

Resolutions to be Considered at the 2014 UBCM Convention

Whistler Conference Centre Whistler, BC

The resolutions sessions are presently scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 24

10:30 am

Principal Policy Session

Policy Paper, Section A resolutions, and
Section B resolutions as time allows

Thursday, September 25

8:55 am

Section B Resolutions

Resolutions Session continues

Friday, September 26

8:00 am

Consideration of:

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline
Section B Resolutions (as time allows)

All times are subject to change - please check Convention Program to confirm start times.



Report of the 2014 Resolutions Committee

Members submitted 159 resolutions before the June 30 deadline, a similar number of resolutions to 2013. Lower numbers of resolutions submitted indicate a focusing of local government interest on selected important issues. Because of the number of high-profile issues to be debated, there will be a lot of work to do during Convention policy sessions.

In 2014, members are proposing a broad variety of resolutions that reflect local government contexts and concerns, and respond to provincial and federal initiatives and legislation. Members' concerns centre on emergency preparedness and response, as well as balancing economic development and agricultural production with community land use planning.

As in years past, Section A resolutions feature priority issues and will continue to be debated first at Convention. The intent is to highlight some of the key areas of concern around the province.

This year, many resolutions were submitted to the five Area Associations prior to being submitted to UBCM - reflecting a trend of increased engagement in the different regions of the province, as compared to earlier in the decade. The Resolutions Committee salutes members for submitting resolutions to their Area Associations for consideration at annual spring conferences, and reminds members that Area Association endorsement lends weight to a resolution when it is later considered at UBCM.

The Resolutions Committee recommends using the sample resolution and related resources from the UBCM website to help distill resolutions and ensure that appropriate background information accompanies each resolution. Many members contact UBCM staff for assistance drafting resolutions, and UBCM staff work with members to produce a clear and succinct resolution, with one or two "whereas" clauses and a clear enactment request. Member feedback has been that a resolution brief and to the point is easier to understand than a lengthy, complicated or rambling request.

The majority of the three Convention morning sessions are dedicated to resolutions and policy papers. Nevertheless, completing debate remains a challenge. If time constraints prevent all resolutions from being considered, policies enable the Chair to seek member permission to introduce the Section B3 resolutions as a block.

If time still proves short, policies ensure that Section B resolutions that have not been considered by the Convention will be submitted to the Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action. Please refer to the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions for more information on these policies.

The Resolutions Committee is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate. Members are encouraged to come prepared to participate in setting UBCM's policy direction for the coming year. Resolution sponsors should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide any information that might assist or clarify the debate. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate all of the member-submitted resolutions for 2014.

All resolutions received by the June 30 deadline have been printed in the Resolutions Book and are indexed by both resolution number and sponsor.

Resolutions received after the deadline are handled as late resolutions, in accordance with the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions. These are printed in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, which is distributed to delegates on-site with the Convention registration package.

2014 UBCM Resolutions Committee

Mayor Sharon Gaetz, Chair
Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Councillor Claire Moglove
Chair Art Kaehn

Classification in the Resolutions Book

Outlined below are the subject area classifications used in the Resolutions Book. The policies for grouping resolutions into Section A, B1, B2, B3 or C are outlined in Section 18 of the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions, which begin on the facing page.

Legislative

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

Community Safety

Resolutions that focus on legal matters related to the provision of court services; the delivery of police services and the costs associated with providing these services; as well as the general administration of justice, protective and emergency services.

Elections

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

Transportation

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

Taxation

Resolutions that deal with specific charges and taxes levied by local governments, revenue from which supports their operations.

Finance

Resolutions of broad financial impact to local governments. These may involve the Province or other agencies. Matters explored may include federal grants-in-lieu, federal sales tax, gasoline taxes, infrastructure funding, provincial funding for health care, or tourism promotion.

Assessment

Resolutions that relate to property assessment, the assessability of certain types of property, alternatives to

market value, and changes to the current assessment system. The Assessment Act, BC Assessment Authority, or assessment appeal boards may be referenced.

Environment

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

Land Use

Resolutions that relate to planning issues such as housing, parkland, development cost charges, siting, Agricultural Land Reserve, Crown lands, and issues related to Part 26 of the *Local Government Act*.

Community Economic Development

Resolutions that relate to regional sustainability and economic development opportunities for local governments, as well as to the concerns of resource-focused communities.

Regional Districts

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

Health

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

Selected Issues

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

Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions

General Rules

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

Voting Rules

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

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

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

In the event that electronic voting keypads are not available or not functioning, the Chair may call for a standing vote,

whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a count of those standing in favour of and against the motion. In the event that the result of the standing vote is questioned by fifty or more voting delegates then present, or at any time at the discretion of the Chair, the Chair shall order that the matter before the Convention be determined by ballot, and the result of such ballot shall be final. [Bylaw s. 13(a)]

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

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

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

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

Rules of Procedure

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

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

13. A delegate wishing to move, second or speak to a motion shall arise and address the Chair and shall wait until he or she is recognized before speaking. The delegate must announce his or her name, municipal or regional office and municipality or regional district or other qualifications each time he or she rises to speak. [Bylaw s. 22(c)]

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

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

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

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

Handling of Resolutions: Step-by-step Rules

Precedence of Resolutions

18. A special resolution of the UBCM passed in 1982 authorizes the Executive to separate resolutions into three sections and sets out the order in which resolutions will be considered:

SECTION A: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed “A” and are printed in the first section of the Resolutions Book. Section A will feature new issues of interest to all members. Section A may also highlight issues from the Area Associations.

SECTION B: These resolutions will be divided into three categories and shall be brought to the Convention floor with the approval of the delegates after all resolutions in Section “A” have been considered. Such resolutions are prefixed “B” and are printed in the second section of the Resolutions Book.

The UBCM Executive has set the following criteria:

Section B shall be divided into three parts:

Part 1 – Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

These resolutions include:

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

Part 2 and Part 3 – Resolutions Proposing New Policy

These resolutions include:

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

The Resolutions Committee has discretion in classifying these resolutions as:

Part 2: those issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government.

Part 3: those resolutions on matters of interest to local communities that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

Resolutions under Parts 2 and 3 that have not been debated by the Convention will be submitted to the Executive for appropriate action [note that the recommendation is printed in the Resolutions Book] and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

Part 2 resolutions will be grouped as follows:

- a. resolutions recommended to be endorsed or endorsed with proposed amendment, sorted by subject
- b. all other resolutions, sorted by subject.

Part 3 resolutions will be grouped as follows:

- a. resolutions recommended to be endorsed or endorsed with proposed amendment, sorted by subject
- b. all other resolutions, sorted by subject.

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

SECTION C: Those resolutions which have been:

- consolidated or grouped and referred to a similar resolution in Section A or B;
- referred to a Special Resolution to be put forward at Convention;

- incorporated into a policy paper to be presented during Convention; or
- referred to a special session at Convention.

These are prefixed “C” and are printed in the third section of the Resolutions Book and cross-referenced for delegates’ information. Sponsors will be notified of the action taken regarding the resolution with which their resolution was consolidated.

For Resolutions Printed in Section A of the Resolutions Book

19. The Chair will cause the title of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

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

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

22. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from the sponsoring local government to introduce the resolution.

23. The sponsor is permitted three minutes to introduce the resolution.

24. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

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

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure” (s. 11-17).

Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. [Bylaw s. 22(d)]

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

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

For Resolutions Printed in Section B of the Resolutions Book

26. After Section A resolutions have been considered, Section B resolutions may be entered for discussion with the approval of the Convention. [1982 Special Resolution]

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

They will be divided into three sections: Part 1 – Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy and Parts 2 and 3 – Resolutions Proposing New Policy.

27. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B – Part 1 resolutions as a block.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have a Section B – Part 1 resolution entered for individual discussion shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – “Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?” – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 14(c)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the block and it will be considered immediately following the Section B – Part 1 block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Section B – Part 1 block as amended.

v) After the Section B – Part 1 block has been considered, those resolutions removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

28. After Section B – Part 1 resolutions have been considered, the Chair will introduce a motion to enter all Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions for consideration in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

If a delegate wishes to have a Section B – Part 2 or Part 3 resolution removed from discussion he or she shall, after

being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to withdraw the resolution.

29. If the motion to enter all Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions for consideration passes, the Chair will cause the title and “enactment” clause of each resolution to be read by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee and consideration will proceed as set out for Section A resolutions (s. 20-25).

In the course of consideration of Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions, the Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for Section B – Part 2-a resolutions as a block; and will later introduce a similar motion for Section B – Part 3-a resolutions. Consideration of the B2-a and B3-a blocks will proceed as set out for Section B – Part 1 resolutions (s. 27).

30. In the event of time constraints, the Chair may introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B – Part 3 resolutions (resolutions not within the jurisdiction of local government) as a block. This motion can be amended if there is a resolution in the block that a voting delegate wishes to withdraw for individual consideration, following the procedures as for s. 27. If the motion, or motion as amended, is carried, those resolutions withdrawn from the block will be debated individually after the motion on the block is considered. If the motion on the main block is approved, the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee to endorse or not endorse will hold. Resolutions on which the Resolutions Committee has made no recommendation or has referred, will be referred to the Executive for consideration.

For Resolutions Received After the Deadline

31. Resolutions submitted following the expiry of the regular deadline shall be considered “late” and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that a copy of the resolution shall be provided to the UBCM by the Friday noon preceding the date of the Annual Conference.

32. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be available for discussion after Section A resolutions have been considered but not before the time printed in the Convention Program for consideration of such resolutions.

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

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

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

(c) Resolutions not recommended to be admitted for Plenary discussion or to be referred to the Executive.

34. Resolutions received after the deadline are classified as “Emergency” and therefore appropriate for Plenary discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions. Resolutions received after the deadline are appropriate to be referred to the Executive if the topic is such that it has arisen since the regular submission of resolutions and, in the opinion of the Resolutions Committee, the topic is noncontroversial and in keeping with UBCM policy.

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

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

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

37. Copies of the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline shall be produced by UBCM with sufficient copies for distribution to the Convention and the sponsor may be billed for the cost of printing.

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

39. The Emergency Resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and the procedures for handling Section A resolutions will apply (s. 20-25).

For Resolutions Not Printed in the Resolutions Book

40. Any delegate may, during a Convention, put forward any motion which, if duly seconded, shall be dealt with as follows: The Chair shall put the question – “Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for discussion?” – and such

question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention.

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

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

For Extraordinary Resolutions

42. All resolutions originating at a Convention workshop or seminar (including the regional district seminars) that is not held as a regular Plenary session shall be referred to the Executive unless handled pursuant to s. 40 or 41.

43. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION: Any amendments to the Bylaws may only be made pursuant to Extraordinary Resolution duly adopted by the Union. [Bylaw s. 19]

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

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Section A Resolutions

Section A resolutions pertain to new policy matters not previously discussed by the membership, or priority issues that have broad application for all UBCM members.

Section A may also contain select resolutions endorsed and forwarded by the Area Associations on policy matters that have broad application for all UBCM members and highlight issues of concern around the province.

SECTION A

FINANCE

A1 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

WHEREAS the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative is a suite of funding programs administered through the Provincial Fuel Management Working Group and has supported communities to mitigate wildfires within the urban interface since 2004;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has been participating in the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative from the beginning, and over 150 hectares of fuel management projects have been completed, although since 2011 there has been significant reduction in the funding levels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC increase the funding to ensure continued sustainability of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative program.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding for wildfire prevention (2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative was created a decade ago with a fund of \$37 million. In 2011, the Province provided an additional \$25 million for the program.

Under the cost-sharing program, grants are made to local governments and First Nations to develop Community Wildfire Prevention Plans and forest fuel management prescriptions, and to undertake operational fuel treatments.

The Committee understands that as of April 2014, these funds will be disbursed or fully committed to forest fuel management projects. Additional provincial support is now required for further wildfire prevention projects to be carried out.

Conference decision:

A2 Medical Emergency Service Alarm Cost Recovery

Langley City

WHEREAS the number of first responder or medical emergency service alarm (MESA) calls that the City of Langley responds to represents 78 percent of all calls received by the Langley City Fire Rescue Service (LCFRS);

AND WHEREAS the City of Langley incurs significant direct costs as a result of responding to MESA calls to compliment the services provided by BC Ambulance Service (BCAS);

AND WHEREAS the intermediate patient care can greatly enhance patient outcomes and significantly reduce short term and long term costs to the overall health care system and the City of Langley acknowledges the community will benefit from the LCFRS supporting BCAS to provide first responder services to the patient while the ambulance is en-route:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC work with UBCM to develop a fair and equitable cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to medical first responder calls.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking compensation for local government provision of first response services (2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26, 2001-B4, 1999-B7, 1995-B74, 1994-B16).

In response to the 2012 resolution the provincial government pointed out that “there is no requirement” for local government First Responder agencies to respond to medical emergencies and emphasized that “participation in the First Responder program is voluntary and each municipality determines the extent of their participation in this program.” The Province indicated that it would not develop a cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to medical emergencies, suggesting that “First Responder program participants ... already possess the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in the First Responder program.”

Further, the provincial government suggested that local governments participating in the First Responder program “can reduce the volume of calls they respond to by choosing to respond only to serious medical emergencies as defined by the BC Ambulance Service Resource Allocation Plan (RAP).”

See also resolution C6.

Conference decision:

LAND USE

A3 Agricultural Land Reserve & Agricultural Land Commission

Victoria

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission, created as an autonomous body in 1974, has served to protect over four million hectares of farmland in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS measures to protect farmland and support farmers and regional food systems are essential to provide food security in the face of increasing global transportation and energy costs and the impacts of climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government respect the integrity of the province-wide Agricultural Land Reserve and support its management by an independent and adequately funded Agricultural Land Commission;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government work with the agricultural community, UBCM and local governments to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B48, which called on the provincial government to increase the resourcing of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), so that the ALC could more effectively carry

out its mandate of preserving agricultural land for agriculture. In August 2010, UBCM made a presentation to the Agricultural Land Commission Review Panel, reinforcing a number of policy positions of UBCM members including:

- support for targeted reviews with local government input;
- broad overall support for retaining the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and ensuring that it captures agricultural land;
- the need to balance any changes to the ALR with the commitments of local governments under the Climate Action Charter; and
- acknowledgement that there is a lack of resources currently to support the ALR.

The provincial government has passed amendments to the Agricultural Land Commission in Bill 24. The Province has divided the Agricultural Land Commission into two zones (Zone 1: the South Coast Panel, Island Panel and Okanagan Panel; Zone 2: Kootenay Panel, Interior Panel, and North Panel). In Zone 1 the major focus is intended to be preservation of farm land, when reviewing requests for changes in the use of agricultural land.

In Zone 2 the Agricultural Land Commission regional panels must consider the following:

- the purpose of the commission (preservation of farm land);
- economic, cultural and social values;
- regional and community planning objectives; and
- other prescribed considerations.

Under the new process it is expected that the regional panels will consider any requests for changes in their area, although the Chair of a regional panel will have the ability to request that the full Board consider any application that is determined to have provincial significance.

The Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking consultations on the regulations needed to implement the new framework that has been established for dealing with agricultural land in different parts of the Province.

See also resolutions C11, C12, C13 and C14.

Conference decision:

A4 Worker Camp Permitting

Peace River RD

WHEREAS current provincial licensing requirements for establishment of worker camps involve multiple authorities without effective inter-agency coordination thereby detracting from local government's ability to achieve maximum regional prosperity and social equity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as a condition to establishing a worker camp, the Province be requested to establish a single window approval process for all industries that allows for comment from any agency, regulator and local government that has interest in the operation, safety, health and socioeconomic impacts associated with the camp.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as a condition to establishing a worker camp, the Province be requested to establish a single window approval process for all industries that allows for comment from any agency, regulator or local government that has interest in the location, operation, safety, health and socio-economic impacts associated with the camp;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province establish an overarching authority to coordinate work camp development and monitor work camp operations.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to establish a “single window approval process” for work camps that allows for stakeholder comment.

The Committee would note, however, that members endorsed a related resolution, 2005-B36, which in part expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities and sought consultation (in this specific resolution) with the Oil and Gas Commission in advance so local jurisdictions were aware of their plans that would affect future community and regional development.

UBCM members have also endorsed resolutions that have sought better coordination with the Province and its related agencies around various approval processes (1990-B59, 1999-B47).

An amendment is proposed to reflect the concerns expressed in resolution C15 related to camp location and establishment of an overarching authority to coordinate camp development and monitoring.

See also resolution C15.

Conference decision:

TAXATION

A5 Industrial Taxation of Liquefied Natural Gas Industry

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the provincial government has indicated that it is considering, as part of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) regime for the Province of BC, capping increases of property tax rates for LNG-related industrial properties;

AND WHEREAS UBCM, with the support of the provincial government, has long held to the following principles, most recently affirmed in the member-endorsed 2008 policy paper, “Financing Local Government: Achieving Fiscal Balance:”

- The ultimate determination of the local public interest in terms of local responsibilities lies with locally elected representatives; including the freedom to determine the level of local services, expenditures and taxation;
- Local government should have the necessary legislative powers to meet its responsibilities, the power to ensure its policies and financial programs are mutually supporting, and the discretion and flexibility to determine the most appropriate methods of meeting the local needs; and
- Property taxation distribution must be the responsibility of local government; it should be based on actual value assessment and grants in lieu of taxes paid by other governments and their agencies should be paid on the same basis as the ordinary taxpayer;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to refrain from considering or implementing a cap on local government's ability to set property tax rates for industrial properties related to the liquefied natural gas industry.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to refrain from considering or implementing a cap on local government's ability to set property tax rates for industrial properties specifically related to the liquefied natural gas industry.

However, as expressed by the sponsor in the text of the resolution, the authority of local government to set property taxation distribution is a key component of local government in BC – one that has long been supported by local government and the provincial government alike.

Conference decision:

ENVIRONMENT

A6 Recycling Services in Rural & Small Communities

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS the Minister of Environment approved a Packaging and Printed Paper Stewardship Plan that allows the producers of packaging and printed paper to achieve a province wide recovery rate of 75% and the producers can meet this recovery rate by focusing service delivery in denser and more populated regions of the province and consequently avoid service delivery in rural and small communities;

AND WHEREAS many of the rural and small communities will not have access to collection services even though these communities have retail services that will be paying fees to a stewardship agency in support of the operation of collection services for residential packaging and printed paper products:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Minister of Environment amend the Recycling Regulation to require that stewardship plans ensure that in any community where a regulated product or material is retailed to a residential consumer that collection services for these same products be made available.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend the Recycling Regulation specifically to require that stewardship plans ensure that in any community where a regulated product or material is retailed to a residential consumer, that collection services for these same products be made available.

However, members have endorsed resolutions supporting improvements in existing product stewardship programs, such as resolution 2009-B115, which called on the provincial government to undertake a complete review of all existing BC stewardship programs to ensure that all communities in British Columbia received the full benefit of the existing stewardship programs, before moving on to develop new stewardship programs for products.

In addition, the Committee notes that members endorsed the 2007 Environment Action Plan, which requested that the provincial framework for any new or expanded product stewardship program contain the following measures:

- fully funded by industry, such that industry would be responsible for all costs such as marketing, collection, transportation, and marketing of materials;
- maximized recovery rate of products from local landfills, with a recovery rate of 85% or higher;
- the broadest choice of options for consumers, including the use of deposit refund systems and eco fees;
- a mixed collection system, including return to retailer, curbside and depots; and
- linking of product stewardship programs to local government solid waste management planning decisions.

The Committee would point out that most recently, the membership endorsed the 2012 Packaging and Printed Paper Product Stewardship policy paper, which notably recommended that:

- the seventy-five percent (75%) target recovery rate identified in the Recycling Regulation apply to each local government to ensure equivalent service levels between urban and rural areas;
- the packaging and printed paper (PPP) program seek a recovery rate of eighty-five (85%) or higher, consistent with the principles adopted by the UBCM membership in the 2007 Environment Action Plan; and
- rural and remote areas receive an equitable level of service as their urban counterparts under the PPP product stewardship program.

See also resolution B24.

Conference decision:

Section B Resolutions

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

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

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

Part 1—Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

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

Part 2 & Part 3—Resolutions Proposing New Policy

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

The Resolutions Committee has discretion in grouping resolutions from Parts 2 and 3 as:

Part 2: issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government; or

Part 3: resolutions on matters that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

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

Section B—Part 1

Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

This section contains resolutions that:

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

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

Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for Section B—Part 1 resolutions be adopted?

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Section B—Part 1 resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

I move that resolution B(x) be removed from the block and be considered separately for debate.

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

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.

SECTION B1

LEGISLATIVE

B1 Municipal Boundary Extensions

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS municipalities have the ability to apply for boundary expansions with no ability for affected rural residents to influence such applications;

AND WHEREAS such boundary expansions can have a significant impact on the rural residents and funding of the services they receive within the proposed expansion area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to review their policy in regards to boundary expansions to include an assent by referendum for those areas to be annexed.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions in support of a greater role in the decision-making process for residents of rural areas identified in proposals for municipal boundary extension (2013-B3, 2003-A14, 1991-B62). Different ways have been proposed for increasing the influence of affected rural area residents on the municipal boundary extension process.

The provincial government in responding to similar resolutions has stated that generally, a boundary extension proposal should have the support of a majority of residents and property owners from the area in question.

However, the provincial government has also been clear that resident approval is not the only consideration for approving boundary extensions. Proposals for municipal boundary extension are reviewed based on established technical and administrative criteria.

In cases where a proposed municipal boundary extension might have a significant impact, the Province generally requires mitigation to reduce the impact on regional district services and the communities they serve.

See also resolution B100.

Conference decision:

B2 Breach of Closed Meeting Confidentiality

Nanaimo City

WHEREAS all duly elected council and regional district board members swear an Oath of Office to uphold important ethical standards in compliance with the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*;

AND WHEREAS it is incumbent upon each council and board member to maintain absolute confidentiality in all matters discussed during a closed meeting and to protect the confidentiality of documents under section 117 of the *Community Charter*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* be amended to provide that a council or board member who breaches the confidentiality obligations under section 117 of the *Community Charter* will be subject to disqualification from office in the same manner as if they have a pecuniary interest in a matter in respect of which they participate in the debate and voting.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of the confidentiality obligations codified in section 117 of the Community Charter (2011-B1, 2011-B115, 2007-B63, 2007-B64). As an example resolution 2011-B1 asked the provincial government for additional sanctions, including but not limited to disqualification from office, against elected officials who breach the duty to respect confidentiality.

In response to the resolution the provincial government expressed willingness to work with the local government sector to strengthen accountability measures for locally elected officials. The Province stated, however, that before considering legislative amendments a full review of the confidentiality issue including the role of whistle-blowers would be required.

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B3 Resources to Support Sexually Exploited Children & Youth

Prince George

WHEREAS the issue of sexual exploitation of children and youth is an increasing problem in communities throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has ceased funding toward services that support communities to develop prevention, education, enforcement and intervention strategies to address the sexual exploitation of children and youth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to identify the issue of sexual exploitation of children and youth as a priority and reinstate long term, dedicated funding for communities throughout the province to develop and maintain services for sexually exploited children and youth.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions concerning the need to protect children from sexual exploitation (2004-B1, 2004-B100, 2004-B102, 2002-B2, 2002-B3, 2001-B48, 2000-B56, 1998-B47, 1998-B49, 1998-B50, 1997-B27, 1995-A10, 1994-B29, 1993-B35, 1985-A3).

Conference decision:

B4 Adequate Funding to Support Police Based Victim Services

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS the Provincial Police Based Victim Services Program provides valuable support and referral services to victims of crime and trauma in BC communities;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government does not fully fund this program which is affecting the ability for community victim services programs to provide proper services to support our victims of crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to provide adequate funding to support the Police Based Victim Services Program.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province provide funding for victim services programs (2011-B14; 2010-B12; 2008-B4; 2006-B9; 2003 Victims Services Program; 1996-B43).

In response to resolution 2011-B14, which called on the provincial government to assume all responsibility for provision and funding of victim services in BC, the Province re-iterated its position that police-based victim service programs should be cost shared with local governments in communities that contribute to their policing costs.

Conference decision:

B5 Restorative Justice Program Funding

Chilliwack

WHEREAS the Restorative Justice program provides a great value to communities and to the provincial government by resolving certain criminal incidents outside of the formal criminal justice system, therefore reducing provincial costs of the court system;

AND WHEREAS current provincial funding to the program is limited:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government consider greater funding to cost share in the Restorative Justice programs across the province.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide sustainable funding for restorative justice programs (2013-B10, 2009-B7, 2008-B4, 2007-B3, 2006-B10, 2003-B2, 2001-B10, 2000-B7).

In response to the 2013 resolution the provincial government cited its commitment in “White Paper on Justice Reform part two: A Timely, Balanced Justice System” to “expand restorative justice if additional funding becomes available.”

Conference decision:

B6 Rural RCMP Staffing Levels

Vanderhoof

WHEREAS the RCMP provides policing in rural communities;

AND WHEREAS RCMP staff shortages produce a grave threat to the public;

AND WHEREAS staff shortages can be identified by RCMP audit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase the number of RCMP members at detachments that have identified staff shortages through RCMP audit.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the federal and provincial governments to provide resources to maintain or improve police service levels in small or rural communities (2013-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-A4, 2012-B1, 2010-B10, 2006-B12, 2005-B62, 2002-B27).

Conference decision:

B7 Licenses Issued Under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations

Abbotsford

WHEREAS the City of Abbotsford and other local governments, and their residents are concerned about public safety regarding marijuana grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, certified by Health Canada, in operation within the boundaries of local governments;

AND WHEREAS Health Canada, as the regulator of grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, and who is responsible to for regular monitoring and enforcement of Health Canada Regulations to those grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations to ensure compliance with its regulations, including any other conditions of specific licences as may be applicable;

AND WHEREAS Health Canada has not provided addresses of existing locations of any grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, and this absence of information makes it difficult to ensure the safety of local government residents from life, building, fire safety and police perspectives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in light of the changes to Health Canada’s Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, as of April 1, 2014, that the UBCM petition Health Canada to provide addresses of all grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations in all local government jurisdictions to permit these properties to be inspected to ensure safety of all residents and to bring the properties into compliance with relevant provincial and local government regulations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM petition Health Canada to undertake ongoing and regular monitoring and enforcement of all relevant legislation and guidelines of grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations to ensure compliance with regulations, including any other conditions of specific licences as may be applicable.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the challenge of ensuring that public safety requirements and the standards set by local bylaws are fulfilled by medical marijuana licence holders, has been the subject of spirited debate by UBCM members (2013-B9, 2012-B111, 2009-B65).

Most recently members endorsed resolution 2013-B9, asking the federal government to notify local governments about each medicinal marijuana licence issued. A response has not yet been received from the federal government.

The Committee would note that the new Health Canada Medical Marijuana Access Regulations have not been implemented at this time. The Federal Court of Canada has granted an injunction against the implementation of the new regulations, until a Charter challenge to the new regulations has been heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. The federal government has appealed the injunction to the Federal Court of Appeal and is awaiting a decision.

Conference decision:

B8 9-1-1 Calls on Cellular Phones

Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS the North Island 9-1-1 Corporation is comprised of six shareholder regional districts and was established to provide and manage emergency 9-1-1 services to the regional districts of Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Mount Waddington, Nanaimo, Powell River and Strathcona;

AND WHEREAS the increased costs associated with abandoned 9-1-1 calls are affecting the sustainability of the service and impacting the RCMP resources to follow up and investigate;

AND WHEREAS statistics obtained from the primary call answer service indicate a high percentage of abandoned calls are caused by the accidental activation of a dedicated '9-1-1' button and enabled 9-1-1 autodial calls on mobile devices:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission to:

- regulate the telephone service providers to discontinue the use of dedicated '9-1-1' buttons on cell phones and the pre-programming of 9-1-1 on all communication devices; or
- require that handsets sold in Canada include a minimum two (2) button push that includes a call confirmation or acknowledgement for access to 9-1-1 emergency services,
- to discourage the accidental dialing of 9-1-1 which leads to increased abandoned calls.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a resolution on the issue of misdialed or accidental calls to 911 (2012-B60). The accidental use of 911 call services can have a significant cost to local government as it must check each call to determine whether or not it is legitimate.

Conference decision:

TRANSPORTATION

B9 Medical Transportation

Stewart

WHEREAS patients in rural and remote communities require medical attention in larger centers within the Province;

AND WHEREAS a current lack exists for accessible transportation to return patients to their home communities after treatment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial Health Minister to provide residents requiring medical care within the province with appropriate means to return to their homes in rural and remote communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B38, which asked the provincial government to provide additional medical transportation services for rural British Columbians.

In response to the resolution the provincial government highlighted the regional Health Connections program, offering low-cost ground transport; the provincial Travel Assistance Program (TAP), through which several private transportation carriers offer fare discounts; and the BC Family Residence Program, which can include enhanced travel assistance.

The Committee also notes that UBCM members have endorsed other resolutions concerning the provision of assistance for health care related travel costs, including requests that the Province:

- *subsidize the ferry fares of immediate family members when travelling back and forth on BC Ferries during the extended period of a child's treatment (2010-B110);*
- *improve affordable public transportation service between small rural municipalities and hospitals in larger urban centres (2009-B15);*
- *extend the Health Connections Program to subsidize travel for medical care for any rural residents outside their home community, regardless of distance (2006-B156); and*
- *establish local mechanisms within communities to disburse funding to citizens for medical travel expenses (2005-B146).*

Conference decision:

TAXATION

B10 Port Property Tax Caps

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS in 2004 the provincial government introduced temporary municipal tax rate restrictions (caps) until 2018 on ports under the *Ports Property Tax Act* in order to make BC ports more attractive to Canadian and international investors;

AND WHEREAS these port property tax rate caps were made permanent in 2014;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government does not compensate local governments with ports for the full loss of property tax revenue resulting from these port property tax rate caps;

AND WHEREAS these provincially imposed port property tax caps therefore interfere with the ability of:

- local governments with ports to access adequate financial resources to support community needs, contrary to Section 1(2)(a) of the *Community Charter*; and
- local governments to determine the appropriate level of municipal taxation, contrary to Section 1(2)(d) of the *Community Charter*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government eliminate port property tax rate caps by repealing the applicable provisions of the *Ports Property Tax Act* in the fall of 2014.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of local government autonomy to apportion appropriate levels of taxation municipally (2009-SR1, 2009-B78, 2006-A5, 1994-B53, 1988-A4).

The Committee would also observe, however, that members endorsed related resolution 2003-B70, which expressed concern to the provincial government and Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority about “dramatic school and transportation tax increases imposed on major industrial taxpayers,” and suggested that the tax increases were “inordinate and ... at cross purposes with the [property tax rate] reductions for major industrial businesses made by some local governments in ... past years.”

Conference decision:

B11 Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS when a Prince Rupert Port Authority (PRPA) property within local government boundaries is under the administration and control of the federal government and is not leased out to a third party, the PRPA makes payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) for these services because the PRPA in its capacity as a federally incorporated agency has a constitutional exemption from paying property taxation;

AND WHEREAS the PRPA, not BC Assessment, decides on the eligibility, class and value of the land and improvements used to calculate the PILT on a PRPA property;

AND WHEREAS the PRPA's valuation of the PRPA property is generally less than the valuation which would be made by BC Assessment;

AND WHEREAS the property valuations are therefore inconsistent and as a result the PRPA is not paying a fair and equitable share of property taxes compared to other municipal taxpayers, which contradicts the broader policy of the *PILT Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the PRPA immediately begin using BC Assessment eligibility, class and valuation information for the purposes of calculating the PILT on a consistent basis for PRPA properties within local government boundaries.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

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

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that port authorities immediately begin using BC Assessment eligibility, class and valuation information for the purposes of calculating **payments in lieu of taxes** on a consistent basis for **port** properties within local government boundaries.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1989-B36, which called on the federal government to base the amounts of federal grants in lieu of property tax “upon the property values determined by the British Columbia Assessment Authority.”

The Committee would suggest that the formula for calculation of federal grants in lieu of property tax may be of concern to multiple BC local governments. An amendment is proposed to recognize this broad concern.

Conference decision:

B12 Income Exemption for Child Support Payments

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS one out of seven children in BC live in poverty and the poverty rate for children headed by lone-parent families is one of the highest poverty rates of any family type;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation claws back child support payments dollar for dollar although the financial loss to families far outweighs the gains for the provincial government, and it is recognized that child support payments are the right of the child:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the Employment and Assistance Regulation and the Employment and Assistance for People with Disabilities Regulation to add an unearned income exemption for child support payments up to \$300 per family unit per month.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B130, which sought an end to claw-backs that prevent single parents receiving support from the absent parent.

The membership has also endorsed resolutions seeking an end to child poverty and improved opportunities for children and families living in poverty, including 2012-B50, 2011-B65 and 2010-C36.

Conference decision:

FINANCE

B13 Fire & Police Services Collective Bargaining Act

Nelson

WHEREAS in resolution 2011-B3, UBCM requested the Minister of Labour review the impact of the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* (Act) on collective bargaining to determine if it had met its goals of facilitating collective bargaining as results were that the Act had not led to improved collective bargaining;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government responded it had no plans at that time to undertake a review of the impact of the Act, however the Ministry would continue to actively monitor collective bargaining in the sectors covered by the Act:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Ministry of Labour to agree at this time to review the impact of the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* on collective bargaining, as to date results are still indicative that the Act has not met its established goal.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee recognizes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B3, as pointed out by the sponsor. The 2011 resolution called on the provincial government to review the impact of the Fire & Police Services Collective Bargaining Act on collective bargaining, to determine whether the Act had met the goals set when the legislation was first enacted.

In response to resolution 2011-B3 the provincial government indicated that it did not intend to review the impact of the Act on collective bargaining. The Province asserted that the Act had achieved the objective of providing "access for unions and employers to binding interest arbitration to resolve a collective bargaining dispute," and that "by proceeding to arbitration, the parties are able to maintain the ability to engage in face-to-face negotiations and avoid a strike or lockout which would interrupt the delivery of services critical to the protection of human life and property."

Conference decision:

B14 ICBC Claims

Penticton

WHEREAS ICBC is no longer paying the full claims submitted by municipalities for vehicular damage done to municipal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS if the actual expenses are not fully recovered, the remainder will be borne by the municipal tax payers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to direct ICBC to reimburse the full costs of damages caused by their insured drivers.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed related resolutions requesting that local governments be able to recover costs for hit and run damage to public infrastructure from ICBC (2008-B11; 2007-B9; 2006-B15; 2001-B51).

In its response to the 2008 resolution the provincial government explained that vehicular damage to local government infrastructure is exempt from ICBC coverage because maintenance and repair of local government infrastructure is already funded by taxpayers through property tax. As described by the Province, local governments “obtain most of their funding from property taxes and use these monies to pay for common services for the community, including maintaining ... property. The provincial government suggested that ICBC coverage of vehicular damage to local government infrastructure would in effect cause taxpayers to be charged twice - once through property tax, and a second time through increased basic auto insurance premiums.

See also resolution C7.

Conference decision:

B15 Road Rescue Services Funding to Communities or Societies

Chase

WHEREAS many small communities and not-for-profit societies in BC provide road rescue services in large service areas outside the communities’ jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS while Emergency Management BC does provide reimbursements for some of the operational costs associated with the service, not all costs are recoverable, and none of the capital costs are covered, leaving the communities or the societies to subsidize the service as well as to pay for capital equipment at a large cost to the communities’ taxpayers/societies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to review how road rescue services are funded, particularly the capital costs for vehicles and equipment, and that the provincial government be asked to initiate a better funding arrangement for the operational expenses of the service and the larger capital costs associated with purchase of vehicles and equipment in order that smaller communities and societies can continue to provide this valuable service.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication (2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10, 2006-B64, 2005-B4, 2004-B6, 2003-B49, 2001-B6, 2001-B8, 2000-B15, 2000-B16, 1998-B42, 1994-B20, 1993-B40, 1992-B29, 1992-B32, 1988-B20) – funding which would include the capital costs associated with purchase of vehicles and equipment.

In response to the 2011 resolution the provincial government indicated that it was working to “determine the overall number, type, and capability of road rescue service providers in British Columbia,” and that the information would be used “to develop a longer term provincial strategy to ensure road rescue services on public highways are effectively supported and coordinated throughout the province.”

Conference decision:

B16 Direct Sharing of Proceeds of Crime

Chase

WHEREAS some crimes perpetrated in communities have direct monetary and social effects on the communities in which the crimes occur;

AND WHEREAS, when confiscated, profits from various crimes and proceeds from associated forfeited property must all be remitted to the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government once again be asked to consider expanding the legislation governing proceeds of crime to allow local governments to share directly in some of the proceeds from those crimes which have direct monetary and social impacts on communities.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for proceeds from the disposition of forfeited property to be transferred to the local government that bore the related policing and investigation costs (2011-B15, 2009-B4, 2004-A1, 2004-B3, 2004-B7, 2003-B3, 1998-B2, 1992-B58).

In response to resolution 2011-B15 the provincial government indicated that it uses proceeds from civil forfeitures “to support the prevention of crime or remediation to victims.” The Province cautioned that since the Civil Forfeiture Office “is entirely self-funded, deriving all its operating income from the forfeitures it obtains through successful settlements,” directing a greater portion of proceeds away from the operating costs of the office “would inhibit, or possibly eliminate, the ability to manage the program.”

Conference decision:

B17 Library Funding as a Dedicated Line Item

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS resolution 2012-B71 ‘Reinstatement of Dedicated Line Item Library Funding in BC’ was endorsed by the UBCM membership;

AND WHEREAS the inclusion of the provincial library budget in the overall budget for Ministry of Education programs continues to result in hardship and lack of security for BC’s public libraries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM re-affirm support for reinstating library funding as a separate line item in the provincial budget.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that as pointed out by the sponsor, the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B71, calling for public library funding to be represented as a line item in the provincial budget.

In response to the 2012 resolution the provincial government indicated that provincial funding for public libraries would remain stable at \$14 million for the next three fiscal years. However, the Province stated that “representation of public libraries on a separate line-item” was a “holdover from the past,” and that public library funding would now be included in the “education programs” budget line, representing funding for lifelong learning initiatives across the province.

Conference decision:

B18 Unconditional Grants

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS many grants are very restrictive in their nature which limits the ability of local governments to use the money to service the best needs of their citizens and cause inappropriate allocation of scarce local resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that grant requirements be more flexible to allow for local governments to determine how the money would best be used to meet the needs of their population.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-B105, which requested that the provincial government “develop a long-term program of unconditional grants for local governments,” pointing out that “conditional grants are subject to bias in their allocation, lead to the distortion of local priorities, encourage ‘opportunity’ expenditures, and involve unproductive administration costs.”

In its response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that it was already working to develop a long term unconditional grant program for local government. The Province enumerated three types of unconditional grants that were available to local government at that time:

Traffic Fine Revenue Grants for municipalities of over 5,000 that provide police services

Small Community Protection Grants for small and medium-sized municipalities

Regional District Grants

Conference decision:

B19 Flexible Matching Grants

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS most federal and provincial grant programs require from one-third to one-half matching funds in order to qualify for grant funding programs;

AND WHEREAS many local governments are struggling with overwhelming infrastructure needs and lack of adequate revenue to address those needs, including the amount of money required to match funds to apply for these grants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial and federal governments to provide other options for communities to take advantage of these grants including forgivable loans, the ability to pay the matching portion over a number of years, lower levels for matching (i.e. one-tenth for smaller local governments), and/or providing grants that do not require matching funding.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking increased flexibility within grant or funding programs regarding matching funds or local contributions from local governments (2012-B13, 2009-B29, 2004-A7, 2000-B12).

Conference decision:

B20 Protection of Small Community Grants

Chetwynd

WHEREAS local governments provide important and vital services to the residents of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS small communities have come to rely on provincial revenues, in the form of 'Unconditional' or 'Small Community Protection' grants (also known as 'Community Strategic Investment' grants), in order to support their ability to provide such services to the residents of this province;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has just recently recognized the true importance and value of strategic, predictable and long term investments in local government infrastructure to Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the Government of British Columbia to commit to ensuring stable, predictable and sustainable funding for small communities in British Columbia to ensure adequate revenue resources for these communities to allow them to continue to provide essential infrastructure and local government services to the residents and businesses of their respective communities and to the Province of British Columbia as a whole.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

This resolution was endorsed by the NCLGA membership in 2013 but was omitted inadvertently from the UBCM resolutions cycle that year. To ensure that it receives due consideration from the UBCM membership, the resolution is included in the 2014 Resolutions Book.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to establish a long-term program of unconditional grants for local governments (2012-B11, 2005-B105).

Members have also endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to index grants provided to small communities, to better reflect the real conditions and pressures under which local governments operate (2013-B18, 2012-B132, 2006-B83).

Conference decision:

ENVIRONMENT

B21 Invasive Species – Quagga & Zebra Mussels

Osoyoos

WHEREAS aquatic invasive species pose a significant and growing threat to British Columbia's and Canada's freshwater and marine ecosystems with devastating consequences to multiple economic sectors in both BC and Canada;

AND WHEREAS Zebra and Quagga mussels in particular are an invasive species that if introduced into BC waters they are known to create toxic algae blooms, ruin beaches with sharp shells, destroy boat motors, foul water intakes and outfalls, put the ecology of the water at risk – including its fishery – and could cost the Okanagan alone more than \$43 million a year just to manage;

AND WHEREAS Zebra and Quagga mussels have been found in thirty-three (33) states in the United States of America and are currently in the Great Lakes in Ontario and Quebec and in October, 2012 were found in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba and there is as yet no proven method to eradicate the mussels once they are found in a body of water;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia has legislation in the Controlled Alien Species Regulations that provides fines and imprisonment for possession, breeding, transporting, releasing or allowing to be released or escape into BC waters but has no inspection stations to check or decontaminate boats and trailers that might be carrying these mussels; and since it is the jurisdiction of the federal government to regulate or ban the importation of these mussels and it does not currently have regulations in place to make it possible for Canadian Border Services Agency staff to inspect or stop contaminated boats from entering Canada from the United States:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial government to provide the Ministry of Environment additional and sufficient financial and human resources to undertake boat inspections at interprovincial points of entry and within the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial government to urge the federal government to pass its pending regulations under the federal *Fisheries Act* to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into Canadian waters and to control and manage their establishment and spread once introduced, as soon as possible and that the provincial government offer its cooperation to partner with CBSA to ensure appropriate inspection and enforcement at international border crossings in the province.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to take measures to prevent the introduction of Quagga and Zebra mussels into British Columbia lakes (2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

Resolution 2012-LR2 asked the provincial government to undertake mandatory inspections of vessels being transported from Quagga or Zebra mussel infested waters. Resolution 2013-B76 requested that the federal and provincial governments “implement legislation and border controls whereby owners of aquatic equipment are obligated to prevent the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels to the province of British Columbia.”

In response to the 2013 resolution the provincial government highlighted several ongoing initiatives aimed at reducing the risk of introduction of Quagga and Zebra mussels into BC:

- *addition of Zebra and Quagga mussels to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the Wildlife Act, which in part authorizes law enforcement officials to stop, inspect and impound mussel fouled boats; with possible fines for contravention of the regulation up to \$100,000;*

- *advocacy for the addition of Zebra and Quagga mussels to the Federal Aquatic Species Regulation, in order to prohibit importation of live mussels and enable the Canada Border Services Agency to stop mussel fouled boats from entering the country;*
- *support for the 'Clean, Drain, and Dry' initiative by the Invasive Species Council of BC, providing training and decontamination equipment and services to recreational boaters;*
- *the provincial Conservation Service Hotline, or RAPP line, has the capacity to deal with calls regarding mussel infested boats; and*
- *BC is a partner in the Columbia Basin Rapid Response Plan, a system that provides for early detection and rapid response to invasive species threats in the Columbia River basin -including Zebra or Quagga mussels.*

Conference decision:

B22 Japanese Knotweed Management Plan

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS Japanese Knotweed is an invasive plant which is spread by both cutting and digging and is therefore proliferating at an alarming rate on public roadways;

AND WHEREAS Japanese Knotweed causes erosion, damages infrastructure and compromises motorist and cyclist visibility;

AND WHEREAS local governments lack the jurisdiction and resources to manage invasive species on Crown land and provincial road right-of-ways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM work with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to recognize the emergency nature of this invasive plant and adequately plan for and resource its removal from provincial roadways.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to manage Japanese Knotweed specifically as an invasive plant species on public roadways.

However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fund and engage in management of invasive plant species on provincial land in BC (2013-B66, 2011-B135, 2011-B44, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81).

Conference decision:

B23 Derelict Vessels

Squamish

WHEREAS in 2012 UBCM endorsed a resolution to call upon the federal and provincial governments to implement a derelict vessel removal program modeled after the Washington State program and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wrecked vessels in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the District of Squamish and other coastal communities continue to have issues with derelict vessels that are causing harm to the coastal marine environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly encourage the federal and provincial governments to immediately implement a derelict vessel removal program modeled after the Washington State program, and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wrecked vessels in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a solution to the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels (2013-B30, 2012-B23, 2012-B78, 2010-B30, 2005-B112).

The Committee is aware that BC local governments provided feedback to Transport Canada in January 2012 for their study of abandoned and derelict vessels in Canada. Transport Canada's report was finalized and released in February 2013. This report suggested that an inter-jurisdictional working group should be formed to address the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels, and should provide recommendations on steps to address the problem, including the creation of a central inventory, methods to identify owners, and potential sources of funding for removal of abandoned and derelict vessels.

Between January and March 2014, the Resolutions Committee understands that BC communities were again asked to provide information on problem vessels for a federal government inventory. A total of 245 vessels were identified with photographs and geographic locations. An inter-jurisdictional working group with federal, provincial and local government representation – including UBCM – has been formed and recently reviewed the provincial Guide to Addressing Problem Vessels and Structures.

See also resolution B62.

Conference decision:

B24 Multi-Material BC

SILGA Executive

WHEREAS stakeholders have indicated issues have not been resolved with Multi-Material BC implementation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province ensure full and robust consultation in the implementation of Multi-Material BC to ensure financial fairness to our constituents and maximize diversion rates.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically calling on the Province to ensure full and robust consultation in the implementation of the packaging and printed paper recycling program under Multi-Material BC (MMBC) to ensure constituent fairness and maximization of diversion rates.

However, the membership did endorse a similar resolution, 2013-SR1, which called for additional time to consider the MMBC offer as well as a provincial review of the packaging and printed paper stewardship program. In particular, 2013-SR1 called for the provincial government and MMBC to provide an additional 90 days for local governments to properly clarify and

consider the MMBC offer prior to the implementation of the MMBC PPP Stewardship Plan in May 2014; and also called for a provincial government review [of] the MMBC PPP Stewardship Plan, with revisions to the plan to:

- address local governments' concerns with the implementation of the plan;
- ensure local governments' control of recycling programs in their communities
- ensure producers take full financial responsibility for the collection and recycling of their waste;
- create meaningful market signals that encourage the reduction of packaging and innovation of better, more recyclable packaging; and
- address the issue of continuity of service.

The Committee is aware that in response to resolution 2013-SR1, UBCM struck the UBCM Recycling Negotiating Committee to negotiate with the Province and MMBC regarding local government concerns around the implementation of the packaging and printed paper program, as well as to provide clarifying information to assist in local decision making.

Throughout October and November 2013, the Recycling Committee met with the Minister of Environment, Multi-Material BC and legal counsel. The Recycling Committee raised local government concerns around MMBC's contract structure, industry's implementation timelines, and MMBC's approach to negotiating with local governments.

In January 2014, the UBCM Recycling Negotiating Committee issued a final report to the UBCM Executive summarizing the level of engagement with the Province, Multi-Material BC, and local governments; outlining post-November 30th implementation issues; and presenting several recommendations with respect to next steps for UBCM. These recommendations included:

- recognizing the work of the UBCM Recycling Committee as being concluded;
- initiating discussions with the Province on the design and implementation of a provincial transitional
- monitoring program;
- seeking representation on MMBC's Advisory Committee;
- monitoring the program implementation; and
- providing member updates.

The Resolutions Committee understands that some communities have identified implementation issues since the program's implementation on May 19, 2014. In addition, the membership endorsed the 2012 Packaging and Printed Paper Product Stewardship policy paper, which recommended that local governments be given meaningful consultation opportunities in the design of the program as well as ongoing consultative mechanisms during the implementation of the packaging and printed paper program.

See also resolution A6.

Conference decision:

B25 Environmental Assessment Review Process

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the guiding principles of the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) include a commitment to undertaking objective environmental assessments, giving full and fair consideration to all interests, and to providing opportunities for all interested parties to participate in the environmental assessment process;

AND WHEREAS the allocated 30-day public consultation period is not adequate for meaningful public consideration and comment on projects under review, nor does it provide opportunities for public comment on the EAO's report before a Ministerial decision is made public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to revise the Environmental Assessment Process to increase opportunities for public engagement by providing a longer public consultation period and by making the EAO's report available for public comment prior to announcing the Ministerial decision.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B33, which called on the Province to develop policies and procedures ensuring that referral periods allow local governments and other stakeholders a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment.

In its response to the resolution the provincial government highlighted the 2007 Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities, between UBCM and the provincial government. The Province stated that it "makes every attempt to honour this agreement by providing a number of opportunities for local governments to review proposed work, including working directly with ministry staff where appropriate. Ministry staff will continue to work with local governments to meet their referral needs." Regarding environmental assessment referral periods in particular, the Province discussed aspects of the environmental assessment process and public consultation policy, and concluded by indicating that the Environmental Assessment Office "considers that these measures allow for a fair and reasonable opportunity for public input."

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

Conference decision:

B26 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

WHEREAS a lack of funding has made it increasingly difficult for local governments to meet targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs);

AND WHEREAS provincial and federal governments appear to be withdrawing from their commitment to reduce CO₂ and CH₄ emissions on a national scale:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that provincial and federal governments renew their commitment to meeting GHG reduction targets;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that renewed funding be provided to local governments to ensure that climate action plans and projects continue to be implemented.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to commit to meeting reduction targets for greenhouse gas emission, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects (2012-B25, 2011-B98, 2010-B40, 2010-B71, 2010-B76, 2010-B84, 2010-B86, 2009-B113, 2009-B134, 2008-B72, 2008-B74, 2008-B76, 2008-B79, 2008-B91, 2008-B148, 2007-B33, 2007-B35, 2007-B177, 2007-LR4, 2006-B27, 2006-B109, 2006-B145, 2005-B28, 2004-B79, 2001-SR3, 2001-Energy Forum Recommendations, 1991-B21, 1990-B38).

Conference decision:

B27 Implementation of Nearly Net-zero Building Regulations

Powell River City

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has signed the Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate Change and Energy, committing to “Transform the market for energy efficiency and lead the way to “net-zero” buildings;

AND WHEREAS communities in British Columbia have set climate action targets in order to comply with Climate Action Charter requirements that will require significant gains from the building sector in terms of greenhouse gas emissions targets and are now developing a broad suite of mechanisms to achieve high levels of building energy performance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia draft a plan to get to “Nearly Net-Zero” buildings with an implementation timeline, suggested incremental improvements to the BC Building Code and an opt-in regulation for local governments.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B89, which supported “research, development and deployment of community scale net-zero energy housing;” called on the federal and provincial governments to provide funding; and requested that the provincial government “incorporate a net-zero energy home standard into the provincial building code.”

The Committee would also note that members have endorsed resolutions seeking to address issues related to climate change (2012-B25, 2012-B121, 2010-B86, 2010-B2, 2008-B8, 2007-B33, 2007-B34, 2007-B130, 2006-B111, 2005-B28).

See also resolutions B64, B93 and B94.

Conference decision:

B28 Provincial Energy Efficiency Programs

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the Government of BC has discontinued the successful LiveSmart BC residential efficiency incentive program, shifting support to product based incentives offered through major utilities;

AND WHEREAS this program shift results in the loss of funding for comprehensive actions recommended through home energy assessments, and a reduced understanding of the overall energy performance of a home:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province ensure incentives remain available for comprehensive actions to address overall residential energy efficiency, including incentives for home energy assessments and post-retrofit evaluations.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111, 2001 Energy Forum Recommendations).

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B29 Agriculture Funding in BC

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS provincial funding for agriculture in British Columbia as a percentage of agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the lowest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that BC farmers obtain the financial support necessary to sustain their industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government raise agriculture funding in British Columbia to the national average.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Committee notes that members have previously endorsed resolutions that have sought the Province to increase agriculture funding to the national average (2011-B52, 2009-B89) and more generally to provide a consistent, sufficient and reliable budget to support agriculture (2008-B47, 2009-B50).

Conference decision:

B30 Liquefied Natural Gas Projects

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the Province is actively supporting the development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as British Columbia's future economic driver;

AND WHEREAS multiple proposals and applications for LNG and other large scale industrial projects are creating a drain on the limited resources of many small communities and regional districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to develop an LNG plan to provide immediate and meaningful assistance to local governments in British Columbia to address the issue.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to develop an LNG plan to provide immediate and meaningful assistance to local governments in British Columbia **that have limited staffing capacity and resources to deal with the demands and challenges associated with major industrial project development.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-B36, which expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities; and requested that the Oil and Gas Commission consult with local government “so that the level of increasing economic activity can be ascertained and considered with regard to future community and regional developments.”

In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) would, upon request from a local government, provide information or reports, and attend municipal or regional district meetings. The Province also anticipated that planned structural changes and increased staffing in the Compliance and Enforcement Branch would result in better service to communities. The Province acknowledged that “communities’ information needs are different.”

As well, the provincial government clarified the roles of the OGC and the then Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (Ministry). According to the Province, the OGC is mandated to “regulate for the benefit of all, considering environmental, social and economic matters,” while the Ministry’s role is to “facilitate responsible development of the resource.”

The Committee has proposed an amendment to clarify that “the issue” as noted now in the enactment as limited capacity and resources to respond to the needs associated with major industrial development projects.

See also resolution B107.

Conference decision:

B31 Trades & Technology Skills Training

Delta

WHEREAS there is expected to be a significant growth in job opportunities in British Columbia in the next decade, with a specific demand for trades and technology occupations;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has implemented a 10-year action plan for skills training for youth and older workers seeking to retrain;

AND WHEREAS the 2014 provincial budget included no additional funding for skills training;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to provide a funding commitment to enhance and improve training facilities and expand opportunities for youth training in trades and technology.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions expressing support for increased funding and programs to support skills (re)training and education opportunities (2004-B141, 2006-B46, 2008-B146, 2010-B101, 2012-B96, 2013-B41). As well members have supported expansion of apprenticeship opportunities and asked the Province to explore incentive programs to encourage industry to allow individuals to complete their apprenticeship training in the region.

The Committee understands that the Province made an announcement on April 29, 2014 about “BC’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: Re-engineering Education and Training,” indicating that beginning this fiscal year over \$160 million would be allocated to re-engineering education and training in BC; one component of which would be a focus on building stronger partnerships with industry and labour to deliver training and apprenticeships.

Conference decision:

B32 Geothermal Power

Valemount

WHEREAS geothermal power has the potential to supply clean and sustainable power and heat, reduce the cost of power transmission for BC Hydro, strengthen the power grid by supplying consistent baseload power without transmission line outages and increase the standard of living in remote communities;

AND WHEREAS electricity required for new industries, including proposed pipelines, require firm baseload power resulting in greater loads on the existing transmission system; possibly requiring new diesel generation even as renewable power options are being dismissed;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro has removed geothermal power production from its latest Integrated Resource Plan while every other developed nation on the Pacific Ring of Fire uses geothermal to generate electricity;

AND WHEREAS inadequacies in the province’s geothermal permitting and leasing process have failed to produce a single operating geothermal power plant:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government support development of geothermal power in British Columbia, by addressing deficiencies in the province’s geothermal permitting and leasing process, by encouraging GeoScienceBC to survey provincial heat resources, by including geothermal as a resource option in BC Hydro’s Integrated Resource Plan, and by working with BC Hydro to facilitate interconnection and a payment structure that promotes geothermal power.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions over the years supporting the research, development and implementation of clean energy alternatives such as wind, solar, tidal and geothermal (2008-B41, 2007-B129, 2001 Energy Forum recommendations).

Members have also requested that BC Hydro be directed to pursue improvements in energy efficiency and low impact renewable energy sources (2006-B26) and that BC Hydro’s mandate be restored to develop sustainable alternative energy options (2009-B45).

Conference decision:

HEALTH

B33 Anti-idling

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS vehicle emissions create a public health risk of chronic diseases including cancer as well as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases;

AND WHEREAS Idle Free BC supports efforts to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to increase the focus on health risks in the Idle Free BC initiative and to increase efforts to raise public awareness of this campaign.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2001-SR3, which in part called on the provincial and federal governments to work with local government to “develop airshed management plans to reduce emissions and to protect public health.” The Committee also notes that more generally members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to reduce emissions (2010-B83, 2010-B84, 2010-B86, 2007-B33, 2006-B27, 2005-B28, 1991-B21, 1990-B38).

Conference decision:

B34 Concurrent Disorders & Chronic Offenders

Delta

WHEREAS many chronic offenders suffer from both mental health and addiction issues (concurrent disorders);

AND WHEREAS the corrections system is not equipped to deal with people who have concurrent disorders which result in criminal activity;

AND WHEREAS chronic offenders suffering from concurrent disorders are repeatedly involved with the criminal justice system with little or no chance of rehabilitation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from concurrent disorders to avoid becoming chronic offenders, including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-A1, which called on the provincial government to “expedite the provision of resources to ensure the mentally ill – particularly those who are dually diagnosed – are provided adequate care in the health system to allow for proper treatment and dignified living circumstances, and to reduce the draw on municipally funded police resources.”

In response to the resolution the Province highlighted the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction, and referenced its increased funding for mental health and addictions treatment. The Province also mentioned the Community Court in Vancouver, with “health and social services [working] together in an integrated approach to manage offenders and address the underlying health and social problems that lead to crime.”

The Committee also notes that members have endorsed related resolutions requesting increased provincial contributions to alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs (1992-B87), federal and provincial funding for the development of a continuum of drug detox and rehabilitation programs throughout the province (2000-B61) and the enactment of a full provincial drug strategy and increased funding (2007-B2; 2006-B1; 2006-B50; 2005-B43; 2002-B74) to address the many problems associated with addiction.

In November 2013 the provincial Minister of Health released an action plan for all health regions, “Improving Health Services for Individuals with Severe Addiction and Mental Illness,” to respond to immediate and long-term health needs of these patients. Following up on this announcement, UBCM through its Healthy Communities Committee contacted the Minister of Health to express particular interest in providing local government input as part of the review of province-wide mental health service needs. The Minister of Health has acknowledged UBCM’s request.

See also resolution B71.

Conference decision:

B35 Regional Hospital District Capital Funding

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS provincial funding for capital equipment and projects for hospitals and health facilities has been on decline despite urgent needs for facility upgrades and equipment repairs;

AND WHEREAS regional hospital districts and local tax payers cannot be expected to increase their funding contributions to address critical gap;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government properly fund the operating and equipping of hospitals and health facilities in British Columbia.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the provincial government provide adequate capital funding for health facilities in BC (2013-B122, 2011-B58, 2010-B111, 2009-B52, 2008-B129, 2007-B52, 2006-B127, 2005-B42, 2005-B130, 2004-B27, 2002-A2, 1999-A23).

Conference decision:

SELECTED ISSUES

B36 Insurance Corporation of British Columbia & Fire Insurance

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed resolution 2013-B141 – a resolution to allow the Insurance Corporation of BC to issue house insurance;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to progress quickly with implementation of the resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to allow ICBC to offer house insurance and to implement as soon as possible.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that due to time constraints the 2013 resolution, B141, was not considered by Convention but was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution.

In response to resolution 2013-B141 the provincial government indicated that it had “no plans to have ICBC operating in any insurance markets other than automobile insurance.”

The Province suggested that local government should direct “concerns about the operations of private sector property insurance companies to the Insurance Council of BC, whose mandate is to provide a level of protection to the public pertaining to the sale of insurance products and services under the framework provided by the Insurance Act.”

Conference decision:

B37 Inter-governmental Communication

West Kelowna

WHEREAS effective local government decision-making requires substantial knowledge of provincial plans and activities;

AND WHEREAS local governments sometimes encounter difficulties acquiring this knowledge from provincial ministries therefore being required to use methods such as Freedom of Information requests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to review its communication policy and procedures with a view to fostering a timelier and more cooperative partnership with local governments.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141, 2002-SR1, 2001-A9, 1995-B91, 1994-A2, 1990-B59).

In response to resolution 2009-B54 the provincial government confirmed the importance of consultation with local governments as “a key principle of local-provincial relations” and cited the statutory requirements for consultation that it uses to guide its actions:

- *section 2 of the Community Charter, regarding consultation between the Province and municipalities on any matters of mutual interest;*

- section 3 of the Local Government Act, regarding consultation when provincial interests directly affect regional district interests; and
- section 276 of the Community Charter, which identifies areas of provincial legislation and policy for which the ministers responsible must consult with local governments through UBCM.

The Province also pointed out that over the years it had “signed a number of ... consultation agreements” with UBCM, to communicate with local government “on a range of subjects including treaty negotiations, offshore oil and gas development, and resort development.”

Conference decision:

B38 Domestic Natural Gas Supply

Peace River RD

WHEREAS the singular energy policy direction of the Province of British Columbia is to export natural gas in significant volumes;

AND WHEREAS Australia has already focused on the export of natural gas to the detriment of their domestic, business, manufacturing and institutional communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Premier develop priority policies to ensure that the domestic supply for citizens, business, manufacturing and institutional needs will remain readily accessible and priced to be affordable.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B85, which in part requested that the provincial government “develop strategies that will address the long term domestic supply” as well as “satisfy existing commitments” for natural gas in BC.

In response to the resolution the provincial government highlighted its Natural Gas Strategy and complementary Liquefied Natural Gas Strategy. The Province provided assurance that the Natural Gas Strategy is designed to “ensure there is a reliable, abundant supply” of natural gas for domestic use; and the Liquefied Natural Gas Strategy will in part focus on “keeping energy rates affordable for families, communities and industry.”

As well in 2000 members endorsed B46 related to increasing natural gas prices which requested that “UBCM express to the Provincial Government and the BC Utilities Commission, local governments strong concerns about the increase in gas prices for both residential and commercial users.”

See also resolution B72.

Conference decision:

B39 \$10/day Child Care

Williams Lake

WHEREAS the current lack of adequate, qualified and affordable daycare for working families in BC is hindering economic growth, job opportunities for workers and a child’s well-being;

AND WHEREAS in 2012 the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning in BC which provides a framework for early childhood services so that children, families, communities and our economy are served by a high quality, universal, democratic and accountable system of early care and learning:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate the Province of BC for the implementation of the Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning and call for action to begin steps toward implementing a \$10/Day Childcare Program for BC.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on all orders of government to work to ensure the provision and availability of affordable, accessible child care and early learning (2012-B50, 2011-B66, 2010-B151, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2004-B137, 2001-B98, 1992-B78, 1990-B50).

In response to the 2012 resolution the provincial government pointed out that it had “increased the number of child-care spaces in British Columbia by nearly 40 percent since 2003/04, with more than 100,000 licensed childcare spaces receiving ongoing government funding.” The Province also referenced forums held in 2012, one on child care and the other on early childhood development, organized by the Ministry of Children and Family Development to seek input from stakeholders.

Conference decision:

B40 Child Poverty

Delta

WHEREAS British Columbia has the highest child poverty rate in Canada, with one in five children living in poverty;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia’s child poverty rate has been higher than the Canadian average since 1999, and the highest of all provinces most years in the last decade:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines, and a goal to eradicate child poverty in British Columbia by 2020.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-SR2, in support of a proposed initiative by the BC Representative for Children and Youth to bring forward a child poverty plan that would include the implementation of a comprehensive, cross-ministry strategy to address child poverty. Members also endorsed resolutions 2010-B51, which stressed the importance of a poverty reduction plan; adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed; improved earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce; and improved food security for low-income individuals and families; as well as 2004-B135, which requested that the federal government undertake, in a comprehensive and non-stigmatic manner, to end child poverty in Canada.

The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that address issues related to child poverty, including:

- income assistance rates and policies (2013-B55, 2013-B130, 2013-B140, 2011-B175, 2010-B118, 2007-B199, 2006-B171, 2006-B172, 2005-B51, 2005-B52, 2004-B133, 2004-B134);
- cuts to community social services (2013-B52, 2005-B159, 2004-B35, 2004-B36, 2003-B40, 2003-LR17);
- affordable housing (2013-B52, 2013-B53, 2013-B54, 2012-B44, 2012-B143, 2011-B67, 2009-C28, 2008 Affordable Housing & Homelessness policy paper, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2007-B58, 2006-B81, 2005-A9, 2005-B47, 2005-B48, 2005-B49, 2005-B50, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31, 1999-A22, 1995-B63, 1994-B85, 1993-A2, 1991-A13, 1991-B56, 1990-A20);
- increasing the minimum wage (2009-B55, 2007-B198); and
- access to affordable childcare (2012-B50, 2011-B65, 2011-B66, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2006-B169, 2005-B156, 2004-B137, 2001-B98, 1992-B73).

UBCM is currently partnered with the Ministry of Children and Family Development on a Poverty Reduction Strategy pilot project in seven communities across BC.

See also resolution B41.

Conference decision:

B41 Poverty Reduction

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is one of only two provinces in all of Canada that does not have a Poverty Reduction Plan;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for such a plan to help support those who suffer from poverty in our province, in particular children and seniors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to create and implement a Poverty Reduction Plan, as well as set aside the resources to support this plan.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B51, which communicated to the leaders of all BC provincial political parties the importance of a poverty reduction plan, specifically “the need to provide adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed, improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce and improve food security for low-income individuals and families.”

In response to the 2010 resolution the provincial government highlighted the range of supports it already provides for low-income individuals and families, including “subsidized housing, child care subsidies, employment programs, dental and optical care for children and programs for vulnerable seniors.”

The Committee would further note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that address issues related to poverty, including:

- ending child poverty (2009-SR2, 2004-B135);
- cuts to community social services (2005-B159, 2004-B35, 2004-B36, 2003-B40, 2003-LR17);
- affordable housing (2008 Affordable Housing & Homelessness policy paper, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31, 1999-A22, 1995-B63, 1994-B85, 1993-A2, 1991-A13, 1991-B56, 1990-A20);
- increasing the minimum wage to \$10/hour (2007-B198); and
- access to affordable childcare (2007-B54, 2006-B169, 2005-B156, 2004-B137, 2001-B98, 1992-B73).

See also resolution B40.

Conference decision:

B42 Rental Subsidies for Low Income Households

Kitimat

WHEREAS the District of Kitimat is concerned that the current economy has resulted in high rental rates and has affected the ability of residents on low and fixed incomes to acquire housing in Kitimat and throughout the region;

AND WHEREAS access to safe, affordable housing is a requirement to create healthy communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in northern communities affected by industrial development.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in communities affected by industrial development.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking increased rental subsidies for low-income households, including those in northern and interior communities (2013-B53, 2013-B54, 2000-B31, 1999-A22, 1991-A13).

The Committee would observe that increases in the cost of housing affect all communities experiencing significant industrial development, not solely communities in the north. An amendment is proposed to reflect the broader relevance of concerns about housing affordability.

See also resolutions B43, B44, B45 and B46.

Conference decision:

B43 Affordable Housing

Terrace

WHEREAS the lack of affordable and/or co-operative housing in northern communities is having a deleterious effect on local economies and the quality of life for many British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS affordable housing is essential to support vibrant and healthy communities, and will continue to be required:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to increase the number of new affordable housing units constructed in northern British Columbia as soon as possible.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to increase the number of new affordable housing units constructed in British Columbia as soon as possible.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on all orders of government to work together to implement a range of ideas aimed at increasing affordable housing units throughout the province (most recently 2013-B53, 2013-B54, 2011-B67, 2009-A5, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2008-B118, 2007-A7, 2007-B23, 2007-B24, 2007-B58, 2007-B109, 2007-B153, 2006-B23, 2006-B81, 2005-A9, 2005-B47, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-A8, 2004-B30, 2002-B64, 2000-B31 and 2000-B77).

The Committee would observe that a dearth of affordable and/or co-operative housing would negatively affect any community. An amendment is proposed to reflect the broader relevance of concerns about housing affordability.

See also resolutions B42, B44, B45 and B46.

Conference decision:

B44 Rental Assistance for Housing Cooperatives

Metro Vancouver

WHEREAS non-profit cooperative housing provides valuable mixed income housing for a range of households, with low-income cooperative members benefiting from rent subsidies geared to income assistance;

AND WHEREAS in the next twenty years operating agreements with over 180 cooperative housing providers will expire, affecting almost 11,000 units in Metro Vancouver and more than 14,500 units across the province; in the short term, by 2017, rent-geared-to-income subsidies for low-income members will cease for one-quarter of housing cooperatives in BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments throughout British Columbia urge the federal and provincial governments to work together to reduce the uncertainty for vulnerable members of housing cooperatives by ensuring that long-term, cost-shared rental assistance programs are in place as federal cooperative housing agreements expire.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B54, which called on the federal government to “assess, examine, and renew the subsidy, rent supplements, or other supports for operating agreements

set to expire.” The Committee further notes that members endorsed resolution 1994-B85, which requested in part that the federal government “support social housing across Canada and reinstate federal funding for new social housing, including co-operative housing.”

See also resolutions B42, B43, B45 and B46.

Conference decision:

B45 Seniors’ Housing

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the lack of appropriate affordable housing, particularly in small rural BC communities makes it difficult for seniors and those with special needs to age in place;

AND WHEREAS access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing helps to create vibrant, sustainable communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments to work with community partners to develop solutions to the lack of seniors’ housing and to provide the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of a full range of affordable seniors’ housing choices across British Columbia.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

This resolution was endorsed by the NCLGA membership in 2013 but was omitted inadvertently from the UBCM resolutions cycle that year. To ensure that it receives due consideration from the UBCM membership, the resolution is included in the 2014 Resolutions Book.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128, 2003-B40, 1994-B85).

See also resolutions B42, B43, B44 and B46.

Conference decision:

B46 Development of a New Long Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada’s Housing Crunch

**Richmond
Burnaby
Prince George
Port Moody**

WHEREAS a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion;

AND WHEREAS housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk;

AND WHEREAS those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity;

AND WHEREAS an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire;

AND WHEREAS coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch," calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada's housing future;

AND WHEREAS FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

AND WHEREAS BC local governments have continuing housing needs to support a diverse range of residents to access affordable and appropriate housing choices, such as specialized subsidized rental with supports, affordable rental, and entry level homeownership, that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM endorse the FCM housing campaign and urge the minister of employment and social development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the federal government to work with provinces, territories, and local government to develop a national action plan for housing, including a significant federal funding commitment (2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2005-A9, 2004-B30, 2000-B31, 1994-B85).

See also resolutions B42, B43, B44 and B45.

Conference decision:

B47 Suspension of Canada Post Home Delivery Service

Burnaby

WHEREAS local governments have a direct interest in the security and stability of Canada's postal system, both in terms of municipal corporate operations and services available to citizens;

AND WHEREAS the service delivery changes would directly impact local governments, including in relation to land-use policy, requirements for municipal land and rights-of-ways, infrastructure for paving, lighting, and waste management, and public safety considerations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government and Canada Post, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to suspend the Canada Post delivery changes until a sustained, substantive consultation process with local governments and the public is completed and identified issues are addressed.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B109, which asked the federal government to:

- *instruct Canada Post to stop cutting public postal service and jobs; and*
- *consult with the public, municipalities, members of Parliament, postal unions and other major stakeholders to dramatically improve the Canadian Postal Service Charter.*

See also resolutions C16 and C17.

Conference decision:

Section B—Part 2 & Part 3

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

This section contains resolutions that:

- address topics not previously considered;
- were previously considered but not endorsed;
- involve topics of local or regional significance; or
- involve topics of national significance and that are recommended, as appropriate, for consideration by FCM

The resolutions have been classified as:

- Part 2: issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government; or
- Part 3: resolutions that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

A motion to enter all resolutions in Section B—Parts 2 and 3 for discussion will be made by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee:

I move that all Section B—Part 2 and Part 3 resolutions be considered for debate.

Once it is determined which resolutions will be considered individually discussion will begin in the order the resolutions are printed.

Sponsors do not have to move each resolution individually, but they are invited to speak to their resolution at the appropriate time.

Section B—Part 2-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After the motion to enter all resolutions in Section B—Parts 2 and 3 for discussion, a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section B—Part 2-a be adopted?

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Section B—Part 2-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

I move that resolution B(x) be removed from the block and be considered separately for debate.

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

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.

SECTION B2-a

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B48 Mass Casualty Medical Preparedness

Ucluelet

WHEREAS in the event of a major disaster, in particular a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event (i.e., an earthquake with a magnitude 8 or greater followed by a subsequent tsunami) within BC's southwest seismic activity zone, the system of mass casualty medical emergency preparedness in the province of BC is ineffective for high risk remote communities that do not have Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) hospitals and clinics;

AND WHEREAS fast and wide reaching mass casualty medical strategies are necessary to save lives for communities that will potentially have no access to medical centres and/or hospitals due to catastrophic damage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the provincial and federal governments to establish a world-class Mass Casualty Medical Emergency Preparedness Plan for high risk communities in BC's southwest seismic activity zone that do not have VIHA hospitals and clinics.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the provincial and federal governments to establish a world-class Mass Casualty Medical Emergency Preparedness Plan for high risk communities in BC's seismic activity zone that do not have hospitals and clinics.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish a Mass Casualty Medical Emergency Preparedness Plan for communities in BC's southwest seismic activity zone without hospitals or medical clinics administrated by the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

The Committee recognizes that the risk of seismic activity may extend to communities outside of the Vancouver Island Health Authority, and proposes an amendment that would include these communities.

Conference decision:

B49 Volunteer Fire Departments/Fire Underwriters Survey Classes

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS the Fire Underwriters Survey has a system for classifying local government fire protection services for the insurance industry to determine fire protection coverage risks and the premiums;

AND WHEREAS small community volunteer fire departments are coming under pressure to meet ever-increasing regulatory standards and criteria with respect to the delivery of structural fire protection services including the Fire Underwriters Survey classification system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the Fire Underwriters Survey to review its classification system with a goal to introduce new classes that recognize those small community volunteer fire departments that may not meet current minimum Fire Underwriters Survey classification criteria but still provide a meaningful benefit to the communities they serve and the insurance industry.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Fire Underwriters Survey to review its classification system specifically to introduce new classes for small community volunteer fire departments.

The Committee is aware, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines, to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services in small and rural communities (2011-B2, 2009-B5, 1999-B6, 1995-B72, 1994-B19).

Conference decision:

B50 Changes to BC Ambulance Service Resource Allocations

LMLGA Executive

WHEREAS the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) within the Ministry of Health made the unilateral decision to change service delivery for the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) has created an unprecedented downloading of costs and risk onto local government first responders;

AND WHEREAS the October 2013 changes by BCAS to the Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) has created a negative impact on response time and patient safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC develop an effective, well integrated, patient centred emergency response service for our citizens provided by fire and rescue services and BC Ambulance Service working together.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province develop an emergency response model that ensures that the BC Ambulance Service and first responders are working together in the delivery of emergency medical services.

The Committee would note that Emergency Health Services, the provincial agency located within the Ministry of Health that is responsible for first responder and ambulance services, in late 2013 changed the service delivery model for the provision of ambulance services. Under the new model ambulances will not rush to an accident using their siren unless there is a serious medical problem.

The Committee would point out that the changes introduced by the Province have reduced the response time by the BC Ambulance Service to some emergency calls. In rural areas it has meant that in some cases volunteer fire departments that provide first responder services are not notified of an accident in their area where their services might be required unless the incident is determined to be serious. In urban areas it has meant that first responders may be required to wait with a person for a much longer period of time until an ambulance arrives. In some cases where the seriousness of the problem has not been conveyed the changed service delivery model has delayed the medical care that the individual requires.

The Committee would note that the changes to the ambulance service model could result in increased costs to local governments for medical training (i.e. increase the level of medical training provided to first responders) and for new equipment, as fire departments will be asked to deliver a broader range of medical services.

See also resolution C2.

Conference decision:

B51 Revisions to the *Residential Tenancy Act*

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has enacted the *Residential Tenancy Act* to provide equal grounds for resolution of issues arising between landlords and tenants and to protect the rights of both landlords and tenants;

AND WHEREAS issues that may threaten life and safety of other tenants, the property or neighbourhood, or breach of local bylaws that continue to arise with respect to landlords' inability to deal with or evict problem tenants in a timely manner, and conversely a tenant's ability to deal with landlords taking advantage of gaps that may exist in the provincial legislation;

AND WHEREAS a number of jurisdictions have adopted and/or support crime free multi-family housing standards which include clauses within a recommended addendum that does not address a timely adjudication period, issues a violation may have on a neighbourhood or how such violation may affect the life and safety of other tenants and/or a neighbourhood:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to initiate a complete review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* in order to address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not recently considered a request for a review of the *Residential Tenancy Act*.*

*The Committee would note that members considered but did not endorse resolution 2003-B112, asking the provincial government to extend the consultation period for proposed legislative and regulatory changes regarding Bill 70 (2002), which at the time had received royal assent and was considered to be a "new" *Residential Tenancy Act*.*

Conference decision:

TRANSPORTATION

B52 Transport Canada Divestiture of Assets

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS Transport Canada is actively working to divest essential infrastructure in remote coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS this infrastructure is vital to small communities with limited resources to assume responsibility for these assets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with FCM to ensure the federal government continues to own, operate and manage its infrastructure especially in small remote communities.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse & Refer to FCM***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2000-A16 and 2001-B25, both of which opposed the federal government's divestiture of marine infrastructure in coastal communities.

Conference decision:

B53 Centre Line & Shoulder Line Highway Marking

Armstrong

WHEREAS there is a deterioration of line markings, missing reflectors and unmarked shoulders on many of British Columbia's roads and highways, and the safety of motorists travelling on provincial highways, especially at night, is enhanced with clearly defined reflective centre line and shoulder line marking;

AND WHEREAS wear and tear of line marking is not solely attributed to weather, high-volume traffic, and snow-clearing equipment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure review the effectiveness of the products used for current centre line and shoulder line marking in response to the degradation caused by weather and high-volume traffic; and that all provincial highways be adequately marked.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically requesting that the provincial government review the effectiveness of products used for marking the centre line and shoulder line on highways in BC, towards ensuring that provincial highways are marked adequately.

However, members endorsed a related resolution, 2004-B54, which sought to improve highway safety through the installation of "rumble strips on the outside edge and centre line where needed on each paved highway." The resolution further suggested that the Province adopt a policy of installing highway rumble strips "whenever repair work or construction is undertaken."

In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that it had revised its policy on rumble strips so that the following situations would trigger consideration of rumble strip installation.

For highway shoulders:

- *construction of new rural highway sections;*
- *re-paving, rehabilitation or reconstruction of the shoulders of existing highway sections; and*
- *subject to funding availability, other rural highway sections where it is believed that rumble strips would be effective in reducing single-vehicle off-road crashes.*

For rural highway centrelines in no passing zones (i.e. a double solid painted centreline):

- *construction of new undivided, rural two-lane, three-lane, or four-lane highway sections;*
- *re-paving, rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing undivided, rural two-lane, three-lane, or four-lane highway sections; and*
- *subject to funding availability, other undivided rural two-lane, three-lane, or four-lane highway sections where it is believed that rumble strips would be effective in decreasing the number of crossover centreline crashes.*

Conference decision:

B54 Highways in British Columbia

Stewart

WHEREAS rural and remote communities in British Columbia are experiencing renewed economic development;

AND WHEREAS accessing communities through established transportation routes is a vital component for fostering economic development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend that the provincial Transportation Minister take a proactive approach and refurbish existing highways accessing northern British Columbia.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend that the provincial Transportation Minister take a proactive approach and refurbish existing highways accessing **rural and remote British Columbia communities.***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has responded variously to resolutions calling on the provincial government to refurbish or upgrade highways in northern BC.

Members have endorsed resolutions generally supportive of highway improvement throughout the province, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2013-B13, 2008-B110, 2003-B11, 2000-B63, 1999-B47, 1998-B54, 1996-B93).

However, resolutions calling for upgrades to highways in specific areas of the province have not been endorsed by UBCM members (2011-B161, 2011-B162); while some resolutions due to their regional focus have not been admitted for debate (2013-C10, 2009-C33, 2005-C17, 2004-C35, 2004-C36, 2004-C37, 2003-C49, 2001-C27).

The Committee would observe that rural and remote communities not located in the north have also emphasized the need for refurbishment of highways. An amendment is proposed to recognize this need.

Conference decision:

B55 Rail Transportation Safety

Smithers

WHEREAS the Transportation Safety Board has recommended:

- tougher standards for Class III tank cars;
- strategic route planning and safer train operations for all trains carrying dangerous goods; and
- emergency response assistance plans along routes where large volumes of hazardous materials are being shipped:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the federal government to legislate rail carriers to carry out the Transportation Safety Board's recommendations and provide local governments with:

- timely information regarding the frequency of Class III tank cars travelling through communities carrying hazardous materials;
- emergency response plans, including estimated response times from emergency response bases to communities; and
- personnel and stockpiles of emergency equipment situated as to ensure adequate and timely responses to railcar emergencies.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse & Refer to FCM***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to enact legislation requiring rail carriers to implement Transportation Safety Board specific recommendations.

However, members have endorsed related resolutions, including 2011-B149, which asked the federal and provincial governments to assess whether emergency response capabilities along the Highway 16 corridor were "appropriate for the quantities and class of hazardous materials now being transported along the new Asia Pacific Gateway corridor." Members also endorsed resolution 2007-B6, calling on the provincial and federal governments to "take measures to improve ... rural community response capacity in light of the potential increase in hazardous goods traffic."

Since the Lac-Mégantic train accident, FCM and provincial /territorial associations have sought action from Transport Canada to take measures that will enhance rail safety; require carriers to carry higher insurance coverage; and provide greater sharing of information with local governments around what hazardous materials are travelling through communities.

On April 23, 2014, in response to the recommendations of the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, Transport Canada announced that it will:

- *issue a Protective Direction removing the least crash-resistant DOT-111 tank cars from dangerous goods service;*
- *require DOT-111 tank cars used to transport crude oil and ethanol that do not meet the standard published in January 2014 in Canada Gazette, Part 1, or any other future standard, to be phased out or refitted within three years;*
- *issue a Protective Direction requiring Emergency Response Assistance Plans for crude oil, gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and ethanol;*
- *create a task force that brings stakeholders such as municipalities, first responders, railways and shippers together to strengthen emergency response capacity across the country; and*

- *require railway companies to reduce the speed of trains carrying dangerous goods and implement other key operating practices.*

See also resolutions B126 and C3.

Conference decision:

B56 Railway Speed Limits Within Municipal Boundaries

Vanderhoof

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS current legislation permits rail traffic to regularly travel at unsafe speeds through municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Transport Canada reduce rail speed limits within municipal borders.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse & Refer to FCM***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that Transport Canada reduce rail speed limits within municipal boundaries.

The Committee would note that on April 23, 2014 the federal Minister of Transport responded to the Transportation Safety Board's recommendations in regard to the Lac-Mégantic rail accident. Transport Canada will "require railway companies to reduce the speed of trains carrying dangerous goods and implement other key operating practices."

Other related rail safety actions announced by Transport Canada include:

- *issue a Protective Direction removing the least crash-resistant DOT-111 tank cars from dangerous goods service;*
- *require within three years the phasing out or refitting of DOT-111 tank cars used to transport crude oil and ethanol that do not meet the standard published in January 2014 in Canada Gazette, Part 1, or any other future standard;*
- *issue a Protective Direction requiring Emergency Response Assistance Plans for crude oil, gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and ethanol; and*
- *create a task force that brings stakeholders such as local governments, first responders, railways and shippers together to strengthen emergency response capacity across the country.*

Conference decision:

B57 Regulation of Party Buses & Limousines

Vancouver

WHEREAS:

- A series of incidents, including the death last year of a Surrey teenager found dying at a gas station, have highlighted the lack of appropriate regulation for the limousine and party bus industry;
- Responsible industry operators have themselves, supported by the regional taxi industry, called on the Province to impose appropriate regulations through the Passenger Transportation Board to regulate the industry, ensuring the safety of customers; and
- The Minister of Transportation promised action last year which has not materialized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government, through the Minister of Transportation, act on the recommendations of the industry and implement appropriate regulations for the limousine and party bus sector.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to implement regulations for limousines and party buses.

The Committee would point out that there have been a number of drug and alcohol problems associated with limousines and party buses. An inspection of party buses in June 2014 by the Vancouver Police identified a number of drug and alcohol violations (i.e. under age drinking and use of drugs by the driver and others), and these incidents may suggest that the industry is not able to police itself voluntarily. The Committee understands that the Ministry of Transportation has held discussions with the limousine and party bus industry about the problems, and the industry agreed to implement measures to address the problems.

See also resolution C5.

Conference decision:

FINANCE

B58 Communities in Bloom

Clinton

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is currently transferring the Provincial Communities in Bloom program from a Crown Corporation to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Communities in Bloom Program was receiving funding from the Provincial Capital Commission in the amount of \$10,000 per year, there is a concern the funding will be dropped or reduced;

AND WHEREAS the Communities in Bloom Program has been a benefit to the province and the communities who have chosen to take part:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to maintain or increase the funding for the Communities in Bloom Program.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government maintain or increase funding for the Communities in Bloom program.

The Committee would clarify that BC Communities in Bloom is a registered not-for-profit society that received funding from the British Columbia Provincial Capital Commission (PCC). The PCC, a crown agency, was dissolved in March 2014 in order to fulfill a Core Review commitment. The Committee understands that the provincial government has assumed the PCC's core functions, maintaining the commission's community outreach programs through the Arts, Culture and BC Arts Council Branch of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

Conference decision:

B59 Resource Extraction Revenue Sharing

Fort St. James

WHEREAS resource extraction taxation from northern British Columbia constitutes a large portion of total provincial revenues;

AND WHEREAS communities located near resource projects (such as Mount Milligan Mine) have been and will continue to be economically impacted by the development and operations of such projects;

AND WHEREAS the Province has entered into agreements for mining revenue sharing with First Nations and "Fair Share" agreements for oil and gas revenue with certain local governments in the northeast:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province to enter into fair agreements with municipalities and regional districts affected by resource development in their region, to appropriately share resource taxation revenues in order to support local infrastructure and programming.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM seek to engage the Province in discussions about the recommendations within the 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures Policy Paper that seeks to:

- ***improve the resiliency of the existing local government finance system by maintaining and building its strongest features;***
- ***improve value to taxpayers by tightening the management of shared provincial-local mandates and ensuring that regulatory requirements imposed on local governments achieve value for money;***
- ***advance a local government agenda to both grow the economy and to have local governments share in the benefits of that growth through an Infrastructure Development and Community Building Bank;***
- ***work to expand local government revenue tools to make the distribution of local government costs both fairer and more responsive to economic growth; and***
- ***building the local government partnership (i.e. developing best practices)***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have sought opportunities for new revenue sources (Financing Local Government Study 1998) and the Communities and Resources Committee recommended in its 1998 policy paper that "a portion of the stumpage revenue must remain in the harvesting area (revenue should start flowing back to the producing communities)." UBCM members have also supported and requested that the Province share resource revenues (i.e. stumpage, royalties, etc.) with local governments (2012-B20, 2011-B29, 2009-B30, 2004 Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, 2003-B30).

More recently at the 2013 UBCM Convention, UBCM members adopted the Strong Fiscal Futures report. While the Strong Fiscal Futures report acknowledges that regional revenue sharing agreements have an important and growing role in the local government finance system, the Select Finance Committee chose to focus its recommendations on province-wide arrangements that would benefit local government as a whole.

The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment that would seek to engage the Province in a broader discussion of the recommendations within the member endorsed 2013 Strong Fiscal Futures report; one element of which is expanding other revenue tools available to local governments and sharing in the benefits of economic growth.

Conference decision:

B60 Liquor Revenue Allocation

Victoria

WHEREAS the Province of BC is relaxing liquor regulations, which will increase the accessibility of alcoholic beverages;

AND WHEREAS it is expected that provincial liquor revenues will increase as a result the easier availability of alcoholic beverages;

AND WHEREAS the consumption of alcoholic beverages can have negative health and social impacts, including addiction and social disorder:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province to allocate a portion of their liquor revenues to fund increased:

- resourcing for provincial liquor licence inspectors;
- resourcing to alcohol addiction and treatment services;
- policing of liquor licensed establishments and liquor related offences; and
- late night transit services to reduce drinking and driving offences and late night disorder.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that a portion of liquor revenues be allocated to local government to address costs that might arise in implementing new recommendations outlined in the Liquor Policy Review report endorsed in 2014 by the provincial cabinet.

See also resolution C8.

Conference decision:

B61 Local Road Eligibility Under the New Building Canada Fund

Golden

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has introduced the New Building Canada Fund, a nation-wide partnered infrastructure funding program for municipalities to address Canada's alarming infrastructure deficit, including \$1 billion for communities under 100,000 in population as the Small Communities Fund;

AND WHEREAS because the majority of critical infrastructure renewal needs require projects addressing all three of water, wastewater, and road components together, the New Building Canada Fund's elimination of local road applicability will jeopardize the financial ability for most small communities to undertake such infrastructure renewal projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province to negotiate the inclusion of local road applicability for infrastructure projects submitted by municipalities under the New Building Canada Fund's Small Communities Fund component.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that, as the New Building Canada Fund was only recently introduced by the federal government, the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government negotiate the inclusion of local roads in the New Building Canada Fund's Small Communities Fund component.

However, the Committee would note that the UBCM membership has long sought stable funding for transportation infrastructure projects and maintenance (2012-B19, 2003-B7, 2001-B22, 2000-B12, 1997-A2, 1992-B20, 1990-B28).

Conference decision:

ENVIRONMENT

B62 Derelict Vessels & Marine Environment

Squamish

WHEREAS many vessels in the coastal marine environment fail to comply with the federal regulations regarding the discharge of effluent from marine vessels;

AND WHEREAS the sewage discharge is compromising the marine environment in coastal communities and is harmful to swimmers, boaters, fish and wildlife:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly encourage the federal government to actively enforce the federal environmental regulations with respect to discharge of sewage in the coastal marine environment.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to “actively enforce the federal environmental regulations with respect to discharge of sewage in the coastal marine environment.”

However, the Committee would note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for greater federal engagement in addressing derelict vessels in BC waters (2013-B30, 2012-B79, 2012-B23, 2010-B30, 2005-B112).

The Committee would also note that the BC Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for enforcing the BC Environmental Management Act, and MoE staffs the Provincial Emergency Program which provides first point of contact for reporting spills and discharges.

See also resolution B23.

Conference decision:

B63 Water Pricing Principles

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the Province of BC has introduced new water pricing principles as part of the *Water Sustainability Act* which will increase the annual rental costs for the waterworks licenses held by local governments;

AND WHEREAS the Water Pricing Strategy is tantamount to downloading the costs of the implementation of the *Water Sustainability Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the Province to ensure local government water purveyors are not subjected to increased costs for waterworks licenses.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government refrain from downloading water licensing cost increases onto local governments.

However, members have endorsed resolutions seeking to halt the downloading of infrastructure costs onto local governments, including costs related to water services (2001-B80, 2000-B12, 1995-A7).

Conference decision:

B64 Local Improvement Charge for Energy Efficiency Retrofits

North Cowichan

WHEREAS energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits in existing buildings offer the best opportunities to reduce community energy use and greenhouse gas emissions in the medium and short term;

AND WHEREAS a lack of suitable financing options are a key barrier to residential and commercial building energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province:

- Amend the *BC Community Charter*, the *City of Vancouver Charter* and other legislation as required to enable local governments to use local improvement financing mechanisms for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on residential and commercial private properties in BC.
- Work together with BC local governments and energy utilities to develop standards and guidelines for effective municipally-run residential and commercial energy retrofit financing programs.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for a local improvement charge for energy efficiency retrofits.

However, the Committee would note that members endorsed resolution 2012-B25, calling on the provincial government to “expand programs that will encourage the retrofitting of existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency.” As well, members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to address issues related to climate change (2012-B121, 2010-B86, 2010-B2, 2008-B8, 2007-B33, 2007-B34, 2007-B130, 2006-B111, 2005-B28).

See also resolutions B27, B93 and B94.

Conference decision:

B65 Provincial Woodstove Program

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the Provincial Wood Stove Exchange Program is a successful locally delivered program that improves air quality province-wide; supports local, renewable and affordable wood-fuel use; and stimulates small business activity in participating communities;

AND WHEREAS the ability of local governments to plan and deliver the Program efficiently and effectively to local residents and small businesses is negatively impacted by uncertainty in the availability and timing of funding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province consider providing stable funding to support the Woodstove Exchange Program for a five year period beginning in 2014.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to provide five years of stable funding, beginning in 2014, for the provincial Woodstove Exchange Program.

However, the Committee would note that members have endorsed related resolutions:

2008-B72 requested the Province to amend the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation to require outdoor boilers and wood-burning furnaces to comply with CAN/CSA-B415.1 ‘Performance Testing of Solid Fuel Burning Stoves, Inserts and Low Burn Rate Factory Built Fireplaces.’

1989-A16 called on the Province to establish regulations for woodburning stoves, including the combustion efficiency of woodburning appliances.

Conference decision:

LAND USE

B66 Aerodrome Placement

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS under current aviation regulation communities and local government have inadequate opportunities for input into the establishment and placement of airports, aerodromes and helicopter pads in built up areas and residential rural areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to have input into Transport Canada's Canadian Aviation Regulation Advisory Council Modernization Project to address the noise, traffic, emergency management and loss of property values that result from such installations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request Transport Canada's approval process for the location of commercial aerodromes include a proactive public consultation process to weigh public and financial impact of locating new commercial and private airports, aerodromes and helicopter pads and hangars.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse & Refer to FCM***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that resolution 2003-LR8 called for amendments to the federal Aeronautics Act to designate "local government land use, zoning and long-term planning bylaws for land within their jurisdiction" as "the only arbiters for assessing the appropriateness of the location of aerodromes and aircraft activities." The UBCM membership referred resolution 2003-LR8 to the UBCM Executive, who upon further consideration endorsed the resolution.

In response to resolution 2003-LR8 the federal government clarified that there was "no legal requirement to obtain Transport Canada approval to construct an aerodrome on private property in Canada. However, if an aerodrome is to be located within a built-up area of a city or town, Transport Canada advises the proponent to consult local land-use authorities prior to undertaking any substantial commitments." The federal government indicated that the intent behind this policy was "ensure that local land-use authorities have the opportunity to object to or influence the establishment and development of airports."

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B67 Industry Resource Benefit

Hudson's Hope

WHEREAS BC resources such as water and natural gas may be transported over long distances through pipelines;

AND WHEREAS BC residents are frequently unable to access the resource being transported through their area in those pipelines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province to develop a system that enables BC residents to cost-effectively access resources which are being transported through their area.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically called on the Province to develop a system enabling BC residents to access resources cost-effectively which are being transported through their area.

However, the Committee would observe that the issue of resource access is not new. In 2000 members endorsed resolution LR6, which asked the Province to enact legislation entrenching the principle of adjacency and affording resource based communities a direct role in the control and use of the resources around them.

Members have also endorsed resolutions seeking cost-effective resident access to specific resources such as electricity (2004-B25); as well as requests for the Province to develop strategies that would address the long term domestic supply, satisfy existing commitments, and provide incentives to build an infrastructure for ancillary enterprises that would support the natural gas sector in BC (2012-B85).

Conference decision:

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

B68 Progress Report on Regional District Governance

Nelson

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia in cooperation with UBCM has been refining the Community Charter to improve the function of local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide a progress report and evaluation of the recommendations from the 2010 Regional District Task Force Report and conduct a review of the current regional district governance structure with the intention to continue to improve the relationship between municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would observe that this resolution makes two requests of the provincial government:

- *provide a progress report and evaluation of the provincial response to recommendations from the 2010 report of the Regional District Task Force; and*
- *conduct a review of the current regional district governance structure with the aim of continued improvement of the relationship between municipalities and regional districts in BC.*

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government provide a progress report and evaluation of its response to the recommendations from the report of the Regional District Task Force.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to clarify and improve the relationship between regional districts and municipalities (2007-A4, 2007-LR9, 2006-B47).

The Committee also understands that the Local Government Act was amended in 2012 and in 2014, with an underlying goal of these changes being to improve regional district governance. As part of the 2012 amendments to the Act, changes were introduced to:

- clarify the notice provisions required by a regional district;
- prohibit interference with a regional district officers performing his or her duties;
- allow a regional district to set rules around public access to regional district records;
- permit a regional district to undertake referendum to seek the opinion of the electors in a regional district; and
- allow the board of a regional district to appoint an alternate electoral area director if an electoral area director declines to appoint an alternate.

The 2014 amendments to the Act achieved the following:

- removed the requirement for Ministerial approval for certain regional district land use bylaws, in an effort to streamline the approval process (this had been a request of regional districts for many years);
- removed the requirement for Ministerial approval for soil removal and deposit bylaws that include fees, with approval roles for the Ministers of Environment and Energy remaining in place; and
- provided for the termination of land use contracts in all municipalities and regional districts on the “sunset” date of June 30, 2024, with the requirement that all local governments implement zoning by June 30, 2022 for lands covered by land use contracts.

Conference decision:

HEALTH

B69 National Dementia Strategy

**Burnaby
New Westminster**

WHEREAS Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are progressive, degenerative diseases of the brain that cause thinking and memory to become seriously impaired;

AND WHEREAS Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias most often occur in people over the age of 65 but can strike adults at any age;

AND WHEREAS Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias affect more than 500,000 Canadians currently and that this figure is projected to reach 1.1 million within a generation;

AND WHEREAS Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias also takes their toll on hundreds of thousands of families and care partners;

AND WHEREAS an estimated further three million Canadians face the burden and challenges of providing care for those suffering with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias;

AND WHEREAS there is no known cause or cure for this devastating illness;

AND WHEREAS the cost related to the health care system is in the billions and only going to increase, at a time when our health care system is already facing enormous financial challenges;

AND WHEREAS Canada, unlike many countries, does not have a national dementia strategy;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need to plan and raise awareness and understanding about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias for the sake of improving the quality of life of the people it touches;

AND WHEREAS MP Claude Gravelle, Nickel Belt, has introduced Bill C-356 – An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Dementia, as he works for broad, all party and non-partisan support for an issue that touches us all, and his legislation calls for a national plan that includes the development of strategies in primary health care, in health promotion and prevention of illness, in community development, in building community capacity and care partner engagement, investments in research and other (advisory board, objectives, investment in research, and caregivers and more):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all levels of government and the Federation of Municipalities adopt a national dementia strategy, and urge all citizens of our communities to become more aware and engaged concerning the far-reaching effects of this devastating disease.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse & Refer to FCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on all orders of government to adopt a national dementia strategy.

Conference decision:

B70 Sobering & Assessment Centres

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS there is significant concern for the well-being and safety of individuals who are under the influence or acutely intoxicated on the street or in police custody, there is recognition that first responders and emergency services lack the capacity to safely support these individuals during times of acute intoxication;

AND WHEREAS the number of calls for service for individuals who are acutely intoxicated places a heavy burden on first responder and emergency services and without the necessary resources first responders are left with very few options to ensure the safety of these individuals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide resources to establish sobering and assessment centres at key locations that are identified by first responders and regional health authorities across the province.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government fund the establishment of sobering and assessment centres throughout the province.

However, the Committee would note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for funding for addiction services throughout BC (2010-B14, 2010-B44, 2009-B9, 2006-B50, 2005-B43).

Conference decision:

B71 Assertive Community Treatment Teams

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams provide community based support for adults with serious and persistent mental illness and significant functional impairments who have not connected with, or responded well to, traditional outpatient mental health care and rehabilitation services; thereby greatly improving their quality of life, overall functioning and housing stability;

AND WHEREAS the intervention of ACT Teams decreases visits to the local emergency department, stays in hospitals and reduces contacts with police and correction services currently a great demand on local government resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide additional funding to health authorities to provide ACT Teams in local governments across the province where the impact on resources and citizens warrants this type of intervention.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that while the UBCM membership has not endorsed a resolution specifically calling for Assertive Community Treatment Teams, the membership has endorsed more than 20 resolutions related to care for mental health patients including:

- *2013-B83 Mental Health Patient Intake Procedures and Facilities*
- *2011-B61 Mental health Illness Impacts*
- *2010-B44 Addiction Treatment Services*
- *2010-B42 Support for Persons with Mental Illness*

Currently there are 13 Assertive Community Treatment teams in BC.

See also resolution B34.

Conference decision:

SELECTED ISSUES

B72 Access to Natural Gas

Peace River RD

WHEREAS we are aware there is an abundance of natural gas in BC;

AND WHEREAS there are many residents and businesses who, for economic, health and environmental reasons, are requesting access to our resource;

AND WHEREAS the people need to require the British Columbia Utilities Commission to examine the natural gas extension test and connection policies in order to provide a more reasonable Utility System Extension Test:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC, through the British Columbia Utilities Commission and in consultation with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, review natural gas extension policies such that more residents and business throughout British Columbia can take advantage of the economic and environmental benefits of natural gas.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province of BC review natural gas extension policies with the goal of expanding access to natural gas throughout the province.

However in 2012 members did endorse resolution B85 which requested that “the Province to develop strategies that will address the long term domestic supply, satisfy existing commitments, and provide incentives to build an infrastructure for ancillary enterprises that will support the natural gas sector in BC.”

See also resolution B38.

Conference decision:

SECTION B2-b

HEALTH

B73 BC Ambulance Service as an Essential Service

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the current model for providing ambulance service throughout BC is not working in rural communities, resulting in BC Ambulance Service having numerous out of service shifts in rural communities and patients not being able to receive timely, essential health care;

AND WHEREAS recruiting initiatives in rural communities have produced only short term results due to unsustainable wages paid to call-out attendants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government recognize BC Ambulance Service as an essential service and establish a new model for rural communities that would ensure full time ambulance coverage and timely access to health care.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to designate BC Ambulance Services as an essential service.

However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking adequate funding for province wide ambulance services (2013-B44, 2013-B142, 2010-B45, 2007-B50, 2007-B156, 2006-B48, 2003-B33, 2000-B14, 2000-B93, 1999-B91, 1996-B5, 1992-B79, 1988-A29).

The sponsor has clarified that the term “essential service” is not being used in the labour relations sense. Rather, the sponsor emphasizes that ambulance service is essential to the health and well-being of residents.

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B74 Community Specific First Responder Agreements

Taylor

WHEREAS local governments that choose to provide additional pre-hospital care to their citizens, through the First Responder Program, must sign an agreement to follow a model that is used province-wide, from metropolitan areas to the most rural parts of the province, and which may not address their individual needs or circumstances;

AND WHEREAS collaborative pilot projects have proven successful in both addressing the needs and capacities of individual communities as well as being beneficial to the care of the citizens of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the provincial government, through BC Emergency Health Services, enter into dialogue with individual local governments and tailor agreements for pre-hospital care to the specific needs and abilities of individual communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request that the Province enter into individual agreement for the delivery of First Responder services with each local government.

Currently there is one agreement for every community in the Province this approach does not provide any flexibility or the opportunity for local problems to be addressed. A size fits all approach does not work for all communities. This approach would allow different models to be developed based on the level of certification of staff in the community and would allow for a higher level of care than if they were constrained to the current First Responder Program.

Conference decision:

B75 Province as Diking Authority

Golden

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

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding s. 2(b) of the *Community Charter*, the administrative and financial resources required to undertake these responsibilities are an increasingly unsustainable burden to small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be re-established as the diking authority in municipalities less than 20,000 in population and in rural electoral areas.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that the provincial government be established as the diking authority for communities of less than 20,000 in population.

However, members have endorsed resolutions requesting that the federal and provincial governments provide funding assistance to all local governments for flood protection (2013-A2; 2011-B11; 2007-A1; 2006-B18; 2006-B19; 2004-A11; 2004-B16; 2003-B21 and 2003-B82). None of the previous resolutions have suggested differentiating the handling of floodplain management based on the population of a local government.

Conference decision:

B76 Flood Mitigation

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS sections 7 and 8 of the *Emergency Program Act* grant the Minister, and the pertinent local authority, the power to act where an emergency is “imminent” or “threatens;” section 10 grants the Minister the power to act “to prevent;” and section 10(k) specifically grants the power to “construct works” ... “to prevent;”

AND WHEREAS a local authority has the same powers as those granted to the Minister in accordance with section 13(1)(c):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the said Minister to authorize payment of up to fifty percent (50%) of the cost to “construct works” approved “to prevent” “imminent” and/or threats of “disasters.”

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that requested that the province put up 50% of the costs for works where an emergency is imminent or there is threat of a disaster. The resolution suggests that the local government would also need to be prepared to put up the other 50% of the costs.

In the past, however, members have consistently endorsed resolutions highlighting the need for an integrated approach to disaster management and for ongoing funding from the federal and provincial government to address these types of issues (2011-B11; 2007-A1; 2006-B18; 2002-B16; 2001-B26; 2000-B24; 2000-LR24; 1997-A7).

UBCM has a long standing policy position that the provincial government should provide local government with financial assistance to manage disasters and to undertake the studies needed to improve the system.

Conference decision:

B77 BC Building Code Changes

Lake Country

WHEREAS the BC Building Code fire department response time of ten minutes is an unrealistic expectation to impose on municipalities with paid on-call fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the new unprotected opening and sprinklering requirements for fire department response times of greater than ten minutes significantly impacts the affordability of homes and imposes unrealistic costs and potential safety risks for municipalities required to upgrade to larger water connections for sprinklering;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Building Code be amended allowing municipalities with paid on-call fire departments a fire department response time of fifteen minutes.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for amendments to the BC Building Code to set fifteen minutes as the minimum response time requirement in communities with

paid on-call fire departments. Changes were introduced into the BC Building Code this year requiring that fire departments have a response time of 10 minutes in the community. This new response time for a fire department has meant that some small communities with a volunteer fire department and a high level of urban growth are unable to make the new requirements.

Conference decision:

B78 Equal Standards for Federal & Provincial Building Codes

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS the provincial government building codes are to a higher standard than the Federal building codes;

AND WHEREAS there is concern this discrepancy can impact health and safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to bring the federal building code to a standard which equals the provincial standards.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to amend the federal building code so that it equals the standards set by the provincial building code.

The Committee understands that BC participates in the national code development system, with the provincial building code being based on the national model building code. The provincial government has indicated that to account for regional differences and provincial priorities, the BC Building Code includes a number of variations from the national model building code. It would seem to the Committee that the national model building code is intended to set minimum requirements, with the provincial government authorized to customize the provincial building code to impose more stringent and regionally relevant regulations. The concern is that the BC Building Code does not apply on federal properties, building inspections are not required on federal lands and buildings maybe constructed on federal lands that do not meet Provincial Building Code standards.

Conference decision:

B79 Automatic Fire Sprinklers

Esquimalt

WHEREAS fire kills eight individuals in Canada every week, residential property fires account for 40% of all fires, and 73% of all fire deaths occur in residential properties;

AND WHEREAS automatic fire sprinkler technology exists, which is proven to be effective, reliable and affordable (approximately 94 cents per square foot for residential construction), that will virtually eliminate fire deaths in residential properties thereby enhancing the safety of first responders including firefighters, paramedics, police and the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the British Columbia provincial government enact legislation to require automatic fire sprinklers be installed in every new occupancy where individuals will sleep through its 2015 BC Building Code.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province authorize local government to establish sprinkler bylaws (2006-B1, 1998-B31, 1987-B11).

The Committee would point out that the Province has adopted a BC Building Code that is administered and enforced by local government. Under the Community Charter the concurrent authority provisions require that local government consult with the Province concerning local building standards that may vary from the BC Building Code.

See also resolution B80.

Conference decision:

B80 Funding for Retrofitting Older Multi-family Wood-frame Dwellings with Fire Suppressing Sprinkler Systems

New Westminster

WHEREAS many communities in Canada are home to older wood frame multi-family dwellings;

AND WHEREAS these buildings provide a large inventory of affordable housing in our communities;

AND WHEREAS many of these buildings were constructed prior to the mandatory implementation of fire suppressing sprinkling systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities work with senior levels of government in an effort to have infrastructure funding made available to building owners, including care facilities, so that these buildings can be retrofitted with sprinkling systems;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this be accomplished with minimal impact to the residents.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting other orders of government provide funding to building owners for the retrofitting of multi-family dwellings with sprinkler systems.

The Committee also notes that the majority of federal government capital funding programs, specifically the Gas Tax Program and the New Building Canada Fund, provide funding for infrastructure that is for public use and good and is generally owned by local governments. Programs are not designed to support for-profit and/or privately owned assets.

Finally, the Committee would observe that redirecting finite capital funding to support privately owned infrastructure reduces funding available to local governments and support of local government owned infrastructure.

See also resolution B79.

Conference decision:

TRANSPORTATION

B81 Asia-Pacific Northern Transportation Infrastructure Strategy

Terrace

WHEREAS economic development growth in the Northwest is resulting in a steady increase to road and rail traffic along the Highway 16 corridor which is creating safety concerns and negatively impacting communities;

AND WHEREAS Highway 16 is the northern link to the Asia-Pacific Gateway, and upgrading key road transportation corridors to support trade is a priority in the Province of BC's "Pacific Gateway Transportation Strategy 2012–2020:"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate for the provincial government to initiate an Asia-Pacific northern infrastructure strategy to address barriers to trade and transportation and impacts to northern communities along Highway 16, and that such a strategy include participation by northern stakeholder communities and industry.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a specific "Asia-Pacific northern infrastructure strategy" complete with stakeholder participation, focused on Highway 16 with the goal of addressing barriers to trade and transportation and impacts to communities.

However, the Committee is aware that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a province-wide, multi-modal transportation strategy or policy that would include components such as highway upgrades; safety improvements; transportation of dangerous goods; emergency response; and coordination between different modes of transport (2013-B13, 2009-B16, 2008-B110, 2008-B107, 2003-B59, 2000-B63, 1998-A6, 1996-B88, 1995-B55, 1992-A17).

Conference decision:

B82 Comprehensive Pipeline & Energy Transport Plan

Burnaby

WHEREAS on 2013 December 16, Kinder Morgan submitted an application to the National Energy Board for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion project in the existing dense urban context represents an intensification of related risks and impacts for Burnaby and the broader Metro Vancouver area, with the benefits distributed elsewhere on a regional, provincial and national basis:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government and National Energy Board, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to oppose Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline system expansion application;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments, through their appropriate and respective roles, to develop, in consultation with local governments, First Nations, and members of the public, a comprehensive pipeline and energy transport plan, including adequately funded provisions for emergency response, for the movement of related goods.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government and the National Energy Board to oppose Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline system expansion application; nor have they considered a resolution requesting the provincial and federal governments to develop, in consultation with local governments, First Nations and the public, a comprehensive pipeline and energy transport plan, including adequately funded provisions for emergency response.

However, the Committee would note that members endorsed a related resolution, 2011-LR6, which requested that the National Energy Board, Port Metro Vancouver, and the relevant federal cabinet ministers "ensure that any applications to expand the amount of oil transported by pipeline or tanker in British Columbia undergo: a. the highest degree of environmental assessment; and b. meaningful public consultation, including direct engagement with affected municipalities, regional authorities and British Columbia First Nations."

In response to the 2011 resolution the federal government emphasized that applications to expand federally-regulated pipeline systems "are subject to environmental assessment and regulatory review. In addition, regulatory review processes for major projects are open, and parties including municipalities, regional organizations and Aboriginal groups can submit evidence and express their views."

Port Metro Vancouver also provided a response to resolution 2011-LR6, confirming that "all projects within Port Metro Vancouver jurisdiction undergo some form of environmental review regardless of the presence of legislated triggers." Port Metro Vancouver indicated that any "significant proposal for new or expanded oil transport through the port that Port Metro Vancouver may receive" would undergo "the Port's Project Review Process, a process that is analogous to a municipal development review that covers many issues not addressed by environmental legislation."

See also resolutions B92 and C4.

Conference decision:

SELECTED ISSUES

B83 Establishing a Youth Caucus

Williams Lake

WHEREAS young adults in our communities are less likely to vote in municipal elections and engage in civic affairs;

AND WHEREAS the City of Williams Lake has offered a successful Junior Council program to the community over the past four years which has provided an opportunity for youth to learn about municipal affairs and participate in the civic affairs of the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM establish a youth caucus that would provide an opportunity for youth to participate in sessions to engage youth in civic affairs and that the UBCM's member communities be encouraged to establish youth councils in their communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting specifically that UBCM establish a youth caucus, and also calling on UBCM member local governments to establish youth councils in their communities.

However, the Committee notes that members considered but did not endorse resolution 2001-B41, which asked the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to enable local governments to establish elected “Civic Youth Councils” that would provide input to local governments on youth-related matters. The Committee also notes that the previous year, UBCM members considered a related resolution (2000-B112) that requested similar amendments to the Local Government Act, without specifying that the “Civic Youth Councils” would be elected. The decision of the UBCM membership on the 2000 resolution was “no action required.”

The Committee would observe that the establishment of a youth caucus and coordination of associated programs or events is outside the scope of current UBCM operations.

The Committee is aware, however, that UBCM and its member local governments, through Local Government Awareness Week programming and other community outreach initiatives, actively seek to engage youth in civic affairs.

Conference decision:

B84 UBCM Committees

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS local government appointees to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities represent diverse stakeholders and require the ability to consult with such stakeholders;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the terms of reference for UBCM committees include provisions for local government appointees to such committees to enable them to consult with appropriate stakeholders unless they are precluded from doing so by legislation.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the terms of reference for UBCM committees include provisions for committee members to consult with stakeholders, unless prohibited by legislation.

The Committee notes that UBCM Executive Policies require members of the UBCM Executive to respect the confidentiality of Executive materials.

However, the Resolutions Committee would point out that these provisions do not prevent UBCM committees or working groups from consulting with the broader membership to engage and obtain feedback on specific policy matters. Indeed, in most cases UBCM committees and working groups are expressly mandated to consult with BC local governments (and other stakeholders) when relevant; these committees and working groups do so actively, as needed.

As a matter of courtesy to other committee members UBCM does not permit individual members of a committee to share information in draft form before it is available to all committee members.

Conference decision:

B85 Handling of Resolutions

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS it is nearly impossible for UBCM to set priorities and many resolutions are not appropriately dealt with each year due to the great number of resolutions;

AND WHEREAS it may take up to a year to have a resolution dealt with;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM adopt a form of FCM's policy for handling resolutions, as follows:

- Resolutions that are in line with existing policy are dealt with and forwarded as they are received, with the sponsor notified.
- Resolutions that need quick action are dealt with by staff and executive when received if they are non-contentious.
- Resolutions that create new policy and/or resolutions that the sponsor specifically requests debate on are forwarded to the AGM.
- Results of how each resolution is being dealt will reported out in The Compass.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that a resolutions process review was initiated by resolution 2008-B137, which requested that each Area Association prioritize and submit their top 5 resolutions for debate at Convention; that the UBCM Executive bring forward a maximum of 25 member resolutions for debate at Convention; and that UBCM develop a tracking system for resolutions.

Since receiving resolution 2008-B137, the Committee would note that UBCM has:

- *Presented a policy paper to the UBCM membership at the 2009 Convention and a subsequent policy paper at the 2010 Convention*
- *Consulted with area associations, the UBCM membership, Convention delegates, past and current members of the UBCM Executive including Resolutions Committee members, and former and current staff*
- *Reviewed and amended the UBCM Bylaws, Conference Rules and Procedures, and Executive Policies*
- *Amended the placement, grouping and handling of resolutions prior to and at Convention*

Conference decision:

B86 Standing Committee on Arts, Culture & Heritage

Nelson

WHEREAS municipalities in British Columbia are the largest per capita government funders of arts, culture and heritage in BC;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC launched BC Creative Futures in 2013, acknowledging that cultural industries create job growth, turn ordinary cities in “destination cities,” create interconnections between arts and business, revitalize urban areas, attract skilled workers, and create spin-off businesses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strike a standing committee on arts, culture and heritage in order to support and promote arts, culture and heritage to the province.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee is aware that in 1995 the then-Ministry of Municipal Affairs, in conjunction with the then-Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UBCM on “Cultural Issues and Opportunities Affecting Local Government.” This partnership provided UBCM with a provincial government grant to assist in identifying existing and potential cultural opportunities for local governments. As part of this initiative the UBCM Executive struck an Arts and Culture Steering Committee.

The Committee further understands that the Province extended its support of UBCM’s arts and culture initiative through a grant from the BC Arts Council in 1997. Subsequent to this, the UBCM Arts and Culture Steering Committee published the resource “Creative Connections,” to assist local governments with arts and culture development.

The Committee would point out that funding for the UBCM Arts and Culture Steering Committee was provided by the provincial government, not by UBCM. UBCM has indicated to the Resolutions Committee that a committee to support and promote arts, culture and heritage to the province is outside the current scope of UBCM operations.

The Committee would further observe that working committees of the UBCM Executive are established at the discretion of the UBCM President.

Conference decision:

B87 Dedicated Ministry for Local Government Affairs

North Saanich

WHEREAS there used to be a dedicated provincial ministry of local government affairs, focused principally on local government affairs;

AND WHEREAS the range of issues local governments are required to manage is becoming more complex; other orders of government are devolving more and more responsibilities on to local governments; and the Province has diminished the importance of, and reduced support for local governments by its previous removal of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province to consider the re-establishment of a ministry to focus solely on local government affairs.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government establish a ministry focused solely on local government affairs.

Conference decision:

ENVIRONMENT

B88 Protection of Local Water Resources & Watershed Land

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS it is recognized that water is a public trust and the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing protection and control of local water resources, and that adequate tools are required to enable local authorities to enact measures for protection of watersheds;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has recently released further details concerning implementation of its commitment to modernize the *Water Act*, which includes a strategy to protect water flows for fish and the environment; regulate groundwater; improve governance; and promote conservation, in order to address issues of source water protection, industrial pollution and land-use changes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment to proceed in its efforts to modernize the *Water Act* including full consultation with First Nations, to ensure that the new *Water Sustainability Act* establishes a strong enabling framework, in the context of provincial and federal oversight and regulatory backstop, that:

- increases the local role in key decisions affecting the health of watersheds;
- ensures protection for water for fish and the environment in the context of local conditions;
- regulates groundwater;
- promotes water conservation;
- recognizes First Nations Rights and Title; and
- establishes a meaningful role for local government, First Nations, and local watershed authorities regarding approvals and control.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

This was submitted to UBCM in 2013 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, the resolution was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2014 resolutions cycle.

The Resolutions Committee is aware that the new Water Sustainability Act received Royal Assent in May 2014.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B96, which emphasized to the provincial government the importance of input and involvement of local government, and that it be “active and ongoing as the Water Sustainability Act is developed and new water management roles are created.”

In response to the resolution the provincial government referenced its ongoing engagement with local government throughout the Water Act modernization process. At that time, the Province indicated willingness to “take more time to further engage with British Columbians on draft legislation in 2012 before it is finalized,” including local government engagement.

The Committee is also keenly aware that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions related to protection of community watersheds, including pesticide spraying, logging activities, and requests for greater local authority over what activities take place within a watershed (1988-A26; 1989-A18; 1990-A17; 1996-B13; 1998-B65; 1999-B63; 2004-B84; 2004-B85; 2004-OF; 2005-B27; 2006-B102; 2007-B26; 2007-B42; 2007-B122; 2008-B27; 2008-B35; 2009-B136; 2010-B26; 2010-B81; 2010-B85; 2010-B88; 2011-B43; 2011-B129; 2011-B152; 2012-B24; 2012-B77; 2012-B118; 2012-B119; 2012-B120).

Conference decision:

B89 Environmental Appeal Board

Lake Country

WHEREAS the Water Branch and Environmental Appeal Board have acknowledged water shortages and over licensing in Okanagan watersheds yet continue to “double license” fully licensed water which is causing adverse effects on municipalities and the environment;

AND WHEREAS there is inconsistency and a lack of transparency in the statutory decision making in the Water Branch and Environmental Appeal Board:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Appeal Board be eliminated and that a judicial review process be conducted by the courts in its place with the cost savings applied to enforcement of the new *Water Sustainability Act*.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government eliminate the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) and instead employ the court system for judicial review, with any savings of EAB operational costs used to fund enforcement of the new *Water Sustainability Act*.*

However, the Committee acknowledges that members have consistently endorsed resolutions in support of general improvements to water management, protection and enforcement -most recently, for example, 2013-B32 and 2011-B96.

Conference decision:

B90 Groundwater Use Determination Under the BC Contaminated Sites Regulation

Delta

WHEREAS in 2011, the Ministry of Environment issued a technical guidance document that changed how a site’s groundwater use was determined in the context of contaminated sites remediation;

AND WHEREAS this document requires all sites within BC to begin with the assumption that groundwater will need to be remediated to the drinking water standard which is the most stringent standard, regardless of historical or current groundwater use which is adding delays and costs to the remediation process;

AND WHEREAS there are areas in the province where groundwater is not used for drinking due to a number of factors including the natural characteristics of the groundwater and the existence of a reliable supply of potable water through municipal distribution system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to initiate discussions with interested municipalities to exempt areas where groundwater is not used, and will not be used in the future, as a drinking water source in the context of the Contaminated Sites Regulation.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government enter into discussions with local governments to exempt “areas where groundwater is not used, and will not be used in the future, as a drinking water source,” from the requirement to remediate to drinking water standards under the Contaminated Sites Regulation.

However, the Committee would point out that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to protect and regulate groundwater as a water source (2011-B43, 2011-B96, 2010-B81, 2009-B106, 2008-B30, 2008-B78, 2004-B76, 2003-B22, 2002-B52, 2001-B28, 2000-B22, 1998-B72, 1991-B15, 1989-B25). The Committee also understands that the new Water Sustainability Act will regulate groundwater.

Conference decision:

B91 Remediation for Brownfields Acquired Through Tax Sale

Vanderhoof

WHEREAS rural communities acquire brownfield properties through tax sale;

AND WHEREAS rural communities continue to lack resources to remediate brownfields:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia commit to a funding program to assist local governments in remediating brownfield sites acquired through a tax sale.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to establish a funding program to assist with local government remediation of brownfield sites acquired by local governments through the tax sale process.

However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2011-B99, which expressed concern at the direct and opportunity costs that arise when a development or related permit application happens to trigger a contaminated site remediation process. The resolution asked the Province to “increase financial assistance to local governments to offset these real negative economic impacts,” and investigate ways to minimize any negative economic effects of requirements to remediate contaminated sites.

In response to the 2011 resolution the provincial government referenced the BC Brownfield Renewal Funding Program, which in part provided funding to assist with remediation of contaminated sites owned by local governments.

Conference decision:

B92 Environmental Assessments for Coal Transport

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS assessment studies provided to Port Metro Vancouver have not assessed the environmental or health impacts related to the release of coal dust during barge transfer and transport over coastal waters between the Port of Metro Vancouver and Texada Island;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no mechanism that provides oversight or ensures the implementation of mitigation measures to minimize environmental and health impacts of coal transport over coastal waters:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a comprehensive environmental and health impact assessment for the shipment of coal over coastal waters be conducted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate federal and/or provincial agency be named to monitor barge transfer and transport of coal over coastal waters to ensure oversight and implementation of environmental and health protection measures.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a related resolution, 2002-B37, which expressed similar concerns about the release of coal dust into the environment during rail transport, and asked the provincial government to require dust containment measures during rail transport of coal.

In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that the release of dust during coal transport was a long-standing issue; however, the Province pointed out that rail transport was federally regulated. The provincial government referenced recommendations for loading, unloading and transporting coal by rail that had been issued by Environment Canada in the 1980s, and suggested that transporters have the option to cover coal with a solid cap or spray it with a dust suppressant.

See also resolutions B82 and C4.

Conference decision:

B93 Home Energy Labeling

North Cowichan

WHEREAS home ownership represents the most significant investment many British Columbians will make in their lifetime;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has introduced new energy performance requirements into the BC Building Code for Part 9 buildings (e.g. residential up to three-storeys and under 600 square metres) effective December 2014 but measurement and verification of energy performance will not be required for Part 9 residential building permitting to provide consumer information and ensure quality construction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia consider adding an energy assessment and EnerGuide label to the requirements for new Part 9 residential buildings.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government add an energy assessment and EnerGuide label to the energy performance requirements in the BC Building Code for new Part 9 residential buildings.

The Committee would note that members have endorsed resolutions seeking to address issues related to climate change (2012-B25, 2012-B121, 2010-B86, 2010-B2, 2008-B8, 2007-B33, 2007-B34, 2007-B130, 2006-B111, 2005-B28).

See also resolutions B27, B64 and B94.

Conference decision:

B94 Benchmarking Tools for Building Energy Use

Vancouver

WHEREAS:

- a study by the United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown that energy benchmarking has resulted in an average 7% reduction in energy use of participating buildings over a period of 3 years;
- on September 24, 2013 Vancouver City Council endorsed: F. THAT as part of a comprehensive strategy on building retrofit to enable reaching Greenest City GHG goals, Council direct City staff to develop recommendations for Council consideration on energy reporting requirements for larger existing buildings in the City of Vancouver, and staff have identified provincial action as important to achieving this goal;
- energy benchmarking is a low cost practice that enables building owners to identify savings opportunities;
- nine municipalities in the US require energy benchmarking for larger buildings (typically 50,000 square feet or larger);
- energy benchmarking software called ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is available for free through Natural Resources Canada and is the same platform being used by all nine municipalities in the US that are currently regulating energy benchmarking;
- energy benchmarking identifies the highest energy consuming buildings to target building energy performance support and inform public policy and program design; and
- energy benchmarking enables evaluation of the effectiveness of municipal strategies to reduce energy use in existing buildings (measure progress over time) that are developed in response to the *Local Government Act* section 877(3), "An official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets:"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM:

- request provincial amendments to the *Vancouver Charter*, *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* in order to empower local governments to require annual reporting of building energy use data to be submitted by building owners or designate, that enables normalized comparison benchmarking between similar buildings (area, use, type of equipment, etc.); and
- request additional amendments to grant local governments the authority to enable the public release of non-confidential and non-competitive building energy benchmarking information via a municipal website or that of a delegated organization, two years following the submission of reporting data by building owners to local governments and following an accuracy review by owners.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend the Vancouver Charter, Community Charter and Local Government Act to authorize local governments to require annual reporting of building energy use data by building owners, for normalized comparison benchmarking between similar buildings, and for public release of selected non-confidential, non-competitive building energy use information.

However, the Committee would note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to address issues related to climate change (2012-B25, 2012-B121, 2010-B86, 2008-B8, 2007-B33, 2007-B34, 2007-B130, 2006-B111, 2005-B28).

See also resolutions B27, B64 and B93.

Conference decision:

B95 Climate Change Action & Economic Risks of Natural Disasters

Saanich

WHEREAS the provincial government committed to meeting the goals of BC's Climate Action Plan released June 2008, recent reports, including the Fifth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the TD Economics Special Report on Natural Catastrophes: A Canadian Economic Perspective highlight financial implications of climate change, and that "economic cost of severe weather is under-appreciated;"

AND WHEREAS the frequency of weather events has increased, and local governments have finite financial resources, and under-investing relative to needs to mitigate costs of these events, could become unmanageable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province to establish a process, in partnership with local governments, to evaluate BC's climate change targets in the context of the recent reports from the IPCC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM bring a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 2015 Annual General Meeting calling upon the Government of Canada to work with other countries at the 2015 Climate Change Convention in Paris to develop an international treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government collaborate with local government to evaluate BC's climate change targets in light of recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; nor have members considered a resolution urging the federal government to work towards developing an international treaty on climate change to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

However, the Committee is aware that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on all governments to consider the potential impacts of climate change and support technological innovation and policy decisions that would minimize these impacts (2013-B75, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B47, 2010-B101, 2009-B105, 2009-B107, 2009-B110, 2008-B27, 2008-B73, 2008-B79, 2008-B89, 2008-B136, 2007-B34, 2007-B129, 2006-B26, 2006-B110, 2006-B111, 2005-B28, 2003-B83, 2001-SR3, 1999-B55).

Conference decision:

B96 Streetlights & Carbon Neutrality

**Port Clements
Queen Charlotte
Masset
New Hazelton
Stewart**

WHEREAS BC municipalities who signed the Climate Action Charter were supposed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2012 and streetlights represent a significant portion of electrical usage, especially for small northern communities;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro owns a significant percentage of the streetlights under the 1701 designation, especially in smaller communities, which is preventing those communities from being able to address their carbon footprint by changing to LED streetlights:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to make the necessary changes to BC Hydro to allow all communities to reach locally appropriate solutions to switch BC Hydro owned streetlights to LED lights.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government address the issue of ownership of streetlight infrastructure, to give local governments the option to install energy efficient streetlights.

Conference decision:

B97 Extended Producer Responsibility for Mattresses

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS the Province is transitioning responsibility for end-of-life management of goods to industry through the use of product stewardship program as governed by the BC Ministry of Environment Recycling Regulation;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no product stewardship program for used mattresses and improperly discarded mattresses have to be disposed of by local government at taxpayers expense:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to require industry to develop a product stewardship program to adequately address end-of-life management of waste mattresses.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to institute extended producer responsibility specifically for mattresses.

However, members have endorsed several resolutions addressing issues of product stewardship, reducing packaging and excessive waste, and encouraging the recycling of re-usable materials (2005-B23; 2004-B13; 2000-B20; 1997-B11; 1991-B18; 1990-A14; 1990-A15).

Members have also endorsed resolutions supporting the introduction of industry product stewardship programs that would shift the responsibility for waste management from local governments to producers and consumers of products such as electronic waste, batteries, tires, used oil, plastics and packaging (2008-B84, 2006-B29; 2005-B24; 2004-B13; 2004-B14; 2004-B15; 2004-B82; 2003-B87; 1998-B60).

The Committee would point out, however, that members have endorsed resolutions calling for the review of product stewardship programs and their effectiveness for remote and rural communities that are being underserved (2012-B28, 2010-B33). Further, members considered but did not endorse resolution 2010-B136, which in part sought to levy fees on “widely used products to be used directly in the cost of recycling them.”

Finally, the Resolutions Committee would note that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-SR1, focused on the Multi-Material BC Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) Stewardship program. The resolution expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the program and made the following requests of the provincial government and Multi-Material BC (MMBC):

- provide an additional 90 days for local governments to properly clarify and consider the MMBC offer prior to the implementation of the MMBC PPP Stewardship Plan in May 2014;*
- provincial government review of the MMBC PPP Stewardship Plan, and revision of the plan to:*
- address local governments’ concerns with the implementation of the plan;*
- ensure local governments’ control of recycling programs in their communities;*
- ensure producers take full financial responsibility for the collection and recycling of their waste;*
- create meaningful market signals that encourage the reduction of packaging and innovation of better, more recyclable packaging; and-address the issue of continuity of service;*
- UBCM appoint a representative committee to negotiate with MMBC and the provincial government.*

Conference decision:

LEGISLATIVE

B98 Elected Officials Coverage Under *Workers Compensation Act*

Sechelt District

WHEREAS all duly elected council and regional board members are not considered workers or employers and are therefore not covered under the *Workers Compensation Act* in their capacity as elected officials;

AND WHEREAS the Personal Optional Protection Insurance is not available to elected officials;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia review the *Workers Compensation Act* in consultation with local governments and make the necessary amendments to include all duly elected council or board members in the definition of “worker.”

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government review the *Workers Compensation Act* and consider an amendment to the Act to include local government elected officials in the definition of “worker.”*

Conference decision:

B99 Local Government Tax Sale Dispute Process

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS municipalities become the owners of properties arising through the mandatory provisions of *Community Charter/Local Government Act* legislation that regulates Municipal Property Tax Sales;

AND WHEREAS the municipal title to the property can then be disputed in a court of law or other tribunal;

AND WHEREAS the property title disputes prevent municipalities from transferring title to another purchaser and thereby hinder the sale of the property;

AND WHEREAS the holding costs, the legal costs as well as opportunity costs while title is resolved can be extremely expensive and burdensome to a municipality;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* so that a municipality’s clear title to a property as a result of the Municipal Tax Sale Process cannot be disputed in a court of law or other tribunal more than once.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered resolution 2013-B98, which requested legislative amendments to eliminate entirely the right of a former owner of a tax sale property to dispute the sale in court. The UBCM membership did not endorse the resolution.

The 2014 resolution differs in that it would preserve the right of a former owner of a tax sale property to dispute the sale in court; however, the former owner would have only one chance to undertake such action for a particular piece of property.

The Committee would note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for reform to the tax sale process, including eliminating the tax sale auction (2005-B17), providing authority for a municipality to set aside a tax sale for reasons of manifest error (2005-B86), shortening the redemption period (2000-B2) and increasing penalties and interest during the redemption period (1984-A8).

While all of these resolutions are aimed at finding efficiencies in the tax sale process, the Committee would observe that none appear to limit the ability of the former owner of the property to dispute the process in court. Further, the Committee would question whether denying access to the courts is appropriate in the circumstances, given the potential significance of the loss of the property to the former owner.

Conference decision:

B100 Boundary Extension Guidelines

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's boundary extension guidelines for obtaining rural property owners' opinions can be calculated by utilizing either:

- one opinion per property owner (regardless of the number of properties); or
- one opinion per parcel (regardless of the number of property owners as some properties may have more than one individual on title) without taking into consideration assessed value or parcel size that results in large parcel owners being at a disadvantage;

AND WHEREAS rural property owners' opinions should be calculated using the *Community Charter's* local area service project formula which is 50% of the property owners who have over 50% of the assessed value of land and improvements for fairness and equity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to amend their boundary extension guidelines to utilize the local area service project calculation formula to gauge rural property owners' opinions.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to amend municipal boundary extension guidelines to utilize the local area service project calculation formula to gauge rural property owners' opinions.

However, the Committee is aware that members have endorsed resolutions in support of a greater role in the decision-making process for residents of rural areas identified in proposals for municipal boundary extension (2013-B3, 2003-A14, 1991-B62).

See also resolution B1.

Conference decision:

B101 Part 26 of *Local Government Act* & Related Legislation

Cranbrook

WHEREAS current legislation governing subdivision and development is dated and does not adequately serve the needs of local governments or the development community;

AND WHEREAS legislation in neighbouring jurisdictions provides greater certainty for both developers and the public through more responsive provisions for permitting and approvals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to initiate a review of Part 26 of the *Local Government Act* and related planning and development legislation, and consult with UBCM regarding appropriate changes.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2013-B114, which requested that the provincial government undertake a thorough review of Part 26 of the Local Government Act.

In its comments on resolution 2013-B114, the Committee observed that topics covered within Part 26 have been the topic of UBCM resolutions over the years, such as development permits/variances; zoning; affordable housing; OCPs; public hearings; landscaping; signage; flood plain areas; contaminated sites; non-conforming uses and siting; farm business regulation; permits and fees (DCCs); land use contracts and parkland provision.

Conference decision:

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

B102 Parking Enforcement in Rural Areas

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the RCMP are responsible for enforcing parking regulations in rural areas;

AND WHEREAS the process required to ticket and/or tow parking offenders is time consuming and takes policing resources away from other priorities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that regional districts be granted the authority to enforce parking regulations within their boundaries.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

This was submitted to UBCM in 2013 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, the resolution was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2014 resolutions cycle.

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to grant regional districts the authority to enforce parking regulations. The Resolutions Committee would raise the question of the capacity of regional districts to take on an enforcement role, and potential impacts on regional district operations.

The Committee acknowledges that members have endorsed a number of resolutions seeking to clarify or enhance the authority of regional districts in areas including but not limited to:

- authority to control weeds (2011-B92);
- natural area tax exemption (2011-B90);
- watershed control (2008-B35);
- controlled substance property bylaws (2008-B7, 2006-OF);
- Regional District Charter (2006-B47);
- authority to appoint approving officer (2006-A3); and
- taxation authority (2003-B66).

Conference decision:

B103 Equitable Penalty & Sentencing Powers for Regional Districts

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS Section 263 of the *Community Charter* provides municipalities with the power to set minimum fines and the power to set maximum fines up to \$10,000;

AND WHEREAS there is no corresponding provision in the *Local Government Act* to provide regional districts with the same powers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC enact an amendment to the *Local Government Act* to provide regional districts with the power to set minimum fines and the power to set maximum fines up to \$10,000.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to authorize regional districts to set minimum fines and maximum fines up to \$10,000.

Conference decision:

B104 Absence of Director Due to Illness

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS the role of an Electoral Area Director in electoral area and regional district decision-making is absolutely vital;

AND WHEREAS the current legislation is severely lacking when the absence of the director is due to illness or injury:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to provide clearer legislation that establishes respectful, reasonable and responsible guidance as to how Electoral Area Directors and regional districts are to manage extended absences by Electoral Area Directors due to illness or injury.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend provide clearer guidance to regional districts on managing extended absences of electoral area directors due to illness or injury.

Conference decision:

TAXATION

B105 Business Class Exemption

Vernon

WHEREAS the statutory property exemption for business Class 6 assessments is \$10,000, regardless of the property value;

AND WHEREAS the business Class 6 exemption has remained unchanged since implementation in 1984 despite increasing assessments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the business class exemption for Class 6 assessments and consider an increase to \$50,000 for the statutory property exemption, in order to provide small businesses, in the province of British Columbia, a fair exemption for their increased assessed property value.

Not Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse similar resolutions requesting that the property tax exemption for small business be increased (2012-B138; 2011-B122; 2009-B95).

However, members endorsed resolutions 2007-B121 and 2008-B26, both calling on the provincial government to review the business class exemption for Class 6 assessments and consider an increase in the statutory property exemption.

Similar resolutions in 2000 and 2001 requesting that the Province increase the business class assessment exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 were not endorsed. At that time in its comments the Resolutions Committee suggested that an increase in the assessment exemption is potentially just a redistribution of the tax burden among businesses. If the local government maintains its business class tax allocation, then the result is just to reallocate the tax burden to other businesses.

It should be noted that a municipality concerned with high assessment of business property could address this problem by lowering the local tax rate. To implement a province-wide increase in the property exemption for business would reduce the assessment for everyone, regardless of whether or not this a local issue. It would appear to reduce local discretion and limit local governments' ability to deal with a local issue in the most effective manner.

In its response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial Ministry of Community Development suggested that amendments enacted to Section 226 of the Community Charter enable municipalities to provide revitalization tax exemptions for any revitalization objectives, including economic revitalization. Using these provisions, a municipality could strategically target support towards the kinds of economic activities and investment seen to be in the best interests of the community.

Conference decision:

B106 Port Improvements Tax Exemption

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the Port Improvements (Berth Corridor) Tax Exemption Regulation, BC Reg. 198/2004 exempts berth corridor improvements including breakwaters, crane rails on wharves or piers, docks including caissons and rock mattresses, dolphins floats, jetties, piers, wharves, and specified piles from property taxation in specified circumstances;

AND WHEREAS this berth corridor taxation exemption interferes with the ability of:

- local governments with ports to access adequate financial resources to support community needs, contrary to Section 1(2)(s) of the *Community Charter*; and
- local governments to determine the appropriate level of local government taxation, contrary to Section 1(2)(d) of the *Community Charter*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government repeal the Port Improvements (Berth Corridor) Tax Exemption Regulation in the fall of 2014.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government repeal the Port Improvements (Berth Corridor) Tax Exemption Regulation.

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B107 Liquid Natural Gas Development

Queen Charlotte

WHEREAS liquid natural gas (LNG) development in northeastern BC and proposed pipelines, terminal facilities, and tanker transportation from the north coast will have large, cumulative environmental, social and economic impacts;

AND WHEREAS this development is happening across BC impacting the land and communities of northern BC both civic and First Nation, without the means of meaningful consultation and involvement;

AND WHEREAS comprehensive planning and cumulative impact assessment have been lacking to date:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC and First Nations convene and co-chair a strategic economic and environmental impact assessment of LNG development in British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province and First Nations invite the federal government to participate in this joint planning process.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-B36, which expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities; and requested that the Oil and Gas Commission consult with local government “so that the level of increasing economic activity can be ascertained and considered with regard to future community and regional developments.”

In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) would, upon request from a local government, provide information or reports, and attend municipal or regional district meetings. The Province also anticipated that planned structural changes and increased staffing in the Compliance and Enforcement Branch would result in better service to communities. The Province acknowledged that “communities’ information needs are different.”

As well, the provincial government clarified the roles of the OGC and the then Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (Ministry). According to the Province, the OGC is mandated to “regulate for the benefit of all, considering environmental, social and economic matters,” while the Ministry’s role is to “facilitate responsible development of the resource.”

The Committee would also note that the Province has recently established a Roundtable on Environment and Economy “to discuss ways to find the right balance between economic development and environmental protection”. UBCM is represented on this Roundtable along with representatives from industry, labour, First Nations and the environmental sector.

See also resolution B30.

Conference decision:

B108 BC Hydro & Independent Power Producers

New Westminster

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the provincial government to create legislation that will address the huge utility rates paid to independent power producers to allow the Province the ability to purchase electricity from the open North American market, in the same manner as previously, if those rates are competitive;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government take action through legislation that would permit BC Hydro to produce power from existing public facilities as opposed to forcing it to buy expensive power from independent power producers at rates higher than BC Hydro’s;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all independent power producers contracts that have yet to be built be frozen;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BC Utilities Commission investigate and produce a position on the impacts of independent power producers on businesses, residents and non-profits of British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to:

- *enact legislation to permit the Province to purchase electricity from the open North American market, if those rates are competitive;*
- *enact legislation to permit BC Hydro to produce power from existing public facilities rather than forcing it to buy power from independent power producers;*
- *freeze the contracts of any independent power projects that have yet to be built; and*
- *call on the BC Utilities Commission to investigate the impacts of independent power producers on businesses, residents and non-profit organizations in BC.*

The Committee would point out, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to keep electricity rates as low as possible, recognizing the major infrastructure (i.e. dams) that has been built to support power generation and keep rates low (1996-B7, 2004-B87). UBCM members have also endorsed resolutions seeking greater oversight and monitoring of IPPs (2003-B95, 2003-B96, 2009-B137).

The Committee has offered no recommendation since the membership has not endorsed previous resolutions that have sought such specific and diverse actions.

Conference decision:

ASSESSMENT

B109 Property Reclassification of Medical Marijuana Production Facilities

Delta

WHEREAS land used for the commercial production of medical marijuana may qualify for farm classification under the *Assessment Act*;

AND WHEREAS the commercial production of medical marijuana may occur in commercial and industrial zones;

AND WHEREAS the assessment value of farmland can be significantly lower than assessment values for other property classifications;

AND WHEREAS this could have a significant effect on property tax revenue for local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend the *Assessment Act* and its respective regulations to preclude the commercial production of medical marijuana from qualifying for farm classification.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee understands that the Province has addressed the request made in this resolution, through amendments to the Assessment Act -Standards for the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation.

According to the amended regulation, marijuana produced at federally-licensed medical marijuana production facilities has been excluded from qualification as a farm product for assessment and taxation purposes. This means that the production facilities would not be eligible for the benefits of farm classification, and local governments will be less likely to lose potential property tax revenues from licensed medical marijuana operations. The Committee understands that the regulatory amendment will take effect in the 2015 property taxation year.

See also resolutions B113, C9 and C10.

Conference decision:

B110 Classification Split on Accommodation Hotels

Ucluelet

WHEREAS BC Assessment in 2007 introduced a new classification methodology that permitted “strata accommodation properties” to be split-classified between Class 6 and Class 1 – residential to reflect a dual use of these properties (personal residential and commercial use);

AND WHEREAS the re-assessment of certain properties, which continue to be zoned for commercial uses only, has significantly reduced the tax base of smaller tourist based communities throughout BC which planned in accordance to the proposed uses and commercial land base within their OCPs, tax and budget forecast:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of BC review its methodology for split classification in cases where the zoning precludes residential uses as a permitted use.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee acknowledges that the question of how the assessment of mixed-use properties impacts local governments’ tax base and the taxpayers themselves is not new. Most recently, the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2006-B92, which called on the provincial government and BC Assessment Authority to consider establishing separate assessment classifications for primary/year-round residential use and vacation/recreation residential use.

The Resolutions Committee understands that the BC Assessment Authority in 2007 adopted a sliding scale with respect to Strata Accommodation Properties (SAP). These SAPs fit between a Class 1 and a Class 6. At one end of the spectrum are traditional hotels and motels; their assessments are placed entirely in Class 6. At the other end are bed and breakfast properties; their assessments are usually placed in Class 1. Falling between these two extremes are strata hotels, or what they have been known as for a number of years, Strata Accommodation Properties (SAPs).

SAPs in which each unit is owned by an individual receive split classification. The split is based on how each unit is used throughout the year, as follows:

- days on which the unit is not occupied receive Class 1
- days on which the unit is owner-occupied receive Class 1
- the first 36 days on which the unit is occupied by non-owners (hotel guests) receive Class 1
- any days exceeding 36 days on which the unit is occupied by non-owners (hotel guests) receive Class 6

Each year BC Assessment requests occupancy statistics from each strata resort manager. The classification split is based on this reporting. If a strata resort manager does not provide occupancy statistics for a given year, then the complex is placed entirely in Class 6 for that year.

The Committee also understands that in cases where an owner or developer wholly owns more than 14 units in a complex, these units do not receive split classification, no matter what their occupation statistics suggest. They are placed entirely in Class 6.

As pointed out by the sponsor, a small community could be significantly impacted by the sliding scale of assessment -for example, if a developer reduced the number of units owned in a single complex below 14, as all of these units would be now be eligible for split classification. This could result in a significant loss in revenue in one year as the strata units could shift from assessment Class 6 to Class 1.

Conference decision:

B111 BC Assessment Authority

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS limited and infrequent property sales may not accurately reflect market values in many rural areas of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the BC Assessment Authority is legislated to use mandated formulas based on market data when assessing residential properties, and this has historically contributed to significant shifts in the assessed values of properties in some rural communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide the BC Assessment Authority with more flexibility when assessing properties in rural British Columbia.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to grant the BC Assessment Authority more flexibility when assessing rural properties.

The Committee would point out that the BC Assessment Authority was established to ensure that there was a consistent process for setting property valuation and classification across British Columbia. The process used is important to local governments across the province and for this reason the Committee would encourage caution when considering the idea of increased flexibility.

Conference decision:

B112 Farm Assessment

Chilliwack

WHEREAS the *Assessment Act* allows land with commercial or industrial zoning to be classified as farm for assessment and taxation purposes;

AND WHEREAS inequities between property owners may result because farm land is assessed at a significantly lower rate than commercial or industrial land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government amend the *Assessment Act* or associated regulation, as appropriate, so that land cannot be reclassified as farm if the lands are zoned for commercial, industrial or business purpose unless the farm use pre-dates the zoning, is the principal use, and the lands are continuously used for farm purposes.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed two previous resolutions requesting that the provincial government amend the Assessment Act and regulations to “to ensure that Farm Class would not be permitted on properties where the municipal zoning does not permit agricultural uses” (2003-B20, 1995-B36).

In response to resolution 2003-B20 the provincial government acknowledged local government concerns regarding undeveloped areas within local government boundaries, and the potential for some land owners to take “advantage of the rules to get farm class (and therefore lower taxation).”

Conference decision:

LAND USE

B113 Marijuana Production on Agricultural Lands

Nanaimo City

WHEREAS the Province, through BC Assessment, regards medical marijuana production as a ‘farm use’ for assessment purposes;

AND WHEREAS the Province, through the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, includes medical marijuana production as a ‘farm use’:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province amend legislation and regulations in order to remove the production of medical marijuana as a ‘farm use’ in terms of taxation assessment;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province amend legislation and regulations in order to allow communities to regulate the production of medical marijuana within the Agricultural Land Reserve through land use planning provisions provided in the *Local Government Act*.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee understands that the Province has addressed the request made in this resolution, through amendments to the Assessment Act – Standards for the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation.

According to the amended regulation, marijuana produced at federally-licensed medical marijuana production facilities has been excluded from qualification as a farm product for assessment and taxation purposes. This means that the production facilities would not be eligible for the benefits of farm classification, and local governments will be less likely to lose potential property tax revenues from licensed medical marijuana operations. The Committee understands that the regulatory amendment will take effect in the 2015 property taxation year.

See also resolution B109.

Conference decision:

B114 Owner-occupancy Requirement for Secondary Suites

View Royal

WHEREAS communities want to see well-maintained residential neighbourhoods where neighbours are mutually respectful;

AND WHEREAS there is generally a higher duty of care shown to neighbours in communities with owner-occupied properties and by tenants when owners are present:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be required to amend Part 26 of the *Local Government Act* granting the authority to require secondary suites be permitted in owner-occupied homes only.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act in order to grant local government the authority to restrict secondary suites to owner-occupied homes.

Conference decision:

B115 Secondary Dwellings

Spallumcheen

WHEREAS the smaller working farms in British Columbia have been struggling financially because of numerous changes in provincial legislation, a large increase in land values, an aging generation of farmers, as well as other hardships;

AND WHEREAS allowing a permanent second residence and existing second residences to be used by family members, retiring farmers who want to remain on the farm, or renters for an additional source of income and to help smaller farms remain in operation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission to allow a permanent second residence to a maximum size of 2,000 square feet within a “home plate” footprint and away from viable farmland to help supplement farm income and/or to provide accommodations for aging family members.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2013-B110, which requested that the provincial government amend the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) regulations to permit a second dwelling on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands, in order to generate income for farmers.

In its comments on the 2013 resolution the Resolutions Committee observed that the resolution seemed contrary to the ALC mission to “preserve agricultural land and encourage and enable farm businesses throughout BC.”

The Committee would point out that under certain circumstances the ALC already allows for a second permanent residence to provide accommodations for aging family members.

The Committee is also aware that the provincial government in introducing Bill 24 – Agricultural Land Commission Amendment Act, 2014, indicated that it was looking for “more flexibility to consider non-agricultural home-based businesses that might help farmers subsidize their farming operations” and help farmers grow their farm businesses.

Conference decision:

B116 Mines Act Alignment with Official Community Plans

Sicamous

WHEREAS the provincial *Mines Act* governs the issuance of permits relative to the mining and extraction of natural resources across the province without first having a permit applicant confirm local government support for such activity;

AND WHEREAS local governments may have established official community plans designating specific areas for such mining and extraction of natural resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM prevail upon the provincial government to amend the *Mines Act* to first require a mines permit applicant to confirm such mining activity is within an area designated by a local official community plan permitting such mining activity.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that most recently the UBCM membership endorsed a somewhat contrary resolution, 2009-B138, which called for provincial and federal reviews of the regulatory process for the approval of mine development in BC, aiming to streamline and expedite the approval process.

In response to the 2009 resolution the provincial government referenced initiatives already underway to streamline and expedite approvals. The Province indicated that it was advocating for amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act to give the federal government the power to enter into environmental assessment “equivalency agreements” with provinces, thereby avoiding duplicate assessment processes.

Further, the Province highlighted cooperation and coordination across all natural resource ministries to authorize resource projects. This included using regional mine development review committees to coordinate all agency permits; and a move to a more efficient consultation process with First Nations to reduce duplicate administrative processes. The goal, according to the provincial government, was “a clear, single window process for applicants and a transparent process for communities.”

However, the Committee would also observe that members endorsed two previous resolutions that, like the resolution being proposed by the sponsor, sought earlier and more extensive consultation with local governments, and the ability for local government to regulate resource extraction operations and locations through bylaws and planning processes (2006-B38, 2000-B25).

Conference decision:

B117 Ownership of Abandoned Rail Corridors

Sicamous

WHEREAS transportation corridors are vital to the transportation of goods and people throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS some corridors are being abandoned, especially some rail corridors;

AND WHEREAS these abandoned rail corridors can become vital and valuable corridors for recreational uses such as hiking, cycling, skiing and snowshoeing;

AND WHEREAS these corridors should be open to all residents of BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM become the owner of these abandoned rail corridors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province to institute a province-wide parcel tax similar to the Municipal Finance Authority tax to help in the purchase and maintenance of abandoned rail corridors.

Not Presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

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

As well members have endorsed resolutions that have sought development of joint use agreements between rail companies and provincial and federal governments for recreational corridors parallel to rail lines. Rail companies have not supported this request due to safety concerns around active rail corridors.

This resolution is seeking UBCM to become the owner of abandoned rail corridors; and asks the Province to institute a parcel tax to assist with the purchase of these corridors. The scope of this request goes beyond existing policy and seeks UBCM to take on a new role that would be contrary to existing policy which has asked the Province to protect and acquire abandoned rail corridors for public use.

Conference decision:

FINANCE

B118 Funding Assistance for Project Proposal Evaluation

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS North Coastal British Columbia is experiencing a large volume of industrial development project proposals;

AND WHEREAS small communities do not have the financial capacity to sufficiently evaluate the positive and negative impacts to the area of such project proposals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide funding assistance to communities to help evaluate large scale industrial project proposals.

Not Presented to the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically asking the provincial government to provide funding to assist local governments to evaluate proposals for large scale industrial projects.

However, the Committee is aware that members endorsed a related resolution, 1995-B91, requesting that the provincial government “examine and redesign the process and support systems involved with ... referring major issues to local government in order to permit more substantive input by local government prior to decisions being made.”

The Committee would also point to more recent resolutions endorsed by the UBCM membership, seeking provincial consultation with local government, and in some cases the development of memoranda of understanding, prior to the Province making land use, development or environmental decisions (2009-B33, 2002-SR2, 2001-A9).

Conference decision:

B119 Municipalities With No Residents

Invermere

WHEREAS the Jumbo Glacier Mountain Resort Municipality (JGMRM) has no residents, no taxable assessment, and an appointed council;

AND WHEREAS the draft JGMRM five year financial plan shows \$1 million of Provincial grant funding sustaining their operations for the next five years;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments (AKBLG) is working on a shoe string budget to assist elected local government within the Kootenay and Boundary regions of British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM inform the Province of British Columbia that it is strongly opposed to the funding of any municipalities without residents.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution that opposed the provincial government providing funding for a municipality with no residents.

The Committee would note, however, that members endorsed related resolution 2012-B55, which requested that the provincial government “consider a governance structure for mountain resort municipalities that includes elected representatives responsible for land-use decisions for a permanent population of at least 200 people.” The 2012 resolution also clarified that UBCM “does not support the concept of an unelected body making land use decisions for an area with no population.”

In response to the 2012 resolution the provincial government pointed out that “incorporation of an area prior to the arrival of residents” was not new, and listed several resource based communities in BC that were incorporated prior to establishment of stable resident populations (e.g. Tumbler Ridge, Elkford and Logan Lake). The Province further suggested that incorporation prior to the arrival of residents could “support the early development of mountain resorts by providing ... foundations necessary for well planned resort communities with high quality services and public amenities.”

Conference decision:

B120 Lease Agreements with Provincial Government

Clinton

WHEREAS there are circumstances where local government requires a lease agreement with the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has a standard agreement which is very one sided for the Province and local governments are left with a “take it or leave it” situation it makes it very difficult to protect the interests of the local government (for example, the lease agreement might not allow for an escape clause for the local government):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to produce lease agreements which would be fair for both the provincial government and local government.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution where the provincial government required the local government to amend its standard lease agreement before the Province would consider entering into the lease agreement, thus not addressing both parties interests in a fair and equitable manner.

Members have endorsed resolutions that raised the issue of lease agreements between the provincial government and local governments (2003-B17, 1996-A13, 1986-A8); however, the Committee hesitates to draw parallels with previous resolutions because the issues seemed to be specific to each situation.

Conference decision:

Section B—Part 3-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After consideration of Section B2-b resolutions, a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section B—Part 3-a be adopted?

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Section B—Part 3-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

I move that resolution B(x) be removed from the block and be considered separately for debate.

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

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.

SECTION B3-a

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B121 CSA Certified Standard for Recreational & Sport Helmets

Powell River City

WHEREAS brain injury occurs at a rate of 50 per 100,000 persons in Canada, or 60,000 persons, at a cost of over \$150 million dollars per year;

AND WHEREAS the severity of acquired brain injury could be lessened significantly with the use of CSA certified standards in helmets for all sports, as is mandated for ice hockey players:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada mandate the use of CSA standards for all recreational and sport helmets sold in Canada through product legislation, as with ice hockey helmets.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government mandate CSA standards for all recreational and sport helmets.

However, UBCM members have endorsed similar resolutions on mandatory use of bicycle helmets (2003-A13; 1992-B102; 1990-A28). The former resolution requested that the provincial Attorney General be asked to enact legislation to make the wearing of bicycle helmets mandatory throughout British Columbia or, alternatively, to amend Sections 120 and 185 of the Motor Vehicle Act to grant municipalities specific authority to enact such a regulation on a local basis. (The Committee notes that resolution 1994-B59, requesting that the Attorney General legislate mandatory use of approved helmets for all cyclists, was not endorsed by UBCM members.)

A sponsor of a similar resolution notes that a patchwork of differing requirements for helmet use makes it even more difficult to encourage or enforce the use of this type of protective gear. The provincial requirement for cyclists to wear helmets has resulted in uniform understandings and cooperative encouragement of helmet use throughout the province.

Conference decision:

LAND USE

B122 National Park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen

Osoyoos

WHEREAS a proposed national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen would protect more species at risk, more endangered habitat types, and encompass a greater diversity of ecosystems than any national park in Canada;

AND WHEREAS a national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen would play an important role in British Columbia's economy as a substantial and recurring source of economic stimulus particularly through tourism, a source of increased community economic development and new investment, and would provide over 500 new, permanent jobs;

AND WHEREAS many governing bodies, such as five regional districts, the BC Chamber of Commerce, the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, and local First Nations, have passed formal resolutions asking the Province of British Columbia to return to national park discussions with the Government of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has waited for the provincial government to follow the recommendation of the steering committee and take the next step toward bringing the economic benefits of the proposed national park to British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government sign an agreement with the Government of Canada to continue to formal discussions regarding a proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park.

Not Presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to continue discussions with the federal government on the proposed South Okanagan-Similkameen national park.

While the Committee recognizes that this resolution may appear regional in nature it can be noted that the economic benefits of national park status could be felt on a province-wide basis through tourism and associated community economic development. And while members have not supported the establishment of a national park previously, they have supported the establishment of a conservation strategy within the national marine conservation area reserve (NMCAR) in the Vancouver Island Shelf marine region (2011-B153).

Members also endorsed resolution 2010-B79, which called for the establishment of a large, ecologically zoned NMCAR in the southern Strait of Georgia, from the southern end of Haro Strait up to and including Gabriola Passage. The membership also endorsed resolution 2004-B113, which sought to have a specific coastal area designated as a protected area as part of a joint federal/provincial approach to marine conservation under the Canada-British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Oceans Strategy for the Pacific Region.

Conference decision:

SELECTED ISSUES

B123 Provincial Social Policy Framework

**Duncan
Nelson
Burnaby
North Vancouver District
Vancouver**

WHEREAS every British Columbian depends on social services, healthcare, justice and education services;

AND WHEREAS our communities are partners in the delivery of many of these services and are facing increasingly complex social challenges requiring coordination between multiple social ministries of government, municipalities and the community agencies and organizations that deliver services to the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Premier to begin a consultation with British Columbians to initiate the development of a social policy framework that will set out key policy directions, values, priorities, roles and expectations, and guide the creation of public policy to meet our social needs now and into the future.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government initiate consultation with British Columbians toward the development of a social policy framework for BC.

The Committee understands that at present, the Local Government Act permits an individual local government to address social policy in its official community plan. Specifically:

878. (1) An official community plan may include the following:

(a) policies of the local government relating to social needs, social well-being and social development.

The resolution being proposed would support broad discussion province-wide about social aspects of public policy.

It is unclear to the Committee whether the outcomes of such discussion might impact a local government's own ability to set social policy.

In terms of broad public policy, the Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions raising a range of social, health, justice and education issues that might be encompassed by a social policy framework (2013-B52, 2012-B41, 2012-B110, 2011-A4, 2011-B74, 2011-B108, 2010-B12, 2010-B44, 2010-B48, 2010-B115, 2010-B154, 2008-B46, 2007-LR8, 2006-B52, 2006-B162, 2005-B143, 2005-B156, 2005-B159, 2004-B35, 2004-B36, 2004-B102, 2003-SR3, 2003-B36, 2003-B40, 2003-B101, 2003-B136, 2001-B73, 2000-B109, 1999-A14, 1999-B95, 1999-B96, 1995-A12, 1995-LR1, 1994-B99, 1992-B56, 1990-A20, 1988-A11, 1987-A21).

See also resolution C18.

Conference decision:

SECTION B3-b

ENVIRONMENT

B124 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster

Alert Bay

WHEREAS the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster of March 11, 2011 resulted in the catastrophic failure of three nuclear reactors and associated fuel rod storage pools causing the release of significant amounts of radionuclide contamination into the atmospheric and marine environments; and the owners of the Daiichi facility (TEPCO) and the Japanese government have not been able to contain the marine and atmospheric radionuclide contamination originating from the failed Fukushima Daiichi facility;

AND WHEREAS the 80% of British Columbians who live within 10 miles of the Pacific Ocean, as well as the wide variety of marine and coastal economic stakeholders who rely on ocean and coastal environments deserve to have access to detailed information regarding possible radionuclide contamination associated with the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support those British Columbians who are affected by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster by calling on the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to immediately enact the following:

- convene a panel of institutional and citizen scientists to determine what type and frequency of marine and atmospheric monitoring is required to maintain clear understanding of the environmental impacts of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster on coastal British Columbia;
- determine the locations where a comprehensive network of marine and terrestrial sensors or other monitoring methodologies will be maintained;
- commission a website that would both list the raw findings of sensor and environment testing and interpret these data in a clear and transparent manner; and
- open negotiations directly with the government of Japan regarding both the accelerated containment of radionuclide contamination, and full financial support of the cost of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster Monitoring Program on the west coast of BC and Canada.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to undertake specific environmental monitoring and information sharing regarding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor.

On a related note, the Committee is aware that UBCM, along with selected local governments, is working with the provincial and federal governments as a member of the Joint Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee, which was established to respond to the arrival of debris from the Japanese tsunami on the BC coast.

Conference decision:

TRANSPORTATION

B125 Whistle Cessation

Vanderhoof

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS locomotive whistles severely infringe upon citizens' quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort and convenience:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Transport Canada require rail corporations provide a safe environment in which whistle sounding will be discontinued.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2009-B157, which called on rail corporations to provide controlled railway crossings within municipal boundaries, rather than sounding locomotive whistles.

The Committee notes that there are strict rules under the Rail Safety Act that dictate when and where whistles are sounded. These rules apply at all crossings and are required for safety reasons. Through the work of FCM and the Rail Proximity Initiative there is information about how communities may apply for whistle cessation at crossings that meet federal safety regulations as outlined in the amended Rail Safety Act. Interested communities should contact their local rail company, Railway Association of Canada or Transport Canada about the process.

Further information is outlined in:

www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/brochures/en_community_brochure.pdf

Additional information can be found on the Transport Canada website:

www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/publications-874.htm

Conference decision:

B126 DOT-111 & DOT-111A Rail Tanker Cars

New Westminster

WHEREAS the Transportation Safety Board has identified safety concerns with the Dot-111 and Dot-111A rail tanker cars;

AND WHEREAS these cars have been identified as being in need of replacement or at the very least, significant safety upgrades:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to introduce legislation to accelerate the phase-out of these identified sub-standard liquid commodity cars;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government immediately restrict these cars from carrying commodities identified as dangerous goods.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to legislate an accelerated phase-out of Dot-111 and Dot-111A rail tanker cars, nor have members requested that the federal government forbid the use of Dot-111 and Dot-111A rail tanker cars for transporting dangerous goods.

The Committee is aware that on April 23, 2014, the federal Minister of Transport announced that in response to recommendations from the Transportation Safety Board, effective immediately Transport Canada would undertake the following:

- *5,000 of the least crash-resistant DOT-111 tank cars are being removed from dangerous goods service immediately;*
- *all remaining DOT-111 tank cars used to transport crude oil and ethanol that do not meet the most recent tank car standard must be phased out or refitted within 3 years;*
- *issue a Protective Direction requiring Emergency Response Assistance Plans for crude oil, gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and ethanol;*
- *create a task force that brings stakeholders such as municipalities, first responders, railways and shippers together to strengthen emergency response capacity across the country; and*
- *require railway companies to reduce the speed of trains carrying dangerous goods and implement other key operating practices.*

See also resolution B55.

Conference decision:

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B127 Westray Criminal Code Amendments

Port Alberni

WHEREAS the Westray amendments to the Criminal Code were brought forward to address incidents of workplace death or injury that were determined to be caused by negligence or a failure to take reasonable steps to ensure safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government, specifically the Attorney General and the Minister of Labour, to ensure that:

- Crown attorneys are educated, trained and directed to apply the Westray amendments;
- dedicated prosecutors are given the responsibility for health and safety fatalities;
- police are educated, trained and directed to apply the Westray amendments; and
- there is greater coordination among regulators, police and Crown attorneys so that health and safety regulators are trained to reach out to police when there is a possibility that Westray amendment charges are warranted.

Not Presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution related to the Westray amendments to the Criminal Code.

The Committee understands that the term “Westray amendments” refers to amendments made to the Criminal Code of Canada on March 31, 2004 (Bill C-45) in response to the 1992 Westray coal mining disaster in Nova Scotia that killed 26 miners. An inquiry found that the accident occurred largely because of mismanagement, poor safety practices and lack of oversight. The Criminal Code amendments established new legal duties for workplace health and safety, and imposed serious penalties for violations that result in injuries or death. In addition, the amendments introduced new rules for attributing criminal liability to organizations, including their representatives and those who direct the work of others. The changes permit laying criminal charges against managers and owners of a company if they are found to be responsible for a fatal workplace accident.

Conference decision:

B128 Priority Phone Service Restoration

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS access to telephone service is critical during medical emergencies;

AND WHEREAS priority must be given to rural residents living outside of cell phone coverage areas when service to telephone land lines is disrupted, as this is their only means of contacting emergency services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial and federal governments to require that telephone service providers restore service to those customers without access to cell phone coverage on an emergency basis, in the event of a telephone service disruption.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to require, in the event of land line telephone service disruption, telephone service providers to prioritize the restoration of land line service for customers without access to cell phone coverage.

The Committee would point out that the establishment of a priority system for the restoration of phone service based on access to cell phone coverage could create some practical problems. In many cases, larger populated areas that have cell phone coverage are also the base for a majority of emergency services. It could take many weeks or months to restore land line service in some rural areas. If these rural areas were prioritized, and areas with cell phone coverage had to wait for land line service restoration until land line phone service was operational in the rural areas, this could mean a major delay in the recovery of telephone services for key emergency services.

The Committee would note that members endorsed a related resolution, 2013-B65, which requested the provincial government to ensure that cell phone infrastructure is in place in order to provide timely emergency response if land line telephone transmission is disrupted.

Conference decision:

B129 Disaster Relief Fund

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS sections 20(1) and (2) of the *Emergency Program Act* specifically state that:

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, establish criteria by which the eligibility of a person to receive disaster financial assistance is to be determined.

The Lieutenant Governor in Council or the minister may provide disaster financial assistance in accordance with the regulations to persons who suffer loss as a result of a disaster:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Lieutenant Governor in Council to create a disaster relief fund open to all property owners, when such disaster is as a result of natural and/or non human causes;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Lieutenant Governor in Council to create a disaster relief fund, such that it will collect a fee of 1 cent per \$1,000 per annum from each property owner.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that requested that the Province establish a disaster relief fund and that this fund be paid for by adding a fee to local property taxes. Local government in the past has not supported the addition of additional fees or charges by the Province on local property taxes.

The Committee would point out that the UBCM membership in the past has consistently endorsed resolutions highlighting the need for an integrated approach to disaster management and for ongoing funding from the federal and provincial governments for floodplain management (2011-B11; 2007-A1; 2006-B18; 2002-B16; 2001-B26; 2000-B24; 2000-LR24; 1997-A7).

Conference decision:

HEALTH

B130 Utilization of the Community Paramedicine Model for Ambulatory Service

Hudson's Hope

WHEREAS Community Paramedicine is the practice that represents the intersection of health care, public health, and public safety to promote optimal quality of life;

AND WHEREAS this Community Paramedicine model has the potential to prevent and reduce high cost medical treatment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the BC government and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to research the Community Paramedicine Model of health care for use in all of rural and remote BC communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request of the BC government and BCEHS that paramedics of the BC Ambulance Service be employed full time to deliver the paramedicine model of health to rural and remote BC communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to research and implement the Community Paramedicine Model of healthcare in rural and remote BC communities.

However, the Committee would note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improvements and greater resourcing for health care in rural and remote communities (most recently 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156 and 2005-B146).

Conference decision:

B131 Smoking & E-cigarettes

Harrison Hot Springs

WHEREAS the introduction of new smoking products that include electronic cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos and pipes, as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are regulated by Heath Canada under the *Food and Drugs Act*, and that the sale of these products are not authorized in Canada;

AND WHEREAS, due to the lack of scientific research, the long term effects of electronic cigarettes and all related products that include nicotine solutions are not known:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government regulate the use and sale of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizing systems intended to replicate the smoking experience under the British Columbia *Tobacco Control Act* and Regulations.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to regulate the use and sale of electronic cigarettes and other nicotine vaporizing systems under the British Columbia Tobacco Control Act and Regulations.

Conference decision:

B132 Shortage of Physicians & Specialists in BC

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS there is a shortage of physicians and medical specialists in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC is recruiting physicians and medical specialists from other countries to practice in British Columbia to address this shortage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia and the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons to allow Canadian students who have obtained a medical degree outside of Canada to do their clinical residency and practice in British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2012-B91 and 2009-B148, both of which called on the provincial government to provide greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates (IMGs) to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC.

In response to the 2012 resolution, the Province indicated that it planned in 2013 to embark upon a pilot project for competency assessment of internationally trained medical students. Further, the provincial government stated that by 2016, it would create forty additional first-year residency positions for IMGs through the IMG-BC Program.

Currently, all IMGs seeking a residency program in BC need to have a Medical Council of Canada Evaluation Exam (MCCEE) pass as well as a National Assessment Collaboration (NAC) exam pass. If successful with these two exams, the IMG makes an application to the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). In 2014 there were 42 IMG specific positions posted to the CaRMS match.

Conference decision:

SELECTED ISSUES

B133 Strengthening Telecommunications Infrastructure

Valemount

WHEREAS many communities and First Nations are underserved by the existing telecommunications infrastructure in BC;

AND WHEREAS from time to time utilities or corporations make application to the provincial government for permission to establish new rights-of-way or new construction on existing rights-of-way on Crown land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government require utilities or corporations to lay fibre optic cable in the construction of any new rights-of-way on Crown land or new construction on existing rights-of-way on Crown land, in order to broaden and strengthen telecommunications infrastructure around the province.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to require the laying of fibre optic cable whenever utilities or corporations undertake new construction or new rights-of-way on Crown land.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of telephone and internet coverage to all communities (2013-B65, 2012-B45, 2011-B72, 2011-B110, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2006-B54, 2005-B5, 2004-B9, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).

The Resolutions Committee would recommend exercising caution regarding the request made in this resolution, especially without an understanding of the cost implications of laying fibre optic cable, as well as the potential for rate increases from the utilities that might be required to lay the cable.

Conference decision:

B134 Protecting Children Through Effective Family Dispute Resolution – Parenting Plan

Metchosin

WHEREAS under the current Family Law model no one is charged with advocating for the rights and interests of children, and that research shows that children suffer emotional, psychological and spiritual harm from parental conflict;

AND WHEREAS there is no requirement for a parental plan that describes the division of parental responsibilities before parents access the court system;

AND WHEREAS the court system is expensive, adversarial, escalates conflict and hostility between the parents and can take many months to obtain a court date:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province develop policies and regulations that require that parents of underage children must develop, through mutual agreement or mediation, a prescribed parenting plan that includes division of parental responsibilities, before the parents may apply to court for a parenting order;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province create an agency similar to the Civil Dispute Tribunal that would be structured to encourage parents to use a broad range of non-litigation based dispute resolution tools, including mediation delivered online, via video-conferencing or in person to help parents resolve disputes as early as possible.

Not Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to require parents to develop a parenting plan before they can apply to court for a parenting order. The Committee further advises that members have not considered a resolution asking the provincial government to create an agency to support parents' use of non-litigation based dispute resolution tools.

Conference decision:

Section C

Part 1 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to policy papers and/or special sessions at Convention:

C1

Part 2 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the Resolutions Book:

C2 – C18

Part 3 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to the Area Associations due to being of a regional nature:

C19

SECTION C1

C1 Coastal Ferries: Restoration of Service Levels, Fiscal Fairness & Long-term Strategy

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) has requested that the Province abandon any plans to increase fares and/or reduce core ferry service levels, as such actions would have irreparable negative impacts on the economic well-being of coastal communities and the provincial tourism sector;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM has called on the Province to implement legislation that recognizes ferry services as essential extensions of our public highway system and ensures fiscal fairness between BC's terrestrial and marine highway systems;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM has requested that the Province develop a long-term ferry services strategy, based on detailed socio-economic inquiry, that supports the sustainability of coastal communities and the provincial tourism sector;

AND WHEREAS over the past year the Province has (a) failed to implement a long-term ferry services strategy, (b) allowed further rapid escalation of ferry fares, and (c) implemented deep cuts to ferry services without conducting a socio-economic impact analysis:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province to:

- Reverse the cuts to coastal ferry services implemented on April 28, 2014 and restore 2013 service levels;
- Work co-operatively with coastal communities on implementing a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system, based on detailed socio-economic inquiry, that supports the sustainability of coastal communities and the provincial tourism sector;
- Implement legislation that recognizes the coastal ferry system as an extension of our highway system and ensures fiscal fairness between the marine and terrestrial components of our highway system; and
- Freeze ferry fares and service levels at 2013 levels until such time as the above legislation and strategy are implemented.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to Policy Paper***

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions related to recognizing coastal ferry service as an essential extension of the highway system and requesting that the Province not increase ferry fares and/or reduce core service levels (2013-B12; 2012-B6; 2011-A3; 2010-B20; 2007-B18; 2004-B59).

The Committee is aware that In response to the Province's November 2013 announcement of service reductions and fare increases, UBCM and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) jointly established a Special Committee on BC Ferries to undertake its own socio-economic analysis of the impacts of the changes, in the absence of the Province doing so. Preliminary research was conducted in April 2014 and additional work was undertaken in May and June, 2014 by a consultant at the request of the Special Committee.

The Resolutions Committee understands that the Special Committee on BC Ferries approved a final report in July 2014 and submitted it to the Executives of UBCM and AVICC. The Executive boards of both organizations felt that the findings of the report should be shared with the broader UBCM membership. Consequently, a policy paper has been prepared to accompany the consultant's report, to be considered by UBCM members at the 2014 UBCM Convention.

SECTION C2

C2 First Responder Protocols

Kootenay Boundary RD Cranbrook

WHEREAS for years, many of our local fire departments have assisted the BC Ambulance Service in the performance of their duties in our local communities providing valuable and wanted services for our constituents;

AND WHEREAS the BC Ambulance Service unilaterally, and without consultation with local government, has undertaken a drastic review of the first responder protocols which may have a distinct negative impact on our local communities, particularly in our small rural communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to refrain from implementing any changes in the BC Ambulance Service response guidelines of first responder protocols until such time as meaningful and effective consultation with local government has occurred to ensure that the needs of the local community are being met.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B50.

C3 Rail Transport of Hazardous Materials

Logan Lake

WHEREAS Teamsters Canada has brought to the attention of local government the catastrophic Lac-Mégantic train accident and Transport Canada's neglect to ensure the safety of rail transport of hazardous materials;

AND WHEREAS rail transport self-regulation must come to an end and public safety must come before profit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC, to request that Transport Canada regulate the safe transport of hazardous materials by all transportation modes throughout Canada.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B55.

C4 Coal Exports

Burnaby

WHEREAS Port Metro Vancouver is in the process of making a decision to significantly increase coal exports by expanding the Fraser Surrey Docks and Neptune Terminals facilities;

AND WHEREAS the Environmental Impact Assessment report produced by SNC-Lavalin is deemed unsatisfactory by the Chief Medical Health Officers of the Fraser Health Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly oppose any expansion of coal shipment facilities at the Fraser Surrey Docks and Neptune Terminals until:

- a more comprehensive and transparent assessment of coal dust impact on human health is completed by independent experts; and
- Port Metro Vancouver holds formal public hearings on the proposed expansion of coal exports from the Surrey Fraser Docks and Neptune Terminals facilities.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B92.

C5 Party Bus Industry

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS there is significant concern around the safety of the party bus industry and contravention of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, and *Passenger Transportation Act* by individual operators it is incumbent on the industry and government to ensure that adherence to applicable regulations particularly as they pertain to the consumption of alcohol by minors be met and that new standards be created to regulate this industry;

AND WHEREAS the consumption of alcohol by minors has significant impact on their health and wellbeing and can result in adverse outcomes in the short and long term; overall community safety can also be significantly impacted by the activities of passengers and operators of party buses when adherence to these regulations is not met:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government enact regulations specifically governing the party bus industry to ensure that operators adhere to the *Motor Vehicle Act*, *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, and *Passenger Transportation Act*.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B57.

C6 First Responder Financial Assistance

Squamish

WHEREAS many local governments in British Columbia have supported their community members by volunteering to deploy a first responder program endorsed by the British Columbia Ambulance Service and the British Columbia Ambulance Service has announced recent changes to their response structure that will delay their provision of pre hospital medical support service;

AND WHEREAS the delayed response leaves an expectation that first responders will attend patients until the British Columbia Ambulance Service arrives, which downloads an additional cost for pre hospital medical care to the local community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the Province of British Columbia to develop a funding mechanism that will compensate local governments providing pre hospital medical assistance through the first responder program for the additional costs of delayed response by British Columbia Ambulance Services.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A2.

C7 ICBC Billing Practices

Vernon

WHEREAS local governments and their ratepayers should not be forced to essentially subsidize the operating costs of ICBC, a Crown corporation;

AND WHEREAS local governments should not be placed in the position of taking our ratepayers to court to recover collision repair costs that have historically been borne by ICBC, a Crown corporation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ICBC, a Crown corporation, be required to pay the full costs of repairs and replacement of local government property damaged by and during motor vehicle accidents, as determined by the jurisdiction charged with the stewardship of the public assets.

Not Presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B14.

C8 Liquor Tax

New Westminster

WHEREAS the provincial government is changing Liquor Control and Licensing Branch regulations and policies that will increase the availability of liquor;

AND WHEREAS there is a relationship between the availability of liquor and the demand for police services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial Ministry of Justice to discuss with local governments the appropriate amount and method of payment for a liquor tax to be directed to local governments to cover increased police costs associated with the increase in the availability of liquor provided through the changes in liquor regulations and policies.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B60.

C9 Medical Marijuana

Lake Country

WHEREAS in an effort to minimize the unintended consequences for public health, safety and security that surfaced as a result of the federal Marijuana Medical Access Regulations, municipalities have adopted zoning bylaws restricting the production of medical marijuana to industrial or commercial zones;

AND WHEREAS BC Assessment "Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation" classifies the production of medical marijuana as farm use for assessment purposes thereby allowing companies producing medical marijuana to apply for farm status and lower taxes despite operating on industrial land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend regulation 411/95 “Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation” so that medical marijuana does not qualify as a “medicinal plant culture” as a farm use for assessment purposes.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B109.

C10 Medical Marijuana Production on Agricultural Land Reserve Land

West Kelowna

WHEREAS local governments may regulate land use within their boundaries through the *Local Government Act*, however, a local government may not prohibit an outright “farm use” on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land;

AND WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission is empowered to regulate use on lands within the ALR and has determined the farming of marijuana for medical purposes to be a “farm use” under the definition restricting local government’s ability to regulate the location of medical marijuana production on ALR land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* definition of “farm use” to exclude medical marijuana production as a farm use.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B109.

C11 Increased Resources for the Agricultural Land Commission

Coldstream

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission, operating as an independent administrative tribunal, is mandated to protect and preserve agricultural land to encourage and enable farm businesses throughout British Columbia which fosters local economic stability, food security and provides environmental and other public benefits;

AND WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission provides critical support to local governments by providing technical expertise, independent of political influences, which legitimizes decisions involving the preservation, use and development of agricultural land and by encouraging local governments and their agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies as mandated in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase resources to the Agricultural Land Commission, in accordance with recommendation #2 in “Report 5: September 2010 Audit of the Agricultural Land Commission” to more effectively preserve agricultural land and encourage farming;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government maintain the Agricultural Land Commission as an independent administrative tribunal.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A3.

C12 Agricultural Land Reserve Zone 2

Nelson

WHEREAS the provincial government has, without consultation with the public or with local governments in the AKBLG region, created two zones for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in the province of BC and, through the creation of the “Kootenay Panel Region,” placed some or all of the AKBLG region in Zone 2, thereby discriminating between regions and potentially constraining their ability to achieve and sustain agricultural self-sufficiency and economic development;

AND WHEREAS not all affected regions wish to see the requirements of the ALR weakened in Zone 2;

AND WHEREAS substantial agricultural activity has historically taken place and is currently being practiced outside of Zone 1:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM send a letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, and Premier, with copies to all BC local governments, requesting that the provincial government undertake consultation with the public, local governments, the Union of BC Municipalities, and affected parties, on the proposed two-zone approach to the ALR; and that Bill 24 not be brought into force until such consultation is complete.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A3.

C13 Need for Consultation: Bill 24 Agricultural Land Reserve

LMLGA Executive

WHEREAS the provincial government has, without consultation with stakeholders, the public or with local governments proposed to create two zones for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in the province of BC;

AND WHEREAS not all affected regions wish to see the requirements of the Agricultural Land Reserve weakened in Zone 2;

AND WHEREAS substantial agricultural activity has historically taken place and is currently being practiced outside of Zone 1:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government undertake consultation with stakeholders, the public, local governments, the Union of BC Municipalities, and affected parties, on the proposed two-zone approach to the ALR; and that Bill 24 not be brought into force until such consultation is complete and that the results of the consultation be made public.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A3.

C14 Agricultural Lands

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the Province of BC has a strong agricultural history and is experiencing a resurgence in agritourism and market farming as economic drivers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province to reaffirm its support for preservation of agricultural lands and that any proposed changes will include public consultation.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A3.

C15 Work Camp Development & Monitoring

Terrace

WHEREAS industrial work camps create demand for local services such as health care, waste management and emergency response;

AND WHEREAS issuing of land tenure for work camps, monitoring of camps to meet environmental and health standards and oversight on camp decommissioning may be made by various provincial government agencies, often operating individually and without local government input:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to establish a referral process that allows local governments and other government agencies to comment on the location of industrial work camps and establish an overarching authority to coordinate work camp development and monitor work camp operations.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution A4.

C16 Amendments to the Canada Postal System

Greenwood

WHEREAS many local governments in Canada have indicated their concerns regarding the impact of Canada Post reducing their services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government direct Canada Post to maintain the current system of residential door-to-door postal delivery in Canada.

Not Presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B47.

C17 Mail Delivery

Langley Township

WHEREAS Canada Post has:

- implemented a new system for delivering mail;
- significantly raised the price of mailing letters, parcels and other items; and
- announced that it will be discontinuing door to door delivery of household and other mail:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that Canada Post:

- delay the discontinuation of door to door delivery;
- explain the replacement program of new community mail boxes; and
- meet with local governments and their associations (FCM and local government associations throughout the country) and work with them on the implementation of a new plan that will best serve the residents of this country.

Not Presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B47.

C18 Provincial Social Policy Framework

Fort St. James

WHEREAS the Province is supportive of community social well-being and recognizes municipalities as partners in delivering social services, health care, justice and education services;

AND WHEREAS our communities are limited in their capacity to deliver many of these services and are facing increasing social challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to initiate the development of a social policy framework that will set out key policy directions, roles and expectations required to coordinate the multiple organizations involved in meeting our social needs.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B123.

SECTION C3

C19 Representation on Interior Health Authority Board

North Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the intent of the 1991 Seaton Commission: Closer to Home was to provide greater public scrutiny and control of health care;

AND WHEREAS the current governance by appointment has created a managerial form of accountability to the Ministry of Health and not to the local communities, as intended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health be requested to initiate legislative change to require the composition of the Interior Health Authority (IHA) Board to include representation from each of the nine regional districts within the IHA boundary.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Refer Back to Area Association***

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the resolution is seeking a new model of governance for the Interior Health Authority only, and not for all five regional health authorities. Due to the regional focus of this resolution, the Committee would recommend that the resolution be referred back to the area association.

Notes