

SECTION B RESOLUTIONS

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

Section B contains those resolutions which will not automatically be entered for debate but **may be brought to the Convention floor with the approval of the delegates after all resolutions in Section A have been considered.**

The amended UBCM Executive policies on resolutions state that SECTION B will be divided into three categories and shall be brought to the Convention floor with the approval of the delegates after all resolutions in Section A have been considered. Such resolutions are prefixed B and are printed in the second section of the Resolutions Book.

- Part I - Resolutions to be Considered as a Block
 - previously considered and endorsed resolutions;
 - resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy; or
 - other major previously approved policy papers/ documents.

- Part II and Part III - Resolutions for Individual Consideration
 - resolutions on topics not previously considered;
 - previously considered but not endorsed resolutions;
 - topics of local or regional significance;
 - topics of national significance and recommended, as appropriate, for consideration by FCM.

The Resolutions Committee has discretion in classifying these resolutions as:

- Part II: those issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government.
- Part III: those resolutions on matters of interest to local communities that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

Resolutions under this category that have not been debated by the Convention will be submitted to the Executive for appropriate action [note that the recommendation is printed in the Resolutions Book] and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

SECTION B - PART I

Resolutions to be Considered as a Block

This section contains resolutions that:

- have been previously considered and endorsed; or
- are in keeping with UBCM General Policy or other major previously approved policy documents.

After consideration of Section A resolutions, a spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

“SHALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR PART I - B RESOLUTIONS BE ADOPTED?”

If the motion is approved by delegates, all Part I - Section B resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated / discussed individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider a resolution. Such a motion would be:

“I MOVE THAT RESOLUTION B(x) BE REMOVED FROM THE BLOCK AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FOR DEBATE.”

Such a motion would be introduced as an amendment to the general motion stated above.

If the motion were approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion was decided.

SECTION BI

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B1 MUNICIPAL BYLAW FINES

Courtenay

WHEREAS municipalities lack the legislative tools to adequately deal with certain types of problem properties and the collection of outstanding municipal fines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia amend the *Community Charter* to provide municipalities other methods of collecting outstanding Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) tickets including applying outstanding fines to property taxes.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions concerning the need to develop a more effective and efficient bylaw fines collection process (2007-B81; 2003-A3; 2002-B5; 2000-B17; 1999-B5; 1995-B76).

Currently, local governments are entitled to recover special unpaid fees, charges or amounts as taxes only if they are imposed for work done or services provided to land and improvements. However, an MTI ticket is a penalty issued against a person due to his or her personal actions or individual fault, not against a property. The provincial government has indicated a reluctance to apply MTI tickets to property taxes. This is because a principle of the property tax system is that it should be used to collect fines only as cost recovery for work or service on a property, carried out by the local government to effect compliance with its bylaws.

Conference decision: _____

B2 COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS in response to requests for more police presence in our communities, local governments are frequently told that case preparation and court time for minor offences reduce the time available;

AND WHEREAS local governments are called on increasingly to provide funding for victim services and restorative justice programs which help reduce the case management and court attendance time for police staff;

AND WHEREAS despite these efforts by communities the court system requires increasing attendance by police staff:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government find more efficient and effective ways to address delays in the court system in order to reduce the administration impact on police services and thereby improve overall police services to our communities.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the development of a more efficient and effective court system to improve policing in the community has been a long-standing concern of local government (2008-B4, 2007-B88, 2007-B3, 2006-B10, 2005-B2, 2004-B104, 2000-B53, 1991-B35).

Conference decision: _____

B3 FLOOD PROTECTION MANAGEMENT IN BC

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS as a result of the 2007 spring freshet flood threat, the Premier announced a long-term Flood Protection Program of \$100 million over ten years, which when matched by the federal government, was to provide \$20 million annually to 100% fund flood protection works in BC;

AND WHEREAS the Flood Protection Program was again applied in 2008, the second year of the program; but in 2009 the program has been shifted to the Building Canada Fund that requires a one third local financial contribution to projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strongly request the BC government to continue its commitment to fund priority flood protection works in BC without requiring a local financial contribution that is typically well beyond the means of those threatened by the flood hazard.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has endorsed several previous resolutions that supported federal and provincial government funding for flood hazard protection (2002-B16; 2001-B26; 2000-B24; 2000-LR24).

The Premier at the 2007 UBCM Convention announced a 10-year \$100 million British Columbia Flood Protection Program. The province provided approximately \$10 million to local governments for 40 flood protection projects in the 2007/08 fiscal year and will provide a further \$10 million in funding in the current fiscal year. UBCM requested matching funding from the federal government for flood protection works, and the federal government announced in May 2008 that it would provide \$60 million for flood hazard management from the Building Canada fund, with the aim of matching the provincial contribution to flood protection. The federal and provincial governments have expressed intent to require that flood protection initiatives be cost shared between the three levels of government.

Conference decision: _____

B4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS illegal drug production and sales negatively impact communities and cause economic harm to residents, businesses and local governments;

AND WHEREAS the *Civil Forfeiture Act* enables the provincial government to seize assets purchased with the proceeds of crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be lobbied to enact legislation that expands on the *Civil Forfeiture Act*, to allow local governments to share in the proceeds from property seized due to the cultivation and / or production of illegal substances on the premises or to acquire such property for community purposes at no cost.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed previous resolutions on sharing the proceeds of crime (2004-A1; 2003-B3; 2000-B8; 1998-B2; 1992-B58; 1991-B1). The issue of sharing the proceeds of crime is a long standing concern and the UBCM Community Safety Committee has brought it to the attention of the federal and provincial government on a number of occasions.

The Committee would note that proceeds of crime funds are limited. With federal prosecutions, the federal government provides the Province with a share of the proceeds of crime using the sharing formula in place. In recent years the federal government has shared only a limited amount of funding.

Conference decision: _____

B5 FIRE UNDERWRITERS STUDY

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS the Fire Underwriters have a great deal of influence over the operation and cost of fire services in British Columbia through their determination of operational guidelines required to achieve beneficial insurance ratings;

AND WHEREAS getting timely advice from the Fire Underwriters is impossible to receive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to provide authority and resources to the Office of the Fire Commissioner so that they can through research, advice and recommendations, assist fire services with meeting the requirements and guidelines of the Fire Underwriters.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide authority and resources to the Office of the Fire Commissioner in order for the office to assist fire services with meeting the requirements and guidelines of the Fire Underwriters.

However, members have endorsed resolutions raising issues with how the Fire Underwriters Survey works, specifically requesting an appeal process for the Fire Protection Assessment Report (2008-B60); a review of fire truck standards and retirement guidelines (1999-B6, 1995-B72); and a review of the "five mile radius" rule (1994-B19).

In its response to resolution 2008-B60, the Province clarified the role of the Office of the Fire Commissioner, pointing out that the office “has no responsibility or influence on the content of the Fire Underwriters Survey, nor the determinations made with respect to the use of those determinations by the member companies of the Insurance Bureau of Canada who subscribe to this service.”

There is currently a review underway on the future delivery of fire services in the province and the issue of fire service underwriting has been raised.

Conference decision: _____

B6 PST EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the provincial government provides a provincial sales tax exemption for individuals purchasing work-related safety equipment; however no corresponding exemption applies to volunteer search and rescue organizations for the purchase of critical equipment and supplies such as rescue vehicles, rescue apparatus, and search and rescue supplies;

AND WHEREAS these organizations provide a vital service to rural BC and rely heavily on fund raising initiatives to purchase the equipment and supplies required to provide this service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue to provide an exemption from provincial sales tax for search and rescue equipment and supplies for volunteer search and rescue organizations within the province.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide exemption from provincial sales tax for search and rescue equipment and supplies for volunteer search and rescue organizations.

However, UBCM members have previously endorsed related resolutions seeking a PST exemption for the purchase of fire trucks and other life-saving equipment (2005-B14; 2003-B14) and for the purchase of fire protection equipment and supplies for fire departments (2007-B22; 2001-B23).

In its response to resolution 2007-B22, the Province stated that sales tax exemptions “make the tax system more complicated for business and could ultimately reduce the effectiveness of the tax as an important provincial revenue source.”

Conference decision: _____

B7 FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAMS Trail

WHEREAS community accountability programs provide timely alternative and cost effective means in promoting restorative justice and preventing offending behaviour in low risk youth and adult offenders;

AND WHEREAS community accountability programs receive insufficient funding from the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General to provide an adequate level of funding for community accountability programs throughout the province at a level that provides for sustainability of the ongoing operation expenses of these programs.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide sustainable funding for restorative justice programs (2008-B4, 2007-B3, 2006-B10, 2003-B2, 2001-B10, 2000-B7).

In its response to resolution 2008-B4, the Province re-iterated its support for restorative justice programs through the Community Accountability Program. The Province pointed out that "these programs are also eligible to apply for project funding under the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Crime Remediation Grant Funding Program."

See also resolutions C3 and C4.

Conference decision: _____

B8 FLOOD MITIGATION AND DYKE REPAIRS

Salmo

WHEREAS repairs to dykes and work in the streambed in order to prevent flood damage are best done at low water;

AND WHEREAS local governments are forced to wait for the Provincial Emergency Preparedness Program to declare an emergency before reacting to flood situations and dyke repairs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to allow proactive and cooperative solutions to flood mitigation and dyke repairs.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting specifically that the Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans allow proactive and cooperative solutions to flood mitigation and dyke repairs. However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting flood mitigation funding and programs (2008-B14, 2007-A1, 2003-B21, 1994-B33).

Conference decision: _____

B9 PERMANENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESPONSE FUNDING PROGRAM Keremeos

WHEREAS substance abuse and the production of illegal substances is a serious problem in British Columbia resulting in enormous emotional, financial and social costs; and

WHEREAS the Methamphetamine Response Funding Program that was initiated by the Province of British Columbia has contributed to safer communities through education and responsive community initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be urged to provide a permanent funding program that would continue to enable communities to address the problems of substance abuse.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to provide a permanent funding program to enable communities to address substance abuse problems in general. However, members endorsed several previous resolutions advocating funding to support community responses to crystal methamphetamine use (2007-B4, 2006-A6, 2005-A1).

The Committee notes that in 2005, members endorsed a related resolution, B43, which supported "access to a comprehensive range of health services to address drug addiction including prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions so that residents of BC local governments with drug problems have access to addiction services according to community need and distributed throughout the province." Members have also endorsed several resolutions supporting better access to treatment for individuals seeking assistance for substance abuse, through supportive recovery houses (2006-B7) and detox facilities (2007-B51, 2006-B8).

Conference decision: _____

B10 CALL ANSWER LEVY FOR WIRELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS Nanaimo City

WHEREAS almost one half of all emergency calls to 9-1-1 are now made from cellular telephones;

AND WHEREAS wireless service providers are not required to collect a call answer levy that would contribute to the cost of providing the 9-1-1 service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to enact legislation similar to that enacted in Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan that would require all telephone service providers, including wireless service providers, to collect a call answer levy as a means to contribute to the costs associated with the delivery of 9-1-1 emergency service.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed the introduction of a levy on cell and wireless services to assist in funding 911 emergency service (2004-SR1).

In its response to the 2004 resolution, the Province indicated that it was examining the issue of a Call Answer Levy (CAL) on wireless phones, but anticipated that further work would be required to fully consider all the options related to funding the provision of 911 emergency service across BC.

The Committee also notes that UBCM received a letter of support for this resolution from Nanaimo RD.

Conference decision: _____

B11 FUNDING OF VOLUNTEER SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS search and rescue organizations provide essential life and safety services to British Columbia's residents and visitors through volunteer organizations funded largely by private fundraising, local government grants and other forms of uncertain revenues;

AND WHEREAS the costs of providing search and rescue services are escalating dramatically due to call volumes, equipment costs and necessary liability insurance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to provide a significant level of predictable and sustainable funding to the province's search and rescue organizations, including provision of adequate liability insurance.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee would point out that the UBCM membership has endorsed previous resolutions requesting that the Province fund search and rescue organizations (2008-B10; 2006-B17; 1998-B40).

The Committee would note that the province has recently reached an agreement with search and rescue organizations on better liability insurance coverage.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has indicated that it currently provides operational expense reimbursement of over \$1.7 million to alleviate the costs of responding by volunteer search and rescue personnel. In 2007/08, through the Province's gaming grants, additional funding of \$1.9 million was provided to assist with equipment acquisition, training and other costs. Through the Provincial Emergency Program, the Ministry provides \$250,000 in funding to the Justice Institute of BC for the coordination and delivery of Search and Rescue (SAR) training programs.

Conference decision: _____

B12 RCMP LEAVE COVERAGE

Salmo

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) staffing numbers in communities with small RCMP detachments are greatly affected by sick and parental leaves taken by RCMP members;

AND WHEREAS the level of police enforcement in small communities can be inadequate and ineffective when vacancies reduce the full complement of RCMP officers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General to provide the necessary budget to provide reserve officers to fill vacancies left by RCMP officers on sick or parental leave.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse and Refer to RCMP Contract Discussions**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members endorsed a previous resolution requesting that the province provide reserve officers to fill vacancies left by RCMP officers on sick or parental leave (1997-B29).

In its response to the resolution, the Province indicated that the issue is whether there are available personnel to backfill a position and the length of time a member is likely to be on leave. Backfilling a vacant position for short-term vacancies is simply not feasible because of the cost of relocating personnel if no extra officers are available on site. In cases of long-term vacancies, the RCMP will backfill a position, however, each situation is decided on its own merit.

Conference decision: _____

B13 PROGRAM FUNDING FOR CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE PREVENTION North Saanich

WHEREAS communities in British Columbia continue to battle the effects of the use of crystal methamphetamine in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia in past provided funding to local governments for education programs to address the impacts of the use of crystal methamphetamine:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government reinstate program funding for local government response to problems associated with the production and use of crystal methamphetamine.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that a resolution requesting reinstatement of program funding for local government to respond to crystal has been considered previously and endorsed (2007-B4; 2006-A6).

Conference decision: _____

B14 FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM FUNDING

Revelstoke

WHEREAS the governance and financing of pre-hospital medical care is the responsibility of the Province of British Columbia’s Ministry of Health Services, through the Emergency and Health Services Commission, but financing for the First Responder Program, which is within the Commission’s mandate, is not being provided;

AND WHEREAS local governments that provide a first responder program through their fire departments must finance the program themselves and some cannot afford to do so, which may create health care inequity across the Province of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government of British Columbia to fully fund local governments’ first responder programs through the Ministry of Health’s Emergency and Health Services Commission under the Ministry of Health Services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a number of similar resolutions over the years (1994-B16, 1995-B75 and 1999-B7).

Conference decision: _____

TRANSPORTATION

**B15 EXPANSION OF THE HEALTH CONNECT TRANSIT SYSTEM IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Logan Lake

WHEREAS people living in rural communities requiring medical services available only in larger urban areas are in need of public transportation;

AND WHEREAS the current BC Transit service schedules provide limited transportation to interior hospitals and cities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to take steps to improve affordable public transportation service between small rural municipalities and hospitals in larger urban centres in British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions concerning the provision of assistance for health care related travel costs (2006- B156; 2005-B146; 2005-LR1).

In March 2005, the provincial government announced the rural travel program – Health Connections – designed to provide \$6 million to assist four health authorities address specific rural travel needs not addressed by existing programs. All programs were to comply with a set of provincial principles and guidelines.

Conference decision: _____

B16 UPGRADE HIGHWAY SAFETY THROUGH RURAL COMMUNITIES Logan Lake

WHEREAS roads in rural communities are falling behind urban areas in addressing maintenance and safety issues,

AND WHEREAS there is a need to ensure highway safety for the citizens of British Columbia,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to undertake a provincial mandate to upgrade roads throughout rural areas to ensure safe roads for everyone in British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed previous resolutions requesting the provincial government to make funding of rural roads and related infrastructure a priority (2008-B17, 2001-B13). Members also endorsed a resolution calling for additional federal and provincial funding for safe, reliable, equitable and affordable transportation for rural area residents (2003-B7).

Most recently, the provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure noted that from the 2003/04 fiscal year up to and including the present, it has allocated funds for rural road concerns under its Heartland Program. The Ministry also indicated that funding of rural transportation infrastructure will remain a priority.

Conference decision: _____

**B17 RAILS WITH TRAILS Kelowna
Vernon**

WHEREAS railway dedication or rights of way in urban areas provide excellent opportunities to develop multi-use pathways or trails for alternate, active and “green” transportation;

AND WHEREAS feasibility studies have shown that these multi-use pathways can be developed safely so as not to cause significant conflicts with the routine operation of the rail system;

AND WHEREAS the development of off-road multi-use pathways for non-motorized vehicles is in the interest of all levels of governments to reduce motor vehicle use, improve the health of Canadian citizens and reduce emissions from transportation which contributes to climate change;

AND WHEREAS these multi-use pathways on active rail corridors are referred to as Rails-with-Trails corridors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be asked to support joint-use agreements with railway companies for Rails-with-Trails corridors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government be asked to undertake legislative amendments to the Canadian *Transportation Act* to recognize the need for parallel corridors to be provided within rail rights of way and authorize provincial and local governments to apply to the Canadian Transportation Agency, in absence of agreement with the railway company for authority to place trails within rail rights of way.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that members have consistently supported the expansion of community trails (2002-B85, 2002-B67, 2005-B82) and members have supported the use of abandoned rail lines for public use (1992-B72). The Committee also notes that UBCM members indicated support for the Island Corridor Foundation's proposal to preserve the E & N rail corridor for alternative transportation uses (2005-B143).

This past year, a provincial Trails Advisory Committee developed a draft Provincial Trails Strategy. The vision for trails in BC is expressed in this document is as follows:

"A world-renowned network of sustainable trails, accessible to all, which fosters social, cultural, health, economic and environmental benefits for trails users, communities and the province."

While this document does address trails on a province-wide scale, it is expected that specific local circumstances will need to be taken into consideration when developing regional components. The UBCM provided comments on the draft as part of the consultation process and a final report was to be submitted to the government.

See also resolutions C13, C14 and C15.

Conference decision: _____

B18 LOGGING TRUCKS ON MUNICIPAL BRIDGES

100 Mile House

WHEREAS the recent changes in provincial legislation now permit 9.6 foot wide logging trucks to travel on municipal roads;

AND WHEREAS municipal roads and bridges are not built to accommodate logging trucks of this width, in some cases reducing bridge widths to one lane only:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to consider grant funding to assist small municipalities with the infrastructure costs of upgrading, repairing and rebuilding these bridges.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership endorsed 2006 resolution B80, which called on the provincial government to reclaim responsibility for secondary roads and bridges from municipalities or subsidize the capital improvements of such roads and bridges. In addition, members endorsed resolution 2003-

B7, which requested federal and provincial funding to address accelerated deterioration of road infrastructure due to the elimination of BC Rail passenger and freight services and increased heavy truck traffic.

Members have also endorsed related resolutions: 1997-A12, which called on the federal government to prohibit further abandonment of regional rail lines and to foster the use of rail for freight transport; and 1992-A17, which requested that the provincial government establish a Public Enquiry Commission to investigate the impact on highways and the general public of the current methods of moving freight.

In its response to 2006-B80, the provincial Ministry of Transportation indicated that it planned to invest \$90 million on provincial highway infrastructure over three years. With respect to municipal roads and bridges, the Ministry pointed out that its authority to fund non-provincial highways and municipal bridges was removed through amendments to the former Highway Act, effective April 1, 1997. The Ministry clarified that this infrastructure is considered a municipal responsibility because it is seen to serve a municipal, not provincial, network purpose.

Conference decision: _____

B19 ENABLING LEGISLATION TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE BLANKET SPEED ZONES Central Saanich

WHEREAS the speed limit in municipalities in British Columbia is 50 km/hr unless otherwise posted, with no differentiation made between major municipal roads, arterial roads and local residential streets;

AND WHEREAS issues relating to vehicular speeding, pedestrian safety and traffic calming have become matters of significant and growing concern in many communities throughout the province, with municipal councils being requested to take substantive and potentially costly action to reduce speed limits on individual residential streets, institute lower “blanket” speed limits across residential neighbourhoods and / or throughout the municipality, and generally implement other pedestrian safety, speed control, public awareness and enforcement initiatives as deemed necessary to address the problems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities reiterate its previous request to the Minister of Transportation that the necessary amendments be made to the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow municipalities to implement blanket speed zones in residential areas, and on other municipal roadways as deemed appropriate.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act to enable municipalities to implement blanket speed limits (2006-B14, 2003-LR9, 1999-B44).

In its response to resolution 2006-B14, the Ministry of Transportation indicated that municipalities already have the ability to establish municipal speed limits, by bylaw. Once a speed limit bylaw has been passed, a municipality must post a speed limit sign on every affected road to inform the travelling public.

What requires an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act is the request to be able to lower speed limits without having to post signs on every street. The Ministry expressed concerns about how, in this case, the travelling public would know the speed limit if signs were not in place, and how the speed limit would be enforced. Local governments interested in pursuing this would be asked to consult with police and stakeholders and then submit a proposal for the Province to review.

Conference decision: _____

B20 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVER TRAINING AND LIABILITY ISSUES Delta

WHEREAS commercial vehicle regulations are very complex and, as such, may be confusing to drivers;

AND WHEREAS commercial vehicle drivers may not have the most up-to-date knowledge of provincial legislation changes, including vehicle maintenance and trip inspection requirements;

AND WHEREAS commercial vehicle drivers are not required to upgrade or improve their knowledge of commercial vehicle operation once licensed;

AND WHEREAS the existing regulations place most of the burden of penalties on the driver while companies avoid liability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to:

- implement an accredited educational training program for companies to complete prior to obtaining a National Safety Code number;
- re-assess driver licensing standards and implement a graduated commercial driver licensing program and scheduled recertification knowledge and road test examinations;
- establish specific accountability to the owners and shippers who contract, employ or otherwise tender service from truck operators.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed previous resolutions requesting implementation of the above standards and regulations for the commercial trucking industry and it was endorsed (2005-B78; 1998-B55 - request for Vehicle Standards Advisory Committee to address commercial vehicle safety).

The Province has indicated in the past that it is constantly looking at ways to improve road safety in the province. ICBC does not currently require mandatory commercial vehicle driver training for commercial licence applicants, however, many drivers learn to drive heavy commercial vehicles through driving schools or through programs developed by their employer.

The Province pointed out that the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) has studied and discussed commercial graduated driver licensing since the mid '90s. A comprehensive 1999 study found that graduated commercial licensing was not cost-effective, presented a barrier to hiring drivers in an already undersubscribed profession, and presented no appreciable safety benefit. As commercial drivers work across provincial boundaries and a local graduated licensing system would present barriers to the movement of goods

through the province, ICBC and government will continue to work with CCMTA on any future direction.

The Province noted that although some jurisdictions have implemented shipper liability legislation, the legislation has not led to successful enforcement action because the burden of proving that the shipper knowingly violated the requirements is onerous or even impossible. Further complicating this, many shippers are based outside of British Columbia. The Province will continue to monitor shipper liability initiatives and explore solutions which could be applied in British Columbia.

Conference decision: _____

B21 COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Delta

WHEREAS the number of commercial vehicles using roads and highways throughout the province is increasing;

AND WHEREAS commercial vehicles pose a threat to public safety and critical infrastructure, if they are not properly maintained or are exceeding the load weight restrictions as prescribed by the *Motor Vehicle Act* regulations;

AND WHEREAS a recent commercial vehicle inspection program in Delta resulted in a 41% failure rate (including a 46% failure rate for dump trucks) – a rate that has remained consistent for the last three years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to:

- Require annual inspections of all commercial vehicles having a licensed gross vehicle weight of 5,500 kg to 8,200 kg;
- Require twice-yearly inspections for commercial vehicles having a licensed gross vehicle weight over 8,200 kg;
- Require twice-yearly inspections for container chassis trailers;
- Regulate pre-trip inspections, e.g. failure to conduct pre-trip inspection will result in review of the driver's Class 1 status;
- Increase the fines for commercial vehicles relating to maintenance of tires, brakes, lighting and overweight loads;
- Develop an impoundment standard for commercial vehicles that consistently fail to meet the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance standards threshold;
- Increase the number of truck inspection sites and commercial vehicle inspectors;
- Conduct regular inspections of commercial vehicle inspection facilities to ensure compliance with the standards as prescribed;
- Endorse a bylaw to provide municipalities authority to suspend the business license of trucking companies operating within their jurisdiction for having an unsatisfactory maintenance and safety record; and
- Examine potential of using truck inspection technology (FLIR) on a collaborative cost-sharing basis with all jurisdictions in the lower mainland.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed
Amendment***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to:

[...]

[Note: retain the first nine bullet points and amend the final bullet point to read:]

- Examine potential of using truck inspection technology (FLIR) on a collaborative cost-sharing basis with all jurisdictions.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that while it has endorsed resolutions regarding increasing vehicle inspection programs (2007-B104; 2006-B38; 2005-B79; 2005-B38; 1999-A10), this resolution would expand the scope of the inspection program (vehicle size, frequency of inspections, fines, etc.) and proposes to provide additional powers to local government to address commercial vehicle inspection. Given the broad scope of the changes proposed, local government must consider whether or not it supports all of the measures proposed.

The Committee would point out that the Province indicated in the past that it recognizes the importance of commercial vehicle safety. The Ministry of Transportation (Ministry) has no statistical evidence indicating mechanical failure is a significant contributing factor in crashes involving commercial vehicles having a licensed gross vehicle weight of 5,500 kg to 8,200 kg. Vehicles within this weight range include light trucks which have mechanical characteristics which are more similar to a car than to a heavy truck.

Crash data does not suggest a need to increase the frequency of inspections. Mechanical failure is not the primary cause of vehicle crashes. Alberta and Saskatchewan require annual inspections for vehicles exceeding 11,794 kg and 22,000 kg, respectively, when based in their provinces.

It has been found that increasing fines does not necessarily increase the level of compliance. Within the National Safety Code, every conviction adds points to the carrier's profile which can then impact their ability to conduct commercial trucking operations. Carriers are more concerned with the addition of points to the profile than with the fine amount.

The Ministry has discussed the potential for impounding vehicles with the BC Trucking Association (BCTA). BCTA is promoting the "truck jail" model as operated in Ontario. Further review is required to ensure the Ministry is not liable for vehicles which are impounded and to provide secure impoundment areas.

The Ministry is prepared to work with local governments to provide them information relating to commercial vehicle operations. Any decisions to cancel local business licenses would have to occur at the local level.

The Ministry is considering a range of technologies which will allow staff to more closely monitor vehicles. The Ministry is willing to partner with local governments to identify technologies which can provide solutions to local problems and promote better compliance with road safety initiatives.

The Committee proposes an amendment to broaden the scope of the resolution so that it applies provincially, not just to the Lower Mainland.

Conference decision: _____

FINANCE

B22 DOWNTOWN BUILDING FAÇADE REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

Vernon

WHEREAS the Province in the past implemented a successful funding program to assist downtown building owners to revitalize the building façade in accordance with downtown design guidelines, which often provided the necessary incentive for owners to participate in the revitalization of their community's downtown;

AND WHEREAS many downtowns are characterized by historic buildings and features which can be particularly costly to maintain or preserve, especially for small business owners, yet can be important to the success of the downtown area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial downtown building façade revitalization grant program be reinstated to assist building owners with façade improvements that conform to adopted downtown design guidelines.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that over the years, UBCM membership has expressed strong support for the continuance or reinstatement of the Downtown Revitalization Program (2007-B144; 2006-B36; 1998-B9; 1987-A8).

In its response to the 2007 resolution on this topic, the Ministry of Community Services identified tools for local governments to use when undertaking downtown revitalization programs. One tool is a revitalization tax exemption, which can be used for social, economic or environmental revitalization, as well as heritage properties and areas designated for revitalization. Alternatively, the Ministry pointed out that the BC Spirit Squares and Towns for Tomorrow funding programs are designed to assist with downtown revitalization.

The Ministry also suggested that the creation of the Municipal Finance Authority and changes to the Community Charter had enabled local governments to access short-and long-term capital financing at competitive interest rates.

Conference decision: _____

B23 EXPANDED USE OF SECTION 941 FUNDS PROVIDED IN LIEU OF PARKLANDS

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS funds paid by an owner, pursuant to Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* in lieu of providing parkland at time of subdivision are often insufficient to enable acquisition of suitable parklands;

AND WHEREAS communities might receive a greater and more immediate benefit from utilization of these funds to improve existing parks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be requested to amend Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* to provide that funds received under Section 941 may be used for acquisition and improvement of parklands.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions requesting that local governments be granted the option to use funds collected in lieu of parkland dedication for improvement or development of existing parkland (2008-B23, 2006-B116, 1994-B78, 1993-B19).

The Province has indicated in the past that local governments can use Development Cost Charges (DCC's) to fund park improvements including: fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms, playground and playing equipment. The Ministry of Community Development's Parkland Acquisition Best Practices recommend that a local government consider clear guidelines when using DCC's and parkland acquisition.

See also resolutions C21 and C22.

Conference decision: _____

B24 PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARTS CUTS

Vancouver

WHEREAS the February 2009 BC provincial budget announcement contains cuts of nearly 50% to the annual arts and culture budget;

AND WHEREAS one-time funding does not adequately replace ongoing funding and the planning it allows;

AND WHEREAS investing in the arts provides a disproportionate economic stimulus to local communities – over twelve dollars generated for every dollar invested;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver is a liveable city in large part because of the involvement and investments of artists and Vancouver's economic development has been aided by the city's vibrant creative sector and creative economy;

AND WHEREAS eliminating support for the arts will have a negative effect on the creative sector, especially small arts companies and negative impacts on the creative sector will have a resulting negative impact on the economies of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver in a time of economic challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial and federal governments to reinstate full funding to the creative sector and related programs and further consider additional investment as part of the economic stimulus programs.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2000-B108, which called on the provincial government to:

- increase “investment in arts and cultural activity and infrastructure to, at minimum, the level [...] of the other provinces”;
- work with local governments to ensure that provincial funding would “support and complement local government arts and cultural initiatives”; and
- establish a provincial-local government task force to develop a strategic approach to improving federal investment in BC’s arts and cultural sector.

In its response to the resolution, the Province expressed willingness to improve provincial investment in arts and culture, and to work with local government to “ensure that local government priorities are considered in the development of provincial policy.” With regard to federal arts funding, the Province indicated that it “would welcome the assistance of the UBCM in convincing the federal government to increase spending in British Columbia.”

Conference decision: _____

B25 NEW SIGNIFICANT, DIVERSIFIED REVENUE SOURCES

Port Coquitlam

WHEREAS much of a local government’s infrastructure was contributed by third parties including developers and grants from senior levels of government, and:

- these funding sources are currently not available for replacement of the infrastructure as it deteriorates due to legislative limitations and grant conditions;
- reliance on these sources of funds has led to a lower than required property tax base for replacement funding of the infrastructure; and
- debt servicing the infrastructure funding gap will cost the taxpayer significantly more than if they saved or implemented a ‘pay as you go’ strategy to address the impending costs;

AND WHEREAS in many communities:

- a local government’s only controllable, stable, and sustainable major source of revenue is property taxation, with diversification of revenues limited;
- diversifying revenue is well known in the industry as a sound practice when funding the essential services necessary in a community and limiting risk associated with fluctuating economies and other revenue pressures; and
- relying heavily on a regressive property tax that does not consider the taxpayer’s ability to pay, is not sustainable when funding our large obligations including our upcoming infrastructure needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lend their support with a unified voice of BC local government to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as we lobby the federal government for significant, assured, sustainable and stable revenue sources -for example, an increase to the GST from 5% to 6% with the additional revenues generated by the 1% increase distributed to local governments throughout Canada on a per capita basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislation may add a condition to the funding source that ensures its first priority for application is to fund the infrastructure gap.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities lobby the federal government for significant, assured and stable revenue sources.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a condition be included to ensure that the first priority for application is to fund the infrastructure gap.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for significant, assured and stable revenue sources for local government (2007-B116, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2004-A5, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111, 2003-B75, 2002-B14, 2001-A1, 1999-B11, and others).

The Committee proposes an amendment to make the enactment clause clearer.

Conference decision: _____

B26 PUSH BACK ON DOWNLOADING AND OFFLOADING

Port Coquitlam

WHEREAS over the past few decades the provincial government has downloaded and offloaded provincially mandated services to local government without sufficiently, if at all, matching the services with funding (i.e., roads maintenance and replacement, homelessness, wildlife, policing, mental health and transit);

AND WHEREAS the provincial government may not be aware that their cost cutting measures over the years have resulted in pressures on communities to address the service gaps to the extent that limited local government funds are being used to fund provincially mandated services, negatively impacting a local government's ability to adequately address core local government services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strongly urge the provincial government to cease their downloading or offloading of services to local governments;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future services, if devolved in any manner, whether subtle or not, must be accompanied by sufficient, sustainable revenues which will be in the control of the local governments and that past downloading and offloading of provincial services be funded retroactively.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strongly urge the provincial government to cease their downloading or offloading of services to local governments;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future services, if devolved in any manner, whether subtle or not, must be accompanied by sufficient, sustainable revenues which will be in the control of the local governments.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to cease downloading or offloading of services to local government (2006-B80, 2004-B75, 2003-B9, 2002-SR1, 2002-B62, 2000-B19), and requesting that any downloaded services be accompanied by sufficient, sustainable revenues to be controlled by local governments (2006-B21, 2006-B98, 2005-B52, 2004-B5, 2004-B133, 2003-A4, 2003-B82, 2001-B4, 2001-B25, 2001-B82).

The Committee advises, however, that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that past downloading and offloading of provincial services be funded retroactively – therefore, an amendment is proposed to eliminate this reference to bring it in line with existing policy. It is not clear how past downloading and offloading by the Province could be estimated.

Conference decision: _____

B27 INSURANCE COMPANY REIMBURSEMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION Penticton

WHEREAS local government fire departments are called upon to provide fire suppression services within its designated fire protection areas;

AND WHEREAS local government fire departments are not reimbursed by insurance companies that benefit from loss mitigation as result of the fire departments being available to respond;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia receives a tax on insurance premiums from the insurance companies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the provincial government to release the insurance premium taxes collected in regards to property insurances to those local governments that provide fire protection within their designated fire protection areas.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has endorsed similar previous resolutions (2008-B13; 2006-B24; 2005-B13; 2004-B11; 2002-B14; 2001-B39).

The provincial government in responding noted that fire insurance premium tax imposed under the Fire Services Act was repealed in Budget 98. The tax revenue generated from the 4.4 per cent tax paid by insurance companies on property insurance premiums is intended to be a general revenue source and it is the provincial government's view that this is the appropriate use of the revenue. Any proposed transfer of tax revenue to local governments must be evaluated in the context of a provincial balanced budget and the need to fund critical provincial programs.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS local government fire departments utilize the jaws of life to provide assistance to victims of vehicular accidents in the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the acquisition, maintenance and training of personnel are not specialized service and cost to local governments;

AND WHEREAS the use of the jaws of life not only benefits the victims of motor vehicle accidents, but also the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia through cost saving by providing timely extraction and resultant transportation to medical services;

AND WHEREAS local governments are unable to recoup their costs or participate in the cost savings enjoyed by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia through their efforts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Province of British Columbia to allow local governments to receive fair and adequate compensation from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia for incidents where the jaws of life are utilized.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting reimbursement for costs associated with responding to motor vehicle accidents (e.g., jaws of life) (2005-B4; 2004-B6; 2001-B6; 2001-B8; 2000-B15). However, members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that funding be provided through basic motor vehicle insurance coverage for both municipal fire departments and search and rescue units to respond to motor vehicle accidents to extricate occupants of damaged vehicles.

Currently, the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) reimburses fire departments that respond to police or ambulance calls in the unorganized areas of the province at a rate set by policy. PEP also provides WorkSafe BC and liability coverage for these calls and reimburses for repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment. The current policy and reimbursement rates for out of boundary road rescue calls were developed through the deliberations of a road rescue task group. The definition of road rescue services in the policy includes extrication of vehicle occupants, embankment rescue and fire suppression as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

To be reimbursed for out of boundary calls, the responding fire department must be called out by the responding police or ambulance service, who have the authority under the policy to determine whether the fire department's services are needed for life threatening incidents. They do not call out departments for fires if lives are not threatened. There is no funding provided to municipal fire departments and / or search and rescue units that are called out to accidents inside municipal boundaries to provide occupant extrication services or other types of services that may be required at a motor vehicle accident.

ICBC, in the past, considered requests made by municipalities, regional districts or improvement districts for reimbursement of the costs connected with fire department or emergency service attendance at motor vehicle accidents on an individual basis. Currently, ICBC may accept billings for emergency services from jurisdictions outside of British Columbia. Motorists insured with ICBC and carrying optional coverage for collision, fire and theft are covered for "fire department charges" if, after careful review, they are found to be legally liable for those charges under that jurisdiction's laws. ICBC noted that it only collects premiums to cover expected claims.

Since the Corporation is not required to indemnify motorists for fire department charges in British Columbia, it does not collect any premium for such charges. In order to cover fire department charges for all incidents where the jaws of life are utilized, ICBC would need to seek an equivalent rate increase from the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC).

Conference decision: _____

B29 FEDERAL PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM FUNDING

Powell River RD

WHEREAS most federal and provincial infrastructure funding programs provide grants to cover 2/3 of eligible costs for much needed infrastructure improvements with local communities responsible for financing the remaining 1 / 3 of eligible costs plus any ineligible costs;

AND WHEREAS the high cost of major infrastructure projects can make this one-third local share excessively burdensome to taxpayers in small municipalities and regional district service areas, thus discouraging infrastructure improvements essential to the health and economic well-being of these communities;

AND WHEREAS the ability to supplement the infrastructure program funds with Community Works funds to a level that brings total federal funding up to 50% of the project costs does not necessarily sufficiently relieve this financial burden;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be requested to devise a flexible funding formula for infrastructure programs, such as the Building Canada Fund -Communities Component and the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, that has the capability to increase the funding level where it can be demonstrated that local financing of one-third of the costs will place an undue burden on local tax payers.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2000-B12 and 2004-A7, which advocated that small communities should pay a smaller share of eligible expenditures under cost-shared infrastructure programs than do larger communities, given their relative lack of financial capacity.

See also resolution C23.

Conference decision: _____

B30 REVENUE SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Strathcona RD

WHEREAS local governments continue to struggle with limited funding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) pursue discussions with the provincial and federal governments as per the 2008 policy paper "Financing Local Government: Achieving Fiscal Balance";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide unconditional revenue sharing to municipalities and regional districts in the form of one cent out of every seven cents collected through the Provincial Social Service Tax to be distributed to municipalities and regional districts on a per capita basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM pursue discussions with the provincial government to provide local governments with a share of natural resource revenue.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) pursue discussions with the provincial and federal governments as per the 2008 policy paper "Financing Local Government: Achieving Fiscal Balance";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide unconditional revenue sharing to municipalities and regional districts in the form of a share of the Provincial Social Service Tax to be distributed to municipalities and regional districts on a per capita basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM pursue discussions with the provincial government to provide local governments with a share of natural resource revenue.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that each of the enactment clauses makes a specific request. The first addresses the 2008 policy paper on Fiscal Balance, the second refers to the Province sharing PST revenues with local governments and the third seeks a share of natural resource revenues. Both the first and third enactment clauses reflect support for existing policy. (2008 Fiscal Balance Policy Paper; 2004 Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, 2003-B30).

With respect to the second enactment clause relating to receiving 1 out of every 7 cents of PST, members have endorsed PST exemptions or rebates for local governments and PST exemption for certain products (2006-B21, 2004-B10, 2003-B14, 2001-B23).

As well members have through recommendations from Financing Local Government studies sought a transfer of property tax room to local governments and new taxing powers such as fuel tax, real property transfer tax. It does not appear that members have explicitly requested 1 out of every 7 cents of PST. Therefore the Committee is proposing an amendment to the second enactment clause to seek a share of PST but suggests removing the amount so as not to limit the amount of the funds being sought.

See also resolution C24.

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

B31 PRODUCT PACKAGING

Fraser Valley RD

WHEREAS product packaging is a large component of the solid waste stream across the province;

AND WHEREAS managing the various packaging components has become increasingly difficult for regional district and member municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province, without delay, add a schedule to the Recycling Regulation that includes all packaging as defined in the Environment Management Act and phase in implementation based on environmental impacts including energy savings, landfill space and manageable product categories.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions calling for the development of strategies to reduce unnecessary product packaging, as well as the creation of product stewardship programs for packaging (1987-B69; 1990-A14; 1991-B18; 1995-B38; 1997-B11; 1999-B14; 2000-B20; 2004-B13; 2005-B115; 2006-B29; 2008-B31).

The provincial government is considering expanding the scope of products regulated under the Recycling Regulation to include packaging, and is currently consulting with industry and local governments on this issue. The Province has noted that it will likely be moving ahead with a provincial packaging recycling system and anticipates its roll-out in late 2009 or early 2010.

Conference decision: _____

B32 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FUNDING

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS local government has many points of contact with environmental issues and has a long history of working with the Ministry of Environment;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has reduced funding for the Ministry of Environment leading to a reduction, if not withdrawal from service level that are necessary for the Province to protect dwindling environmental assets and assisting local government in areas of overlap:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide funding and resources to the Ministry of Environment to enable the Ministry to return to an active role in the development and enforcement of reasonable regulations, and working with local government in an effective, meaningful and respectful manner on the many issues that we share.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several previous resolutions requesting that the Province provide funding and resources to enable the Ministry of Environment to fulfil its monitoring, enforcement and planning functions (2003-B32, 1996-B27, 1992-B35).

Conference decision: _____

B33 CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS there have been instances when the Environmental Assessment Office scheduled a referral period on a controversial project, in such a manner that the affected local governments and other stakeholder or interest groups were unable to make comment;

AND WHEREAS in some of these cases, the Environmental Assessment Office refused all requests to extend the deadlines for commenting on projects;

AND WHEREAS there are many other examples of the Province establishing consultation periods that do not respect local government and the timelines that we work in:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be requested to develop policies and procedures ensuring that referral periods are established in such a manner to allow local governments, as well as other stakeholder or interest groups, that wish to comment, a fair and reasonable opportunity to do so.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the Province to provide opportunities for local governments to comment, with feasible timelines for local government response (2008-B42, 2008-B73, 2007-B32, 2006-LR2, 2004-B17, 2004-B75, 2002-SR1, 2000-B88, 1995-B43, 1995-B91, 1994-A2).

Conference decision: _____

B34 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS

Saanich

WHEREAS there is little or no research currently available on the cumulative impacts of alternative energy technologies, such as geothermal heat exchange;

AND WHEREAS the use of alternative energy technologies is increasing, as they are being actively promoted by the provincial and federal governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recommend the provincial government determine the long-term cumulative environmental impacts of alternative energy technologies prior to approving their use.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that while members have supported the use of alternative energy technologies (2001 Energy recommendations), they have also raised concerns about the cumulative environmental impacts of some systems such as IPPs (2008-B39).

The resolution is seeking to ensure that the provincial government has undertaken the scientific research and studies to support the implementation of technologies that are being promoted as alternative energy solutions.

Conference decision: _____

B35 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Comox Valley RD

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial government ensure that all funds paid for eco fees / refundable deposits are used exclusively to run the programs to reduce the demand on local and regional waste management.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions supporting the introduction of industry product stewardship programs that would shift the responsibility for waste management from local governments to producers and consumers on such products as electronic waste, batteries, tires, used oil and plastics (2005-B24; 2004-B13; 2004-B14; 2004-B15; 2004-B82; 2003-B87; 1998-B60). Members have also endorsed the principle that industry should be fully funding product stewardship programs, in which industry assumes the costs of marketing, collecting, transporting and processing materials (2007 UBCM Environment Action Plan).

Conference decision: _____

B36 STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR RECYCLABLES

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia under Province of BC legislation are responsible for managing solid waste diversion programs including collection and marketing of recyclable materials;

AND WHEREAS product stewardship recycling programs have demonstrated far greater resiliency to market fluctuations than local government recycling programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia immediately enact a stewardship program for all packaging as defined in the *Environmental Management Act* and that the time frame for full implementation of a packaging stewardship program be no more than two years;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial Ministry of Environment to develop a cost recovery formula whereby industry stewards pay for the planning of a packaging stewardship program.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions calling for the development of strategies to reduce unnecessary product packaging, as well as the creation of product stewardship programs for packaging (1987-B69; 1990-A14; 1991-B18; 1995-B38; 1997-B11; 1999-B14; 2000-B20; 2004-B13; 2005-B115; 2006-B29; 2008-B31).

The provincial government is considering expanding the scope of products regulated under the Recycling Regulation to include packaging, and is currently consulting with industry and local governments on this issue. The Province has noted that it will likely be moving ahead with a provincial packaging recycling system and anticipates its roll-out in late 2009 or early 2010.

Conference decision: _____

B37 SUPPORT FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS local governments provide public information regarding the location of recycling facilities;

AND WHEREAS current industry stewardship programs do not communicate the location of industry collection facilities at local government waste disposal facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM solicit the support of the British Columbia Product Stewardship Council to request that industry stewards provide funding to local governments for the advertisement of the location of industry stewardship collection facilities.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province to ensure that industry stewards provide adequate funding for the advertisement of industry stewardship collection facilities.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered any resolutions calling for UBCM to seek support from the BC Product Stewardship Council in seeking funding from industry to advertise the location of industry product stewardship collection facilities. However, UBCM notes that the 2007 Environment Action plan calls for stewardship programs to be fully funded by the industry, in which the industry is responsible for all costs such as marketing, collection, transportation, and marketing of materials. The Committee also notes that UBCM frequently consults with the advisory body, the BC Product Stewardship Council, on existing and potential new product stewardship programs.

The Committee proposes an amendment to reflect the product stewardship framework endorsed by the membership, in which product stewards assume full responsibility for all costs and components of an extended producer responsibility program.

Conference decision: _____

B38 PROVINCIAL COSMETIC PESTICIDE BAN

Salmon Arm

WHEREAS residents of the Province of British Columbia are increasingly requesting their local governments to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides within their boundaries in order to mitigate concerns that these pesticides present a threat to the environment, children, pets and personal health;

AND WHEREAS as these bylaws are being implemented in some municipalities, it has been found that community bans have little effect on overall pesticide sales, in sharp contrast to the Province of Quebec which has seen a fifty percent drop in pesticide use since their legislated ban in 1994;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* does not give communities the legislative authority to ban the sale of pesticides, only to regulate their use:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia enact provincial legislation that will ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides province-wide.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolution Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a resolution calling on the Province of British Columbia to enact provincial legislation that will ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides province-wide (2008-B81). Members endorsed a previous resolution that proposed to review limiting the availability, uses, and labelling of cosmetic pesticides (2000-B85). Members have also endorsed resolutions calling for the promotion and use of pesticides only in the event of no viable alternatives (1990-A16; 2005-B29).

Ontario has recently passed legislation that bans the sale and use of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes. The proposed regulation prohibits the sale and use of many landscape pesticides. Quebec has also enacted a limited ban, which only bans the use of a few active ingredients. Herbicide fertilizer mixtures have been prohibited for use and sale in other provinces.

In response to the call for a provincial ban (2008-B81), the Ministry of Environment noted that it was not aware of any data specific to B.C. that demonstrates that municipal pesticide bans have been ineffective in controlling pesticide sales and use. The Ministry also acknowledged that the Province is currently studying the regulatory initiatives of other jurisdictions with a view to understanding their effectiveness.

Conference decision: _____

B39 EPR LEGISLATION – PACKAGING

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

WHEREAS the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Environment Canada [sic] defines Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) as an environmental policy approach in which a producer’s responsibility, physical and / or financial, for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product’s life cycle;

AND WHEREAS there are two key features of EPR policy:

- (1) the shifting of responsibility (physically and / or economically, fully or partially) upstream to the producer and away from municipalities, and
- (2) to provide incentives to producers to take environmental considerations into the design of the product;

AND WHEREAS the *Environmental Management Act* defines packaging as a material, substance or object that is (a) used to protect, contain or transport a commodity or product, or (b) attached to a commodity or product or its container for the purpose of marketing or communicating information about the commodity or product:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government, in consultation with the BC Product Stewardship Council, to place all packaging under the BC Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed
Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to place all packaging under the BC Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions calling for the development of strategies to reduce unnecessary product packaging, as well as the creation of product stewardship programs for packaging (1987-B69; 1990-A14; 1991-B18; 1995-B38; 1997-B11; 1999-B14; 2000-B20; 2004-B13; 2005-B115; 2006-B29; 2008-B31).

The provincial government is considering expanding the scope of products regulated under the Recycling Regulation to include packaging, and is currently consulting with industry and local governments on this issue. The Province has noted that it will likely be moving ahead with a provincial packaging recycling system and anticipates its roll-out in late 2009 or early 2010.

UBCM has traditionally lobbied the provincial government directly on stewardship programs, using the advisory support of the BC Product Stewardship Council. The Committee proposes an amendment to reflect this approach towards product stewardship.

Conference decision: _____

LAND USE

B40 REGIONAL DISTRICT CONSULTATION ON INDEPENDENT Central Kootenay RD POWER PROJECTS

WHEREAS regional districts do not have any direct input or discussion with the Province in regard to independent power producers on behalf of their residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all regional districts be included in the provincial consultation process for independent power projects proposed within their jurisdiction.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a number of resolutions over the years related to local government consultation on proposed independent power projects. Specifically in 2003 resolution B95 requested (in part) to:

“1. Develop, in consultation with local government, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;”.

As well in 2003, B96 was endorsed which sought a return to the BCUC’s regulatory authority over powerline interconnection associated with independent power production projects. This resolution was in response to Bill 30 which amended the Utilities Commission Act to provide for removal of local government involvement and engagement in IPP review and approval processes.

In addition, members have supported better pre-planning and coordination between BC Hydro, BC Transmission Corporation and the Province when looking at transmission lines and corridors for IPPs (2008-B38).

Conference decision: _____

B41 REGULATION OF NUISANCES ON PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND **Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS local governments lack the authority to regulate nuisances such as noise on private managed forest lands;

AND WHEREAS local governments are the first point of contact for residents impacted by nuisances on private managed forest land within the urban interface:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government and the Private Managed Forest Land Council to provide local government the authority to regulate nuisances such as noise on private managed forest lands within the urban interface.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that a similar resolution, B149, was endorsed in 2007. The resolution specifically requested that the provincial government allow local government noise bylaws to apply and to be enforced on private managed forest lands adjacent to residential areas.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS large scale mining activities on crown land have a negative effect on neighbouring local governments in that they decrease property values and impact overall quality of life of residents;

AND WHEREAS the Crown receives royalties from these mining activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be requested to put in place a mechanism that would allow local government to receive financial compensation.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a previous resolution and policy paper requesting that a share of resource revenues be returned to the affected communities (2003-B30; Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, 2004).

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources is responsible for reviewing applications for gravel mining operations in British Columbia and for determining whether such applications should be permitted;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the District of Peachland, the legislation and regulations governing the review of gravel mining applications would benefit from being updated to ensure that the process takes into consideration a broader range of social, environmental, safety and health impacts as well as the interests of the local government in whose area the permit is requested:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources be requested to urgently reconsider the review and approval process for the issue of gravel pit permits.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that concerns around resource extraction (i.e., pits and quarries) have been long standing issues for many local governments.

Most recently, UBCM members endorsed resolution 2000-B25, which requested amendments to the Local Government Act, Mines Act and related provincial legislation to “provide for clear authority for local governments to regulate the location and operation of quarry and gravel operations as “land uses” within local bylaws which are open to public consultation and not subject to Ministerial approval.” In addition, members have endorsed previous resolutions calling for greater local control of sand and gravel extraction (1995-B65; 1993-A4).

The Committee notes that work has been done to assist communities develop bylaws that would regulate resource extraction activities, and various studies and pilot projects have been undertaken as to how to deal with these types of operations.

Conference decision: _____

B44 BC HYDRO TRANSMISSION LINES

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS regional districts are not receiving benefits from the 55,000 kilometres of distribution lines and 17,533 kilometres of transmission lines in the rural areas of the province, while other forms of government are receiving a benefit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Minister of Finance to implement a fair method of compensation to regional districts in the province based on the strong belief that crown corporations, wherever possible, should compete on a level playing field.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that with respect to the 1% utility tax, the UBCM membership has endorsed a previous resolution requesting the “provincial government to implement a system to ensure local governments and regional districts have a fair and stable basis for taxing utilities” (1994-B52).

Members also endorsed resolution 2008-B19, which requested that regional districts be compensated directly or indirectly with grants-in-lieu of property taxes from hydro transmission lines and distribution lines.

Conference decision: _____

B45 RESTORATION OF BC HYDRO MANDATE

Highlands

WHEREAS the BC Energy Plan limits the mandate for BC Hydro to grow public green power assets and BC Hydro is instead directed to buy power from private power utilities;

AND WHEREAS there has not been a meaningful public debate on the Energy Plan or on the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different green power sources (such as run of river):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Hydro have its mandate restored to look for opportunities to develop sustainable alternative energy sources.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 2006, UBCM members endorsed resolution B26, which requested in part that the Province give “clear direction to BC Hydro to more aggressively pursue improvements in energy efficiency and low-impact renewable energy sources, such as wind, tidal or run-of-river power.”

In its response to the resolution the Province indicated that “about 90 percent of electricity generated comes from clean or renewable sources. “The BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership,” (Energy Plan), released by Minister Richard Neufeld on February 27, 2007, commits the Province to maintaining this standard.” The Province identified clean or renewable resources as “sources of energy that are constantly renewed by natural processes, such as water, solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, wood residue and organic municipal waste.”

UBCM members have also expressed concerns about the cumulative social and environmental impacts associated with IPPs, need for greater regulatory control and monitoring as well as the impacts on associated transmission corridors. (2003-B95; 2003-B96; 2006-A4; 2007-B146).

In addition, members have requested that the provincial government create incentives for local governments to become involved in independent power production (2006-LR14; 2007-B131).

Conference decision: _____

B46 PARK LAND DEDICATION

North Saanich

WHEREAS wildlife corridors in British Columbia are continuously diminishing due to encroachment of development displacing natural ecosystems, watercourses, and watersheds;

AND WHEREAS there is not enough green space going into developments to provide adequate buffer zones and to preserve natural ecosystems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government for a change to section 941(4) of the *Local Government Act* to increase the amount of required park land to be dedicated from 5% to 10%.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that a similar resolution was endorsed in 2006. B114 requested that the Local Government Act be amended to allow local governments the option of either requiring cash-in-lieu for parks or the dedication of land; and that the park dedication be increased to an amount not exceeding 10% of the land being subdivided or cash-in-lieu for parkland.

In its response to resolution 2006-B114, the Province indicated that it would “consult with the DFRC regarding increasing parkland dedication to 10%. However, local government has a number of other financial tools available to acquire parkland that can also be considered. Development Cost Charges (DCCs) can be used to acquire parkland or parkland improvements. Density bonusing can be used to secure natural areas, environmentally sensitive areas or other forms of public open space.”

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B47 TIMBER – POINT OF APPRAISAL

Mackenzie

WHEREAS the stumpage system for timber incorporates a cost allowance to transport the timber to the least cost point of appraisal, which is the closest mill from where the timber is harvested;

AND WHEREAS mergers within the forest industry have resulted in several companies owning multiple timber processing plants throughout different timber supply areas and many central interior communities have seen the indefinite closures of timber processing plants;

AND WHEREAS it is much more efficient to transport finished forest products than round logs, both from an economic and greenhouse gas perspective;

AND WHEREAS if the stumpage system provides an allowance for costs to transport timber to more distant mills, this will harm the chances of restarting local mills when the market improves, which will further erode communities that were created to ensure the forest industry thrived in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide assurances that the least cost point of appraisal will be maintained by the closest forestry processing plant, regardless of operational status, in order to encourage local processing and investment and ensure the security and long-term existence of small forest-dependent communities.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently supported local timber processing to encourage economic development for those communities within the timber supply area (2008-B37; 2003-A12).

The Committee also notes that in 2002 members endorsed the Forest Policy paper, including the following recommendation:

6. Appurtenancy UBCM is concerned about the removal of the appurtenancy clause as it will result in a further loss of control over where the wood is processed and in some cases, massive job loss.

Conference decision: _____

B48 STUMPAGE SYSTEM

Mackenzie

WHEREAS the provincial government has replaced the Comparative Value Stumpage System with the Market Price System in other areas of the province and is considering implementing the Market Price System in the interior of the province effective July 1, 2009;

AND WHEREAS extensive history indicates that delivered wood costs in some timber supply areas present identified inequities and anomalies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM requests the provincial government to study the stumpage system or proposed Market Price System to identify and correct any inequities or anomalies that impact the delivered wood costs.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have considered a number of previous resolutions related to the stumpage system. In 2003, A12 was endorsed which in part requested that:

“any changes to the stumpage appraisal system fully consider the operating costs for each harvesting system and operating area.”

In 2005 members endorsed B126 which requested the provincial government to eliminate as soon as possible the grade 3 waterbed, which is currently subsidizing northern forestry producers, and create provincial stumpage rates that are fair to all forestry operators in the province.

As well in 2003 recommendation #2 of the Forest Policy Paper was endorsed which stated:

“UBCM recommends a review of the stumpage system with the goal to make it more understandable, to reflect market conditions, to eliminate waterbedding, and to become more regionally sensitive.”

Conference decision: _____

B49 HIGHWAY 37 ELECTRIFICATION

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the electrification of the Highway 37 corridor is critical to the economy of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the memberships of the NCMA and UBCM endorsed a resolution in 2008 calling for the electrification of the Highway 37 corridor;

AND WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has committed \$250 million towards construction of the power line if a major partner could be found;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of British Columbia has expressed his interest in seeking federal infrastructure funds that could be put toward the permitting and potential construction of the power line along Highway 37:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to make the electrification of Highway 37 a high priority.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B45, which requested that the Province and BCTC continue the proposed environmental programs and projects, with a focus on the Northwest Transmission Line, namely the Terrace to Bob Quinn portion of the 287 kV line.

Prior to the 2008 resolution, members endorsed resolution B25 in 2004, which requested that the Province commit to the writing of a comprehensive plan for extension of the electrical grid into the Northwest region, with consideration of long term economic and resource development needs.

Responding to the 2008 resolution, the Province indicated that it is committed to building this transmission line, with \$250 million allocated to the project and an invitation to industry to join in planning and financing the Northwest Transmission Line.

The BC Transmission Corporation also responded to the 2008 resolution, referencing work with the Province and the BC Environmental Assessment Office to prepare for the project. Specifically, BCTC highlighted the resumption of “consultation with the Nisga’a Nation and First Nations with interests in the NTL areas” and also the fact that “Rescan Environmental Services, BCTC’s environmental consultant for NTL, will be completing baseline studies that were suspended in November 2007.” However, BCTC emphasized that “available funding is intended only to carry the project through to the preparation of the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate,” with no decision having yet been made to proceed with constructing the NTL.

Conference decision: _____

B50 AGRICULTURE IS IN ALL OF US – EAT BC

North Cowichan

WHEREAS British Columbia generated \$2,342 billion in total farm gross revenues (2006 census) which is less than 48% of total BC consumption, and British Columbia has an opportunity to significantly expand agriculture and food production which will generate four-fold stimuli to the relative service industries (machinery, crop supplies, labour and processing sectors);

AND WHEREAS BC farmers compete with other provinces and jurisdictions that provide a much higher level of support to their agricultural sectors (in BC, the total of provincial and federal support for agriculture combined is 8% versus 33% for Saskatchewan and the Canadian average of 17%):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government take seriously the responsibility to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands that is essential to help BC grow, by implementing a consistent, sufficient, and reliable budget mandatory to support and hire the necessary staff and resources within the agricultural areas of British Columbia.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that members have endorsed previous resolutions which have requested that the Province increase its funding of agricultural initiatives that will help to increase the productivity and efficiency of our diverse agricultural sectors (2008-B47).

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

B51 WATER FILTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Lake Country

WHEREAS water filtration requirements can be mandated by individual regional health authorities across the province;

AND WHEREAS regulations are not standardized across all of the provincial health authorities;

AND WHEREAS most municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Interior Health Authority (IHA) are being required to implement the authority's "4-3-2-1-0" water quality standards by 2015;

AND WHEREAS the cost needed to meet IHA requirements is beyond the financial abilities and borrowing capacity of most municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government standardizes water quality and treatment regulations across the Province of British Columbia and develops a funding strategy for their implementation.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B123, which called on the Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems. Members have also called on the Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B95).

The Committee notes that, under the Drinking Water Protection Act (and regulations), there are minimum water treatment standards and specific water quality standards. However, provincial health authority drinking water officers make regional determinations on water quality, which has prompted some local governments to identify the need for standardized and universally applicable potable water standards.

Conference decision: _____

B52 FUNDING STRATEGY FOR RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Langley City

WHEREAS the population of British Columbia is aging and there is increasing pressure on the health care delivery system to provide quality services for all seniors, no matter what their individual circumstances may be:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to develop a province wide funding strategy for residential care facilities, both private and public, that reflects the changing needs of BC's population and both the capital and operational cost drivers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding strategy reflect the various delivery systems from home care and assisted living, through to and including critical care.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has endorsed several previous resolutions requesting the Province to provide adequate funding for residential care beds and facilities (2004-B127; 2005-B45; 2000-B98; 1988-B5). Members have also endorsed resolutions calling for increased funding for other services such as home support (2007-B191; 2006-B155; 2003-B132; 2000-A3) and assisted living for seniors (2004-B129; 2005-B48).

Conference decision: _____

B53 MEDICAL SERVICE PLAN COVERAGE

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the Medical Services Plan does not currently cover the cost of eye examinations for BC residents who are between the ages of 19 and 64 years of age; or the cost of regular dental checkups and dental cleanings;

AND WHEREAS many serious conditions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and brain tumours, can be detected during a routine eye exam;

AND WHEREAS access to routine dental checkups and cleaning may prevent other serious medical problems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Health to include routine eye examinations and basic dental care under the Medical Services Plan of British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B145, which requested that the Province include dental coverage in the Medical Services Plan (MSP). Members have also endorsed resolutions that recommended MSP coverage of routine eye exams (2007-B189).

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B54 PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Invermere

WHEREAS there has been communication among local governments regarding support for local issues;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia, in the past, has not considered the wishes of the local government when the local governments are in the position to better understand the needs and wishes of the local communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities support the need to consider local government's comments when they are directly impacted by any provincial decision or policy direction.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has endorsed previous resolutions emphasizing the importance of consultation with local government (2002-SR1, 1995-B91, 1994-A2).

Conference decision: _____

B55 INCREASE OF MINIMUM WAGE

White Rock

WHEREAS the minimum wage for British Columbians has not increased since November 2001 and the cost of living is one of the highest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia has the lowest minimum wage rate and the highest child poverty rate in Canada and other provinces are increasing their minimum wage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be encouraged to increase the minimum wage.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 2007, members endorsed B198, which called upon the Province to increase the minimum wage to \$10 per hour.

In response to B198 the Province stated that, "As of the year 2007, British Columbia's regular minimum wage rate was amongst the highest of Canadian provinces. The average hourly wage in British Columbia (Province) is well over \$20 per hour, and the average hourly wage for youth in the Province is over \$12 per hour."

Conference decision: _____

B56 LIMITATION ON MUNICIPAL LIABILITY REGARDING BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

Burnaby

WHEREAS all local governments, with the exception of the City of Vancouver, face considerable liability risk and are being financially penalized as a result of legislation which does not provide immunity for building permit and inspection processes;

AND WHEREAS it is unacceptable that all local governments in British Columbia are not afforded the same liability protection through provincial legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend to the provincial government that the *Local Government Act* be amended to include blanket immunity from liability for approving building plans and inspecting buildings, similar to the *Vancouver Charter* (section 294, subsection 8).

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed
Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend to the provincial government that the Local Government Act be amended to abolish the system of joint and several liability and replace it with proportionate liability, under which defendants are responsible only to the degree to which they contributed to the loss and that the province reduce the limitation period from 30 years to 10 years.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM has been pursuing legislative reforms with respect to civil liability since its first Liability Action Plan in 1986.

Numerous resolutions have been endorsed and submissions made over the years, the most direct being 2003-SR1 and the "Response to Discussion Paper on Civil Liability" at the 2002 Convention, which resulted in a joint submission by UBCM and the Municipal Insurance Association to the Attorney General on the issue of civil liability. The precise position endorsed was to abolish the system of joint and several liability and replace it with proportionate liability, under which defendants are responsible only to the degree to which they contributed to the loss. The UBCM in 2006 (A1) requested that the province reduce the limitation period from 30 years to 10 years. Both of these initiatives were endorsed by the members again in 2007 as part of the policy paper on "Enforcement of the BC Building Code and Related Issues."

The Committee proposes an amendment to bring the resolution in line with existing UBCM policy on this issue.

Conference decision: _____

B57 COMMUNICATION SERVICES

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS there are still many areas of rural British Columbia that do not have telephone, cellular phone or Internet services, and the recent discontinuation of analogue, EARS, and Autotel services has created even more areas that do not have these services;

AND WHEREAS the Premier has made a commitment to "Bridging the Digital Divide" in the province of BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to continue to make expansion of internet and cellular phone service a high priority;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to provide incentives for companies to offer adequate cell phone and internet services to all rural residents.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently supported resolutions calling for province-wide cell phone coverage as well as internet / broadband services (2002-B23, 2003-B35, 2004-B9, 2005-B5, 2005-B160, 2008-B54).

Conference decision: _____

B58 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

North Saanich

WHEREAS public education is vital to the future of British Columbia and must be supported, especially during difficult economic times to ensure a strong economy in the future;

AND WHEREAS many school boards of education are at risk of not meeting public expectations for public education due to falling enrolment combined with the significant reduction in programs and services needed to balance their operating budgets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to increase funding levels for primary and secondary education in the province.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government increase funding levels for primary and secondary education in the province.

However, several resolutions requesting enhanced support for schools have been endorsed. 2005-B157 requested a review of the current funding formula for schools in general, with the view of increasing funding, including that for rural and remote schools. 2008-B22 requested that the funding formula be changed to recognize the unique needs of the North. 2006-B165, 2004-B94, 2003-B36, 2002-LR2 and 2000-B109 focused on the issue of keeping rural schools open and 2003-B135 requested that the Province provide school boards with the necessary funds to pay for educational funding shortfalls.

In 2008, the Province stated that since 2001/02 the Province has increased funding to BC's public schools by close to \$1.2 billion. Despite overall declining enrolment, funding to boards has increased to a record \$4.467 billion. Further, the Ministry of Education stated that they had convened a Technical Review Committee comprised of a mix of school district officials representing both rural and urban districts, and Ministry staff. This Committee meets throughout the fall of each year to review the funding formula and provide recommendations for changes based on their deliberations.

Conference decision: _____