

**2003 UBCM RESOLUTIONS
EXCERPTED FROM:**

**MINUTES
of the
ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the Union of BC Municipalities
held in
VANCOUVER, B.C.
on
SEPTEMBER 23, 24, 25 & 26, 2003**

PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSIONS – RESOLUTIONS

SECTION 'A' RESOLUTIONS

A1 SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM Vancouver

WHEREAS the February budget contribution to rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure fell well short of expectations and needs;

AND WHEREAS independent estimate puts the municipal infrastructure deficit in Canada at \$57 billion;

AND WHEREAS the budget commitment of \$250 million over the next two years will meet a fraction (less than 0.5 percent) of needs;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities had recommended funding of \$800 million per year, rising to \$2 billion annually within five years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge our Members of Parliament to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' call for a long-term, financially sustainable infrastructure program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be conveyed to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the federal government.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that "and MLAs" be added after "Members of Parliament" in the first enactment clause, and that "and provincial" be added after "federal" in the second enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge our Members of Parliament and MLAs to support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' call for a long-term, financially sustainable infrastructure program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be conveyed to FCM and the federal and provincial governments.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF CROWN LAND Kelowna

WHEREAS both titled and unsurveyed provincial Crown land exists within the boundaries of most local governments in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the public interest in these Crown lands can often be better served by the local government obtaining control of the Crown lands;

AND WHEREAS the Province has mandated that Land and Water BC Inc. dispose of Crown lands at market value:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management to instruct Land and Water BC Inc. that where local governments require title to provincial Crown lands for public use, those lands be transferred to the requesting local government by way of Free Crown Grant.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**A3 MUNICIPAL BYLAWS FINES: West Vancouver
COLLECTION POWERS North Vancouver City
North Vancouver District**

WHEREAS the current procedures available to local government for the collection of outstanding bylaw fines is cumbersome, costly and inefficient;

AND WHEREAS local governments will be embarking on a new system for enforcing their bylaws, especially parking bylaws, through the forthcoming Bylaw Forums legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to provide local government with imposed bylaw fines collection powers through the Insurance Corporation of BC (ICBC) for vehicle-related violations, and the ability to add unpaid fines to the property tax roll, where appropriate, for property-related violations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A4 KEEP OF PRISONERS Mission

WHEREAS municipal governments are responsible for the initial payment of expenses related to the keep of prisoners in municipal jails, including the initial costs for those prisoners that are legitimately the responsibility of the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has arbitrarily, and without consultation with local governments, drastically reduced its financial contribution to keep of prisoner expenses and thereby downloaded those costs directly onto local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be required to reinstate immediately the necessary funding for keep of prisoners for those prisoners that are the legitimate responsibility of the provincial government, including full reimbursement for the entire time of their incarceration in municipal jails;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government engage in meaningful consultation with the Union of BC Municipalities prior to making any future changes to the keep of prisoners contribution.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A5 SERVING OF CRIMINAL DOCUMENTS

Smithers

WHEREAS the function of serving criminal documents (summonses, subpoenas, youth court forms) in British Columbia was performed by Royal Canadian Mounted Police or municipal police officers until December 2002, on behalf of the provincial government with a \$25 reimbursement per document delivered to municipalities for services rendered;

AND WHEREAS in order to save \$1.25 million, the provincial government has, effective December 2002, discontinued funding to municipalities for the delivery of court documents by local Royal Canadian Mounted Police or police for services rendered:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to reinstate the \$25 per document to municipalities for delivery of court documents by police officers or, alternatively, that the provincial government be requested to hire, train and employ Peace Officers or Court Liaison Officers to carry out its court document delivery service at its own cost.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A6 WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 48

Islands Trust

WHEREAS the provincial government has given First Reading to legislation (Bill 48) that would amend the *Local Government Act* and the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* in a manner that could lead to a significant reduction in local government land use planning authority in farming areas and coastal waters;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has a stated policy of strengthening local decision making and eliminating regulations imposed by the province;

AND WHEREAS communities expect local governments to be accountable for land use planning decisions that reflect local values:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government withdraw Bill 48 and implement measures to achieve provincial goals for agriculture and aquaculture through collaboration and consultation with local government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A7 RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND REST AREA COMMERCIALIZATION

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the Regional District of Nanaimo was advised by letter on February 21, 2003 that the Ministry of Transportation intends to advertise for proposals to commercialize various locations within the highway right-of-way and highway rest areas in March 2003;

AND WHEREAS this action is being taken without regard for local planning and zoning regulations and without any consultation with local governments or the public;

AND WHEREAS this action gives no recognition to the investments made by landowners or existing businesses in legitimately locating on approved commercial sites or to the investments made by municipalities and taxpayers in commercial infrastructure within planned urban and town centers;

AND WHEREAS the province, the Regional District of Nanaimo and its three member municipalities (Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum Beach) signed a Vancouver Island Highway Agreement in 1998 and agreed to various highway access and land use management objectives that would protect the highway and its aesthetic qualities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Transportation be advised that the actions taken by the Ministry of Transportation to commercialize the highway corridor are in conflict with many shared local/provincial agreements, growth strategies and local official community plans and land use bylaws;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister of Transportation be respectfully requested to suspend immediately the initiative to commercialize highway rights-of-way and rest stops and consult with local governments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A8 TRANSIT FUEL COST INCREASE

Campbell River

WHEREAS the provincial government has enacted an increase in the provincial fuel tax of 3.5 cents per litre, effective March 1, 2003;

AND WHEREAS this tax has caused huge increases to the cost of providing transit services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to exempt transit services from the 3.5 cents per litre increase in provincial fuel tax.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A9 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE AND LANDSCAPING

Kamloops

WHEREAS the BC Ministry of Transportation has decided, without consulting affected municipalities, to eliminate all aesthetic grass mowing and landscape maintenance on provincial highways medians, boulevards and intersections throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS this decision will result in a serious aesthetic deterioration of highway rights-of-way in BC communities, creating a negative impression on tourists and investors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to reconsider its decision to eliminate highway rights-of-way landscaping and to consult with communities to find ways of maintaining this landscaping.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase and “eliminating the fire risk” be appended to the end of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to reconsider its decision to eliminate highway rights-of-way landscaping and to consult with communities to find ways of maintaining this landscaping and eliminating the fire risk.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A10 COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCILS

Burns Lake

WHEREAS authority for health care spending in British Columbia has been delegated to five regional authorities whose boards are not required by statute to consult with communities on health care issues;

AND WHEREAS, as a result of this regionalization initiative, residents of rural and remote communities no longer have any direct input into the delivery of local health services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Health Authorities Act* to formally recognize the role of community health advisory councils and require that regional health authorities consult with these organizations prior to establishing local service plans or making changes to local health care.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “establish and” be added before “recognize”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Health Authorities Act* to formally establish and recognize the role of community health advisory councils and require that regional health authorities consult with these organizations prior to establishing local service plans or making changes to local health care.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A11 ELECTRONIC WASTE: INDUSTRY PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS electronic products are a growing waste management problem in British Columbia because of their rapid obsolescence, with the number of discards expected to double in Canada between 1999 and 2005;

AND WHEREAS electronic products contain lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polyvinyl chloride, brominated flame retardant and other materials that can pose hazards to human health and the environment when disposed of improperly;

AND WHEREAS an Industry Product Stewardship program would foster the development of sustainable electronic product recycling infrastructure here in Canada while at the same time encouraging producers to design for recycling:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to enact a regulation under the *Waste Management Act* requiring electronic product brand-owners to implement Industry Product Stewardship programs which will ensure the social and environmentally responsible handling of end-of-life electronic products.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A12 BEETLE INFESTATION AND FOREST HEALTH Valemount

WHEREAS the wealth generating capacity of British Columbia’s forests is eroding as a direct result of the damage caused by the Mountain Pine Beetle and as a result of that diminished capacity there have been adverse effects on employment and provincial revenues;

AND WHEREAS, if left unchecked, the Mountain Pine Beetle will devastate northern British Columbia’s forests and forest industry, thereby potentially compromising the viability of many resource-based, northern communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities exert whatever influence it might to encourage both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the availability of and application of both the sufficient and necessary resources to:

- Salvage the beetle infested wood rather than burn it, and salvage it before it deteriorates;
- Maximize immediate employment in the forest sector by salvaging beetle infested wood;
- Prevent the continuing spread of the beetle into productive forest and private lands, thereby further diminishing fibre values, by harvesting beetle infested wood and implementing a beetle management strategy in provincial parks;
- Ensure the processing of wood in mills located in the vicinity of where the wood is harvested, where milling capacity allows;
- Encourage industry, through the application of legitimate initiatives, such as hauling differentials, to process beetle infested wood both before deterioration of the fibre, and before healthy wood is harvested, thereby preventing further flooding of an already saturated lumber market;
- Eradicate the beetle infestation and restore BC’s forests to a sound state of health;
- Continuously monitor the health BC forests for signs of further infestation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any changes to the stumpage appraisal system fully consider the operating costs for each harvesting system and operating area.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following two points be added to the end of the first enactment clause:

- Implement a BC Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Reforestation Plan to help combat this natural disaster; and
- Ensure that beetle-infested timber is not permitted to be transported during beetle flight season; and that strict regulations for the harvesting, transportation, storage and processing of insect infested timber be established, monitored and enforced at all times, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “rather than burn it” be deleted from the first point of the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “on working forest lands” be added immediately after the phrase “by harvesting beetle infested wood” in the third point of the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the sixth point of the first enactment clause be deleted in its entirety, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities exert whatever influence it might to encourage both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the availability of and application of both the sufficient and necessary resources to:

- Salvage the beetle infested wood before it deteriorates;
- Maximize immediate employment in the forest sector by salvaging beetle infested wood;
- Prevent the continuing spread of the beetle into productive forest and private lands, thereby further diminishing fibre values, by harvesting beetle infested wood on working forest lands and implementing a beetle management strategy in provincial parks;
- Ensure the processing of wood in mills located in the vicinity of where the wood is harvested, where milling capacity allows;
- Encourage industry, through the application of legitimate initiatives, such as hauling differentials, to process beetle infested wood both before deterioration of the fibre, and before healthy wood is harvested, thereby preventing further flooding of an already saturated lumber market;
- Continuously monitor the health BC forests for signs of further infestation;
- Implement a BC Interior Mountain Pine Beetle Reforestation Plan to help combat this natural disaster; and
- Ensure that beetle-infested timber is not permitted to be transported during beetle flight season; and that strict regulations for the harvesting, transportation, storage and processing of insect infested timber be established, monitored and enforced at all times;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any changes to the stumpage appraisal system fully consider the operating costs for each harvesting system and operating area.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A13 MANDATORY HELMETS FOR SMALL-WHEEL VEHICLES

Port Moody

WHEREAS the safety and well-being of individuals participating in skateboarding and in-line skating activities are at risk for serious injuries and potential liability exists for municipalities from injuries sustained within pathways, dedicated park areas and roadways;

AND WHEREAS the *Motor Vehicle Act* includes a provision for mandatory helmet use on public roadways when operating a bicycle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support an amendment to the *Motor Vehicle Act* to require mandatory helmet use on public roadways when operating a skateboard, scooter, in-line skates, roller skates or any other small-wheeled device.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “on public roadways” be deleted from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support an amendment to the *Motor Vehicle Act* to require mandatory helmet use when operating a skateboard, scooter, in-line skates, roller skates or any other small-wheeled device.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A14 BOUNDARY EXTENSIONS

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS municipal boundary extensions into Electoral Areas can be done by Ministerial decree without assent of electors within the affected Electoral Areas and without the consent of the Directors of the affected Electoral Areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to ensure the principle of “no forced boundary extensions” in the revision of the *Community Charter* as it relates to Regional Districts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Electoral Areas be included in discussions on changes of boundaries on an equal basis with municipalities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR1 LIABILITY

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the Attorney General released a discussion paper on civil liability to which UBCM approved a response at the 2002 Convention;

AND WHEREAS there has been no announcement of the action government intends to take based on the recommendations it received and the need for civil liability reforms remains:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities reaffirm the recommendations on civil liability endorsed at the 2002 Convention.

The 2002 UBCM recommendations on civil liability are:

- a) That civil liability reforms should be guided by the fundamental principle that individuals and organizations should be responsible for the consequences of their actions, not for the actions of others; and their liability should be commensurate with their degree of responsibility.
- b) That the concept of joint and several liability for property damage and economic loss is inappropriate in a modern society and should be abolished.
- c) That joint and several liability be replaced by a system of pure several or proportionate liability (such as now exists in cases of contributory liability) under which defendants are responsible only to the degree to which they contributed to the loss.
- d) That UBCM support the BC Law Institute July 2002 report on "The Ultimate Limitation Period: Updating the Limitation Act". In particular:
 - i) that the 30 year ultimate limitation period of general application be reduced to 10 years;
 - ii) that the Limitation Act provide a special ultimate limitation period of 30 years applicable to cases of fraud, fraudulent breach of trust or willful concealment of facts material to the claim;

- iii) that the provisions of the Limitation Act which provide a special ultimate limitation period of 6 years for medical practitioners, hospitals and hospital employees, be repealed; and
- iv) that the Limitation Act be amended to provide that the commencement of the running of time under the ultimate limitation period is from the date an act or omission that constitutes a breach of duty occurs, where the plaintiff's action is based on breach of duty, whether that duty arises under a contract, statute or the general law.
- e) That local government not be responsible for intentional misconduct by employees that would not, under any circumstances, be condoned or accepted by local government as the employer.
- f) That the doctrine of non-delegable duty not be retained where there is no fault attributable to local government in the selection of independent contractors to deliver local government services.
- g) That the legislation to effect the above be introduced as soon as practicable, but no later than the spring 2003 legislative session.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SR2 TOURISM AND AIR TRANSPORTATION

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS SARS, 9/11 and the fear of terrorism have had a serious impact on air travel resulting in a significant reduction in tourism revenue;

AND WHEREAS onerous and costly regulations, taxes and fees, airline restructuring, as well as lack of reinvestment into the air transportation system, make it difficult for BC communities to enhance local economies through tourism opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon the federal and provincial governments to work together with communities to address the impediments to air travel and pursue policy changes that will improve and enhance airport operations and air travel opportunities in all regions of the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SR3 LIQUOR LICENSING POLICY

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the provincial government is considering further changes in liquor policy that may have planning, zoning and regulatory implications for local government;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is considering changes to its policy on the operation and management of liquor stores which may result in increased policing and social service costs to the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province consult with local government on its proposed changes to liquor regulations, sales and distribution and that all liquor stores be subject to local government bylaws (zoning, hours of operation, business licensing, etc.).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION “B” - PART I RESOLUTIONS**B1 FEDERAL GUN REGISTRY****Valemount**

WHEREAS the federal government has passed legislation requiring the registration of firearms and the cost of registering those legally owned firearms is approaching \$1 billion dollars with no assurance that illegally owned firearms will be registered or that the registration of firearms will reduce crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities encourage the federal government to scrap the registration program and gun registry, and further advocate to the federal government that the money currently expended on the firearms registration program be channelled to more worthy causes such as health care, education and front-line policing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B2 FUNDING OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS**Port Coquitlam**

WHEREAS the Restorative Justice Programs focus on repairing the harm caused by the crime, including involvement of the victim of the crime;

AND WHEREAS Restorative Justice Programs were an initiative of the provincial government which has resulted in financial savings to the provincial government; funds which should be provided by the appropriate Ministry for the program;

AND WHEREAS the Province applies a 15 percent victim surcharge levy to fines imposed and the funding of the Restorative Justice Programs would fit within the goals of the *Victims of Crime Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to use funds in the Victim Surcharge Special Account to participate in the ongoing funding of Restorative Justice Programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B3 PROCEEDS FROM FORFEITED PROPERTY**Surrey**

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments will share the proceeds of disposition of forfeited property pursuant to relevant sections of the *Criminal Code* and *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, where a law enforcement agency has participated in an investigation;

AND WHEREAS the current legislation excludes local governments from sharing in the proceeds of disposition of forfeited property;

AND WHEREAS law enforcement agencies that participate in these investigations in British Columbia are largely funded by local government through either a contract with the Province for RCMP services or through a municipal contract for policing services;

AND WHEREAS local governments cannot influence the way RCMP or other municipal police forces conduct criminal investigations but may be able to reduce the level of crime in their community by increasing the level of proactive law enforcement;

AND WHEREAS there is a direct correlation between the amount of proceeds of disposition forfeited in a local community and the cost of fighting crime in that community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the current legislation be amended to include the direct transfer of the proceeds of disposition of forfeited property by the federal government directly to the local government where the original investigation was conducted.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B5 MAIL-IN VOTING FOR GENERAL ELECTION**Coquitlam**

WHEREAS the provincial and municipal governments have worked hard to increase the number of voters participating in municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS the voter turnout for General Local Elections has remained consistently low due to the requirement for electors to be physically present at a voting place on general voting day or at an advance voting opportunity;

AND WHEREAS other provinces and jurisdictions have successfully enacted alternative voting methods such as mail-in voting as a way to increase voter turn out;

AND WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* of British Columbia only permits very limited use of alternative voting methods such as mail-in voting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province amend the *Local Government Act* to broaden the use of mail-in voting for Local General Elections.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B6 BACK ROADS OF BC PROMOTION**Logan Lake**

WHEREAS a number of communities in British Columbia are located just off the major highway networks traversing our province;

AND WHEREAS the back roads of British Columbia offer some of the most beautiful and scenic driving, and highlight the true splendour of this province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry responsible for tourism and the Ministry of Transportation be requested to initiate a “Back Roads of British Columbia” (Scenic Routes) program.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B7 TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**Quesnel**

WHEREAS transportation to and from the rural areas located in British Columbia is poor;

AND WHEREAS BC Rail has deemed it necessary to eliminate the passenger rail service connecting rural areas to the larger urban centers of the province;

AND WHEREAS the rural area road infrastructure is deteriorating at an alarming rate due to the increased heavy truck traffic resulting from the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic and the inability of BC Rail to compete in the freight transport market;

AND WHEREAS the rural area residents provide monies to the federal and provincial governments through general and municipal taxation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal and provincial governments to provide additional funding for safe, reliable, equitable and affordable transportation to the rural area residents of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B8 OPERATIONAL STANDARDS OF DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS**View Royal**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that no devolution of provincial highways should occur without first being refurbished to municipal operational standards.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B9 DEVOLUTION OF PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS TO MUNICIPALITIES View Royal

WHEREAS the provincial government has unilaterally decided to devolve and download to the Town of View Royal a portion of provincial Highway No. 14 known locally as the "Colwood strip";

AND WHEREAS such devolution has very significant cost and administrative implications for communities which are being forced by the province to take responsibility for provincial highways;

AND WHEREAS such downloading is not consistent with the spirit of mutual respect between provincial and local governments espoused by the new *Community Charter* legislation (Bill 14):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly urge the provincial government to fully disclose all details of the costs, maintenance, obligations and public liability to each local government being devolved responsibilities for provincial highways, and further that such disclosure occur prior to final devolution.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B10 STAFFED LIGHTHOUSES Alert Bay

WHEREAS a large portion of the coast community is dependent upon ocean shipping and other boating traffic;

AND WHEREAS the economics and safety for ocean bound vessels are directly affected by reductions in light station services, which will increase the costs for ocean shipping and other boating traffic:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that those light stations that have had staff reduced or eliminated be completely and immediately re-staffed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Canada Coast Guard immediately discontinue the removal of foghorns and other navigational aids on the coast of BC.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B11 TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY, CACHE CREEK TO ALBERTA BORDER Revelstoke

WHEREAS the Trans-Canada Highway between Cache Creek and the Alberta border is a critical economic transportation link between BC communities and a vast majority of North American commerce;

AND WHEREAS the current inadequacies of the Trans-Canada Highway result in not only economic loss and an inordinate, unacceptable level of injury and loss of life, but also lost opportunity to the detriment of these communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the federal and provincial governments to provide the funds necessary to upgrade the Trans-Canada Highway from 12 miles south of Lytton and the Alberta border to a modern standard capable of providing safe, reliable transit for the transportation industry, tourists and the travelling public.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B12 COAST GUARD RESPONSIBILITY FOR Thompson-Nicola RD
NAVIGATION AIDS**

WHEREAS the Thompson River system is a navigable water system that has been used extensively, both commercially and recreationally, since people first settled in British Columbia and continues to be used in such a manner to this date;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Coast Guard, as part of its mandate, assumed responsibility and control over the navigation aids installed in the South Thompson River, but now wishes to withdraw from its responsibility because it lacks the resources to continue the service and does not believe the aids meet national standards;

AND WHEREAS the removal of navigational aids in any navigable water system in Canada will jeopardize the safety of the general public using said navigable water systems and has the potential to impact river systems environmentally;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be petitioned to provide the necessary financial resources so that the Canadian Coast Guard can continue to retain full responsibility for navigational aids in navigable water systems across the country.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B14 TAX ON LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT

Quesnel

WHEREAS life-saving and fire equipment is essential in ensuring the safety of all citizens within the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the citizens of this province provide monies to the federal and provincial governments through general and municipal taxation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the federal and provincial governments to exempt municipalities from the Provincial Sales Taxes and Federal Goods and Services Tax on the purchase of fire trucks and other life-saving equipment.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B15 FEDERAL GAS TAX REVENUES

Central Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the federal government is receiving a financial windfall from gas tax revenues;

AND WHEREAS a mere pittance of federal gas tax revenues are being reinvested in road infrastructure improvements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments encourage the federal government to dedicate a significant portion of federal gas tax to improvement of road infrastructure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B16 ADMINISTRATION OF COLLECTION SERVICES

Fort St. James

WHEREAS municipalities annually collect amounts on behalf of the Provincial School Tax, Regional Districts, Regional Hospital Districts, BC Assessment Authority and Municipal Finance Authority;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government pays local governments \$2,000 plus 0.1 percent of the total tax levy to administer these collections, which does not reflect the actual costs of providing these services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to provide fairer compensation for the services provided by municipalities for collection of amounts for these other authorities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B17 BC RAIL CROSSING MAINTENANCE AND LEASE FEES**Squamish**

WHEREAS BC Rail communities are required to pay BC Rail for rail crossing maintenance and leased fees for rights of way and easements that have increased arbitrarily and unilaterally by up to 18,000 percent (\$5 - \$900) since 1997, causing hardship to local government;

AND WHEREAS the BC Rail grant in lieu has remained unchanged:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to have rail crossing maintenance costs and lease payments rolled back to the 1997 level immediately;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BC Rail be required to establish its lease rates in a fair and equitable manner through negotiation with local governments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B19 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS local government should be able to pay the capital costs for the development of parks required as a result of residential growth and development through the use of the Development Cost Charges (DCC) Reserve Fund;

AND WHEREAS section 935.3(b) of the *Local Government Act* provides only for payment of capital costs for:

- (i) acquiring park land or reclaiming land as park land, or
- (ii) providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment on park land, subject to the restriction that the capital cost must relate directly or indirectly to the development in respect of which the charge was collected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to expand Section 935.3(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act* to include sports courts, tennis courts, lacrosse boxes, skate board facilities, field lighting and on-site parking facilities as allowable DCC park land improvement purposes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B20 FARM CLASSIFICATION**Langley Township**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities re-confirm support for the 1995 UBCM resolution B36 on the *Assessment Act* – Farm Classification, which requested:

WHEREAS property taxation is stated to be based on market value assessments and the exempting or reducing a portion of a class puts a strain on the other classes and creates an unfair system of taxation;

AND WHEREAS the existing *Assessment Act* and regulations adopted thereto encourage minimal activities and integrated use as proof of a farming operation and, in some instances, without consideration of municipal land use bylaws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to make changes to the *Assessment Act* and regulations adopted thereto to amend the Farm Property class:

- to include a “home and home site” provision that would classify the home and land surrounding the home as Residential Class 1;
- to ensure that Farm Class would not be permitted on properties where the municipal zoning does not permit agricultural uses;
- to ensure that where a Farm Class is granted because of an “integrated use,” it be so only on the basis that the secondary parcel provides a “reasonable” contribution to the overall integrated operation; and

- that the list of qualifying uses for Farm Class be examined due to the generous property tax benefits that Farm Class provides;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province to commit to making the requested changes to the *Assessment Act*.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B21 GRAVEL EXTRACTION

LMMA Executive

WHEREAS sustainable gravel removal from BC rivers, including the Fraser River, is essential for flood protection and seepage mitigation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request provincial and federal government support for sustainable gravel removal from BC rivers, necessary for flood protection and seepage mitigation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B22 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has developed an Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in British Columbia that commits to the development of groundwater protection legislation;

AND WHEREAS groundwater protection legislation and regulation is a priority for all areas of British Columbia, and is of multi-jurisdictional interest and does not conform to political or local government boundaries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities express to the Province its support for new groundwater protection legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government must provide the resources and initiatives to implement its legislative responsibility and authority for the province's groundwater resource.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B23 OIL TANKERS

Coquitlam

WHEREAS recent global ecological catastrophes such as the one caused by the sinking of the single-hull oil tanker "Prestige" off Spain's Northern Coast have occurred;

AND WHEREAS single-hulled tankers, which have no additional outer casing to protect against ruptures, enter waters off our coast frequently;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations ban on single-hulled tankers may not be fully operational until 2015;

AND WHEREAS the European Union has taken stringent actions to prohibit the use of these economically and ecologically disastrous vessels;

AND WHEREAS preventative measures are generally far less costly (financially, economically, socially and ecologically) than restorative or reactive activities;

AND WHEREAS the Pacific and Fraser River Salmon Fishery, one of the greatest in the world, is an economic driver in the Lower Mainland and the rest of British Columbia and is highly vulnerable to (single-hulled) oil tanker spills;

AND WHEREAS the Fraser River Estuary, a significant flyover for thousands of birds and Georgia Strait and Burrard Inlet, home to hundreds of unique marine species, are directly exposed to tanker traffic carrying dangerous goods:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the federal Minister of Environment to ensure the necessary steps are taken to protect our shorelines and fisheries, and encourage the federal government to consider the European stand and promote safe and clean shipping in Canadian waters.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B24 LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Gibsons

WHEREAS the Province of BC has completed Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) for most regions of the province;

AND WHEREAS community conflicts over land use continue to escalate in the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) due to the absence of an LRMP – creating loss of employment, endangered species habitat and crown revenues, inflaming treaty negotiations and frustrating the community;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC previously recognized the need for an LRMP in the SCRCD and has now abandoned its commitment to this process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of BC provide the requisite resources to complete Land and Resource Management Plans for the entire province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B25 TENURE REFORM AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Port Clements

WHEREAS the *Forest Act* does not specify that the forest tenure licensee must involve local communities in planning or contribute to the stability and sustainability of the local communities;

AND WHEREAS the *Forest Act* states that “the Minister must offer the holder of an existing licence a replacement for the licence”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the following changes to the *Forest Act*:

- Within the appropriate divisions, sections and subsections that deal with license replacement, change “the Minister must” to “the Minister may.”
- Add a stipulation regarding license formation or replacement, that the Minister must be satisfied that the licensee has contributed to the stability and sustainability of the local communities.
- Include a new Division to specifically deal with the Crown’s and licensee’s obligations to involve local communities in the formation, planning and replacement of all renewable licences.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B26 IMPROVE ACCESS TO SALVAGEABLE TIMBER

Port Clements

WHEREAS hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of timber are wasted each year that could be utilized by local entrepreneurs to the benefit of the local communities and the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS only the lack of clear policies and commitment from the provincial government, coupled with the unwillingness of the large tenure holders to participate in facilitating effective and timely access to this resource, hinders its utilization and the attendant benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities enter into discussions with the provincial government to formulate ways and means that will allow entrepreneurs effective

access to blowdown and logging residues that the tenure holders have no plans to recover within two years of the completion of harvesting in an opening.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B27 WHOLE LOG EXPORT

Hazelton

WHEREAS many northern communities' economies are based on the forest industry;

AND WHEREAS some communities perceive the export of raw logs from their areas to encourage "creaming" of their resources with respect to present and future jobs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby and work to ensure that resource manufacturing continues to be carried out in the communities closest to the resource.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B28 FOREST RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS

New Hazelton

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forests has indicated that it will no longer maintain Forest Recreation Sites and Trails and has requested proposals from individuals and groups to perform this maintenance;

AND WHEREAS these sites and trails are necessary for residents of the province and tourists visiting Beautiful BC and must be consistently well maintained:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Premier and the Minister of Forests ensure that maintenance of Forest Recreation Sites and Trails remain an operation performed by the Ministry of Forests and that such maintenance not be transferred to other individuals or groups unless appropriate resources are provided.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B29 WOOD INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS

NCMA Executive

WHEREAS increased domestic use of wood and the development of the value-added sector are crucial to the future economies of our communities;

AND WHEREAS despite several "build with wood" resolutions spearheaded by local governments calling on the provincial government to optimize the use of wood in all publicly funded projects – steel and concrete continue to dominate many public sector projects to the exclusion of wood use;

AND WHEREAS a commitment to developing international profile projects like the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre and 2010 Olympic Venues as wood and sustainable building showcases would be an investment in international marketing of BC and Canadian wood products:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to:

- appoint a Provincial Director of Value Added Development who would spearhead the development of a long-term BC value added wood strategy; and
- establish a provincial policy to encourage all publicly funded and P3 building projects to showcase the use of wood and sustainable building practices.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B30 COMPENSATION FOR REMOVAL OF NATURAL RESOURCES Central Coast RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced its commitment to a Heartlands strategy;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government presently collects a royalty or stumpage fee on natural resources extracted, but does not remit a portion to most of the municipalities or regional districts;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government should remit a portion of the royalties collected from resources back to the originating communities in compensation for the loss of natural resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities approach the provincial government to discuss opportunities for local government sharing of resource revenues.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B32 PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION OFFICERS Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS the fish and wildlife resources of North Central British Columbia provide a vital component of the economic and social fabric of the region by providing sustenance, recreation and aesthetic benefits to the residents, and by attracting significant tourism activities;

AND WHEREAS the provincial fish and wildlife populations and their habitats are coming under increasing pressures which threaten species abundance and survival;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is making sweeping changes to wildlife management in a number of areas, including proposing fish and wildlife harvesting rights in Aboriginal treaties - changes which will require increased monitoring and enforcement efforts;

AND WHEREAS earlier provincial government cut backs have reduced the number of conservation officers in the field, while expecting them to adequately monitor and enforce activities throughout impossibly large tracts of land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase the number of conservation officers in the field so that adequate monitoring and enforcement of fish and wildlife harvesting activities can be provided.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B33 SUPPORT FOR PROVINCE-WIDE AMBULANCE SERVICES Golden North Vancouver District

WHEREAS the BC Ambulance Service provides all British Columbians with province-wide emergency medical care no matter where they live;

AND WHEREAS at a cost of \$41 per person, the BC Ambulance Service responds to more than 400,000 emergency calls per year and is among the most cost-effective services in North America;

AND WHEREAS the BC Ambulance Service is an essential medical service to all BC communities, answering an emergency call almost every two minutes;

AND WHEREAS any cuts to ambulance service funding and paramedics would mean delays when every second counts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the provincial government to maintain a province-wide integrated BC Ambulance Service that is adequately funded by the Province and that provides the best possible training for emergency paramedics.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B34 RAISING THE LEVEL OF TRAINING
FOR MUNICIPAL FIREFIGHTERS**

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS it is recognized that the provision of first aid to patients at the earliest opportunity is recognized and considered a benefit;

AND WHEREAS it is often possible for firefighter first responders to reach those in need sooner than ambulance paramedics;

AND WHEREAS the public is more concerned about receiving care than it is about who is administering care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government raise the level of paramedic training available to local government firefighters;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such care be based on the Union of BC Municipalities' membership endorsed principle of providing consistent and adequate levels of service province-wide and establish a compatible and recognized level of first aid for B.C. ambulance, fire department and industry sectors.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B35 BROADBAND AND CELLULAR PHONE

Hazelton

WHEREAS broadband is becoming increasingly important for economic development;

AND WHEREAS many northern BC municipalities and regional districts do not have access to broadband and other telecommunication tools in order to compete in the global economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to lobby and work to ensure that every community in northern BC has access to the latest telecommunication technology such as broadband and cellular phone service, in order to develop economic growth opportunities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B36 SCHOOLS IN SMALL RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

Montrose

WHEREAS schools in small rural municipalities, often underutilized due to the inflexibility of Provincial policies, are community assets serving essential education, cultural and social needs;

AND WHEREAS the consolidation of public services for narrowly defined economic reasons is placing the survival of small rural community schools at risk:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education and the BC School Trustees Association encourage school districts to enter into negotiations with the affected local governments to expand the role and use of rural schools to their full potential for the benefit of citizens and communities, thereby ensure the long-term viability of these essential assets.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B37 CONDOS DECLARED A DISASTER

Port Moody

WHEREAS the leaky building crisis is the largest and costliest construction debacle in Canadian history affecting tens of thousands of British Columbians living, working, learning or convalescing in defective buildings;

AND WHEREAS owners of leaky homes through no fault of their own, from all social and economic backgrounds, are facing bankruptcies, foreclosures or repair costs of up to \$260,000 per home;

AND WHEREAS schools, hospitals, businesses, provincial and federal funded housing have also required hundreds of millions of dollars in repairs;

AND WHEREAS the estimated \$1.5 billion to repair leaky homes alone divided by 4,087,199 British Columbians equals a cost of \$367.00 per BC citizen, far exceeding the financial criteria of \$1.00 plus expenditures per capita for federal assistance under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA);

AND WHEREAS the DFAA eligible costs include those related to restoring public works to their pre-disaster condition and to replacing or repairing basic, essential personal property of individuals, small businesses and farmsteads;

AND WHEREAS the Barrett Commission estimated that failure to provide immediate and meaningful assistance to affected homeowners alone could easily double direct cost estimates (\$3 billion plus);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the provincial government to resolve the leaky building crisis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments make a declaration of disaster to enable financial assistance for those directly affected by the leaky building crisis.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B38 DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON AVALANCHE RISK Revelstoke

WHEREAS the tragic loss of life in recent avalanche incidents has raised the awareness of the potential dangers in backcountry British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS dependable information on avalanche risks and public training reduces the risk to backcountry users and can save lives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities make representation to the federal and provincial governments to increase funding and resources for research, monitoring and assessment of the avalanche risk in backcountry areas and the dissemination of information related thereto.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B39 DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM Kelowna

WHEREAS the issue of impaired driving continues to be a major social and financial issue in our communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the appropriate Minister to amend the BC Liquor Distribution Branch application for Special Occasion Liquor Permits such that they require the applicant to display Designated Driver promotional materials in a visible location at the event for which the permit is used.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B40 IMPACTS OF PROVINCIAL CUTS ON MUNICIPALITIES Vancouver

WHEREAS the current and proposed cuts by the Provincial Ministries and Boards of Attorney General; Children and Family Development; Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services;

Education; Health Services; Human Resources; Public Safety and Solicitor General; Skills Development and Labour; Regional Health Authorities and Housing to social services are directly impacting citizens in British Columbia's municipalities;

AND WHEREAS these cuts are directly impacting those most vulnerable citizens in every community (e.g., women, seniors, people with disabilities, youth and aboriginal people) and the impacts of these cuts are leading to increased homelessness, poverty, health problems, crime and street disorder in municipalities;

AND WHEREAS service agencies are also experiencing cuts and are unable to respond to increased needs, increasing the problem for municipalities with no additional resources from the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urges the provincial government to defer any future cuts to social services until there is a clear, public evaluation of the full cumulative impacts of the current cuts on citizens in British Columbia municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities calls on the provincial government to conduct a review in order to reverse those changes which may negatively affect women and girls, and to freeze action on any further programme, policy and funding changes which may negatively affect women and girls, until this review is completed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial ministries work with municipalities to address these impacts on citizens.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

The Chair then introduced the following resolutions, B4, B13, B18, and B31, for individual debate.

B4 RURAL POLICING COSTS

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS the funding formula for the provision of police services by communities in British Columbia is based on an escalating scale according to population;

AND WHEREAS this formula results in dramatic differences in the price paid by residents of rural areas and municipalities under 5,000 to that paid by all other residents of the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General be asked to develop a funding formula for provision of police services that resolves the current inequities and ensures that all communities in British Columbia share in the cost.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words "and adequately recognize rural property tax contributions" be added at the end of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General be asked to develop a funding formula for provision of police services that resolves the current inequities, ensures that all communities in British Columbia share in the cost, and adequately recognizes rural property tax contributions.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B13 SCHOOL ZONE HOURS

Burnaby

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for the *Motor Vehicle Act* and its regulations and whereas the establishment of school and playground zones including reduced speed limits is intended to provide safety for children in the vicinity;

AND WHEREAS schools are frequently used by children within the community outside of regular school hours in much the same way as playgrounds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the present applicability of school zones “between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on a day school is regularly held be brought into conformity with time limits for playgrounds, currently being “between dawn and dusk” but subject to extension (07:00 h to 22:00 h is being recommended by the BC Association of Police Chiefs).

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B18 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FOR DUPLEXES

Chilliwack

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* gives municipalities the ability to levy Development Cost Charges on new developments that impact infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS developers of duplex units are exempt from payment of Development Cost Charges;

AND WHEREAS the cumulative effect of duplex unit development has an impact on municipal infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services to pursue changes to the *Local Government Act* that would eliminate the exemption for residential structures of three or fewer units from paying Development Cost Charges.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B31 BULK WATER EXPORT

Telkwa

WHEREAS water, a limited resource, is necessary to sustain human life and British Columbia’s fish, forestry and agricultural resources rely on a good supply of water for survival and water is a public resource managed and monitored by tax dollars;

AND WHEREAS municipalities hold water licences for large extraction limits and businesses that sell water utilize municipal water systems for generated profit, and some of these businesses want to sell water internationally as bulk water export to meet the needs of other countries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial legislation be enacted that recognizes the precious value of British Columbia’s water resource and prevents, for all time, British Columbia’s bulk water from being sold internationally.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “prevents, for all time,” be replaced with the word “prohibits” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial legislation be enacted that recognizes the precious value of British Columbia’s water resource and prohibits British Columbia’s bulk water from being sold internationally.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “without consultation of the local and provincial governments and communities involved” be appended to the end of the enactment clause, was not endorsed.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that LR10 be admitted to the floor for debate, was endorsed.

**LR10 BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY
(BSE OR MAD COW DISEASE)****Peace River RD**

WHEREAS the Canadian cattle industry has been devastated by a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), due to the closure of export borders to market cattle over 30 months of age, despite the lack of scientific evidence to support continued closures;

AND WHEREAS Canada is obligated under WTO to accept a tariff rate quota (TRQ) of 76,409 metric tonnes of non-NAFTA beef to be imported duty free plus has the provision to allow further supplemental TRQ import certificates at the discretion of the Minister of International Trade;

AND WHEREAS accepting import beef rather than ensuring the utilization of Canadian cattle over 30 months of age causes hardship for Canadian cattle suppliers and the potential loss of an estimated 600,000 head of cattle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities immediately lobby the province of BC to join with other western provinces to have the Government of Canada place a temporary halt to all imports of WTO beef until border closures are lifted.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION “B” - PART II RESOLUTIONS

**B41 TREE PROTECTION BYLAWS FOR
REGIONAL DISTRICTS****Comox-Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* affords municipalities the ability to protect significant trees through tree protection bylaws, but does not afford Regional Districts the same ability;

AND WHEREAS Regional Districts have trees of significance which warrant protection (such as the endangered Garry Oak groves on North-Central Vancouver Island);

AND WHEREAS tree cutting protection in regional areas may be considered necessary to prevent erosion of banks, mudslides and other land destruction or to protect endangered groves or culturally significant trees which might be otherwise destroyed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to give Regional Districts the power to protect trees which have documented local, historical or ecological significance or which provide environmental protection against significant soil erosion and mudslides.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “or which provide environmental protection against significant soil erosion and mudslides” be removed from the enactment clause, was not endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B42 SECONDARY SUITES**Surrey**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government undertake an intense review of the *BC Building Code* with a view to significantly reducing the expense associated with introducing a secondary suite in a single-family dwelling while maintaining basic life safety protection for the occupants of the secondary suites.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B43 TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY CHARTER – BILL 67**Delta**

WHEREAS the provincial government is anticipated to implement the *Community Charter* on January 1, 2004;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* contains new provisions, including section 8, which will eliminate or restrict existing municipal powers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to amend *the Community Charter*, or *Bill 67 - Community Charter Transitional Provisions, Consequential and Other Amendments*, to confirm that existing bylaws will not be impacted.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B44 UBCM ACTION REQUEST – PROVINCIAL POLICY CHANGES**Delta**

WHEREAS the provincial government is proceeding to implement extensive legislative and policy changes;

AND WHEREAS many of those changes have significant implications for communities, those large and small, and potentially threaten the viability of those communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities host a forum to coordinate local government concerns with the upcoming provincial legislative and policy changes and to communicate a unified local government voice to the Province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B45 CHANGE OF NAME FOR UBCM**Kootenay-Boundary RD**

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act* has been changed to the *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are referred to as local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be encouraged to change its name to the Union of BC Local Governments.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B46 RURAL/SMALL COMMUNITIES POLICE COSTS**Central Kootenay RD**

WHEREAS the provincial government proposes to change the system whereby property taxpayers in municipalities having a population of under 5,000 will pay toward the cost of policing, and unincorporated areas of regional districts will, in essence, be levied a surcharge for policing;

AND WHEREAS if the provincial government elects to download a cost of policing on property taxpayers in municipalities having a population of under 5,000, and an additional cost of policing to property taxpayers in unincorporated areas of regional districts, such cost will:

- Constitute 'double dipping' in unincorporated areas of regional districts as property taxpayers in such areas already share the cost of policing through the rural property tax bill issued by the provincial government with proceeds going to general revenue;
- Have a devastating effect on property taxpayers in municipalities having a population under 5000 and unincorporated areas of regional districts – both jurisdictions of which have predominately a residential property assessment base upon which to apply such a tax:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to petition the provincial government to not implement either option identified in the discussion paper on "Restructuring Police Financing in Municipalities under 5,000 Population and Unincorporated Areas" dated September 2002 and released by the Honourable Rich Coleman, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, or any other option, until the provincial government has:

- First completed an in-depth study that clearly indicates the proposed funding formula process for implementation; the cost implications; the long-range plan for policing; the phase-in plan for cost recovery; and the criteria as to how affected local government will qualify for mitigation;
- Held meetings with affected local governments with respect to the study.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM Executive

B47 AUXILIARY POLICE PROGRAM

Coquitlam

WHEREAS prior to 1998, the Auxiliary Police Program was the most cost effective public safety initiative ever launched by a BC government;

AND WHEREAS the Auxiliary Police Program allowed municipalities to effectively double the ability of the police to respond to calls specifically on the busy Friday and Saturday nights;

AND WHEREAS the Auxiliary Police Program provides a regulated process for a municipality's citizens to actively contribute to the safety of their community by providing para-professional police services supplemental to and not in substitution of regular police services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government immediately restore the Auxiliary Police Program to the previous status of para-professional police officers and empower the auxiliary members to serve as armed volunteer auxiliary constables under direct supervision of regular members.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B48 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS hazardous materials are transported through communities in British Columbia by commercial and industrial vehicles on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS local fire departments across the province, in particular on Vancouver Island, have little or no hazardous materials response training and equipment but are expected to respond to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous materials incidents in the community and on transportation corridors including those under the jurisdiction of the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Province provide more frequent and more stringent commercial vehicle inspection and testing for commercial vehicles, and specifically those vehicles carrying hazardous material;
2. The Province require industry to fund and support regional HazMat Response Teams, to be located central to identified highway corridors, including Vancouver Island, on a 24/7/12 basis and also provide funding for fire department HazMat Awareness training;
3. The Province support regional governments in recovering costs associated with response to HazMat incidents that occur outside of municipal boundaries.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B49 REGIONAL DISTRICT REIMBURSEMENT FOR
RESPONSE TO MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS**

Fraser Valley RD

WHEREAS it is in the interest of public safety and reduction of the financial burden on local property owners that funding be made available for Volunteer Fire Departments to recover costs associated with motor vehicle accident fire suppression response outside their respective service areas after being requested to attend by BC Ambulance or the RCMP or Ministry of Transportation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government implement a method for cost recovery for Volunteer Fire Departments when responding to motor vehicle accidents outside their respective service areas for fire suppression for both non-life threatening and life threatening incidents.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B50 DATE OF GENERAL ELECTION

Coquitlam

WHEREAS the provincial and municipal governments have worked hard to increase the number of voters participating in municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* stipulates that general local elections must fall on the third Saturday in November;

AND WHEREAS the onset of darkness earlier in the evening due to the reversal of daylight savings time at the end of October poses safety concerns for those campaigning and erecting elections signs;

AND WHEREAS lower average temperatures and higher amounts of rainfall discourages voters from visiting the polls;

AND WHEREAS the timing of the general local elections coincides with budget deliberations and inhibits the input of new council members:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province amend the *Local Government Act* to require that general local elections take place on the third Saturday of October.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B51 RECALL FOR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL

Port Clements

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* does not allow electors to recall council members who fail to represent their community in an ethical and acceptable manner;

AND WHEREAS allowing these officials to maintain their position, with the risk of causing long-term or irreparable harm to the community, should not be allowed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work with the appropriate government officials to investigate the ways and means of achieving fair and equitable recall amendments to the *Local Government Act*.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B52 CHOICE IN LOCAL ELECTION TERMS

Port Clements

WHEREAS some municipalities would be better served by using a staggered election term for the following reasons:

1. More efficient decision making in the early stage of council terms by introducing continuity from one council to another;
2. An improved opportunity to attract competent candidates who cannot commit to a three-year term;
3. Improved opportunities for new council members to receive training from experienced councillors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to amend the *Local Government Act* so that municipalities can choose between a two-year staggered and a three-year all-at-once term.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B53 RESTORATION OF THE CORPORATE VOTE**Burns Lake**

WHEREAS local corporate business owners were not able to vote in the 2002 municipal election under the current *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS electoral provisions in the *Local Government Act* do not allow local corporate business owners the opportunity to participate in the local democratic process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that section 50 of the *Local Government Act* be amended so local business people who own and operate their own businesses, and pay local property taxes under corporate title, be allowed one vote per corporation in local municipal elections.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B54 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT – ELECTION OFFENCES**Central Kootenay RD**

WHEREAS Part 3, Division 17 – Elections Offences – of the *Local Government Act*, section 151 [Vote buying] defines “inducement” as “money, gift, valuable consideration, refreshment, entertainment, office, placement, employment and any other benefit of any kind” and continues, in subsections (2) through (6), to set forth certain prohibitions with respect to the use and acceptance of said “inducements”;

AND WHEREAS candidates have been known to:

- hold a “get to know your candidate” open house meeting at which refreshments are served;
- offer to the electorate a ride to the voting place (often the offer is included in the advertisement to vote for the candidate); with the potential result that such actions could be deemed to be an inducement pursuant to the definition provided in section 151(1) of the *Local Government Act*, thereby making such actions a contravention of section 151. As such, any persons giving or accepting these “inducements” would be deemed to have committed an elections offence and be subject to the penalty provisions as set forth in section 154 [*Penalties*];

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services to amend section 151(1) of the *Local Government Act* so as to more clearly and precisely define “inducement,” thereby providing clarity as to what actions may be deemed to be election offences and thereby subject to the penalty provisions as set forth in section 154 [*Penalties*].

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B55 ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCING**Comox-Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS transparency of elected officials’ decisions is fundamental in building trust and confidence in how the public views its elected leaders;

AND WHEREAS corporations and unions do not cast a vote in local government elections;

AND WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments have passed election finance reform legislation;

AND WHEREAS local government officials must avoid potential conflict of interest, in order to maintain credibility as the key level of government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work in cooperation with the provincial government to pass legislation addressing local government election finance reform, specifically prohibiting local government candidates from lobbying or accepting corporate or union campaign contributions.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “lobbying or” be deleted from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work in cooperation with the provincial government to pass legislation addressing local government election finance reform, specifically prohibiting local government candidates from accepting corporate or union campaign contributions.

ON MOTION, as amended, was NOT ENDORSED

B56 TAX RECEIPTS FOR LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS Peachland

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to allow tax receipts for candidates who run in municipal elections, similar to that provided to candidates who run provincially or federally.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B57 DISQUALIFICATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS Merritt

WHEREAS a member of council convicted of an indictable offence, but not yet sentenced or convicted of an offence against the local government, is not disqualified from continuing to hold elected office under the provision of the *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS a member of council convicted of an indictable offence or an offence against the local government loses the confidence and trust of the electors and the Council:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request amendments to the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* to include the following disqualification provisions:

An elected official is immediately disqualified from continuing to hold office:

- On conviction of an indictable offence; or
- On conviction of a criminal offence against the local government to which he or she is elected to serve.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B58 FUNDING FOR NORTHERN ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE Vanderhoof

WHEREAS transportation to and from the rural areas in British Columbia is poor and the rural road infrastructure is deteriorating at an alarming rate due to the increased heavy truck traffic resulting from the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic;

AND WHEREAS the rural areas provide huge tax revenues from the sale of their natural resources to the federal and provincial governments;

AND WHEREAS both the federal and provincial governments are negotiating a border tax to replace the existing countervailing duties on softwood lumber exports:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal and provincial governments to provide monies from border tax revenues to fund safe, reliable, equitable and affordable transportation to the rural area residents of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B59 INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY Prince George

WHEREAS policy changes being pursued by the provincial government in regard to transportation indicate that the Province is proceeding without an integrated transportation management plan;

AND WHEREAS an integrated transportation management plan would provide the Province with a strategic view of the transportation infrastructure systems allowing for full analysis of the benefits and weaknesses of transportation policy options;

AND WHEREAS the concept of an integrated transportation management plan was endorsed during a meeting of mayors and councillors of Northern communities and other interested stakeholders held in September 2002 in Prince George, at which the interests of those stakeholders were expressed in the document "Northern Priorities: Recommendations from the 2002 Transportation Symposium," a copy of which was forwarded to the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government begin work on an integrated transportation management plan that would take into account the particular needs of all parts of the province including the North, examining the interrelatedness of the various modes of transportation and their economic impact on the province as a whole;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government consult with the Union of BC Municipalities before any further major changes to transportation infrastructure are made.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B60 FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL FUEL TAX

Telkwa

WHEREAS the provincial government increased the provincial gas tax by 3.5 cents per litre, effective March 1, 2003;

AND WHEREAS BC's economic cornerstone resource extraction industries, such as mining and forestry, will be negatively impacted by higher costs for transporting raw resources to processing facilities and for transport of finished products to markets;

AND WHEREAS public transit is virtually non-existent in many northern communities - resulting in a disproportionate increase in the cost of commuting where personal vehicles are necessary for commuting to work and travelling to goods and services centers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that funds collected from this tax increase be fairly assessed and distributed throughout northern communities to improve all aspects of transportation infrastructure.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word "northern" be replaced with the word "all" in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that funds collected from this tax increase be fairly assessed and distributed throughout all communities to improve all aspects of transportation infrastructure.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B61 PRIVATIZING OF THE COQUIHALLA HIGHWAY

Salmon Arm

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Ministry of Transportation and the Premier direct that any funds from the sale of the Coquihalla be spent on interior highways, and object to an increase in the toll from \$10.00 to \$13.00.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

B62 BC RAIL SERVICE

LMMA Executive

WHEREAS it is well documented that the economic well being of the Province of British Columbia is based on an efficient, affordable transportation system;

AND WHEREAS the movement of people and goods by rail rather than road is safer and more sustainable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that whether service is provided by BC Rail, a Provincial Crown Corporation, or a private enterprise, the existing north– south service and the integrity of the rail line be assured by the operator or operators of the system;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that the provincial government formulate a long-term rail transportation strategy that includes the reintroduction of passenger service.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following additional enactment clause be appended to the resolution, was endorsed:

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be advised that the Union of BC Municipalities sets a high priority on the protection of jobs; minimizing any potential negative impacts on communities; and the necessity for having broad consultation – which includes, but is not limited to, customers, employees and communities – prior to any contractual commitment being made.”

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that whether service is provided by BC Rail, a Provincial Crown Corporation, or a private enterprise, the existing north– south service and the integrity of the rail line be assured by the operator or operators of the system;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities recommend that the provincial government formulate a long-term rail transportation strategy that includes the reintroduction of passenger service.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be advised that the Union of BC Municipalities sets a high priority on the protection of jobs; minimizing any potential negative impacts on communities; and the necessity for having broad consultation – which includes, but is not limited to, customers, employees and communities – prior to any contractual commitment being made.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B63 TAXI SERVICE FOR PERSONS WITH GUIDE/ASSISTANCE ANIMALS Kelowna

WHEREAS persons with sensory or physical disabilities use trained and certified guide/assistance animals to enable their independence, confidence and ability to actively participate in mainstream society;

AND WHEREAS persons accompanied by a guide/assistance animal are too often denied access to taxi services, on which they rely to further their travel throughout the community, for no apparent valid reason, and in spite of the fact that such persons carry photo identification of themselves and their guide/assistance animals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the member municipalities of the Union of BC Municipalities agree to revise their respective taxi licensing regulations to require taxi licensees to provide unrestricted access to their service for persons accompanied by a guide/assistance animal, as provided for under the City of Calgary’s taxi licensing regulation 1/78, excerpts of which follow:

4.1 Every taxi driver shall:

- (c) accept all persons as customers except when entitled to refuse such persons pursuant to these Regulations.*
- (d) Be entitled to refuse a person as a customer if such a person:*

- (iv) *requests that the taxi driver carry an animal or any baggage which might be detrimental to the repair, cleanliness or sanitary condition of the taxi, with the exception of a blind person's guide dog.*

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B64 REGULATION FOR THE “SEGWAY HUMAN TRANSPORTER” Vancouver

WHEREAS use of the automobile has widespread impacts in terms of health, global warming, and community development;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to encourage sustainable transportation modes and develop compact communities;

AND WHEREAS the “Segway Human Transporter” is a new transportation device that is clean, quiet and extends the range of pedestrians in the community;

AND WHEREAS the *Motor Vehicle Act* of British Columbia has no provisions to recognize or regulate the Segway;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to review the operation of the Segway Human Transporter device and include provisions in the *Motor Vehicle Act* to permit and regulate its safe use under appropriate conditions.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B65 SUSTAINABLE TRANSIT FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE MODELS Saanich

WHEREAS the provincial Board of BC Transit has released a Discussion Paper and Consultation Guide entitled “Funding and Service Strategy Review - Phase 2”; Sustainable Transit Funding and Governance Models”;

AND WHEREAS provincial funding for public transit in British Columbia has been capped since 2001, resulting in unacceptable service cuts and no growth in service hours:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities direct that:

- public consultation take place with all municipal and regional governments in BC over the funding and governance of public transit, prior to any decisions being made by the Board of BC Transit to government;
- the provincial government maintain the current funding envelope provided to public transit as set out in the Transit Regulations until such time as a new governance model is negotiated;
- the provincial government redirect one cent of the current collected gas tax in the province (excluding Greater Vancouver) towards a “Public Transit Stabilization Fund” to address the funding shortfalls caused by two years of frozen budgets and escalating costs, and to grow the system as part of an integrated transportation system.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B66 REGIONAL DISTRICT TAX COLLECTION Cariboo RD

WHEREAS regional districts have the authority to determine taxation based on property value assessment;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government collects the requisitioned taxation on behalf of regional districts and charges rural property tax payers an additional 5.25 percent fee;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have the authority to collect taxation from their taxpayers at no additional fee:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that regional districts be given the authority to collect taxation from their taxpayers, at significant savings to said taxpayers.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B67 PROVINCIAL GAS TAX

Nelson

WHEREAS the provincial government implemented, on March 1, 2003, a 3.5 cent per litre gas tax with the expressed purpose of funding highways and transportation projects and these highways and transportation projects are a significant component of the Province's "Heartland Strategy";

AND WHEREAS the senior levels of government have imposed gasoline taxes for the purpose of road and transportation projects in the past 50 years and have, over time, credited these revenues into "General Revenues" with other sources of revenue and spent these funds in other areas not directly related to their intended purpose:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government immediately establish a segregated Gasoline Revenues Fund in which all proceeds of the new gas tax levy be credited, allowing for greater public accountability of the funds, enhancing public trust in governmental operations and practices and protecting integrity of the "Heartland Strategy".

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B68 CLASS 6 PROPERTIES

Kootenay-Boundary RD

WHEREAS section 808 of the *Local Government Act* provides regional districts with the authority to adopt a bylaw to vary the class multiples for Class 2, 4 and 5 properties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services be requested to amend section 808 of the *Local Government Act* to include Class 6 properties.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B69 COMMUNITY BOND INTEREST TAX EXEMPTION

Warfield

WHEREAS community bonds issued by the Village of Warfield in partnership with the Municipal Finance Authority have proven to be an effective way to further reduce the cost of municipal borrowing;

AND WHEREAS by way of an additional benefit, community bonds enable councils to offer small investors in their municipality an attractive investment opportunity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities request that the provincial and federal governments exempt community bond interest earnings from income taxes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

B70 TAX RATES FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES (PORTS)

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS ports businesses in the Province of British Columbia have been strongly lobbying local governments and the provincial government to reduce property taxes for the ports industry; and some local governments have responded to the pleas of the ports businesses and reduced local government property taxes for the ports businesses;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has given indications to the local governments that it is listening to the ports businesses and has suggested some form of action by local government;

AND WHEREAS the taxes imposed by the provincial government for school purposes and the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority (GVTA) for transportation services on ports businesses and all other major industrial properties have risen dramatically in 2003:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities communicate with the provincial government and the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority outlining their concern about the dramatic school and transportation tax increases imposed on major industrial taxpayers, stressing that those tax increases are inordinate and work at cross purposes with the reductions for major industrial businesses made by some local governments in the past years.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B71 FOREST FARMING ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS valuable forested land contained within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is often cleared of trees in order to establish traditionally recognized agricultural crops such as hay and grasses;

AND WHEREAS sustainable farming of forests would be the highest and best economic use of certain portions of land within the ALR;

AND WHEREAS the preservation of agricultural land remains a high priority for the vast majority of British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS this approach would contribute to the long-term preservation of these lands:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government recognize forest farming as a viable and realistic agricultural enterprise for taxation purposes on all ALR lands;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that forest farming on ALR lands be granted the same taxation status consideration as other agricultural initiatives, provided that there is a minimum parcel size (it is suggested a minimum 10 hectares in forest) and that there is a Forest Management Plan in place (developed by a qualified professional and no older than five years).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing equitable assistance for Victims Services Programs be admitted off the floor for debate, was endorsed.

VICTIMS SERVICES PROGRAMS Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS Victims Services Programs provide an important service in rural communities by providing emotional support and practical assistance to people who are victims of crime, their family members, witnesses and those who suffer other traumas;

AND WHEREAS funding for these programs has been reduced, thereby resulting in severe cuts to the number of programs, such as the 24/7 Crisis Intervention Centre and the Crown Victim Service, but the need for these services has not declined:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government re-institute equity in funding for Victims Services, and make a commitment to the maintenance of that funding.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B72 HOTEL TAX Salmon Arm

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to implement a province-wide two percent hotel room tax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revenue generated by this hotel room tax be turned over to the local government to be utilized for new tourism initiatives.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that two enactment clauses be replaced with one clause that reads:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to implement a province-wide local government hotel room tax that has the following features:

- local governments will have the opportunity to opt out from charging the tax in their jurisdictions;
- revenues from the tax will be returned to the local governments where the tax was collected;
- the two percent limit on the local tax rate be retained but modified to include a provision that would allow a local government to request a higher rate from the province;
- local governments be given full discretion over use of the funds raised through the local tax, which could include the funding of new tourism and economic development initiatives, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to implement a province-wide local government hotel room tax that has the following features:

- local governments will have the opportunity to opt out from charging the tax in their jurisdictions;
- revenues from the tax will be returned to the local governments where the tax was collected;
- the two percent limit on the local tax rate be retained but modified to include a provision that would allow a local government to request a higher rate from the province;
- local governments be given full discretion over use of the funds raised through the local tax, which could include the funding of new tourism and economic development initiatives.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B73 CROWN LAND AVAILABILITY AND COST

Port Clements

WHEREAS the existing policy of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air is to make Crown land suitable for industrial development available to municipalities at fair market value;

AND WHEREAS the market value of this land is set by using recent selling prices of nearby similar properties and in many cases this value is achieved directly from the initiatives and investment made by the municipality with substantial benefit to the Crown:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities enters into negotiations with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air with the objective of changing this policy so that the Ministry must consider the following:

1. the degree of investment the municipality has made and its contribution to the recent selling prices. This investment would then be deducted from the average market value selling price to set the selling price to the municipality;
2. the benefits to the Province if the land is made available at minimal or no cost to the municipality vs. no development of the land.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B74 REVENUE TOOLS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GAMING)

Williams Lake

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* provides municipalities with the power to provide any services that the Council considers necessary or desirable;

AND WHEREAS local governments are looking for revenue tools to attract economic development into their communities and methods to increase their income in order to provide needed services for their citizens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to enact legislation that will enable communities to pursue economic diversity, including the ability to establish casinos and other gaming opportunities.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “subject to a referendum requiring 60% voting in favour” be appended to the end of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to enact legislation that will enable communities to pursue economic diversity, including the ability to establish casinos and other gaming opportunities, subject to a referendum requiring 60% voting in favour.

ON MOTION, as amended, was NOT ENDORSED

B75 SOURCES OF REVENUE GENERATION

Houston

WHEREAS the provincial government has created, consulted and announced its intention to provide new legislative powers to local governments in the *Community Charter Act*;

AND WHEREAS said legislation is intended to allow local governments additional considerations to obtain funding, through revenue generation by use of various taxation schemes;

AND WHEREAS funding sources are a continuing concern for many local governments which are trying to support their communities in a sustainable manner;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has recently, through an imposed 3.5 cent per litre fuel tax increase, lessened such a revenue consideration, as the *Community Charter Act* was to provide:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government stop imposing any further revenue schemes which could become the domain of local governments.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following enactment clause “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government deliver on its commitment to provide new revenue sources to local government, as raised during the *Community Charter* development process” be added to the resolution, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government stop imposing any further revenue schemes which could become the domain of local governments.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government deliver on its commitment to provide new revenue sources to local government, as raised during the *Community Charter* development process.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B76 REMUNERATION FOR COMMUNITY BOARDS

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has utilized community boards such as those implemented for Land Use Planning Tables for the North Coast, Queen Charlotte Islands and Central Coast;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has no proposed method to compensate interest groups or local government representatives for lost wages during table or working group meetings;

AND WHEREAS many local government representatives are either self-employed or do not receive any compensation from their employers to participate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government implement and fund a policy that will allow for individuals and local government representatives to receive remuneration for lost wages or hardship to attend table and working group meetings.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B77 PROPOSED LIQUOR TAX

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the abuse of alcohol places a burden on society;

AND WHEREAS the abuse of alcohol is a contributing factor to homelessness;

AND WHEREAS dealing with the effects of alcohol abuse would place an undue strain on a municipal tax base:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to impose an additional 5% tax on liquor sold through rural agency stores, licensed retail stores and government liquor stores with the proceeds from the tax directed to the municipality in which the outlet is located with the funds to be utilized to fund homeless and homeless at risk shelters and detox facilities.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B78 FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL FOR CROWN LAND

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS Land and Water BC Inc. (LWBC) is a corporation of the government of British Columbia, which is responsible for issuing licences/leases and sales of Crown land under the *Land and Water Act*;

AND WHEREAS LWBC's goal is to ensure that Crown land is made available for environmentally responsible economic growth to benefit residents of BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that prior to LWBC offering sale of Crown land to private individuals, communities be given first right of refusal in order to build or rebuild infrastructure within their communities to allow for the promotion of economic growth.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B79 STRATA VS. FEE SIMPLE RESIDENTIAL TAX RATES

Parksville

WHEREAS local governments face varying demands for levels and types of service across their jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS the BC Assessment Authority regulations provide for only one municipal residential taxation classification;

AND WHEREAS strata developments are forced to pay taxes at the same rate as do fee simple properties, despite being responsible for operations, maintenance and replacement of their infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities, in conjunction with the Province of British Columbia, undertake a comprehensive study, including feasibility and potential impact to changes in the assessment regulations, to allow local governments to set a variety of tax rates within the same classification.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B80 CPR WEED CONTROL

Port Moody

WHEREAS local governments place a high priority on the protection of human health and the natural environment and are therefore concerned with the continued use of herbicides by CP Rail as a primary method of weed control along rail lines, particularly given the potential effects of pesticide runoff on water quality and environmentally sensitive habitats;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) recently received an amendment for CP Rail's Pesticide Use Permit for the use of herbicides to control weeds along their tracks from Lytton to Vancouver which includes reduced notification requirements, reduced setbacks that do not meet the guidelines for the protection of the environment in the MWLAP Handbook for Pesticide Applicators and Environment Canada's Standard Conditions Relation to Pesticide Use Permits in Canada;

AND WHEREAS even though the current CP Rail's Pesticide Use Permit conditions require signage and buffer zones, these conditions do not adequately protect the environment;

AND WHEREAS in its own literature the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection advises private citizens to avoid using herbicides due to their detrimental effects on the environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection refuse to permit the use of herbicides as a weed control method along highways and rail lines in any affected area of a watershed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other agencies responsible for highway and rail line maintenance be requested to develop an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy that includes alternative methods of weed control.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Mayor Don MacLean assumed Chair of the Resolutions session. Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Frank Leonard, Councillor Brenda Binnie, Chair Hans Cunningham and Chair Marvin Hunt.

B81 INVASIVE PLANT STRATEGY

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS invasive plants affect all British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the Fraser Basin Council has been successful in initiating development of a province-wide Strategy Development Group and a Writing Group whose responsibility it is to formulate a BC Invasive Plant Strategy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to provide the Strategy Development Group with the resources necessary to ensure that a BC Invasive Plant Strategy is completed and implemented in 2004.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B82 FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Peace River RD

WHEREAS the provincial government is proposing a new service model in dealing with Flood Hazard Management;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has proposed to eliminate the Flood Hazard Management Program, effectively downloading the responsibility of flood management onto local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities insist that provincial government continue to take the lead role in Flood Hazard Management to ensure legislation, regulation, and standards are in place to deal with emergencies relating to flooding and flood management in British Columbia.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following additional enactment clause “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request continued flood protection funding support from the province through the Flood Protection Assistance Funding (FPAF) program, in the annual amount of \$4.0 million” be appended to the resolution, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities insist that provincial government continue to take the lead role in Flood Hazard Management to ensure legislation, regulation, and standards are in place to deal with emergencies relating to flooding and flood management in British Columbia.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request continued flood protection funding support from the province through the Flood Protection Assistance Funding (FPAF) program, in the annual amount of \$4.0 million.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B83 EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES NCMA Executive

WHEREAS climate change patterns in northern British Columbia are already directly affecting economic activity in the northern rural, primarily resource-based communities;

AND WHEREAS rural communities have limited resources and will need assistance with long term planning for changing weather phenomena:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby both the provincial and federal governments to ensure the following actions are taken:

- Continued and increased publicly funded research conducted locally and regionally;
- Continued and enhanced funding of climate data-collection stations and sites to ensure the gathering of accurate data to be used in both research and public policy decision making;
- Building flexibility into land use plans to ensure that future climate change is considered, with community stakeholders involved in this process;
- Development of provincial and federal parks management plans to deal with drought, insect control, disease and other natural disasters;
- The on-going review of policy regarding resource extraction to ensure consistency with the realities on the land;
- The establishment of transitional funding and adjusting programs to ensure that the economic base and quality of life is maintained as climate change affects economic activities and the way of life in rural communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B84 WEED CONTROL: RAILWAY RIGHTS OF WAY Houston

WHEREAS there exists a concern that weed growth along railway rights-of-way, if not controlled, becomes a serious impediment to weed-free neighbouring lands;

AND WHEREAS the control of weeds by use of a spraying program remains an effective way of implementing weed control;

AND WHEREAS there remains an ever increasing concern that weed growth along railway rights-of-way must be controlled to decrease the development of noxious weeds;

AND WHEREAS to be effective in various areas of their transportation corridors, weed control must include the involvement of all corridor operators:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Canadian National Railway implement a weed control program by whatever means acceptable to control noxious weed growth along its rights-of-way and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “implement a weed control program by whatever means acceptable” be replaced with the phrase “implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Canadian National Railway implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to control noxious weed growth along its rights-of-way and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

B85 WEED CONTROL: TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

Houston

WHEREAS there exists a concern that weed growth along the Trans-Canada Highway, if not controlled, becomes a serious impediment to weed-free neighbouring lands;

AND WHEREAS the control of weeds by use of a spraying program remains an effective way of implementing weed control;

AND WHEREAS to be effective in various areas of the transportation corridor, weed control must include the involvement of all corridor operators:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Trans-Canada Highway operators implement a weed control program by whatever means acceptable to control noxious weed growth along the highway corridor and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “implement a weed control program by whatever means acceptable” be replaced with the phrase “implement an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Trans-Canada Highway operators implement an Integrated Pest Management program (IPM) to control noxious weed growth along the highway corridor and further, that the support of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be solicited.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

B86 CONTAMINATED SOIL

Kootenay-Boundary RD

WHEREAS the use of the word "contaminated" as used in the Contaminated Sites Regulation creates, in the minds of the public, the connotation that the material is dangerous to the environment and public health;

AND WHEREAS regional districts wishing to avail themselves of the positive uses of this material wish to counter this negative impression:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to designate contaminated soils below the level of Special Wastes as "recyclable" soils.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM REVIEW OF PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT
LEGISLATION**

**B87 DISPOSAL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: North Vancouver District
ALKALINE BATTERIES**

WHEREAS the collection and processing of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is a provincial responsibility and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has established industry stewardship responsibility for roughly 90 percent of the household hazardous waste stream by volume and the Province recognizes that there are large quantities of alkaline batteries in the waste stream and has identified them as a future candidate for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to expand the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program to include alkaline batteries.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B88 LOCAL CONSULTATION ON AQUACULTURE Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the proposed changes for aquaculture in provincial government legislation will have an impact on all coastal Regional Districts and municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has indicated that consultation on this topic will take place only through discussions with the Union of BC Municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government's mandate of job creation and revitalizing the economy consider all sectors of the economy that rely on coastal resources as well as implications for protection of the natural environment and the need to avoid conflicts with neighbouring uses such as residential settlement on the waterfront and other land uses that are currently recognized by local government Official Community Plans.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B89 DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AREAS: ENFORCEMENT Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* provides for designation of selected areas as Development Permit Areas, where permits must be obtained prior to clearing and developing property;

AND WHEREAS local government is not provided with legislation that allows it to enforce infractions such as clearing land in a development permit area where it is not permitted to do so:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that legislative changes be made to the *Local Government Act* to provide local governments the ability to levy fines and/or other enforcement tools, for use when development permit requirements associated with environmental protection have been violated.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B90 SUBDIVISION PLAN – UTILITY RIGHTS OF WAY Surrey

WHEREAS Terasen, formerly BC Gas, has adopted a policy requiring the creation of fee simple lots in those locations where proposed subdivision roads cross existing high pressure transmission pipeline statutory rights-of-way;

AND WHEREAS the policy adopted by Terasen prevents subdivision developers from dedicating subdivision roads in accordance with conditions of subdivision approval;

AND WHEREAS complying with the policy adopted by Terasen would compromise municipal control over roads and raise issues of increased municipal liability and administrative concerns:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government provide a solution, by legislation or otherwise, ensuring that Terasen and other utilities do not delay the registration of subdivision plans on the basis that portions of statutory rights-of-way in their favour are extinguished by dedicated roads.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B91 DUE DILIGENCE FOR LAND AND WATER LICENSEES

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS Land and Water BC Inc. (LWBC), a corporation of the government of British Columbia, has established a New Business Practice which will no longer require applicants to specify precisely what the applicant must do in order to fully comply with the laws of the land, or require applicants to provide specific legal requirements of all other agencies prior to being offered a water or land licence;

AND WHEREAS LWBC's intentions are to reduce or eliminate any possibility of being found liable for damages to a third party if applicants fail to consult with federal, provincial or any other stakeholders within local government jurisdictions, including First Nation groups:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LWBC ensure that all applicants have undertaken a due diligence process that would include proper consultation with federal, provincial and First Nation groups prior to issuing a water or land licence.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that "local government" be included in the consultations mentioned in the enactment clause, was amended.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase "or renewing" be added after the word "issuing" in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

On motion that the phrase "all applicants" at the beginning of the enactment clause be replaced with "Land and Water BC", was ruled out of order.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Land and Water BC ensure that all applicants have undertaken a due diligence process that would include proper consultation with federal, provincial and First Nation groups and local governments prior to issuing or renewing a water or land licence.

ON MOTION, as amended, was REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

B92 SCHOOL SITE DESIGNATION AND CAPITAL FUNDING

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS Section 877(1)(f) of the *Local Government Act* requires that an Official Community Plan must include statements and map designations for the area covered by the plan respecting the approximate location and type of present and proposed public facilities, including schools and Section 882 of the *Local Government Act* no longer contains any consistency requirement between the municipality's financial plan or capital expenditure program and the Official Community Plan;

AND WHEREAS under Section 144 of the *School Act* no spending can be authorized by a School Board without authorization in writing by the Minister of Education and such authorization is identified annually thus creating a time lag between the time of designation and funding which can result in the setting aside of the OCP designation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Education be requested to review the methodology of funding school sites to ensure that long term planning of school sites can be realized through capital funding.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B93 FOREST POLICY REFORM IN COMMUNITIES' INTEREST North Cowichan

WHEREAS UBCM's 2000-LR6 endorsed resolution on the Adjacency Principle states that communities must have a direct role in the control and use of the resources which surround them and upon which their livelihood depends;

AND WHEREAS the BC Coalition for Sustainable Forest Solutions has drafted alternative legislation, the "Forest Solutions for Sustainable Communities Act," that is fully based on the principles of these previous resolutions;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government's recently proposed forest policy reforms do not appear to take account of these previous resolutions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse forest policy reform that puts communities and forests first, and is based on principles set out in resolution 2000-LR6, Adjacency Principle;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge all MLAs to support the draft "Forest Solutions for Sustainable Communities Act" and conduct community hearings to discuss the merits and implications of alternative forest policy change for communities, workers, and the environment before proceeding with the remaining forest policy legislation.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that two enactment clauses be replaced with the following enactment clause, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse forest policy reform that puts communities and forests first, and is based on principles set out in resolution 2000-LR6, Adjacency Principle, which requested that the provincial government "introduce, pass and proclaim legislation that will entrench the principle of adjacency and afford resource-based communities a direct role in the control and use of the resources which surround them and upon which their livelihood depends, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse forest policy reform that puts communities and forests first, and is based on principles set out in resolution 2000-LR6, Adjacency Principle, which requested that the provincial government "introduce, pass and proclaim legislation that will entrench the principle of adjacency and afford resource-based communities a direct role in the control and use of the resources which surround them and upon which their livelihood depends."

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B94 FOREST SERVICE RECREATION SITES Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS outdoor recreation contributed more than \$5 billion to the provincial economy last year, this being more than half of the entire revenue generated by the entire tourism industry;

AND WHEREAS the citizens of British Columbia and tourists from other countries expect Forest Service sites and trails to be available for their use and will use the sites in any case;

AND WHEREAS the collection of fees for Forest Service recreation sites was well established and supported by users and provided significant revenue to maintain and protect the sites:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government immediately reinstate a fee collection service for Forest Service recreation sites in order that sites and trails be maintained and kept open to the public.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B95 MEASURABLE CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
OF INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS**

**Surrey
Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS there is considerable public concern over the potential impact of independent power production projects and the means by which community social, land use and environmental values are respected (e.g., consistency with local land use plans such as OCPs and LRMPs and minimum stream flow standards);

AND WHEREAS there is no clear consensus or agreement as to what constitutes an acceptable “green” electrical generation project or how to evaluate such projects with respect to environmental and social values:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop, in consultation with local government, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the project.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be replaced with the following clause:

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

1. Develop, in consultation with local government, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;
2. Establish standards for transmission line development that:
 - Require optimization of existing power lines infrastructure and shared use of lines as a condition of right-of-way agreements and provide regulatory authority (through the BCUC or LWBC) to require shared use as a condition of licensing,
 - Recognize and protect scenic value zones in areas of high tourism activity,
 - Require that, where there are no alternatives (e.g., use of existing structures or placing lines underground), new power lines in areas of high scenic value and high tourism activity be engineered and aligned so as to minimize their visual impact;
 - Establish an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects;
3. Establish an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects, was endorsed

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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

1. Develop, in consultation with local government, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;
2. Establish standards for transmission line development that:
 - Require optimization of existing power lines infrastructure and shared use of lines as a condition of right-of-way agreements and provide regulatory authority (through the BCUC or LWBC) to require shared use as a condition of licensing,
 - Recognize and protect scenic value zones in areas of high tourism activity,
 - Require that, where there are no alternatives (e.g., use of existing structures or placing lines underground), new power lines in areas of high scenic value and high tourism activity be engineered and aligned so as to minimize their visual impact;

- Establish an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects;
- 3. Establish an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**B96 BC UTILITY COMMISSION: OVERSIGHT
OF INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS**

**Surrey
Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS the public has a reasonable expectation that appropriate safeguards and oversight will be in place to properly monitor and manage independent power production projects to ensure that public concerns such as public safety, land use and siting, aesthetic impacts, health implications of electro-magnetic fields and impacts on property values are addressed;

AND WHEREAS independent power production projects were, by Ministerial Order, exempted from the provisions of the *Utilities Commission Act* thus eliminating the BC Utilities Commission oversight that could have addressed some of the public's concerns:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to restore the BC Utility Commission's regulatory authority over powerline interconnection associated with independent power production projects under of Part 3 of the *Utilities Commission Act* with respect to:

- Safety, convenience, and service to the public (Section 23(1)(g)),
- Shared use of facilities (Section 27),
- Requirement for Certificates of Public Convenience (Section 45);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the threshold for BCUC oversight of power line development be lowered to 25kV power lines when those lines are being constructed by other than a public utility for distribution purposes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B97 WEIGHTED VOTES

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the current method for calculating the weighted vote may not accurately reflect actual population ratios amongst jurisdictions within a regional district;

AND WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* does not provide wide discretion as to the calculation of the weighted vote:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the *Community Charter* provisions for regional districts include greater flexibility for the calculation of the weighted vote.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to COMMUNITY CHARTER DISCUSSIONS

B98 REGIONAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Campbell River

WHEREAS Section 800 of the *Local Government Act* provides for sharing of Regional District Administration costs;

AND WHEREAS if the method of apportionment is other than converted value bases, approval is subject to consent of the public;

AND WHEREAS it is difficult for a Regional Board to explain the complexities of its general administration cost to the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend Section 801 of the *Local Government Act* by deleting the requirement for public consent and substituting

consent by a majority vote of the Regional District Board members as it applies to apportionment of Regional District general administration costs.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B99 HEALTH CARE FUNDING

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have recently announced the “Health Care Renewal Accord 2003” which established \$34.8 billion (over five years) for:

- the relief of immediate pressures on the health care system,
- a new “Health Reform Fund” for primary care, home care and catastrophic drug costs, and
- the purchase of diagnostic and medical equipment, and investment in information technology;

AND WHEREAS the communities in the rural northern regions of British Columbia do not have the same access to medical specialists, treatments, or diagnostic tools as those who reside in the Lower Mainland, and have suffered greatly due to government cutbacks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the benefits to be derived by British Columbia from the “Health Care Renewal Accord 2003” be largely targeted to the communities of British Columbia’s rural Heartland;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those benefits be specifically targeted to the communities that face imposing travel distances in order to access specialized medical care.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “British Columbia’s rural Heartland” be removed from the first enactment clause and the word “rural” be inserted instead before the word “communities” in this same clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the benefits to be derived by British Columbia from the “Health Care Renewal Accord 2003” be largely targeted to the rural communities of British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those benefits be specifically targeted to the communities that face imposing travel distances in order to access specialized medical care.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**B100 WORKERS COMPENSATION REGULATIONS AND
HEALTH CUTS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Sparwood

WHEREAS the ramifications of the provincial government cuts to health care are now beginning to surface and many local governments and members of the business community are now seeing the impact;

AND WHEREAS due to the reduction of emergency service hours at hospitals and health care centres around the province, the Workers Compensation Board requires many local governments and businesses to now have their own emergency transportation vehicles (ambulances) and trained staff to provide emergency transportation for their own employees:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government direct health authorities to immediately reinstate 24/7 emergency service in those communities affected by the reductions in health care services to bring those affected communities back into compliance with the Workers Compensation Regulations.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B101 LOCAL CONSULTATION ON HEALTH CARE**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the federal government significantly reduced transfer payments to the province for health care and social programs in the early 1990s;

AND WHEREAS many provincial governments have initiated their own restrictions to the health system, resulting in the de-listing of outpatient services, hospital closures, layoffs and tighter eligibility requirements for services such as home care and Pharmacare;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, being the level of government closest to the people, have been hearing strong concerns from local residents about cuts to the health system and have faced increasing pressure to fill the resulting gaps through such means as funding of non-profit health service providers and purchase of hospitals threatened with closure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urges the provincial government and its respective Health Authorities to adopt a policy of meaningful consultation with local governments on proposed changes to the health system, ensuring that the full impacts on local residents and local governments are carefully considered before changes are introduced.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

POLICY SESSION - REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

REPORT ON REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Frank Leonard, in the Chair, advised that there were no referred resolutions to be considered.

CONSIDERATION OF POLICY PAPER

Chair Robert Hobson, Environment Committee Chair, presented the policy paper: New Environmental Legislation: Impacts and Implications for Local Government. The policy paper is attached as Appendix G.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, recommendations #1 and #2 of the policy paper were adopted as follows:

Recommendation #1:

Any shared stewardship and partnership responsibilities should:

- Be supported by the appropriate legislative, regulatory and policy authorities that clearly defines local government roles and responsibilities;
- Provide local government with protection from liability arising from the delivery of provincial standards/guidelines;
- Respect local government jurisdiction and recognize its authority;
- Be accompanied by the appropriate funding and technical resources.

Recommendation #2:

The discussion paper on “New Environmental Legislation: Impacts and Implications for Local Government” be referred to the Environment Protocol Steering Committee for government-to-government consultations.

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Mayor Leonard presented the report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

- A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE

- LR1 College of Emergency Medical Assistants: Fees
 LR2 Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Fees
 LR3 PST Exemption for Electricity Generation Machinery
- B. REFER TO UBCM EXECUTIVE
- LR4 Fire Hazard
 LR5 Fuel Load Management Practices
 LR6 Residential Fire Insurance Denial
 LR7 Library Book Rate
 LR8 *Federal Aeronautics Act* and Local Government Land Use Regulation
 LR9 Blanket Speed Zones
 LR10 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (Mad Cow Disease) (admitted by motion on Wednesday)
 LR11 Relocation of the Provincial Operations Communication Centres
- C. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE (*Issues known before the June 30th deadline date for resolutions*)
- LR12 Municipal Insurance Association: Eligibility for Libraries
 LR13 Local Government Reimbursement for Emergency Medical Services
 LR14 Provincial Police and Court Costs
 LR15 Policing Funding Review
 LR16 Women's Resource Centre Funding
 LR17 Women's Resource Centres
 LR18 Road Safety Education as a Required Learning Outcome
 LR19 Road Safety Education as a Requirement to Obtain a Driver's Licence
 LR20 BC Ferries Seniors Rates
 LR21 Family Accommodation in Secondary Suites
 LR22 Privatization of BC Hydro
 LR23 Pricing Practices and Service Privatization of BC Hydro
 LR24 Appointment of Members to Health Authorities

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline be amended to admit resolutions LR17 and LR22 for debate, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline be considered as amended, was endorsed.

LR1 COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANTS: FEES **Surrey**

WHEREAS the Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board (EMALB) is to be replaced by the College of Emergency Medical Assistants of BC, functioning under the *Health Professions Act*;

AND WHEREAS the powers and duties of the College appear to be identical to the EMALB, excepting that the College will require a criminal record check (\$20) and an annual fee (\$85) to license EMA First Responders;

AND WHEREAS all local governments that participate in the First Responder program will be required to pay this fee for all EMA First Responders in their employ in order to comply with provincial regulations;

AND WHEREAS the provision of emergency medical services in BC is a provincial responsibility of the Emergency Health Services Commission and British Columbia Ambulance Service;

AND WHEREAS in contravention of the *Community Charter*, no method of compensating local governments for this new provincially-imposed fee has been advanced:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide a mechanism for local governments to recover costs incurred in the fulfillment of this provincial responsibility.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR2 EMERGENCY VEHICLE DRIVER TRAINING FEES**Surrey**

WHEREAS under the Emergency Vehicle Driving Regulation, the Director of Police Services in the Ministry of the Attorney General has the power to set training standards for Emergency Vehicle Drivers;

AND WHEREAS the Justice Institute of BC has been recognized by the Director of Police Services as the sole legitimate provider of this training, at a one-time cost of \$125 per Emergency Vehicle Driver;

AND WHEREAS local governments will be required to pay this fee for all Emergency Vehicle Drivers in their employ in order to comply with provincial regulations;

AND WHEREAS in contravention of the *Community Charter* no method of compensating local governments for this new provincially-imposed fee has been advanced:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide a mechanism for local governments to recover costs incurred in the fulfillment of this provincial responsibility.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR3 PST EXEMPTION FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT**Greater Vancouver RD**

WHEREAS existing sales tax legislation specifically excludes local government from a PST exemption on machinery used to generate electricity, and as such is inequitable in its treatment of this sector in comparison to the exemption currently available to the private sector:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urges the provincial government to amend the *Social Services Tax Act* to remove the specific exclusion related to local government for machinery and equipment (M&E) PST exemptions.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR17 WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRES**Quesnel**

WHEREAS Women's Resource Centres throughout the Province are an integral part of all communities, but particularly the smaller communities in BC;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has advised these centres that their core funding will be cut by 100% effective March 31, 2004, at a time when other forms of government assistance are being eliminated to many of our citizens who are already below the poverty line as far as annual income, the majority of which are single women with children;

AND WHEREAS the local governments where these women reside must come forward to help their disadvantaged residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to immediately reverse its decision to cut core funding to all women's centres in British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR22 PRIVATIZATION OF BC HYDRO**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the existing and prospective moves to privatize and break up BC Hydro expose all citizens and all municipalities in British Columbia to dramatically increased electricity costs and job loss;

AND WHEREAS the August 2003 blackout in Eastern Canada demonstrated the risk of close integration with an unstable patchwork of private US utilities;

AND WHEREAS the creation of Transmission Corporation (a new company created under the *Company Act* which began operations August 1, 2003 and splits one third of BC Hydro off into a separate company) in order to be integrated into RTO West (a consortium of private US utilities) threatens both the sovereignty and stability of British Columbia's electricity system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities:

- 1) Publicly voice its support for the class action lawsuit being brought against the provincial government which seeks to stop any and all attempts aimed at privatizing all or part of BC Hydro;
- 2) Call upon the provincial government to abandon its plan to join the US-based private utility consortium known as RTO West in light of the threat that such an action would pose to the stability and sovereignty of the province's electricity system;
- 3) Call upon the provincial government to cease all efforts to break up what has, until recently, been an efficient, integrated public utility and return the transmission function of BC Hydro as a line of business within the integrated utility rather than proceeding as a new company (BC Transmission Corporation) created under the *Company Act* in May of 2003.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the first point of the enactment clause be deleted was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities:

- 1) Call upon the provincial government to abandon its plan to join the US-based private utility consortium known as RTO West in light of the threat that such an action would pose to the stability and sovereignty of the province's electricity system;
- 2) Call upon the provincial government to cease all efforts to break up what has, until recently, been an efficient, integrated public utility and return the transmission function of BC Hydro as a line of business within the integrated utility rather than proceeding as a new company (BC Transmission Corporation) created under the *Company Act* in May of 2003.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B102 ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HEALTH CARE

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS our health care system is under intensive revision and our management structure within the health care structure is also under intensive revision;

AND WHEREAS our taxpayers are paying out over \$10 billion annually for the delivery of health care and our municipal organization is directly impacted by these changes in a dramatic and sometimes unfavourable manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities direct and support the establishment of a Health Care Committee, structured on a similar basis as the Romanow Commission, to review and critique the current health care delivery system and report both to our organization as well as report to the taxpayers of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B103 HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

Abbotsford

WHEREAS some BC communities are strongly opposed to any type of harm reduction program, including safe injection sites, needle exchanges, free methadone clinics or mobile dispensing units;

AND WHEREAS local government is the most appropriate level of government to determine the best interests of its jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each local government be permitted to make decisions on drug strategies with autonomy, to reflect the views of its constituents.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “to make decisions” be replaced with the phrase “to have input into provincial decisions” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each local government be permitted to have input into provincial decisions on drug strategies with autonomy, to reflect the views of its constituents.

ON MOTION, as amended, was NOT ENDORSED

B104 HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP

Delta

WHEREAS a program could be implemented similar to the health care partnership which the Corporation of Delta has recently proposed to the Fraser Health Authority to help smaller and rural communities throughout British Columbia retain and enhance a broader range of health professionals and specialist physicians in their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Province to establish a province-wide task force to examine this issue, consult with municipalities and report on their findings.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B105 HEALTH CARE FUNDING AND SERVICES

Vancouver

WHEREAS an adequately funded health care system is a critical part of the social and economic well being of Canadians and is best delivered as a public, not-for-profit system;

AND WHEREAS the reduction in federal government transfer payments to the provinces has resulted in a drop from 50% to 15% in federal public health care funding since the early 1990s which does not reflect or support the recommendations of the Romanow Commission report on the Future of Health Care in Canada 2003, which are supported by 70% of Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government continues to cut health care funding, resulting in delisting of outpatient services, bed closures, staff reductions and cuts to services that result in increased strain on the emergency departments and places increased demands for local government support to fill the gaps at a time when local governments are facing increased financial pressures:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities inform the federal and provincial government of its support for the recommendations of the Romanow Report and request that sufficient provincial and federal resources be committed to renew and sustain the health care system;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities express strong concern to the provincial government about the short and long term implications of changes made to the health care system and request full consultation with local government before changes are made to ensure that the full impact of changes on local residents and local government is understood prior to implementation.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

**B106 JOINT PANEL RE: LIABILITY AND
DEFECTIVE CONSTRUCTION**

Port Moody

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Insurance Association and Union of BC Municipalities create a stakeholder table with representation from all affected stakeholders to

advance solutions to defective construction, increased exposure to and unfair distribution of compensatory damages and protection of the future health of the construction industry, local economies and building users.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B107 HANDS-FREE CELLULAR EQUIPMENT

Gibsons

WHEREAS research into the use of hand-held cellular telephones has indicated that accident risk increases when drivers use the telephone while operating motor vehicles and statistics and reports in both Canada and the United States are conclusive in confirming that the danger of accidents and the rate of accidents increase where hand held cellular telephones are used while driving;

AND WHEREAS recent Canadian polls indicate strong support for mandatory controls on hand held cellular phone use by drivers and hand held cellular use is already banned in over 40 countries, some U.S. states including New York and recently in Newfoundland;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse drivers' use of hands free cellular telephone equipment while operating a motor vehicle;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to ban the use of hand held cellular phones;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments take the lead in this initiative by setting an example of safety by requiring municipal vehicles to be installed with hands free equipment.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, was not endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B108 SEMINARS FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

AKBM Executive

WHEREAS the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Municipalities represents 27 local governments in southeastern British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS local governments in south eastern BC must travel considerable distances to attend meetings outside the region and incur significant costs to do so:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities consider having the Newly Elected Officials seminars available in the AKBM area.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B109 CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS AND USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Trail

WHEREAS with the provincial government's revisions to the funding formulas for School Districts, many School Boards are having to close schools to meet budgetary demands;

AND WHEREAS the closure of schools without regard to the future use of the property results in the vacant building becoming a target of vandalism, not being maintained by the School District depreciating the value of the property, and becoming an eyesore and public nuisance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education be requested to review legislation, policies and funding formulas that pertain to the closure of schools and the future use of school property and the demolition of fully depreciated school facilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education be requested to require School Districts to develop a post-closure plan for schools being closed, with community input and approval of the Ministry.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “future use” be amended to read “future profit and non-profit use” in the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education be requested to review legislation, policies and funding formulas that pertain to the closure of schools and the future profit and non-profit use of school property and the demolition of fully depreciated school facilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education be requested to require School Districts to develop a post-closure plan for schools being closed, with community input and approval of the Ministry.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B110 RELOCATION OF CANADA GEESE

Kent

WHEREAS the mass relocation of such species as Canada Geese from place to place has been carried out to solve problems in populated areas;

AND WHEREAS the receiving rural area may then be faced with the same problems with similar detrimental impacts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that relevant provincial authorities not carry out or approve such relocations without first consulting the receiving areas for advice so as to lessen future impacts on their environment.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing two-year time limits on welfare benefits for recipients be admitted off the floor for debate, was not endorsed.

B111 BC FERRY LIQUOR SALES

Saanich

WHEREAS the BC Ferry System is predominantly a vehicle based transportation system;

AND WHEREAS the people of BC are concerned about the high percentage of motor vehicle accidents resulting from drinking and driving:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial government not introduce or permit the sale of alcohol aboard BC Ferries or at their terminals.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “on sailings of under three hours” be included after “BC Ferries” in the enactment clause, was not endorsed.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that delegates reconsider the motion to admit off the floor for debate a resolution addressing two-year time limits on welfare benefits for recipients, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing two-year time limits on welfare benefits for recipients be admitted off the floor for debate, was not endorsed.

SECTION “B” - PART III RESOLUTIONS**B112 RESIDENTIAL TENANCY ACT****Victoria**

WHEREAS local government has concerns about the proposed regulations that will be enacted under Bill 70-2002, specifically related to:

- decreased access to arbitration for tenants, (e.g., removal of the rent review process) and
- potential impacts of compound rent increases;

AND WHEREAS a notification and referral process to municipalities regarding changes to residential tenancy legislation and regulations should occur in sufficient time to gain valuable feedback from local governments and their communities;

AND WHEREAS the process by which municipalities are notified of new or revised legislation and regulations that affect municipalities, especially residential tenancy legislation and regulations, should be reviewed and modified;

AND WHEREAS the members of the Union of BC Municipalities are apprised of and included in periodic reviews of new legislation and regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities consider the matter of regulatory changes to Bill 70-2002 as a policy matter affecting local governments throughout the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to extend the period of time for local government input on further proposed legislative and regulatory changes to Bill 70-2002.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B113 ENFORCEMENT OF GUN REGISTRATION LAW**Dawson Creek**

WHEREAS gun registration will cost more than \$1 billion in the first five years and will not contribute to the reduction of crime nor benefit the public by making criminals out of hunters, farmers, ranchers and other legitimate gun owners;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is introducing severe cost cutting measures in an attempt to balance the budget;

AND WHEREAS spending provincial money on enforcement of Federal Gun Registry legislation will greatly reduce money available for critical programs such as health and education and the federal government must be accountable for its legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities respectfully request the provincial government to refuse to expend any provincial money for enforcement purposes, including prosecutions and conservation officer investigations, connected to federal gun registration legislation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B114 DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS FOR FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS**Coquitlam**

WHEREAS the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (Bill C-7) requires the use of alternative sentencing measures for first time non-violent offenders;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is expected to provide these diversionary programs for young offenders to encourage healing and reconciliation as opposed to punishment, and to prevent youth from re-offending;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government provide funding to the provincial government for diversionary programs for first-time non-violent offenders.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B115 KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY TOLLS

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the Kootenay Lake ferry serves as a principal, year-round transportation link for residents of the rural unincorporated communities of Kootenay Bay, Riondel, Crawford Bay, Gray Creek and Boswell, with their main trading and medical centres being the cities of Nelson, Castlegar and Trail;

AND WHEREAS a toll on users of Kootenay Lake ferry will:

1. be an economic hardship for seniors and people on fixed income who reside in the above named rural, unincorporated communities;
2. adversely impact the economic well-being of area business due to reduction in tourism travel;
3. add a burden of cost to those businesses doing trade between the east and west side of Kootenay Lake;
4. place an additional burden on residents required to access essential medical services not available in their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to:

1. not implement tolls on users of the Kootenay Lake ferry;
2. explore alternative sources of cost recovery.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B116 DESIGNATION OF MOUNTAIN HIGHWAYS

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS the lack of appropriate winter tread tires is considered a major contributing factor to accidents and traffic problems on the Sea to Sky Highway and similar highways during winter months;

AND WHEREAS the present highway designation and motor vehicle regulations are of little assistance to the RCMP force in turning away inadequately equipped vehicles, an action which would avoid accidents and traffic problems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to enact legislation designating the Sea to Sky Highway and similar highways as mountain highways and requiring appropriate winter tread tires or chains on all vehicles travelling on these highways in times of high snow fall probability.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B117 REGULATING UTILITY PRICES

Salmo

WHEREAS there continues to be substantial rate increases in natural gas, oil and electric power;

AND WHEREAS heat and power are essential to the well being of our residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby for price reductions and elimination of Provincial Sales Tax and Goods and Services Tax on natural gas, oil and electric power.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B118 ENABLING LOCAL COMMUNITY FOREST COUNCILS**Port Clements**

WHEREAS local communities have and continue to make significant investments that enable forestry corporations and the province to acquire revenue for their use;

AND WHEREAS local communities have little or no formal input into the allocation and management of the forests that affect their well being and sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government delegate the powers to allocate cut within a Timber Supply Area used for timber sales to Local Community Forest Councils;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the awarding of these sales be based on a "Request for Proposal" methodology using a point grading system that would award points to each proposal for, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- Contribution to local community sustainability and stability;
- Contribution to Provincial requirements;
- Value of the bid;
- Previous performance record.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B119 IMPROVE THE SMALL BUSINESS FOREST ENTERPRISE PROGRAM**Port Clements**

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forest's Small Business Forest Enterprise Program is an important contributor to the stability of the Union of BC Municipalities' constituent communities;

AND WHEREAS there are opportunities to improve the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program's contribution to our province and local communities by running the program like a business instead of like the existing bureaucracy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Ministry of Forests make the appropriate changes to the statutes and regulations dealing with the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program to include the following considerations:

- Allow the district managers to manage the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program accounts annual surpluses for the purpose of operating the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program;
- Require the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program to be operated as a "for profit business."

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B120 OPEN MARKETING OF TIMBER FROM CROWN TENURES**Port Clements**

WHEREAS the lengthy and costly dispute between Canada and the United States of America regarding softwood lumber exports continues to contribute to inefficiency and uncertainty in our forest industry and dependent communities;

AND WHEREAS a solution must be found that allows an "open market" to set the log prices for the Province and that does not require the stumpage appraisal system that is used today;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work with the Ministry of Forests to investigate ways and means to achieve the following:

- That all logs produced from Crown tenures in British Columbia be advertised for auction at suitable points nearest their harvesting area;
- That tenure holders retain the right to match the highest bid.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B121 LOCAL ADVERTISING OF LOG EXPORT PACKAGES**Port Clements**

WHEREAS the operators of wood manufacturing facilities in the local communities closest to the point of harvesting are placed at a great disadvantage when it comes to their ability to bid on log export packages leaving their surrounding forests;

AND WHEREAS this inequity is due to the existing practice of shipping these export packages to log sorts in the Lower Mainland prior to advertising them for sale within the province;

AND WHEREAS the Lieutenant Governor in Council cannot make an informed decision as to the exportability of a package under application, specifically under Part 10, Sec. 128(3)(a) of the *Forest Act* which states that the logs must be "surplus to the requirements of timber producing facilities in British Columbia," without allowing the local manufacturers the opportunity to bid on the local logs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Ministry of Forests to change their export policy to require the advertising of export packages at suitable points nearest point of harvesting.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B122 STUMPAGE BINGO**NCMA Executive**

WHEREAS the quarterly stumpage adjustment system results in a concentration of winter log hauling and a reduction of hauling days per year from 190 to 110;

AND WHEREAS this concentration of hauling days has been proven to increase the risk of motor vehicle accidents involving both truckers and the travelling public;

AND WHEREAS the concentration of hauling days causes economic hardship to communities as local log haulers no longer have access to year-round employment; and outside haulers brought in during "low-stumpage" periods take dollars out of our communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Minister of Forests to end the quarterly stumpage adjustment system that results in a concentration of log hauling activities in certain periods of the hauling season when stumpage rates have been reduced.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B123 POWER SALES**Kitimat**

WHEREAS Alcan Inc. received, by contract with the provincial government, use of the headwaters of the Nechako River, a public resource in northwest BC, specifically to manufacture aluminum;

AND WHEREAS since early in 2001, Alcan has reduced aluminum production at its Kitimat facility in order to sell electricity to BC Hydro for export to the United States, even though manufacturing aluminum remains a profitable enterprise under the terms of the contract;

AND WHEREAS as a result of this breach, jobs have been lost in Kitimat, property values have collapsed, social infrastructure has been compromised and the economic well being of the community and northern British Columbia has been damaged:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to insist that Alcan honour its original obligation and commitment to use the water resource for the purpose it was given – industry activity, not power sales.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase "Alcan honour its original obligation and commitment to use the water resource for the purpose it was given – industry activity, not power sales" be replaced with the phrase "non-utility industries provided with water resources for the purpose of industrial power production use the electricity resource for industrial activity, and not for power sales", was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to insist that non-utility industries provided with water resources for the purpose of industrial power production use the electricity resource for industrial activity, and not for power sales.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B124 ECONOMIC STABILIZATION STRATEGY

NCMA Executive

WHEREAS recent reports of the BC Progress Board have shown an increasing disparity between those living in major metropolitan areas as compared to those outside of the Lower Mainland;

AND WHEREAS the Progress Board's 250 Task Force has further reinforced the need to develop specific strategies aimed at keeping these 250 communities vibrant and healthy;

AND WHEREAS the existing imbalance between rural and urban centres could be further impacted by the recent removal of appurtenancy requirements within the forest legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government initiate a "Region 250 Economic Stabilization Fund" which would enable local governments to access revenue based on the value of resources extracted from within the specific region for the development and implementation of economic strategies to ensure the long-term viability of 250 communities and electoral areas, and finance strategically targeted infrastructure, research and development within the 250 region;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be offered a position on the independent panel that would oversee the Economic Stabilization Fund, a panel that would also be made up of government, business and academic leaders from the 250 region.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B125 SHARING OF RESOURCE REVENUE

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has entered into a unique revenue sharing agreement in the Peace Region (i.e., the Fair Share Agreement) to assist local government in obtaining adequate financial resources;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has indicated support for similar resource revenue sharing agreements with coastal communities and First Nations to ensure that benefits accrue to the areas affected by energy production should the off-shore oil and gas initiative proceed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop a revenue sharing agreement for communities within which hydro-electric energy development is taking place to provide a new revenue opportunity for local government.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B126 COLUMBIA RIVER DOWNSTREAM BENEFITS

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS the province of British Columbia has control over a substantial amount of electricity as part of the Columbia River Downstream Benefits and has chosen to sell that electricity to United States markets;

AND WHEREAS the Columbia River Downstream Benefits are being used to bolster the United States economy rather than the British Columbia economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly urge the provincial government to invest the electricity from the Columbia River Downstream Benefits in the British Columbia economy by making that electricity available to British Columbia consumers.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B127 MAINLAND TO VANCOUVER ISLAND
CABLE CROSSING**

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS a long term, reliable supply of electricity to Vancouver Island is in jeopardy because of aging infrastructure and increasing demand;

AND WHEREAS the quickest, most economical and least environmentally damaging option of providing a reliable supply of electricity to Vancouver Island is using a new cable crossing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly urge the provincial government to increase the electricity supply to Vancouver Island by installing a new cable crossing from the mainland to Vancouver Island.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that debate on resolution B128 be postponed until after debate on B129, was endorsed.

B129 COALBED METHANE

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is promoting the exploration and development of coalbed methane and has implemented a number of legislative and monetary incentives and has sold more than \$50 million in drilling rights for coalbed methane projects;

AND WHEREAS coalbed methane development has high risks, especially regarding impacts on groundwater and the quality of disposed water from its processes;

AND WHEREAS local communities, including their local governments, First Nations and potentially affected landowners have not been adequately informed or consulted about the effects of coalbed methane production;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has not completed baseline studies in the watersheds nor has it put in place adequate policies, procedures, regulations and enforcement tools to protect communities from potential harm:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government issue no further drilling licences, tenures, or other permits for coalbed methane exploration and development until local communities, their local government and First Nations are consulted and their concerns are fully considered and until adequate policies, regulations and guidelines are enacted to ensure the safe development of coalbed methane in the Province of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B128 COALBED METHANE DEVELOPMENT

Peace River RD

WHEREAS the provincial government is looking to prosper from the development of coalbed methane gas as a new energy source;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Energy and Mines has developed a coalbed methane policy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support the development of the provincial government's coalbed methane gas extraction initiative with regulations that consider openly the landowner, tenure holder and Crown considerations in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B130 COMBATING FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Chetwynd

WHEREAS the incidence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is extremely high across British Columbia, and reliably estimated to be as high as 30% in northern British Columbia, resulting in enormous life-long personal loss as well as financial loss to society in the order of \$1.4 million for each affected person;

AND WHEREAS it is apparent that the education of all drinkers to the dangers of consuming alcohol in any amount during pregnancy is an essential element in efforts to reduce the incidence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder with its attendant social, personal and financial losses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the provincial government to introduce legislation to effect the following conditions or circumstances:

1. That every liquor outlet in British Columbia, including restaurants, bars, pubs, cold beer and wine stores, liquor stores and any other outlet including special occasion events where alcohol is served, be required to permanently and prominently display, in the area of sale, information on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, its causes and consequences, and that this information be provided by agencies committed to preventing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and
2. That the cost of said information campaign be borne entirely by the provincial government and funded from the proceeds of liquor sales.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B131 HEALTH CARE BILLING

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS we continue to hear about abuse in the health care billing system and we need more accountability in the health care system;

AND WHEREAS it is the right taxpayers to know what is being spent on their behalf for health care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we desire a health care billing system that allows all taxpayers the ability to question all payments being made on their behalf;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any enquiry will be fulfilled in a timely, confidential and expedient manner.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B132 HOME SUPPORT FUNDING

Vancouver

WHEREAS the province of British Columbia will receive funds from the federal government under the First Ministers Accord on Health Care Renewal for the delivery of home care services from 2002-2006;

AND WHEREAS this funding was designated under the Health Accord to be directed only to palliative, mental health and post-acute care home care, which made no provision for home support for the frail elderly, the chronically ill or people with disabilities;

AND WHEREAS home support, a part of the home care program maintains safe, healthy living environments for frail seniors, the chronically ill, and people with disabilities; allowing them to live with dignity in their own homes;

AND WHEREAS a decade of cutbacks has caused shortages of long term care and continuing care beds in communities throughout the entire province;

AND WHEREAS high demand and service cuts have obliged citizens in need of care to move from their own homes, and unnecessarily increased demands on institutional and acute care services;

AND WHEREAS people with disabilities and elder citizens of our society are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage the Health Authorities and the provincial government to enhance the Home Care program, and particularly home support, for frail elderly, chronically ill and people with disabilities in order to prevent the clients of this service from requiring more expensive and dislocating institutional care;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage the Health Authorities and the provincial government to reinstate the home support services and to budget sufficient funds to keep them in place.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B133 WCB PRESUMPTION FOR CERTAIN CANCERS

Victoria

WHEREAS fire fighting is recognized as a hazardous occupation to the health for fire fighters;

AND WHEREAS recent medical and scientific studies show a strong association between working conditions experienced by fire fighters over time and the occurrence of certain diseases;

AND WHEREAS other provincial jurisdictions have adopted Workers' Compensation legislation and regulations or are in the process of adopting legislation and regulations acknowledging the relationship between fire fighting and certain cancers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the government of British Columbia to have cancer presumption recognized by the Workers' Compensation Board for the fire service of British Columbia.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be amended to have the Union of BC Municipalities instead lobby the "Workers' Compensation Board to investigate and report on the implications of coverage for cancer presumption for the fire service of British Columbia", was not endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B134 BC MEDICAL PLAN COVERAGE FOR ECTODERMAL DYSPLASIA

Revelstoke

WHEREAS the genetic disorder known as Ectodermal Dysplasia is a congenital anomaly not currently covered by the BC Medical Plan and lack of coverage for this disorder can lead to other costs to the medical system for related ailments;

AND WHEREAS precedent has been set by mandatory coverage in several US states and partial or full coverage in Alberta and Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to include coverage for the genetic disorder Ectodermal Dysplasia under the Medical Services Plan.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B135 SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING

Port Alice

WHEREAS School Boards are not permitted to run deficit budgets to operate schools;

AND WHEREAS the Province has negatively impacted school budgets by imposing a contract on School Districts and teachers while failing to provide all of the funds to pay for it:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Province to examine the budgetary implications of the imposed contract, and to provide School Boards with the necessary funds to pay for these educational funding shortfalls.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B136 GRANTS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS Chetwynd

WHEREAS various ministries of the provincial government are generating Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to out-source many social service activities;

AND WHEREAS the RFPs generated by the various ministries frequently do not reflect the social services needs that are identified by local community service organizations and providers and, consequently, the program benefits intended by the Ministries are lost to those communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to make a portion of its social service funding resources available as grants for projects initiated by local community-based organizations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B137 RURAL LANDOWNER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE FOR BC Peace River RD

WHEREAS the proposal for a new BC Heartlands Economic Strategy is intended to open up every region and community of the province to a wealth of new opportunities, it will also lead to greater pressures on farmland and rural residents, that will increase conflicts and confrontation between competing interests;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to promote and support maximum harmony between competing resource sectors considering that conflict and confrontation over land and resource uses causes delays, controversy, increased costs, and a reduction of economic benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities aggressively support the establishment of an independent Rural Landowner's Advocate Office that will provide an effective one window service to assist farmers and ranchers through an informal, non-partisan and non-binding mechanism that helps resolve disputes and gather information on matters of concern.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B138 SEXUAL ORIENTATION: SECTION 318(4) OF THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA Vancouver

WHEREAS equal protection and treatment of all citizens is fundamental to a fair justice system;

AND WHEREAS the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* section 15(1) ensures that “every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination”;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has consistently interpreted section 15(1) of the *Charter* as including sexual orientation as an identifiable group that is protected by these principles;

AND WHEREAS the present *Criminal Code* hate propaganda sections (318 and 319) do not explicitly protect members of the public distinguished by sexual orientation;

AND WHEREAS the November 2001 murder of a gay man in Vancouver, has once again drawn attention to these provisions of the *Criminal Code* which discriminate against members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* to add sexual orientation to the list of identifiable groups in section 318(4).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B139 FEDERAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission has released its report calling for restructuring of British Columbia's electoral boundaries to support urban growth;

AND WHEREAS the proposed realignment will replace the current Cariboo Chilcotin riding with a riding that includes the north and central portions of the current riding with the City of Prince George and the southern portions with the City of Kamloops:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the federal government to review the federal electoral boundaries in order to protect rural ridings and identity;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government be urged not to implement any electoral boundaries changes until after the next federal election to allow for more effective consultation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B140 TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE**

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the Travel Assistance Program (TAP) is designed to allow residents in rural and remote areas to access specialty health care facilities located in urban areas for health issues other than physiotherapy care;

AND WHEREAS rural or remote areas face limited access to physiotherapists who provide a primary component in the healing process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that TAP funding be extended to include travel costs for rural or remote residents requiring access to physiotherapy services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing Canadian beef purchasing policies be admitted off the floor for debate, was endorsed.

“BUY CANADIAN” BEEF PURCHASING POLICY

Peace River RD

WHEREAS the United States border remains closed to Canadian live cattle exports following the discovery of a single case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) on an Albertan farm;

AND WHEREAS increasing domestic consumption of Canadian beef is a simple, market neutral means to support British Columbia's beef cattle producers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities seek provincial government endorsement of a “Buy Canadian” only purchasing policy for beef used within BC government institutions and agencies including prisons, hospitals, and the BC Ferry Corporation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ER1 COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO FOREST FIRES OF 2003 UBCM Executive

WHEREAS many of BC's communities have been devastated by the forest fires of this past summer;

AND WHEREAS communities across BC and Canada have pulled together to provide much needed emergency firefighting and support services to assist affected regions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that delegates at this 100th UBCM Convention express our gratitude and thanks for the courageous, heroic and selfless actions undertaken by the many firefighters, police, emergency and community service workers as well as the countless volunteers who have worked tirelessly to protect and serve our communities during this time of crisis.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED UNANIMOUSLY