministry has undertaken several initiatives to address hospital occupancy pressures including increasing beds in hospitals, strengthening emergency department teams and working to increase health human resources through BC's Health Human Resource Strategy.

NR11 Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Ratios

NCLGA

Whereas capital costs for healthcare facilities in North and Central British Columbia are shared between the provincial government and Regional Hospital Districts (RHD) at a 60 percent/40 percent split (Province/local RHD);

And whereas the cost share ratio borne by a local Regional Hospital District is not financially sustainable, long term, due to escalating construction/inflationary costs and scope of healthcare capital projects increasing without adequate and proactive consultation with the local RHD Board:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to modernize the RHD Cost Share formula under the *Hospital District Act* with the ability to pay being a key consideration of cost-sharing of healthcare capital projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

RHDs are key partners in building and maintaining local hospital infrastructure. Health authorities work closely with their RHDs to determine what level of cost sharing may be possible for specific projects within their approved capital plans.

The Ministry of Health recognizes that regional contributions towards health capital projects may vary from project to project. Although in 2003 the Hospital District Act and the Hospital Insurance Regulations were amended to eliminate a predetermined cost-share ratio (60-40) to fund capital projects, RHDs are

are expected to contribute 40 percent of capital project costs within their region.

When there is an opportunity to amend the Hospital District Act (the legislative framework for the roles and responsibilities of RHDs) the review of the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC could be considered in consultation with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities.

NR12 Locally Offered Training and Support for Public Health Officers in Northern BC

Houston

Whereas there is a lack of Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia;

And whereas the current staffing levels are impacting development approval processes for obtaining public health permits;

And whereas there is limited training opportunities for Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the provision of locally offered training and support for Public Health Officials in rural and northern British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The government, in partnership with the Northern Health Authority (NHA) and other regional health authorities, is actively addressing recruitment challenges and aiming to enhance the retention of qualified and trained environmental health officers (EHO). Together, health authorities and the government are working closely to create provincial training programs and exploring additional opportunities, as recommended by health authorities, post-secondary institutions, and other partners, to further support this endeavour.

NR14 Provincial Funding for Municipal Medic Trucks

Mission

Whereas the provincial investments in the BC Ambulance Service have not kept pace with growth and inflation in BC municipalities;

And whereas municipal fire and rescue services are often the first responders to calls for medical service causing elevated wear and tear on fire apparatus and are unable to leave the scene until an ambulance arrives thus putting the community fire protection services at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider funding the capital and operating costs of medic trucks in local governments to ensure that an adequate level of fire protection is maintained in the community and the cost of providing purely medical services, a provincial responsibility, are not unfairly burdening local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The support provided by First Responders (FRs) during medical emergencies is an essential part of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency health services to the people of British Columbia. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Province value the role that FRs play in pre-hospital emergency care. The Ministry of Health appreciates the City of Mission's ongoing concern for fiscal accountability, as you continue to determine how to best allocate your funding and resources for responding to urgent and routine calls.

BCEHS notifies first responder agencies who have agreements with BCEHS of time critical calls. Establishing an agreement with BCEHS is voluntary and each municipality, including the City of Mission, can determine the extent of their participation and the calls they respond to. This approach provides municipalities with the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in pre-hospital care. Some municipalities have chosen to have FRs continue to attend both urgent and routine non-emergency calls, while others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent medical calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

Through continued and increased investment, the BC government is supporting BCEHS to take targeted action to improve emergency health services throughout the province. Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, BCEHS announced 800+ new hires across BCEHS paramedics, dispatch, and support services into existing vacancies and new positions – the largest expansion of staffing in BCEHS history. BCEHS has also increased ground and air ambulances coverage throughout the province, implemented a more efficient 9-1-1 system, increased training for paramedics and provided funding to support the mental health and wellness of BCEHS employees.

In addition, to improve ambulance services in 60 rural and remote communities, a new staffing model has launched to provide consistent and reliable community-based out of hospital care which adds 271 new full time paramedic positions to the province. As part of this new approach, 55.2 stand alone, full-time community paramedic positions will be dedicated to providing community-based care and community outreach through the new model.

NR15 Expanding Development Permit Powers to Allow for Pre-Zoning

Delta

Whereas there is an urgent need to increase housing supply across BC and the Province has indicated its desire to encourage pre-planning and reduce spot rezonings;

And whereas under the current legislative framework, many local governments rely on discretionary zoning approvals as a means to regulate land use change, obtain road dedications and infrastructure servicing requirements, and negotiate amenity contributions and/or site specific development requirements;

And whereas many municipalities are exploring opportunities to pre-zone lands for increased residential development: Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to:

- expand the tools for local governments to request road dedications, statutory-rights-of-way and infrastructure servicing upgrades through the development permit and/or building permit process; and
- provide a legislative framework for amenity contributions, tenant relocation requirements, and other requirements to be applied at the development permit or building permit phase rather than being tied to rezonings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The Local Government Density Initiatives (LGDI, formerly called the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR)), aims to support the supply of significantly more homes, faster, in B.C. LGDI consultation identified site-by-site rezonings as a central problem in development approvals due to their frequency, length, complexity, and costs across the system. Legislative changes were introduced in Fall 2023 to support local governments to shift to upfront planning (i.e., pre-zoning), and reduce the number of site-by-site rezonings.

Local governments will be required to:

- (1) Update housing needs reports (HNRs) for more consistent, robust understanding of local housing needs over 20 years.
- (2) Plan for these needs in official community plans (OCPs) on a regular basis; and
- (3) Align zoning bylaws with the OCP and HNR, to pre-zone for the total amount of housing their communities need.

To support the shift to more proactive zoning, the Province has also introduced legislation to update and streamline development finance tools to assist local governments to help continue to fund the costs of infrastructure and amenities to support increased housing supply and growth. The changes include creating an amenity cost charge tool, and updates to development cost charges, known as a development cost levy in Vancouver.

As an immediate second phase of LGDI work, the Ministry of Housing is also exploring whether additional new authorities are required for local governments to transition to upfront planning and zoning. The Ministry has been engaging with local governments on this work and expects to be able to provide further updates in 2024.

**NR16 Supporting Non-Profit Ownership of Non-Market Housing
in Air Space Parcels**

Burnaby

Whereas municipalities have been asked by the Province to support the development of new non-market housing developments;

And whereas municipalities have adopted policies to encourage the inclusion of non-market housing owned and operated by a non-profit organization as part of market housing developments;

And whereas non-profit organizations are being denied mortgage financing to acquire non-market dwelling units due to lack of title or lease while the building is under construction:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Land Title Act* to enable lot line adjustments for air space parcels, to allow non-profit organizations to obtain title and financing on a provisional air space parcel which may then be further subdivided prior to occupancy to align with the building's elevations as constructed.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Province will work with the Land Title and Survey Authority to determine what solutions are available to assist non-profit organizations in this manner.

NR18 Review of the *Homeowner Protection Act*

Port Hardy

Whereas the *Homeowner Protection Act* requires that testing requirements be met as part of the application process for building contractors to obtain continuing education units annually to maintain their license, and communities are seeing a reduction in capacity to provide for housing development in rural and remote communities;

And whereas many rural BC communities provide construction oversight through building inspection services to ensure that Owner Builders and Building Contractors are meeting the minimum BC Building Code Part 9 requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to review the residential *Homeowner Protection Act* regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The Ministry of Housing works closely with BC Housing to strengthen consumer protection for new home buyers, improve the quality of residential construction, and support ongoing research and education to stimulate construction innovation and best practices.

In 2019, the *Homeowner Protection Act* was amended to simplify and streamline the annual Continuing Professional Development program. The Continuing Professional Development program provides formal and informal training to increase professionalism and provide homebuyers with confidence that their home was built by a qualified residential builder achieving the highest industry standards.

As part of the *Homes for People* action plan, the Ministry of Housing is working to streamline processes and spur innovation in the construction sector. This includes embracing new technologies like digital design and permit processes and new construction materials and systems that will help build more homes, faster, in all parts of the Province.

Continuing professional development ensures that builders across BC are ready to benefit from innovation in the construction sector.

NR19 Large Infrastructure Project Impacts on Housing Crisis

Squamish

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

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

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Robust infrastructure development and supports for the province's workforce are critical to ensuring continued economic growth throughout B.C. The Province recognizes the potential impact of large-scale infrastructure projects on local housing availability, particularly through increased demand for housing for workers directly and indirectly involved with these projects.

Staff in the Ministry of Housing are working with colleagues across government to ensure co-ordination and awareness of the housing sector implications that may result from large infrastructure projects. That work includes identifying ways to mitigate the effects of these large projects on local communities and working in collaboration with the regional governments to find community-specific solutions. Through actions and initiatives identified in the Home for People action plan, the Province is actively working to encourage the creation of purpose-built rentals and affordable housing supply and support local governments to meet new requirements related to residential zoning measures and development approval processes.

NR23 Advocacy for Pet Friendly Housing

Port Moody

Whereas companion animals have been proven to enhance physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable British Columbians such as women, young people, households with lower incomes, renters and those experiencing homelessness who identify greater reliance on their companion animals for support and greater difficulty finding affordable, pet-friendly housing;

And whereas the lack of pet-friendly housing continues to be the primary reason for the surrender of healthy, loved, adult companion animals to the BC SPCA, despite the provincial government's work to increase housing affordability and supply:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to direct BC Housing to develop strategies and guidance that support pet-friendly housing in the non-profit sector;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to consider pet friendly housing in the BC Housing Strategy update and to work with stakeholders (including but not limited to landlord's and tenant's associations, animal welfare organizations, public health, mental health and seniors organizations, and poverty reduction and homelessness advocates) to find cooperative solutions to increase the availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing for all British Columbians while providing appropriate protections and mechanisms of compensation for landlords.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The Province recognizes that pet policies must balance the needs and preferences of renters and housing providers to avoid negatively affecting the overall rental housing supply. BC Housing and non-profit providers recognize that people love their pets and want to secure housing where their companions are welcome.

Most social housing units in B.C are operated by non-profit housing providers that are responsible for establishing their own pet policies in their buildings. BC Housing directly managed buildings have a pet-friendly approach, and BC Housing provides guidance to providers about how pet policies and rules can balance the interests of renters and housing providers. In addition, service providers recognize the financial pressures that low-income renters face and do not require tenants in rent-geared to-income units to pay a pet deposit. BC Housing is committed to working with their non-profit partners on opportunities to expand pet-friendly policies where appropriate.

In April 2018, the Rental Housing Task Force was appointed to better understand what changes may be needed to modernize B.C.'s tenancy laws. The task force heard from many landlords, tenants, non-profit providers, and cooperatives who are concerned about pets in rental housing. The task force also heard the desires of pet owners to require market and non-market rental housing providers to allow pets and increase the supply of pet-friendly housing. Members also heard from renters and housing providers that did not support potential changes to pet policies, citing concerns about allergies, damage, and disturbances to other renters. Some housing providers indicated that they would rather remove homes from the rental market than be forced to allow people with pets to rent their properties.

The Rental Housing Task Force was not persuaded that requiring all housing providers, including non-profit service providers, to allow pets would be fair for housing providers or renters who want or need to live in pet-free buildings. Non-profit service providers are governed by the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA), which enables housing providers and renters to negotiate a pet clause and include it in their tenancy agreements. For renters with certified guide and/or service dogs, housing providers are still required to provide accommodations as per the Human Rights Code. The Province is supportive of housing providers and renters continuing to work together to negotiate pet policies that balance the interests of renters with rental housing providers.

NR25 Encampment Management

NCLGA

Whereas the Province of BC is experiencing a homeless crisis and the number of individuals experiencing homelessness is increasing;

And whereas the number of shelter spaces is not sufficient or lack staff capacity to house our vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness and results in a number of individuals living in encampments;

And whereas municipalities are responsible for land use and mental health, addictions and housing does not fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to direct BC Housing to provide management and oversight of encampments in all communities across BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Homelessness and encampments are an issue in many communities across the Province and can be complex and sensitive to respond to. Addressing homelessness is a shared responsibility, requiring partnership from all levels of government. The Province works across ministries and with local community partners, including local governments, to help people experiencing homelessness stay safe, healthy, and become stably housed with the services and community supports they need.

The Province takes a coordinated and proactive approach to responding to homeless encampments. We work across ministries, with BC Housing, health authorities and with local governments to co-ordinate responses to encampments. BC Housing and ministry outreach staff help connect people in encampments to housing, health, income, and other supports. Indigenous partners, community organizations and local staff such as bylaw, police, fire, parks, and outreach workers are key to encampment response as well. Early intervention and strong coordination between partners can help prevent encampments from becoming unsafe for people sheltering and the community.

Together, we are developing the Encampment Response Framework as a key action in the Belonging in BC: Homelessness Plan. The Provincial Encampment Response Framework is a resource and toolkit to aid communities in coordinating encampment responses that builds from engagements with ministries, local governments, Indigenous, community and lived experience partners.

Communities struggling with homeless encampments can reach out to our ministry at HOUS.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca for assistance with partner contacts, available resources, and best practices.

NR26 “The Village” Model of Supportive Housing

Duncan

Whereas “The Village” project in Duncan has received temporary BC Housing funding since 2021 to offer individual sleeping units, external communal spaces, and shared washroom facilities to 34 previously unsheltered individuals;

And whereas the support services, programs, and opportunities offered at “The Village”, including improved physical and mental well-being, peer outreach, neighbourhood monitoring, improved sanitation, street clean-up, and incident response have made a positive impact on the residents and has helped to reduce the related community impacts in the surrounding neighbourhood;

And whereas “The Village” model can be scaled to house approximately 50 individuals per site, many of whom may not transition well into a traditional multi-unit supportive housing building with individual kitchen and washroom facilities in each unit;

And whereas “The Village” model can be implemented quickly to house the growing unsheltered homeless population and address the acute related impacts in communities across the province, at a fraction of the cost of construction of traditional multi-unit supportive housing, and operated at a lower cost:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to implement “The Village” model, including sleeping units, with communal eating and gathering spaces and washroom facilities, and robust support services, as part of the supportive housing continuum and provide a mechanism for this model to receive continued funding from BC Housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

The Province is dedicated to improving housing outcomes for people who are unsheltered, as well as affected communities, through a variety of different housing options. Expanding supportive housing and related services has been a priority for the Ministry of Housing through Belonging in BC, the provincial homelessness plan, which seeks to prevent and reduce homelessness throughout the province. A key part of the strategy has been evaluating the roll-out of tiny home pilot projects, such as “The Village.”

The Ministry of Housing has been working closely with BC Housing to continue supporting “The Village” in Duncan. The Ministry of Housing is also working with BC Housing to identify additional opportunities to pilot tiny homes throughout the province.

NR27 Policy and Funding to Increase Resiliency in Schools

Port Moody

Whereas the Province of BC completed a Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for BC in 2019 that found that extreme weather events will continue to worsen across the province in coming years including heat waves;

And whereas some middle and high schools could be used as emergency, disaster or extreme weather shelters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Education to increase funding to school districts with facilities capable of being used as emergency, disaster or extreme weather shelters to implement and increase resiliency measures including but not limited to mechanical cooling and ventilation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education and Child Care

Government provides capital funding to school districts so that climate mitigation and resiliency measures can be incorporated into new and existing schools. School districts are the owners and operators of public schools in BC.

All new schools are designed with greenhouse gas emission reduction measures that include passive (effective building massing, high R-value insulation, etc.) and active design elements (efficient mechanical systems). Also, new schools incorporate adaptive features including seismic resiliency, wildfire/flood mitigation measures and partial cooling (heat pump systems, etc.).

There is capital funding available to school districts through the Ministry of Education and Child Care's annual programs such as the Annual Facilities Grant (AFG), School Enhancement Program and Carbon Neutral Capital Program which can be used for upgrades to existing schools. This funding can be used for many building system features including upgrades/replacements to HVAC systems so that cooling and better ventilation are provided. It should be noted that AFG was increased from \$120.5 million annually to \$147.1 million in FY 2023/24.

The ministry will continue to work with our school district partners to ensure that schools in BC are resilient given the changing environment. Local governments should also engage with their local school districts to identify potential opportunities that create benefits for the broader community.

NR28 Temporary Warming Shelter

Vernon

Whereas the provision of funding from the Province to shelter providers through the local government for the provision of temporary, just-in-time warming shelter(s) during cold weather creates ineffective bureaucracy, places unreasonable pressure on local government resources and creates unnecessary financial and other liabilities for local governments;

And whereas the Province has responsibility and existing funding mechanisms through BC Housing to provide reliable and stable funding to shelter providers for this purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM contact the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide funding for additional shelters and that funding be administered to advise of the challenges with the approach and to recommend that funding for the additional shelters be administered through the currently established provincial funding mechanism to social sector agencies, such as BC Housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and Ministry of Housing

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) provides supports to First Nations and local governments to establish warming and cooling centers when weather conditions exceed specified thresholds that are established by Environment Climate Change Canada, BC Assistance to Shelter Act/Regulation or local government extreme weather response plans.

The supports through EMCR are intended to provide additional mechanisms to support a community response to extreme weather events. These supports are not intended to be ongoing program, such as the shelter and Extreme Weather Response programs and supported through BC Housing that complements permanent and temporary shelters during the winter season.

NR29 Updating the Strata Property Act to Include Allowances for Heat Pumps and Other Mechanical Cooling Systems

Port Moody

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions, increasing daytime and nighttime temperatures and other vulnerabilities for low-income residents of multi-unit residential buildings;

And whereas the current *Strata Property Act* permits Strata Councils to enact bylaws that permit or restrict the addition of mechanical cooling to an individual unit within a strata property, and therefore this restriction creates an unsafe interior environment in the case of heat domes and other high temperatures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the *Strata Property Act* to allow the addition of heat pumps or other efficient mechanical cooling systems without the need to amend individual Strata corporation bylaws.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Government recognizes the public safety risks associated with extreme heat and has taken a number of steps to protect vulnerable British Columbians. As weather conditions change due to climate change, it is important for housing providers, including landlords and strata corporations, to reduce unnecessary barriers to the installation and use of cooling measures. The Province encourages strata corporations to carefully review their bylaws and rules to help protect residents.

The Province regularly reviews and amends strata legislation to meet both the needs of the strata community and serve the public interest. The Province is aware of the barriers strata owners can face in seeking permission for the installation of heat pumps and air conditioners. However, given the huge variety of BC's 34,000 strata corporations, from strata-titled duplexes to high-rise condo towers, it is not possible to mandate a one-size-fits-all solution. Some strata buildings have complex building envelopes where it may not be possible to install some types of cooling equipment and others may not have sufficient electrical capacity.

On May 11, 2023, Bill 22 amended the *Strata Property Act* to require strata corporations to obtain an electrical planning report that will help them understand current and future demands on their electrical systems. This requirement, which will be phased in over several years, will help strata's make informed decisions and plan for the installation of new equipment, including heat pumps and air conditioners.

It is important to note, also, that strata corporations must comply with the *BC Human Rights Code*. This includes a duty to accommodate to the point of undue hardship, residents and prospective purchasers in a designated class. Designated classes include physical and mental disability, age, Indigenous identity, race, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, family status, religion, and more. Strata's therefore may be required to accommodate individual requests for the installation of cooling equipment when the request relates to a health concern such as a vulnerability to heat.

NR31 Provincial Cannabis Tax Sharing with Local Governments

Port Moody

Whereas the Canadian federal government has clearly stated its expectation that provincial cannabis tax revenue be shared with local governments and such revenues are currently being shared between the provinces and local governments in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta, but not in British Columbia;

And whereas the sharing of cannabis tax revenue will provide much needed funding for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to share up to 50% of provincial revenues generated from the production and sale of cannabis products with BC local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province is committed to ensuring the ongoing transition to a legalized cannabis regime that aligns with this government's priorities to protect children and youth, promote health and safety, keep the criminal element out of cannabis production and retail activities, keep BC roads safe, and support economic development. Maintaining tax rates that generate only modest government revenue has been a key strategy in increasing the market share of legal cannabis producers and retailers.

Cannabis revenue to the Province has been very modest, in part due to declines in the price of cannabis. It is difficult to make long-term revenue predictions about the potential for cannabis excise tax revenue while the legal market matures, cannabis producers continue to face challenges, and the market continues to stabilize. We will continue to monitor the state of the cannabis industry.

The excise tax agreement was reached between federal and provincial governments did not touch on sharing cannabis excise tax revenue (or other cannabis-related revenue) with local governments. Where local governments incur costs associated with regulating cannabis in their communities they can directly derive revenue from the cannabis industry through licensing and other fees on cannabis producers and retailers to recoup those costs.

The Province understands the funding needs facing local governments, and the impact of sharing cannabis revenue would be of modest benefit to municipalities. The Province has responded to local governments' funding needs with much more substantial investments, such as the \$1 billion Growing Communities Fund in 2023.

The Province remains committed to working with communities to address funding needs, considering the diverse spectrum of costs and revenue tools. UBCM members endorsed a UBCM report entitled Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency – Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy, aimed at strengthening the municipal and regional district finance system in B.C. This report includes 20 recommendations to address the fiscal concerns of local government, including seeking new revenue sources. In January 2022, the Province signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to guide the review of local government financial resiliency. A joint working group meets biweekly to address the recommendations and explore ways to strengthen local government fiscal health and cost pressures around attainable housing, community safety and climate change. Work to date has included discussions with local governments through (UBCM) and First Nations to address fiscal tools more broadly.

NR32 Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition

Salmo

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has indicated that private insurance industry standards are not in the control of the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas current insurance industry guidelines require fire apparatus to be replaced on a maximum 25-year basis or the fire insurance grades of a community will be adversely affected;

And whereas the cost to replace fire apparatus is a large financial burden for small communities;

And whereas a municipality is not permitted to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to purchase new fire apparatus without a costly referendum process:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation that permits local governments to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, without the requirement to go to referendum or AAP (Alternative Approval Process);

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia work with insurance underwriters and change legislation to allow the use of older fire apparatus that pass an annual inspection without an affect to the insurance grading of the community.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Office of the Fire Commissioner

Elector approval is critical to ensuring transparency and public accountability in council and board decisions impacting the long-term finances of a local government, including the property taxes of those who must repay the debt, despite the administrative burden and chance that the electors may not approve the borrowing.

The province provides local governments with the option of seeking elector approval through an assent vote or through the streamlined Alternative Approval Process. While there are some exemptions from elector approval, these are provided where there was a detailed planning process with full public consultation, like an approved liquid waste management plan, or in cases where a cost is externally imposed on a municipality through a legislative requirement, state of emergency, a court order, or an executive order like an Environmental Protection Order.

Given the need for public accountability on long-term council decisions, the province is currently not considering removing the elector approval requirement from the statute.

While the Province of British Columbia does not have a role in the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) processes for setting rates and gradings for fire apparatus, the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) has committed to attempting to facilitate a discussion with the UBCM and the FUS to ensure local governments can access clear information on the rationale used in determining the FUS fire equipment rating system.

The province recognizes the challenges that small and rural communities face in delivering suppression services as well as replacing and maintaining fire service equipment such as fire trucks. Through the OFC, the Province has been conveying these concerns and the desire to extend insurance beyond 20 years for well maintained and low mileage fire apparatuses.

The FUS has published a technical bulletin called "INSURANCE GRADING RECOGNITION OF USED OR REBUILT FIRE APPARATUS" on their website at <https://fireunderwriters.ca/Downloads>. The bulletin it speaks to the standards referenced and used in the grading process, as well as recognition that small and rural communities that are utilizing

used fire apparatus may have challenges meeting the strict standards. The bulletin also outlines additional options and steps that a community can take to extend the certified life span of a fire apparatus up to 30 years.

NR33 BC Wildfire Service Firefighting Equipment

Peace River RD

Whereas the province of British Columbia is prone to wildfires, which pose significant threats to public safety, communities, property, and the environment, and where climate change has contributed to an increase in the frequency, intensity, and severity of wildfires, thereby placing an unprecedented strain on available firefighting equipment;

And whereas the Provincial Government has the responsibility to ensure that the BC Wildfire Service has adequate resources, including equipment, to effectively respond to and manage wildfires to safeguard lives, protect infrastructure, and preserve the natural environment, and where the effectiveness and efficiency of the BC Wildfire Service's operations in the containment of wildfires heavily depend on the availability of adequate equipment and resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Provincial Government take immediate action to ensure that BC Wildfire is provided with all available firefighting equipment, including Coulson Aviation's Next Gen fire suppression equipment, and any other available Canadian company with aviation firefighting equipment, to combat wildfires during increased demand during peak wildfire seasons;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government explore partnerships with federal agencies, neighboring provinces, and available contractors to enhance equipment sharing and mutual aid agreements, ensuring a more robust response to wildfires and promoting regional collaboration in firefighting efforts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Provincial Government is fortunate it has many resource sharing partners aiding with the emergency wildfire response efforts. These partnerships come in a variety of forms ranging from physical tools such as helicopters, air tanker aircraft, heavy equipment, camp and technological infrastructure and a wide spectrum of personnel providing technical and professional services.

For wildfire response activity in the province, the BC Wildfire Services relies on strong support from numerous vendors, agencies and partners who provide expertise, equipment, and personnel. Several of the partners include the forest industry, aviation providers, first nations, local governments, First Nation Emergency Services Society, BC Cattlemen's Association and the Fire Chief's Association of BC. Through these partnerships the Provincial Government can meet most wildfire activity it experiences. When resource demands are exceeded, the Province relies on our external partnerships to meet wildfire response needs.

BC Wildfire Service, on behalf of the Province of BC, participate in long standing resource sharing partnerships through mutual aid agreements with wildfire organizations. This is facilitated through direct agency to agency partnerships as well as multi-jurisdiction agreements. For national and international partnerships, the Province relies on the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center (CIFFC) to facilitate resource movement. Agreements such as the Mutual Aid Resource Sharing agreement between all the Canadian provinces and territories allow for national resources to be moved throughout Canada to support fire suppression efforts. CIFFC also supports access to international resources such as the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil to support wildfire emergencies. Additionally, British Columbia has a regional resource sharing agreement, called the *Northwest Compact*, with the western US states including Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana that facilitates additional support when needed.

These agreements provide the Province an opportunity to allow additional ground personnel, technical experts and equipment to be accessed to meet operational needs. The Province of BC is committed to ensuring our resource partnerships are strong and reliable to meet the needs of future wildfire seasons.

NR34 Implementing a Graduated Tier System for RCMP Cost-Sharing Agreements

Parksville

Whereas the current RCMP cost-sharing agreement consists of a 70% municipal and 30% federal government cost-share ratio for municipalities with a population of less than 15,000;

And whereas municipalities experiencing population growth face a sudden and significant increase in financial responsibility when the population threshold of 15,000 is crossed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Province of BC and to the Government of Canada for the introduction of additional population tiers to the RCMP cost-sharing agreement to ease the financial burden on municipalities transitioning between the current ratios;

And be it further resolved that the proposed additional tiers should be designed to create a smoother transition in financial responsibility, considering factors such as municipal population growth rates, fiscal capacity, and the specific needs of communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province is aware of concerns from RCMP-policed municipalities with respect to the significant cost difference for property owners when a municipality's Census population crosses from between 5,000 and 14,999 to over 15,000 persons, resulting in a change to the cost share ratio between the municipality and the Government of Canada from 70:30 to 90:10.

Ministry staff proactively monitor annual population estimates to identify municipalities with potential to approach or cross key population thresholds. In the years prior to a Canada Census, staff engage with municipalities with a potential to cross a threshold. Engagement commences at least two years prior to a Census release to share information and to encourage proactive planning for the eventual impacts should the municipalities cross a key population threshold.

RCMP-policed municipalities with over 5,000 population receive policing through their respective *Municipal Police Unit Agreement* (MPUA), which specifies which costs are eligible for the cost-share and the relevant cost-share ratio. MPUAs are one of the three standardized Police Service Agreements that enable Canada to provide policing services within the province, by the RCMP. These agreements include the *Provincial Police Service Agreement*, *Municipal Police Service Agreement* and the MPUA and are in effect from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2032.

The cost-share arrangements outlined in the Police Service Agreements may only be reviewed as part of the Five Year Review process (per the *Provincial Police Service Agreement*, Article 22.5e). The Province consults with local governments, through UBCM, to bring forward substantive issues to the national Contract Management Committee for consideration before each Five Year Review, similar to the last Review in 2021.

The report of the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* recommended creating a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities. The report recommends reviewing the funding model, considering local needs, health and social supports, and geography of the service delivery area. This review will explore options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of police costs.

Beginning in May 2022, the Public Safety Transformation Team within the Policing and Security Branch and UBCM have been co-chairing the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (LGPMR). The team also has established tables with Indigenous Peoples, police leaders, and other key partners. These groups analyze and discuss the report recommendations that impact local governments, Indigenous Peoples, police, and others. The team will continue to

meet regularly with the LGPMR, will undertake broader engagement to address the Special Committee's recommendations, and will co-develop new policing and oversight legislation with local governments and Indigenous Partners. To support this work, the team is providing grants to community-based and advocacy organizations for community-led engagement and capacity funding for Indigenous partners.

NR35 Addressing Municipal RCMP Detachment Vacancies Cranbrook

Whereas municipal RCMP detachments are experiencing ongoing temporary and permanent vacancies across British Columbia, at the same time as they are being asked to respond to calls for service outside their core expertise (e.g. mental health, addictions and complex social issues);

And whereas the provincial government has secured resources for the BC Highway Patrol to provide traffic law enforcement and public education across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province allow for BC Highway Patrol resources to be redirected to support municipal RCMP detachments that are experiencing temporary staffing shortages.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Under the *Police Act*, municipalities over 5,000 population must provide policing and law enforcement services within their municipal boundaries and bear the expenses necessary for the provision of policing services.

The ministry has heard RCMP vacancy concerns from local governments and is aware of the pressures facing front-line policing resources. As a federal organization, staffing responsibilities, including but not limited to recruitment and allocation, are within the internal management and control of the RCMP.

With respect to provincial resources, the Province does not support the redirection of Provincial Police Service resources, including BC Highway Patrol (BCHP), to address temporary staffing shortages at municipal RCMP detachments. In the example of BCHP, the mandate for BCHP, provided in BC RCMP Provincial policy, is to decrease the number of serious injury and fatal collisions on provincial highways in B.C. through proactive enforcement, education, the building of partnerships and the interception of illegal contraband. BCHP proactively address root causes of driving behaviours that lead to traffic calls-for-service and serious and fatal collisions on certain provincial highways. It is imperative for public safety that there are no barriers preventing or inhibiting the services provided by BCHP.

In support of the Provincial Government's Safer Communities Action Plan, announced November 20, 2022, the Province has approved an unprecedented, multi-year investment of approximately \$230 million to the RCMP, as the Provincial Police Service. This funding will address existing gaps in staffing, and resource pressures in specialized functions, such as Major Crime and BCHP, as well as at front-line rural and remote provincial detachment units. Ministry staff are actively engaged with the RCMP "E Division" on this work.

Only RCMP Provincial Units are eligible for support under the \$230 million Provincial Investment. While RCMP Municipal Units are not eligible for support under this investment, it is anticipated that the positive impacts of the Provincial investment will benefit public safety for all of B.C.

NR36 Commercial Semi Truck Dash Cams

Barriere

Whereas the amount of time each commercial semi truck spends on the road, the weights they operate with, and the braking distances involved in stopping commercial semi trucks;

And whereas the use of dash cams can encourage commercial truck driver accountability in adhering to safe driving practices and can be affordable insurance in providing undeniable evidence for the almost inevitable near misses that professional drivers contend with in doing their job:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of BC to review the feasibility of requiring all commercial semi- trucks as defined in the *Transportation Act* registered in British Columbia to have dash cams installed and in operation while driving within the Province of BC as a step toward the positive progression of improving our highway safety.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry is currently reviewing the feasibility of requiring dash cameras in heavy commercial vehicles. Included in the review is a jurisdictional scan, privacy review, and an understanding of parameters that may be required to form a mandate, such as minimum camera operating requirements like quality, field of view, storage requirements, and methods for production of data to law enforcement

It is expected consultation will occur with stakeholders in the first half of 2024.

NR37 Large Infrastructure Project Impacts on Public Safety

Squamish

Whereas in 2019 BC enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that Indigenous women and girls experienced violence as a result of industrial work camps in proximity to their communities;

And whereas large infrastructure projects mandated or approved by the Province are in the planning, construction, operation and closure phases across BC;

And whereas significant numbers of temporary workers are required to reside in or near communities to execute these projects, and the provincial government has committed to addressing the public safety concerns of British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that provincial regulation of temporary workforce accommodation be expanded beyond basic servicing and environmental requirements, and that monitoring, evaluation and accountability be expanded for specific recommended mitigation measures to minimize impacts on local communities including but not limited to gender-based violence.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

While the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is not responsible for the industrial camp regulation, the EAO can add legally binding conditions to an Environmental Assessment Certificate to mitigate the effects of Temporary Workforce Accommodations (TWA). As a result, the EAO has taken steps to introduce mechanisms for oversight, enforcement, and monitoring to improve health and safety at or near work camps. In response to reports on the risk of violence in industrial projects, which disproportionately impacts Indigenous women and girls, the EAO is undertaking a series of actions to support mitigating gender-based violence stemming from TWAs. This is supported by the changes made to the *Environmental Assessment Act* in 2018, which requires assessment of a project's potential effects on First Nations' communities and rights and disproportionate effects on distinct populations to be considered, including gender-specific effects. In 2020, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) issued guidance on assessing how a project may affect communities and vulnerable populations.

The EAO has made a series of commitments to the upcoming provincial Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan, which includes but is not limited to:

- *GBV Standard Conditions in Environmental Assessment Certificates*: Developing a new GBV-related standard conditions for Environmental Assessment Certifications that will apply to any future industrial projects with a large temporary workforce accommodation, which are approved to proceed under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (2018). The condition will require a gender and cultural safety plan to be developed, to better protect the safety and security of women, girls and 2SLGTBQIA+ who live or work in nearby communities or in the temporary workforce accommodation.
- *Enhanced training for compliance and enforcement (C&E) officers*: Developing GBV-related training to increase C&E officer knowledge of and ability to monitor new measures put in place to prevent gender-based violence when they are inspecting work camps will also be rolled out.
- *Researching Environmental Assessment and GBV*: The EAO is initiating a research project into new approaches to mitigate gender-based violence through the environmental assessment process, which will include engagement and consultation with local communities that are impacted by temporary workforce accommodations.

The Industrial Camp Regulation, under the *Public Health Act*, is limited to outlining basic health and safety requirements, such as sanitation standards and communicable disease prevention, for employer provided

accommodation of workers. That said, the Ministry of Health works closely with the EAO and other partner ministries to develop policies to minimize unintended consequences of large infrastructure projects on communities through cross agency committees. As noted above, this collaborative work may be realized in specific permit conditions outlined by the EAO.

NR39 Log Debris

West Vancouver

Whereas log debris is a significant and repeated cause of damage to coastlines, natural assets, and waterfront infrastructure and piers, and poses a risk to public accessibility and safety of waterfront areas;

And whereas log accumulation on coastlines is increasing due to more frequent storm events in winter and log removal is cost-prohibitive for local governments to individually and proactively address on a continuous basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to:

- 1) Establish an inter-agency working group to investigate sources of log debris within the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound; and
- 2) Determine a collective funding source for the removal of log debris from coastlines to minimize ongoing damage and repair costs for individual local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

Current government funding is focused on preventative measures provided by the Fraser River debris trap. Government does provide mechanisms for individuals and/or organisations that want to remove log debris as a business or as a public service. The Ministry of Forests can issue marine log salvage (beachcombing) licences to recover floating logs or logs cast up on shorelines. Nominal fee Land Act licences are available for groups that wish to manage shoreline log debris accumulations to improve public access to shorelines.

There is often no direct responsibility for the Ministry to address the matter as the debris can be from numerous sources other than industrial forestry. Currently there are no funds available for clean-up and removal of log debris.

Further discussion is required to determine the role the province may take if participating in a log debris working group.

NR40 Managed Forest Council Representation

Cumberland

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services to their communities;

And whereas many community watersheds are included in or affected by forest management activities occurring on private managed forests:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* be amended such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Managed Forest Council (MFC) consists of four members and a Chair. Two members are elected by the membership, and two are appointed by the Minister of Forests using the resources and procedures of the [Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office](#). The four members jointly elect a Chair. Prior to being elected or appointed, individuals must volunteer to serve on the MFC, whether standing for election or applying to be appointed to the council by the Minister.

The criteria for qualifying to serve as an MFC member is outlined in their "[Governance Policy](#)" which includes an Appendix that outlines a comprehensive list of matters of which the MFC must be collectively competent. No single member is expected to possess all of the competencies.

Source protection of drinking water systems has not been singled out in the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* as the protection of drinking water systems and drinking water sources are handled under other enactments. MFC members are similarly not expected to have qualifications in drinking water source protection, but they are expected to be knowledgeable in environmental protection and have a demonstrated sensitivity to stakeholder issues.

NR41 Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Compliance

Sicamous

Whereas the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation regulates development within a riparian assessment area and a local government cannot approve a development application until an assessment report from a qualified environmental professional (QEP) has been submitted through the Riparian Areas Regulation Notification and approved by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship;

And whereas the Ministry response time to review QEP reports continues to increase, unreasonably delaying local government development and significantly impacting local economies;

And whereas the effectiveness of the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation relies on local government compliance which is compromised by the Ministry's lack of resources and inability to respond in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to grant local governments the authority to accept and review qualified environmental professions QEP reports for developments within its own jurisdiction.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Ministry of Forests

The Ministry has significantly improved the Riparian Area Protection Regulation (RAPR) program in the past year. We have cut ministry review response times from 8 months to 15-30 days. It is expected that these improvements will address many of your concerns.

Alternatively, local governments can use the 'Meet or Beat' approach outlined in RAPR Section 12(4)(b), bypassing provincial review if their bylaws meet or exceed standards. RAPR staff are available to support local governments who want to implement this approach. Please reach out to riparianareas@victoria1.gov.bc.ca for support.

NR42 Call for Improvements for Provincial Water Licencing Approvals

Sechelt

Whereas the changing climate conditions are creating prolonged water restrictions that impact businesses, limit or stop food production and create other issues for many communities;

And whereas licencing for community drinking water systems may take the Province of British Columbia over two years to approve, even when a state of local emergency is in effect for the applicant:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Substantially increase the resources allocated for the processing of water licence applications; and
2. Prioritize water licence applications to give urgency based on health and safety, particularly in light of the current climate conditions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Province is committed to continued improvement on British Columbia's water authorization processing timelines. The Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship have worked closely on strategic and operational water management priorities through multiple initiatives. While maintaining a high level of environmental stewardship in a changing climate, the Province has restructured ministries, implemented strategic initiatives and established policies to improve the processing timelines on water authorizations.

In October 2028, all water management functions, including water licensing, were transferred to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. As part of the Ministry's focus on permitting transformation, water licences are predominantly featured in this work.

The Province continues to improve water management in British Columbia with the regulation of groundwater and the introduction of new tools for modern watershed planning and environmental protection. In recent years, British Columbia has seen unprecedented climate-related challenges including flood, drought and fire. The Province will review the response and feedback to incorporate learnings and new approaches to better respond to future challenges. The Province remains committed to implementing the *Water Sustainability Act* to ensure healthy watersheds and continue working with Indigenous Nations, local governments and groups of interest.

NR43 Understanding BC Hydro's Electrification Capacity

Squamish

Whereas BC municipalities are moving quickly to enable electrification through community climate action plans and municipal energy and emissions plans;

And whereas there is currently a lack of funding or incentives to support electrification in existing residential, commercial and institutional building retrofits, and a lack of certainty that the electrical grid has the capacity to accommodate the anticipated electrical demand that will result from future retrofits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM coordinate with the Province, BC Utilities Commission and BC Hydro regarding the need for communities to understand BC Hydro's readiness to meet electrification requirements and to support electrification in retrofits in order for communities to meet climate action goals.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Government is committed to improving the portfolio of retrofit offers over time. The CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings (BHBB) program plays an integral role in achieving the Province's 2030 climate commitments for the building sector by advancing electrification and building retrofits. BHBB is an integrated offer of incentives and supports to help households, businesses and institutions save energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through heating system replacements and building envelope improvements. More information on available rebates in British Columbia is available at: www.betterhomesbc.ca and www.betterbuildingsbc.ca.

Utilities also have a role to play in electrification. BC Hydro's Electrification Plan includes significant investments to support customer fuel switching in buildings. These investments are enabled through provincial regulation. BC Hydro is also conscious of the shift in customers' interest in switching to electricity from the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.

BC Hydro has submitted its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). The IRP looks at future energy needs over a 20-year period, and explores the resources required to meet them. The IRP is currently before the BCUC, which will make its decision at the conclusion of a public process. On June 15, 2023, BC Hydro filed an update to its IRP with the BCUC. Jointly, the Province and BC Hydro announced that BC Hydro would need to procure 3,000 GWh/year of electricity as early as 2028. Since June, BC Hydro has engaged with First Nations, local governments, independent power producers, and other stakeholders on the elements of a Call for Power to meet this need.

To ensure that it can get this new generation to its customers, BC Hydro is undertaking initiatives like its North Coast Transmission Line Expression of Interest to assess the transmission infrastructure needed to meet growing demand. Government is working with BC Hydro, through the BC Hydro Task Force, to accelerate the planning and procurement of new electricity infrastructure while keeping rates affordable and advancing Indigenous ownership opportunities in future electricity generation and transmission investments.

NR44 Increasing BC Hydro's Pricing for Renewable Energy Production Vancouver

Whereas British Columbia's new BC Zero Carbon Step Code (effective May 1, 2023) and Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 will accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles, heat pumps and other technologies that will increase the demand for clean electricity;

And whereas BC Hydro's Five-Year Electrification Plan, released by the government in September of 2021, estimates that it has sufficient supply of clean electricity, including from Site C dam, only to 2030, leading government to announce plans to call for new utility-scale sources of renewable, emission-free electricity in BC;

And whereas the BC Government in the past has incentivized the development of clean renewable energy through advantageous feed-in tariffs, such as for Independent Hydro-Electric Power Producers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to require that BC Hydro increase the price they will pay for the municipal, First Nations and private production of renewable energy, including solar, wind, geothermal energy, sufficient to stimulate the increased investment and production at all scales— including household and municipal— needed to tackle the climate emergency, while also ensuring reasonable energy affordability and that natural environments are protected.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Government is working with BC Hydro, through the BC Hydro Task Force, to accelerate the planning and procurement of new electricity infrastructure while keeping rates affordable and advancing Indigenous ownership opportunities in future electricity generation and transmission investments.

BC Hydro has submitted its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC). The IRP looks at future energy needs over a 20-year period, and explores the resources required to meet them. The IRP is currently before the BCUC, which will make its decision at the conclusion of a public process. On June 15, 2023, BC Hydro filed an update to its IRP with the BCUC. Jointly, the Province and BC Hydro announced that BC Hydro would need to procure 3,000 Gigawatt hours per year of electricity as early as 2028.

Since June 2023, BC Hydro has engaged with First Nations, local governments, independent power producers, and other stakeholders on the elements of a Call for Power to meet forecast growth in electricity demand. To ensure that the energy procured through the call is cost-effective while adequate to meet BC Hydro's needs, it will be purchased through a competitive bidding process rather than a fixed price offer. BC Hydro's energy purchase agreements are also subject to the approval of the BCUC as an additional measure to ensure that they are cost-effective and rates are kept affordable.

NR45 New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments in the Climate Transition

Comox Valley RD

Whereas significant costs for climate mitigation and adaptation are and increasingly will be shouldered by local governments;

And whereas local governments are severely limited to property taxes and grants to fund climate-related costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and BC Cabinet to establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province is committed to working with local governments to reach our shared climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia and is committed to ensuring our province and the people who live here are more resilient in the event of climate impacts. Events of the past few years have emphasized the importance of building resilience at all levels of government.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Local Government Financial Resiliency between the Province of British Columbia and UBCM commits to examining the cost pressures on local governments and potential sources of revenue to assist them in meeting the needs. A key focus area of cost drivers is related to climate change.

The province administers a range of grant programs that support local governments in meeting the needs of their community, while at the same time advancing broader provincial and federal goals. Additionally, the province provides local governments with unconditional grants to support their operational costs and supplement existing financial tools available to local governments. The federal Canada Community Building Fund is recognized as important funding to local governments allowing for flexibility in identifying priorities.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy provides local governments and Modern Treaty Nations with predictable and stable funding to support the implementation of local climate action that reduces emissions and prepares communities for the impacts of a changing climate through the Local Government Climate Action Program. Local governments can apply for grants that support planning around sustainable community infrastructure, including climate resilience, through the Infrastructure Planning Grant Program.

The province is committed to advancing disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, listening to perspectives of local governments and First Nations through engagements on the development of the Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy, B.C. Flood Strategy, and the modernization of emergency management legislation. The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Resilience encourages communities to apply for the relevant disaster risk reduction funding to support their communities to reduce the risks of climate-related hazards in their community.

It is also important for planned investments, such as infrastructure renewals and upgrades to build in climate resilience. The costs of including resilience have been encouraged and supported through application-based infrastructure programs open to local governments. The province continues to advocate the federal government around new funding for local government projects that will include improving infrastructure resilience.

NR46 BC Resources for Estimating Climate Costs

Saanich

Whereas climate change is collectively and increasingly costing BC local governments billions of dollars in the form of increased maintenance, construction and upgrading of infrastructure, disaster relief, and other climate costs, but the connections between these costs and climate change is often invisible and not adequately considered in planning and budgeting;

And whereas ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and others have prepared tools and reports to assist local governments in understanding the national costs of climate change, but further work is required to ensure that these tools can allow BC local governments to better understand the local costs that they are incurring and will incur due to climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM explore with ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, senior levels of government and interested British Columbia local governments and other institutions, ways to tailor the available tools and resources, or if necessary, to develop additional tools, resources and/or data sets, aimed at allowing BC local governments to better calculate and understand the financial costs that they are experiencing, or may experience, due to climate change and the need to prepare for climate impacts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province is working with local governments to take actions to both decrease their greenhouse gas emissions and to be prepared for the impacts of a changing climate. Understanding the costs associated with climate change is a significant part of ensuring appropriate actions are taken at the local level.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is pleased to work with UBCM and other partners to improve the available tools to enable local governments across B.C. to better understand the financial costs of addressing and responding to climate change.

The Local Government Climate Action Program, administered by ENV, directly supports local governments and Modern Treaty Nations across B.C. with funding, supports and data to enable effective climate action at the local level. Additional funding opportunities for local governments can be found here at <https://communityclimatefunding.gov.bc.ca/>.

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness recently established ClimateReadyBC (<https://climatereadybc.gov.bc.ca/>), a one-stop-platform to help communities understand and reduce disaster and climate risks and build resilience. [ClimateReadyBC](#) is continually being updated with new resources and tools. Feedback is encouraged on the site to make it a useful tool for communities.

Asset Management BC (<https://assetmanagementbc.ca>) provides guidance in considering climate change mitigation and adaptation in long term financial planning. The Climate Change and Asset Management Delivery Primer ([Climate-Change-and-Asset-Management.pdf](#)) contains information to help municipalities assess the cost of addressing climate change and the financial implications of these actions.

NR47 Planning Tools for Habitat Protection

Parksville

Whereas Vancouver Island communities are facing loss of irreplaceable natural habitat that is crucial to the survival of delicate coastal and land ecosystems, including wildlife and plant life;

And whereas in December 2022, the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government establish a working committee, with local government representation to establish a comprehensive set of urban planning and development guidelines that align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s goals and targets, and recommendations to implement this framework to regulate development at the local level in UBCM member communities and combat the loss of natural habitat in BC, with a goal of protecting 30% of natural environment and coastline.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) is working closely with the Ministry of Forests (FOR) to implement all 14 recommendations of the 2020 strategic review report A New Future for Old Forests. A key component of this work is leading the collaborative development of a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework (‘the Framework’) with First Nations.

The Framework will set policy intent and serve as a catalyst for a paradigm shift in the way we think about biodiversity, helping to ensure our ecosystems and communities remain healthy and resilient in light of climate change and other threats. The Framework will create a vision and tools to support the prioritization of ecosystem health and the conservation of biodiversity and species at risk. It will help align ongoing initiatives that support ecosystem health and biodiversity (e.g., Together for Wildlife Strategy, Watershed Security Strategy), support the commitment to achieving the goal of 30% protection of B.C.’s land base by 2030, and will align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The draft Framework includes a commitment to co-developing with First Nations new legislation and updates to existing legislation. It also includes a commitment to work with local governments and British Columbians as part of a whole of society approach, to support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity through the exiting Biodiversity Forum for Local Governments, previously known as the Species and Ecosystems at Risk Local Government Working Group, and other governance mechanisms. This Forum includes over 100 municipal, regional and provincial government representatives interested in exchanging information and advancing projects on the conservation of biodiversity.

The draft framework was released on November 15, 2023. Consultation with First Nations and engagement with industry, local governments, and Non-Government Organizations was conducted via virtual webinars between November 15, 2023, and January 31, 2024. These included two local government specific sessions. The Framework will be finalized in spring 2024, followed by co-development of the related legislation.

NR48 Decreasing Food Waste, Increasing Food Security

Vancouver

Whereas over 11.8% of BC households (485,500 British Columbians) experience some level of food insecurity and about 3% of households (91,100 British Columbians) experience severe food insecurity, leading to more than 163,000 people in BC using a food bank in March of 2022 and the prediction that reliance on food banks and other food charities is expected to increase by 60 percent in BC in 2023, with the non-profit sector bearing the brunt of costs associated with collecting and delivering food that would otherwise be wasted to people in need;

And whereas the National Zero Waste council calculates that 63 percent of all of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten and, according to the Government of BC, about 40 percent of our produce ends up in a landfill, where it breaks down to produce significant greenhouse gases which climate scientists predict will accelerate global warming and greatly reduce food-production capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to:

- Measure, monitor and make publicly available data on food waste in BC in order to inform and develop policies, guidelines and practices to reduce food waste; and
- Support the non-profit sector involved in rescuing and distributing food as an essential interim measure to address food insecurity for vulnerable and equity-seeking populations until more sustainable public interventions address poverty and income insecurity, the primary drivers of food insecurity in BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to incorporate measures to reduce food wastage and over-packaging of produce, increase organic waste diversion, and promote the consumption of planet-friendly foods into its climate plan (CleanBC).

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) places paramount importance on preventing food loss and waste while promoting food security, as food waste reduction falls on the highest tier of the pollution prevention hierarchy. As part of B.C.'s commitment to promoting a circular economy for organics, the Province invested \$150,000 between 2018 and 2021 in the Love Food Hate Waste campaign. Arising from Love Food Hate Waste, ENV developed a provincial partnership model, enabling local governments to access various communication materials and valuable resources to combat food waste. ENV oversees the Food Waste Provincial Partnership, extending resources to local governments across B.C. Accessible online [toolkits](#) have been crafted to assist everyone in preventing food waste, whether at home or in the workplace.

The Province supports the non-profit sector by actively encouraging food donations from businesses through the [Food Donor Encouragement Act](#). The Province, through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, has also provided \$1.3M in investments to help combat food security and promote food sovereignty under the [Food Security Provincial Initiatives Fund](#). To prevent food and organic waste from ending up in landfills and generating harmful greenhouse gases, the Province has invested \$55M towards 46 projects that collect and process food and organic waste into class A compost and are projected to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4Mt by 2030.

NR50 Amendments to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to Prohibit Exotic Animals

Nanaimo RD

Whereas exotic animals and their hybrids are not domesticated and suffer physically and psychologically when bred, kept, displayed and sold in captivity, and may pose public health and safety risks to other animals and people;

And whereas the removal of exotic animals from their natural habitat damages fragile ecosystems and threatens the survival of wild populations, and their release from captivity can harm British Columbia's ecosystems and native wildlife:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to immediately amend the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to prohibit all Felids, including Servals, other than the domestic cat (*Felis catus*), and all Canids other than the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), including all hybrids of F1-3 generation;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to further amend the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to create a positive list of permitted species to replace the existing negative list of prohibited species, including only domesticated species and certain hybrids of an F4 generation or greater.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

In 2021, the Fish and Wildlife Branch completed an initial review of the Controlled Alien Species (CAS) Program which included preliminary research and engagement with stakeholders to explore a potential amendment to the CAS Regulation to adopt a positive list of species. Including Servals and other Felids (other than domestic) on the CAS Regulation has also been a part of these discussions.

Through this engagement we have identified that there are number of CAS Program changes (policy, regulatory and administrative) that require a more in depth review before any final decisions can be made. Moving forward as part of the CAS Program review, we will continue to focus our engagement and analysis towards the possibility of including these species for consideration.

Please note, as of October 19, 2023, fish and wildlife management, including responsibility for Controlled Alien Species moved to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

NR51 Control of Scotch Broom

Qualicum Beach

Whereas climate change brings us longer periods of drought and hotter temperatures in which Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*), a highly flammable invasive species with high oil content and dry branches, will thrive and act as a volatile flash fuel, increasing the risk of wildfires and specifically Urban Interface Fires;

And whereas Scotch Broom spreads densely and rapidly, inhibiting forests regrowth, and negatively impacting agricultural production and native species, with a 2021 study for the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) designating Scotch broom as the Top Worse Offender - the invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to establish and implement actionable steps to control the aggressive spread of Scotch Broom all across BC, including implementing Broom-free fire breaks along long stretches of broom;

And be it further resolved that local governments are encouraged to use bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom near and within urban boundaries.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The risks posed by invasive plant species, including Scotch broom, are well recognized by the province. Scotch broom is adapted to coastal and temperate climates and has spread throughout BC's coast and parts of the southeast interior.

The high flammability of Scotch broom has been identified by Ministry Invasive Plant Specialists as a significant threat requiring action during implementation of Wildfire Risk Reduction programs, especially in urban interface areas. These specialists are working with the BC Wildfire Service and the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Prescribed Fire and Cultural Burning programs to elevate this risk and support incorporating appropriate Scotch broom control efforts into these programs.

The Ministry of Forests welcomes additional discussion with UBCM on this issue as it relates to reducing wildfire urban interface risk.

**NR52 Funding Formulas to Regional Districts for Canada Community-
Building Fund- Community Works Fund and Community Growth Fund**

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the funding formulas used to allocate funds for programs such as the Canada Community- Building Fund- Community Works Fund (Formerly Gas Tax Fund) and the recent Community Growth Fund is based on a per capita formula with a funding floor, the funding apportioned to regional districts is apportioned based on the electoral areas population only and does not account for the services and associated infrastructure maintained by regional districts for services it delivers to member municipalities such as water, wastewater, transit, recreation and parks;

And whereas the funding apportioned to regional districts compared to member municipalities was much lower, creating a disparate allocation of funds within some regions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and/or federal government to reconsider the design of the funding formulas for the Community Works Fund and Community Growth Fund that considers the services delivered and associated infrastructure of the local government versus just that of population.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province appreciates concerns about the allocation of grant funds among municipalities and regional districts. We will review these concerns in advance of any possible future formula-based infrastructure grant program that allocates funds to local governments. Allocation based funding formulas are limited in considering the specific services delivered and associated infrastructure as each local government across the province. There is variation of the levels of services and infrastructure requirements within each local government.

The Canada Community Building Fund – Community Works Fund (CCBF) is administered by UBCM and feedback on the methods of allocation for that program should be shared directly with UBCM. The CCBF is in the re-negotiations phase with the federal government; UBCM and the province are currently in the process of reviewing the program delivery model.

Local governments asked for the freedom to prioritize which projects to allocate infrastructure grants to. The Growing Communities Fund (GCF) respects that request. The allocation method for the GCF was designed to provide a greater per capita amount to small municipalities and rural areas in respect of the higher cost of providing services in these communities. In the GCF program, a municipality may contribute from its grant to a regional service if that municipality is a participant and the funding is dedicated for capital or planning purposes. We encourage elected officials around the board table, with the advice and guidance of staff, to recognize how regional district infrastructure serves growing municipalities and allocate funds accordingly.

NR53 Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas regional district fire services across British Columbia are facing increasing financial pressure with respect to replacing fire apparatus and are not permitted to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to purchase the same without costly referendum processes;

And whereas should these referendums fail, communities will be left without fire protection during a time that sees increasing risk from wildfires as well as increased insurance rates, particularly for those without fire protection services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over the life-span of fire apparatus without the requirement to go to referendum, subject to the service having been established through a referendum process.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Elector approval may be administratively difficult and there is the chance that the electors may not approve the borrowing. However, elector approval is critical to ensuring transparency and public accountability in council and board decisions impacting the long-term finances of local government, including the property taxes of those who must repay the debt.

The province provides local governments with the option of seeking elector approval through an assent vote (like a referendum) or through a streamlined "Alternative Approval Process" (AAP). In addition, the province provides some exemptions from elector approval where there was a detailed planning process with full public consultation, like an approved liquid waste management plan or in cases where a cost is externally imposed on a municipality through a state of emergency, a court order, or an executive order like an Environmental Protection Order.

Given the need for public accountability on long-term council decisions, the province is currently not considering removing the elector approval requirement from the statute.

NR54 Provincial Government Funding

Oliver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides a variety of funding and grants to local governments for programs that are not otherwise within the local government funding scope;

And whereas grants usually provide initial financial support, however local governments are often left with the burden of carrying future operational costs at the expense of the taxpayer;

And whereas a phased approach would decrease the financial burden to local governments and would allow local governments more time to determine the effectiveness of programs and if they should be continued:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia provide ongoing operational support, post initial grant funding, for activities and programs within the traditional provincial jurisdiction for a minimum of five years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

There are multiple demands upon both local and provincial government to support residents, particularly with emergent challenges around climate change and its effects, the recent pandemic, and transitioning economies. The Ministry encourages ongoing discussion of the pressures facing communities, and how they are best met in terms of governmental supports and responsibilities. The province has a Memorandum of Understanding with UBCM to review the local government finance system and discuss matters of mutual interest.

The province supports operating costs for many local governments broadly through the Small Communities Grant. Local governments have a variety of tools to finance capital and operating costs including development cost charges, taxes, and fees.

NR55 Flexibility in Growing Communities Fund

Invermere

Whereas many smaller communities rely on not-for-profits and outside agencies to provide affordable (and social) purpose built rental housing;

And whereas the Growing Communities Fund allows for the money to be invested in affordable housing, but requires that the controlling interest in the project must be owned by the local government providing the funding;

And whereas forcing local governments to own rental housing when this is not their expertise, can create future asset management concerns, and can limit the ability to leverage the dollars and limit the ability to support local not-for-profit partnerships:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the funding requirements for the Growing Communities Fund to give local governments more autonomy and flexibility to invest the money in their local communities and to work with local partners, without requiring ownership of projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Growing Community Fund does not require amounts to be invested by local governments in affordable housing. The intent of the fund is to support local governments as they build infrastructure that provides services to growing communities, particularly for housing. The province recognizes that housing growth requires important services provided by local governments. In this time of rapid growth and cost inflation, the Growing Communities Fund permits local governments to make their own decisions about what services most need this support. They have significant flexibility to use the funds, as long as the funds are used for infrastructure or related costs and are owned by the local government. Local government ownership is considered crucial to this program as it helps ensure accountability, and the continuity of the maintenance and renewal of the funded infrastructure.

There are other methods with which local governments can support not-for-profits that own or are developing affordable housing. A municipality can provide property tax exemption and waive or reduce development cost charges related to the affordable housing development.

NR57 eGaming Revenue Distribution

Burnaby

Whereas eGaming revenue is increasing as a proportion of overall gaming revenue collected by the Province;

And whereas eGaming revenue is not currently shared with municipalities, unlike casino revenues which are shared with host cities for the purpose of public benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend.

RESPONSE: Crown Agencies Secretariat – Ministry of Finance

The Province uses gambling revenue generated by the BC Lottery Corporation (BCLC) to benefit British Columbians through investments in programs and services such as education and health care.

Every year, local governments and First Nations in BC that host a casino or community gaming centre typically receive a 10 per cent share of net gaming income generated by those facilities. Hosts can use the revenue for any purpose that benefits their local community and must report annually to the Province on the expenditure of these funds.

The Province also shares 7 per cent of BCLC's net income with First Nations through the BC First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership.

Additionally, the Province provides annual funding for eligible programs through the community gaming grants program to community groups anywhere in BC.

The Province is not contemplating a change to the distribution of online gaming revenue at this time.

NR58 BC Hydro Beautification Grant

Lake Country

Whereas BC Hydro suspended their Beautification Program in July 2022 which provided financial assistance for relocating electrical services to underground facilities;

And whereas overhead electrical services are vulnerable to wildlife interference or emergency events such as fire; require space within municipalities limited right of way area which conflicts with municipal infrastructure, cause barriers to creating active transportation improvements and limit greening projects such as street trees;

And whereas costs to convert overhead electrical services to underground facilities have become unsustainable for taxpayers in local government to carry alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reinstate the BC Hydro Beautification Program funding to support local governments in moving overhead electrical services to underground facilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

BC Hydro's Beautification Program was established in 1972 to address concerns about the appearance of BC Hydro's infrastructure in high visibility community locations. The Program provided financial assistance to municipal governments for converting overhead services to underground to enhance and improve the use of public spaces. Past projects were completed in high traffic areas and community venues such as town centres, parks, commercial districts, civic facilities, and bike lanes in communities throughout the province.

While beautification projects can appear to be relatively simple undertakings, they typically present unique complexities in terms of preliminary and final cost estimates and technical challenges related to the overall scope of a project. Due to project complexity, BC Hydro typically assigned these projects to the most experienced system designers.

Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in demand for new customer connections for commercial operations, big box stores, housing developments and industrial parks/subdivisions throughout the province. At the same time, in some regions, BC Hydro has lost highly specialized design staff due to a competitive job market. As a result, there have been delays in connecting new customers.

BC Hydro temporarily suspended the Beautification Program in July 2022 to assign the highly skilled and experienced designers to new service connections and to refocus its technical resources on the unprecedented demands for new electrical service connections across the province. The program remains suspended by BC Hydro due to the ongoing pressures on technical resources. New designers are being hired to bolster the interconnection teams.

NR61 Agri-Industrial Activities

Abbotsford

Whereas the BC Food Security Task Force recommended in 2019 that the Province allocate up to a quarter of a percent (0.25%) of the ALR be made available for agri-industrial activities and establish a commissioner for agri-industrial lands;

And whereas creating a dedicated area for agri-industrial activity will give businesses in food and agritech a strategic opportunity to support the modernization of agriculture and enhance food security;

And whereas local governments are unable to consider pilot projects that align with this concept:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of BC to provide an opportunity for communities to pilot agritech opportunities in alignment with the BC Food Security Task Force Findings and Recommendations report.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Government is committed to enhancing food security in B.C., in addition to supporting the province's agricultural sector through its adoption of agritech. Government believes that integrating new technologies can lower costs, increase productivity, and improve overall agricultural quality, competitiveness, and sustainability.

There are no restrictions on using agritech for food production on the ALR, including the use of robotics and drones. Government further clarified this through the 2022 amendment of the ALR Use Regulation, which explicitly made it clear that vertical farming operations (controlled environment structures) are permitted on the ALR. Further, if an activity is not permitted by ALR regulations, an owner can work with their local government to submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Commission to seek approval for the activity.

Local governments are encouraged to review industrial lands that are currently adjacent to agricultural lands to determine whether they can be intensified or reallocated for agritech use, such as reducing parking lot requirements.

Local governments may also wish to consider conducting industrial land use inventories to review how much industrial land currently exists, what it is being used for, and if any portion could be reallocated for agritech use.

Government has undertaken various other initiatives that support the growth of the agritech sector. For example, the Agritech Concierge was introduced in March 2021, offering a suite of services to help industry members navigate potential land opportunities, attract investment capital, and connect with Government. Another example is the Government's \$6.5 million investment to establish the B.C. Centre for Agritech Innovation in September 2022 to bring together partners in academia, government, and industry to scale up and commercialize technologies that respond to the needs of the agriculture industry. Government is eager to continue exploring how agritech initiatives can contribute to the competitiveness and sustainability of the agricultural sector.

NR62 Prioritizing Local Governments in the Provincial Land Acquisition Process

Houston

Whereas local governments are currently not prioritized in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process that matches ministry and agency demands with existing surplus properties during the Provincial land disposition process;

And whereas the opportunity to access lands that are being disposed by the Provincial Government would further the ability of local governments to pursue community planning, economic diversification, and asset management efforts within their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to consider and prioritize local governments **and** Indigenous governments in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process when lands are being disposed of in communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens' Services

Planning in government focuses on the provision of public services to achieve a variety of social and economic goals as defined by government. To advance this goal, ministries are tasked with providing for economic, efficient and effective use of resources including land required to deliver services to people across the province.

Ministry planning processes and activities are conducted in accordance with legislation and Treasury Board policy. The Ministry of Citizens' Services' (CITZ) Surplus Properties Program helps ministries and broader public sector entities achieve their planning obligations and matches provincial service needs with existing provincial lands.

Following a needs assessment, which may confirm a property's surplus status, CITZ's Surplus Properties Program guides ministries on consultation with First Nations and local governments. Ministries are directed as part of their due diligence process to ensure the local municipalities are made aware of any potential disposition and are provided an opportunity to express interest in the surplus property.

The sale of 2145 Butler Avenue, Houston is a good example of the Surplus Properties Program process. Following a needs assessment and First Nation consultation, CITZ engaged with District of Houston staff to facilitate a direct sale of the surplus property to the municipality in June 2023.

NR63 Registering Fees on Title

Fort St. John

Whereas local area service and latecomer fees are not registered on certificates of title and this has caused issues for realtors and new home buyers who may be unaware of these costs until they receive their property tax notice;

And whereas the disclosure of these costs on title provides disclosure to future property owners and protects taxpayers from unknown costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province currently has no intention of examining this issue.

Latecomer agreements are provided for in the *Local Government Act* (LGA), which is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Currently, the Act does not provide for the registration of latecomer agreements in the land title register.

The Land Titles and Survey Authority (LTSA) operates and maintains the BC's land title register in accordance with provincial legislation. It is the lack of legislative requirement for the registration of latecomer agreements, rather than electronic filing requirements, that prevents the LTSA from accepting and registering such agreements.

The public policy implications of registering such agreements against titles are significant. A primary concern is that no other development-related charges are registered on title.

NR64 Removal of Racist and Discriminatory Clauses from BC Land Titles

Courtenay

Whereas there are documents and covenants attached to parcels of land throughout the province that are rooted in racism and discrimination;

And whereas the cost to remove racist documents and covenants from land titles is born by the property owners:

Therefore be it resolved be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province instruct the Land Titles Office to eliminate any charges to landowners wishing to remove these offensive clauses and restrictions from their titles, and further request the Land Titles Office conduct an audit of land titles and systematically remove racist and discriminatory covenants and documents.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

Discriminating covenants are not enforceable. If a landowner has questions about discriminating covenants or would like to initiate the process to have an endorsement made on an existing land title record noting that the covenant is void and of no effect, the landowner should contact the Registrar of Land Titles at the LTSA. This service is free. When contacted by a landowner, the Registrar will make an endorsement by the covenant indicating that it has been cancelled pursuant to section 222 of the *Land Title Act*.

Because the Registrar is prohibited under the Land Title Act from erasing or rendering illegible the original words on a record, the words are struck through so that it is more apparent on the face of a record that the discriminating language is void. The LTSA has made sustained efforts to amend records over the years; however, with millions of both physical and digital documents the effort to identify documents with discriminating clauses is ongoing.

Most recently, the LTSA has engaged with Simon Fraser University to explore other techniques which assist in identifying occurrences of these covenants. The Ministry of Forests continues to work with the LTSA on this issue and is monitoring the progress on the digital scanning project.

NR65 Public Notification for Rural Subdivision Applications

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure currently does not provide policy guidance to provincial approving officers regarding criteria for determining when to engage in a process of public notification or consultation on rural subdivision applications;

And whereas concerns have been expressed about lack of public consultation and consideration for sufficient water supply where a significant subdivision application is being considered by the Provincial Approving Officer in a rural neighbourhood:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to revise its policies, processes, and guidance documents to require the Approving Officer to provide notification to owners and occupiers of land which may potentially be impacted by a subdivision.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Provincial Approving Officers' (PAOs) responsibilities are dictated by the *Land Title Act*, which does not include public consultation requirements. However, the *Local Government Act* does provide the ability for local governments to create bylaws regulating the subdivision of land and zoning, including consultation requirements.

Such bylaws may require subdivision applicants to publicly advertise and/or present their proposal at formal community meetings. If applicable bylaws have been enacted, PAOs are required to confirm that they have been met by the applicant prior to subdivision approval. PAOs also refer all subdivision applications under review to the relevant local government, prompting responses which may include community-based concerns in addition to bylaw requirements. Anyone impacted by a proposed subdivision may write to the deciding PAO to have their concerns considered.

The Ministry's Senior Manager of Development Services, Ryan Evanoff, would be pleased to discuss this item in more detail. He can be reached at 778 974-2634, or by email at Ryan.Evanoff@gov.bc.ca.

Whereas provincial legislation enabled the issuing of Crown-grant mineral claims from the mid-1800s until approximately 1960, and then the *Mineral Tenure Act* enabled miners to stake mineral claims on private property (entitling miners to prospect, explore, locate, mine and produce minerals, notwithstanding any negative impact of such activities on the rights of private property owners);

And whereas Section 19 of the *Mineral Tenure Act* relates to “Right of entry on private land and compensation” and sets out a process for resolving disputes involving private property owners and miners undertaking mining activities on private property but does not specifically reference Crown-granted mineral claims, and the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia’s interpretation is that it has no jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown- granted mineral claims:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Mineral Tenure Act* to clarify that the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia has jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Modernizing BC’s *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA) is a longstanding priority for the province and First Nations. Modernization will focus on aligning the MTA with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. It will also encompass opportunities to optimize the legislation to support the ongoing vitality of BC’s mining sector through responsible regulation and greater certainty for First Nations, industry, and the public.

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) is leading establishing the process and approach for engagement on MTA reforms. Ultimately, modernization will include opportunities for dialogue around all aspects of the MTA.

NR67 Cost Recovery from Upper Watersheds/Private Managed Forest Lands to Support Watershed Stewardship and Climate Change Mitigation

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the Province initiated a review of Private Managed Forest Lands in 2019 to in part encourage sustainable forest management practices including protection of environmental values;

And whereas forest management practices on privately managed forest lands effect downstream communities and can negatively impact the quality and quantity of water and affect ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province partner with local governments to review taxation and cost recovery options from private managed forest lands to support local governments in watershed management and stewardship to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship is currently working to complete the Watershed Security Strategy (WSS), which aims to address issues such as concerns about impacts on drinking water from timber harvesting in watersheds. Once complete, the WSS will be applicable to both private and Crown land and will proactively help to manage water quality and quantity issues.

Following the completion of the WSS, the Ministry of Forests intends to begin Phase II of the Private Managed Forest Land Review. The review will examine how well the Program meets its goals of encouraging participating private landowners to manage their lands for long-term forest production, to encourage sustainable management practices and protect shared public environmental values and will include opportunities for improvement in the future so that environmental impacts are minimized.

Local governments currently have the authority to set tax rates as they see appropriate to meet local goals.

NR68 Public Lake Access

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas requirements for highway access to water is legislatively required for subdivisions that border a body of water and these accesses become the responsibility of the Province under the *Transportation Act*;

And whereas many of these highway access points on Crown Land have organically developed into public access points such as boat launches which the public desires use of;

And whereas the Province does not maintain these access points and the public continues to express their concern for lack of maintenance to local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province recognize these highway access points established under provincial legislation as official public access points and that the Province maintain these sites to provide the public with access to British Columbia's lakes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognizes the importance of public access to bodies of water and the maintenance of these accesses. However, the ministry is responsible for the maintenance and operation of highway networks, not the administration of water accesses, like public pathways.

All legally surveyed highway dedications, created via subdivision or otherwise, are currently legally recognized and there is no distinction between a highway dedication used for a constructed roadway and a highway dedication created/used for water access. There is no special classification of 'water access highway dedication'.

These access locations can be better managed by local government business units such as parks departments, additionally Ministry district staff have found issuing Licenses of Occupation with local governments to be very successful.

NR69 Vacant Property Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties

New Westminster

Whereas the Province has adopted vacancy taxes on vacant residential properties as one tool to assure land speculation does not result in property standing fallow to the detriment of community livability and other goals;

And whereas commercial property values are inflating province-wide, and increasingly face investment speculation resulting in similar underutilization of commercial property in many municipalities across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to provide local governments with an option to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to commercial and industrial properties.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province is committed to working with our local government partners to address speculative investment in property markets.

Designing an authority for a vacant property tax on commercial and industrial properties for local governments would require amendments to the *Community Charter*. As local governments vary in resources and needs, the Province would have to undertake careful consultation and analysis before fully considering such a change.

NR71 Tax Treatment of Farmland in Municipalities

Pemberton

Whereas farmland plays a vital role in supporting local food production, promoting agricultural sustainability, and preserving green spaces within municipalities;

And whereas farmland located within municipal boundaries faces unique challenges and pressures, such as increased property values, limited space, and proximity to urban development, which can hinder its viability and continuity as productive agricultural land;

And whereas equitable tax treatment of farmland, regardless of its location within a municipality, would promote fairness among farmers and reduce barriers to agricultural activity within urbanized areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Government is committed to supporting the contributions of the agriculture industry to sustainability and food security. The legislative requirements for properties to qualify for farm class apply equally across the province. There are no differences in these requirements within and outside of municipal boundaries.

Property tax relief is provided by regulating farmland values that are much lower than market. To qualify for farm class, a minimum annual gross income threshold of \$2,500 must be met which applies to any rural or urban property of 0.8 hectares (2 acres) or larger. Smaller lots must meet a higher income threshold of \$10,000.

Farm building (barns, equipment storage and production facilities) assessments are also reduced by up to 87.5 per cent. The tax rates applied to farmlands are set by the taxing jurisdictions: municipalities have the discretion to set lower or higher rates as deemed necessary. The tax rate for farm class in rural areas is set by the province. Farmer's residences are taxed at the residential tax rates.

The Ministry of Finance confers regularly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to consider farm assessments and taxation and notes that urban farm operations are an important component of the farming industry and will be reviewed in any future discussions.

NR72 Deferment Program for Local Government Parcel Taxes and Utility Fees

Sechelt

Whereas parcel taxes and utility fees have risen substantially in recent years, adding to the increased cost of living for British Columbians;

And whereas eligible property owners can defer their property taxes under a provincial deferment program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The province understands that the rising cost of living is putting a strain on household finances and that some property owners need help to reduce their tax burdens. The province offers property tax relief to eligible homeowners through various programs, such as the home owner grant, the low-income grant supplement program, and the property tax deferment program.

The property tax deferment program is a provincial program that helps seniors and families with dependent children stay in their homes by providing a low interest loan to help pay the annual property taxes on their principal residences. The province is not actively considering an expansion of the property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

NR73 Tax Sale Cost Recovery

Slocan

Whereas the *Local Government Act* regulates municipal actions for the recovery of unpaid property taxes by means of annual municipal tax sale, and sets out the terms to which a property owner may redeem a property sold at the annual tax sale;

And whereas Section 660(3) of the *Local Government Act* regulates the amounts that must be collected, for a property owner to redeem a property sold at tax sale:

- a) The upset price of the parcel at the time of the tax sale;
- b) Costs incurred by the purchaser, with relation to the property;
- c) Taxes paid by the purchaser; and
- d) Interest to the date of redemption.;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* currently does not have a system of recovery for administrative costs associated to the annual municipal tax sale;

And whereas the tax sale process can be demanding on small rural communities with decreased budget and decreased staff capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the regulations in the *Local Government Act*, to allow for a system of recovery for administrative costs and other expenses in relation to the annual municipal tax sale.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Section 649 of the *Local Government Act* allows municipalities to recover an administrative fee for tax sales. The definition of upset price includes the addition of a five percent fee to the total property taxes outstanding (current taxes plus interest and penalties) at the time of tax sale. That amount is kept by the municipality as a source of revenue to recover the costs of administering the tax sale. The province appreciates that tax sale is a complicated process.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is preparing expanded guidance for municipalities on the tax sale process and methods to ensure that delinquent property taxes are paid so that fewer properties must proceed to tax sale.

NR74 Provincial Sales Tax on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems

Dawson Creek

Whereas in 2022 the BC Government initiated a Provincial Sales Tax increase of an extra 5% to be paid on all Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems for heating homes including: central forced air furnaces, unit heaters, fireplaces, boilers, storage water heaters, instantaneous water heaters, air conditioners and all replacement parts for said heating systems or similar systems to those listed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to exempt those who live in the northern regions of British Columbia from paying the Provincial Sales Tax surcharge of 5% on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems in consideration of the climate in this geographical area and the inefficiencies of electric heat pumps in heating northern homes when temperatures drop to -20 degrees Celsius or below.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

As of April 1, 2022, heat pumps are exempt from provincial sales tax (PST) and the PST on fossil fuel combustion systems that heat or cool buildings or water increased by 5 percentage points, from 7 per cent to 12 per cent. These tax changes incentivize switching a building from a fossil fuel heating system to a heat pump, which can help reduce the cost for people to make a shift that will save them money over the longer term while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The PST increase applies to high-efficiency gas appliances. While high-efficiency fossil fuel-powered appliances convert more fuel to heat than older appliances, they still have significant greenhouse gas emissions. For an average residential home, switching from a high-efficiency gas furnace to a heat pump can result in a reduction of approximately 1.6 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year.

The change in PST rates is consistent with commitments in the CleanBC Roadmap such as the phase out of utility incentives for conventional gas-fired heating equipment, and the requirement that by 2030, all new space and water heating equipment be at least 100 per cent efficient. The PST changes are in addition to the rebates offered by the Province – including top-ups for northern and rural communities – and the federal and local governments. Heat pump technology has progressed in recent years, with even the government of the Yukon Territories promoting the use of heat pumps and offering rebates.

Of note, the PST exemption for heat pumps is not strictly for electric heat pumps and includes heat pumps that function in various climates (including cold climates) – the exemption includes:

- Electric heat pumps;
- Renewable fuel-powered heat pumps;
- Fossil fuel-powered heat pumps; and
- Hybrid heat pumps are single factory-integrated units that combine a heat pump and a furnace, boiler, water heater, or similar system.

NR75 Increasing the Existing Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Volunteers

Nanaimo RD

Whereas British Columbia's volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members play a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of British Columbians, often risking their own lives in dangerous and unpredictable conditions and often contributing their own financial resources to purchase equipment;

And whereas the current tax credit of \$3,000 for volunteers who provide at least 200 hours of volunteer service to a volunteer fire department, an eligible search and rescue organization, or a combination of both, is a small amount on a per hour basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to increase the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Each year, the government reviews provincial taxes and considers changes in preparation of the provincial budget. The government then implements tax changes that it considers appropriate within the context of the Province's fiscal situation and other priorities. The UBCM's call for the Province of British Columbia to increase the existing tax credit for search and rescue and volunteer firefighters from \$3,000 to \$10,000 will be considered as part of these discussions.

NR76 BC Transit Service Delivery Model Flexibility

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the traditional service delivery models available to local governments through BC Transit do not always meet the needs of rural or smaller communities;

And whereas rural or smaller communities encounter geographical constraints and exhibit lower population densities that create challenges and economical inefficiencies for a conventional transit model:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to provide more flexible and innovative models for service delivery, such as Transit On-Demand, for smaller and rural communities where conventional transit may not be an appropriate service delivery model.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

British Columbians need reliable and affordable transportation to travel for work, to appointments, and to see loved ones. The Ministry is committed to looking for solutions that will maintain and improve inter-city bus and public transportation connections that support British Columbians.

We are supporting and learning from innovative solutions across the province, including the Zunga Bus digital on-demand service in Powell River, and Connected Network trip planning and booking platform in Northern BC. BC Transit is also planning to pilot a Digital on Demand transit service in Kelowna, to launch in spring 2024.

We are interested in learning from these examples to determine if, how and where they could be deployed more broadly.

NR78 Public Transit to Industrial Lands and Business Parks

Delta

Whereas local governments are working to promote the use of public transit and active transportation over traditional automotive commuting;

And whereas industrial areas and business parks are, by design, located some distance away from urban centres and residential areas, and public transit options, such as regular bus services or shuttles, are not provided with the same frequency or convenience for workers in those areas who may have no option but to rely on a single occupancy car to get to and from work:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a comprehensive public transit service plan for industrial lands and business parks to provide better commuting options for workers to those areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Overall, BC's transit authorities work collaboratively with local governments to plan and prioritize transit services. In communities served by BC Transit, decisions on service levels, routes and fares are made by the local government partners based on public feedback and information provided by BC Transit. The provincial government shares the costs of transit services with local governments.

In Metro Vancouver, TransLink serves as an independent authority responsible for planning, financing and managing transportation modes and services in the region. TransLink's regional transportation strategy, *Transport 2050*, outlines the long-range vision for Metro Vancouver to guide transportation decisions for the next three decades. *Transport 2050* identifies actions to provide more convenient and reliable transportation connections, including to industrial lands and business centres. This will help foster job growth and economic development across the region — connecting workers with access to more jobs and connecting businesses with more markets and access to a broader labour force. The Province was a senior partner in the development of *Transport 2050* and will continue to work with TransLink to deliver on this strategy.

NR80.1 Zero Emission Vehicles

Kitimat

Whereas the provincial government plans to require only zero emission vehicle sales in British Columbia by 2040;

And whereas northern and rural communities may not have the necessary infrastructure, capacity building ability, and related upgrades necessary to support the province's objective for zero emission vehicles:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to recognize the challenges in northern British Columbia and outline their plan for supporting capacity building, improved infrastructure and other upgrades in northern British Columbia to meet zero emission vehicle sales targets.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Government recently introduced amendments to the *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act* to accelerate new light-duty vehicle sales targets - 26% zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) in 2026, 90% in 2030, and 100% in 2035. British Columbians are already adopting ZEVs at high rates, across all regions of B.C. ZEVs use cleaner energy, improve air quality, and cost dramatically less over time to fuel and operate. The ZEV Act amendments will help ensure automakers are providing these vehicles to B.C. for British Columbians. The Province's suite of complementary Go Electric programs help make ZEVs more affordable for British Columbians, and help spur investment in outreach, infrastructure, skills training, and economic development in the growing ZEV sector.

To support this transition to ZEVs in northern British Columbia:

- The Province is investing in capacity building programs such as the Go Electric Emotive and Community Outreach Incentive Program, and training for upskilling of automotive technicians. For example, Go Electric outreach funding has supported videos on ZEV performance in northern climates and ride-and-drive events throughout northern B.C. Seven colleges around the province now offer training on ZEVs for automotive technicians, including the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, and the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook.
- In the Roadmap to 2030, the Province committed to complete the Electric Highway in 2024, enabling ZEVs to travel every highway and major road in the province. Approximately 72% of the Electric Highway is now complete, and plans are in place for the remaining stations to be complete in 2024.
- The Province is also working with other levels of government, utilities, and industry to meet the Roadmap goal to have 10,000 public charging stations across the province by 2030.
- Lastly, in response to input received from northern communities, the ZEV Act also allows for the sale of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, providing an option to British Columbians for whom range and charging might still be barriers.

NR81 Fuel Pricing

Revelstoke

Whereas in November of 2019 the BC government introduced the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* to help bring transparency to transportation fuel pricing in the province;

And whereas resulting BC Utilities Commission studies and data collection has found higher retail markup margins in specific rural markets, such as in March 2022 the BC Utilities Commission's Exploration Project #3, Retail Margins and Price Factors for Select cities including Golden, Revelstoke, Powell River, Sicamous, Whistler and Squamish, as well as stations in nearby cities found that sampled gas stations in those markets "appeared to earn higher margins on each litre of gasoline sold than the sampled retail stations in Metro Vancouver and the BC average;"

And whereas consumers in these and other rural markets often pay more per litre for transportation fuels such as gasoline and diesel than consumers in Metro Vancouver where there is an additional 18.5 cents per litre TransLink tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to follow through with legislative and/or regulatory action that will provide relief to consumers in rural BC fuel markets that experience chronic unexplained retail transportation fuel markups and higher than average transportation fuel prices.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Since 2019, this Government has taken a series of proactive steps to provide a greater level of transparency to how fuel prices are set around the province.

The *Fuel Price Transparency Act* (FPTA) aims to "look behind the curtain" of the market for gasoline and diesel by collecting information and publishing from companies selling fuel in the province. As administrator of the FPTA, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) has launched and maintains an open and transparent website that provides insights into the various components that make up our fuel prices (the price of crude oil, wholesale margins, retail margins and taxes).

We believe information behind fuel pricing should be available to British Columbians so that companies will be publicly accountable for unexplained markups and cost increases. If the BCUC identifies any egregious market behaviour, Government will review the evidence and take appropriate action to protect British Columbians.

Dedicated motor fuel taxes, which apply in certain regions in the province, go to three organizations: the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority (TransLink); BC Transit; and the BC Transportation Financing Authority. The dedicated tax on clear gasoline and clear diesel fuel sold inside the TransLink region is \$0.185 per litre. Purchasers of gasoline or clear diesel inside the TransLink service area where this dedicated tax applies must pay the fuel levy at the pump.

Prices vary from one region to another for several reasons, including delivery costs, municipal taxes and local competition. Some communities or neighbourhoods have more gas stations than others and this generally helps keep prices lower than in areas with fewer gas stations.

The Province of BC does not regulate the retail price of gasoline or diesel. This means that prices can fluctuate as BC relies on a competitive market to determine the price consumers pay for fuels. There are currently no mechanisms in place in BC through which to regulate the price of gasoline or diesel.

The BCUC is currently undertaking a more detailed analysis beyond the wholesale gasoline market looking at the difference between prices at the pump in relation to retail prices across Canada. We look forward to reviewing this analysis, which is expected to be released in November 2024.

The topic of household energy affordability is a priority for Government. Budget 2023 included a number of affordability measures, including an increase in the Climate Action Tax Credit.

NR82 Bringing Equity to Traffic Enforcement

New Westminster

Whereas the primary deterrent from exceeding speed limits or violating other road safety regulations on municipal roads in British Columbia are fines administered under the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation;

And whereas fixed rate fines are inequitable, disproportionately impacting people with lower incomes while applying lower deterrent value to people with higher incomes, creating a structural inequity in the application of justice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to implement a means-tested traffic fine system, similar to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden or the UK, where fines may be calculated on the basis of the offender's income.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

No Canadian jurisdictions have implemented an income-based traffic fine approach. In Finland, the driver is subjected to a fine that is proportional to what they earn. Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and the UK have similar systems.

Linking a ticket to income would require tying ticketing and licensing systems into Canada Revenue Agency systems which would require significant systems integration and policy work. Implementing a new fine model linking fine amounts to income would require extensive research, including around efficacy and fairness of the scheme, and systems overhaul. Legislative and/or regulatory changes would be required.

Tying ticket value to income may shift the burden from behavioural to monetary consequences. An individual with low income would receive a low fine amount, which may produce low incentive to follow the rules of the road. There is also some evidence from the Netherlands that higher severity traffic penalties, or those that are not perceived to be fair, do not affect the likelihood of reoffending.

Although fixed fines may impact people with lower incomes disproportionately, Driver Penalty Points impact all drivers regardless of income. If drivers accumulate enough Driver Penalty Points, there is intervention through RoadSafetyBC's Driver Improvement Program. This program identifies and intervenes with high-risk drivers through warnings and prohibitions, which incents them to improve their driving habits.

NR83 MOTI Required Highway Upgrades

Cranbrook

Whereas developers may be required to provide offsite improvements such as Arterial Highway intersection upgrades not owned by a municipality as part of their developments;

And whereas the first developer may be required to install upgrades as directed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure which may also be required by subsequent developers for other projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province to create a legislative framework to allow for latecomer charges or similar mechanism to be collected from subsequent developers to be paid to the first developer (or to the Province) who front ends the initial transportation upgrades.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Land development is inherently a local government process, where applications are referred to the Ministry for review/approval as needed when dictated by legislation.

The Ministry is not involved in every land development or land use decision which occurs within a municipality or regional district. As such the Ministry is not in a position to pursue any new legislation regarding this issue.

The recent passing of *Bill 46: Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act* expands development cost charge (DCC) categories to allow local governments to collect for provincial highway infrastructure projects under certain conditions. This may be used by local governments to distribute the cost of necessary upgrades required by development to multiple developers.

Further, as local governments and the Province work together to plan corridors and infrastructure upgrades in advance, there will be opportunities to anticipate transportation requirements. Local governments will be able to plan and distribute the costs of those infrastructure upgrades as needed.

NR84 Building Bylaw Enforcement

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas local governments face building bylaw enforcement challenges, particularly in low density rural areas;

And whereas Technical Safety BC regularly issue electrical, gas and other permits for installations in buildings which are in contravention of local government building bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to require Technical Safety BC to confirm that necessary building permits have been issued prior to the issuance of installation permits.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Government appreciates the importance of building and safety permitting to ensure the safe construction, maintenance, operation, and renovation of buildings. The cooperation and coordination of authorities having jurisdiction is essential so that safety and compliance can be inspected. Making it simple for building owners, developers, and builders to obtain necessary permits to do their work is also important to support the delivery of homes for people.

While building permits are not always required and it is not always feasible to verify the issuance of building permits, the province has and will continue to encourage Technical Safety BC and local governments to share data to support effective administration. Cooperation and coordination between Technical Safety BC and local governments is a way to ensure information about work being done under permits is shared. This way, unpermitted work can be identified and followed up to ensure compliance.

Local governments are encouraged to work with Technical Safety BC to discuss data sharing that may support their work.

NR85 Personal Leaves for Elected Officials

Coquitlam

Whereas Section 125(7) of the *Community Charter* only exempts elected officials from disqualification due to absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled board or council meetings if the absence is due to illness or injury or is with the leave of the council or board, but does not consider diverse realities or lived-experiences such as providing caregiving or compassionate care for loved ones, or parental leave for new parents;

And whereas it is recognized that the current language in the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* do not protect leave rights for elected officials and require local governments to renew leave policies pertaining to elected officials after every new council composition;

And whereas it is recognized that reducing barriers to inclusion in civic governance requires intentional action to recognize diverse lived-experiences:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM encourage the provincial government to amend the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* to guarantee caregiver, compassionate care, and parental leave provisions that would grant elected officials, who must provide support to loved ones or are new parents, an exemption from being disqualified from office for absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled council or board meetings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province recognizes that personal leave is an important action to support diversity and gender equity in local governments.

The legislative framework set out under section 125(7) of the *Community Charter* provides flexibility for elected official needs by authorizing council to approve leave for its members for any matter it deems appropriate. The province is not aware of any elected official being denied leave for a reasonable leave request. The province continues to favour an approach that allows individual communities to determine policies related to various types of leave under the existing legislation, just as local governments determine remuneration and other benefits for local elected officials. In that way, local governments can continue to develop policies that best account for circumstances in their communities.

The province is aware of numerous local governments that have implemented personal leave policies that include accommodation for maternity and parental leave. These policies could be expanded upon to include leave for caregiving or other personal/family matters.

Given the complexities of determining all the possible leave categories at the provincial level, and the existing authority of local governments to determine their own policies, the province is currently not considering establishing statutory minimum entitlements for personal leave for local elected officials.

NR86 Valuation of Major Industrial Properties

Houston

Whereas there is a lack of transparency for how assessed value is calculated for major industrial properties in British Columbia;

And whereas there is a closure allowance for major industrial and electrical properties in British Columbia that allows for the reduction of improvement value to 10% of the cost for major industrial and electrical properties when they cease operations in British Columbia;

And whereas local governments face significant economic and taxation challenges when major industrial and electrical proponents cease operations in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Government is committed to working with BC Assessment and local government partners to further increase understanding of assessment methodologies. Policies for the assessment of major industry properties are readily available from BC Assessment staff and information is also available on their website. Major Industrial property improvements are valued using legislated cost manuals which are based on replacement costs, minus annual depreciation. Moveable equipment in the buildings or service area is exempt from assessment. Land is valued using comparable sales data on vacant properties.

Government recognizes that the closure of a major industry operation can have significant economic and taxation impacts on communities, particularly on smaller communities that rely on the operation for a large proportion of revenues. It is important, however, to fairly recognize the assessment and property taxation regime in the province that is based on fair and equitable property valuations.

Government will continue to work with any impacted local governments to identify alternate programs to assist losses of property tax revenues due to the closure of major industry operations.

NR87 Foreign Worker Program

Fort St. John

Whereas employers in all sectors across the province are experiencing labour shortages and face challenges filling vacancies with foreign workers;

And whereas the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program Rural Renewal Stream enables local governments to work directly with their business communities promoting a streamlined path for skilled and unskilled workers to enter the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to create an economic immigration program that enables local governments to streamline application and approval to allow foreign workers to work in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs welcomes the opportunity to connect with local governments and explore options to address workforce challenges through the province's economic immigration program, the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP), which allows the province to select a limited number of prospective immigrants to meet local labour market needs and nominate them for permanent residence.

Immigration to regions outside of Metro Vancouver Regional District is a ministry priority which is why the program has taken additional steps in the BC PNP to achieve a target of at least 30 percent of nominees settling outside Metro Vancouver, including recently implementing changes to the program to increase opportunities for workers with job offers in regional communities outside of Metro Vancouver to apply for nomination.

Staff are available to explore expanding the collaboration to attract international workers to local governments

NR88 Expediting Forestry Approvals

Merritt

Whereas rural communities across British Columbia have historic and ongoing cultural and economic connections to forest and timber industries;

And whereas the closure of major employers such as mills can affect not only the immediately laid-off workers, but their families, and the economic viability of the entire community;

And whereas the Province of BC has committed to multi-million dollar funds such as the Rural Economic Development Fund and the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund;

And whereas spending from these funds can be avoided if rural areas do not lose jobs unnecessarily:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the Province of BC to streamline and expedite the necessary approvals for forestry practices, including cutting permits (CPs), annual allowable cut (AAC), and necessary First Nations consultation within BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and to strictly follow stated approval timelines.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Forests is focused on supporting a strong economy and with offices located in small communities across the province there is a high degree of awareness of the importance of the forest economy, stewardship values and the importance of meaningful reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

It is also recognized that forests in the interior of BC have been impacted by large scale mountain pine beetle epidemics, catastrophic wildfires and in some locations atmospheric river events and recurrent droughts, all of which have led to concerns with cumulative effects on many stewardship values.

The Ministry continues to work closely with communities to ensure that forest harvesting can be done in ways that are seen to be sustainable and respectful of the many interests in our provincial forests. Of particular interest is the opportunity to work across communities to develop Forest Landscape Planning that can provide better confidence in forest management outcomes and more timely and predictable forest authorization timelines.

NR89 BC Affordable, Net Zero, Offsite Wood Housing Industrial Development

Quesnel

Whereas BC has yet to develop an effective strategy to address the biggest constraint on new housing supply—our shrinking construction labour force—and offsite wood frame and mass timber construction has potential to deliver improvements of up to 50% labour productivity, 50% construction time and 20% cost savings, net zero and low embodied carbon construction and secure jobs in forest dependent and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the greatest barrier to expanding offsite construction is insufficient market demand from public and private project developers unfamiliar with this novel approach and there are hundreds of strategically located, public land parcels with underutilized land that can be used to cost effectively build affordable housing and grow a predictable pipeline of projects to mobilize investment in manufacturing plant expansion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls on the Government of BC to collaborate with diverse sectors to establish a BC-based Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and steadily grow demand and capacity by working with interested public sector organizations to use offsite construction to build, permanently affordable, zero carbon housing on underutilized public land close to jobs and services;

And be it further resolved that UBCM works with the BC Government to develop an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program with voluntary municipal actions that aggregate demand like pre-approved designs, zoning and permits for different housing types; and voluntary actions for other sectors like developers, builders, school boards, health authorities and forestry companies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing

Innovation in the construction sector is a key strategy in BC's *Homes for People* action plan. This means embracing new technologies like digital permitting, mass timber and prefabrication to cut down on construction times, on-site labour needs and reduce carbon emissions. The Province continues to work with industry and other partners to implement the Mass Timber Action Plan so that BC stays a leader in mass timber manufacturing, design, and construction. The Mass Timber Action Plan is helping create new economic opportunities, growth, and innovation in all parts of the province.

A key component of BC Builds, a new program to be launched early 2024, is supporting innovation in the construction industry. The Ministry of Housing has initiated work to create standardized building designs and is exploring processes to help shift construction into high-tech offsite housing manufacturing. The Province sees offsite manufacturing as an important strategy for addressing labour force constraints in the construction industry, as well as a necessary consideration for driving housing supply.

NR90 Exemptions for Elections Workers

Burnaby

Whereas there is no exemption under the *Employment Standards Act* for temporary municipal election workers hired to work on advance and general voting days;

And whereas the provincial government has an exemption from Part 4 of the *Employment Standards Act* relating to hours of work and overtime, and is therefore not required to meet these legislative requirements for temporary election workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to provide to local governments an exemption from Part 4 (Hours of Work and Overtime) of the *Employment Standards Act*, except Section 39 which refers to excessive hours of work, as it would relate to temporary election workers during the local government elections and by- elections.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Labour

Section 35.1 of the Employment Standards Regulation exempts workers appointed under the BC *Election Act* from Part 4 of the *Employment Standards Act*, which deals with hours of work and overtime. However, they are not exempt from the provision prohibiting an employer from requiring a worker to work excessive hours (section 39 of Part 4).

The exemption was established in 2008 based on engagement and input from *Elections BC*, detailing the specific circumstances of workers appointed under the BC *Election Act* in relation to provincial elections.

The Ministry of Labour is open to considering requests made by the UBCM or its members to extend a similar exemption to specified municipal workers. Such requests should set out the rationale for the requested exemption, along with the scope, impacts and implications of providing the requested exemption.

NR92 Provincial Sales Tax Levied on Private Used Vehicle Sales

Cariboo RD

Whereas used vehicle sales are an economical and affordable means of attaining motor vehicle ownership for drivers of all income levels, skills, abilities, and ages, where consideration of the vehicle's actual condition, previous use, and costs of functional repairs can be reflected in a final sales price;

And whereas the Province has revised how Provincial Sales Tax is calculated on the sale of used vehicles, resulting in a disconnect between the real market value of used vehicles and the estimated values used to determine taxable value, making vehicle ownership increasingly unaffordable for British Columbians while unduly increasing tax revenues for the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial Ministry of Finance to discontinue the use of the Canadian Black Book as a means of determining the taxable value for used vehicles sales, and return to using the actual sale price of the used vehicle being sold when determining Provincial Sales Tax payable.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Provincial sales tax (PST) has always been applied to privately purchased vehicles, including used vehicles. Applying PST to these sales helps prevent the tax system from influencing the marketplace for vehicles – for instance, by creating disincentives to purchase from motor vehicle dealers. However, PST does not apply on the sale or transfer of a vehicle in certain circumstances, such as when an individual receives the vehicle as a gift from a related individual.

As part of *Budget 2022*, government announced that, effective October 1, 2022, PST on vehicles purchased in private sales will be based on the greater of the reported purchase price and the average wholesale value of the vehicle according to an industry standard price guide. The Canadian Black Book is used for the purposes of determining the average wholesale value. This change is intended to address tax compliance issues arising from the underreporting of the purchase price of privately purchased vehicles. The average wholesale value of a vehicle is less than its fair market value to a consumer and should be less than the reported purchase price in most circumstances.

Vehicles sold at a private sale in BC are much more likely to have a declared purchase price that is significantly less than the average wholesale value. This is not a new issue, with the Province making administrative changes over time to address tax compliance on private vehicle sales starting in 2014. These changes did not materially reduce the occurrence of underreporting purchase prices for vehicles, and as a result this further change was needed. We acknowledge there are situations where a vehicle's value would be less than the wholesale value due to its mileage or need for repairs. To account for this, individuals can reduce the tax payable by obtaining an appraisal. If the appraised value is less than the average wholesale value, PST will be payable on the greater of the reported purchase price and the appraised value. The appraisal form can be provided to the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia when the vehicle is registered or submitted to the government with a refund request up to 30 days after the vehicle is registered.

These changes from *Budget 2022* bring the Province into line with what most other provinces are already doing to address the intentional underreporting of sale prices, which is estimated to represent more than \$30 million each year.