

**2004 UBCM RESOLUTIONS
EXCERPTED FROM:**

**MINUTES
of the
ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST
ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the Union of BC Municipalities
held in
KELOWNA, B.C.
on
SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2004**

PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSIONS – RESOLUTIONS

The first Resolutions session began with Mayor Jack Peake, Chair of the UBCM Resolutions Committee, in the Chair.

Mayor Peake was joined by the other members of the Resolutions Committee: Councillor Brenda Binnie, Councillor Patricia Wallace, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Chair Marvin Hunt. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Ian Izard, UBCM Executive Director, Richard Taylor and other UBCM staff.

Rules for dealing with resolutions adopted during the Annual Meeting were reviewed by the Chair.

SECTION 'A' RESOLUTIONS

A1 PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Delta

WHEREAS police departments are experiencing increasing demands for service, as both the amount and complexity of police work has increased as a result of court challenges, technology pressures, major crime investigations and organized crime;

AND WHEREAS municipalities cannot continue to sustain increased policing costs through one source of revenue (property tax):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the federal government review legislative and non-legislative options in order to increase the ability to seize items that are proceeds of crime and to further ensure the funds from the disposition of these goods are distributed in an equitable manner directly to municipalities to aid in covering policing costs.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that “and regional districts” be added after “municipalities” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the federal government review legislative and non-legislative options in order to increase the ability to seize items that are proceeds of crime and to further ensure the funds from the disposition of these goods are distributed in an equitable manner directly to municipalities and regional districts to aid in covering policing costs.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A2 ACCESSING INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

Delta

WHEREAS existing lawful access legislation does not include new technologies such as the Internet, email and cellular phones and these tools are being used to conduct illicit activities;

AND WHEREAS local police services cannot continue to bear the financial responsibility of investigative costs where such illicit activities may expand to multi-jurisdictions or where communications service providers charge a fee for such information as may aid in a criminal investigation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the federal government respond to this situation through both legislative and non-legislative options to ensure police the ability to lawfully intercept new technology communications and search and seize data to effectively carry out investigations and support prosecution of crimes;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a mechanism for financing such investigations be identified.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Delta Police Chief be invited to speak to delegates on the resolution, was endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and CONVEYED to FCM

A3 POLICING BASED ON AVERAGE ANNUAL POPULATION

Radium Hot Springs

WHEREAS many communities throughout British Columbia are subject to large influxes of seasonal visitors who are not recognized in census numbers;

AND WHEREAS policing resources are allocated on that census number, leaving those communities significantly under-serviced:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Policing Services Division of the Solicitor General’s Ministry allocate policing resources on a basis which recognizes seasonal population influxes of visitors.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause end with the word “influxes”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Policing Services Division of the Solicitor General’s Ministry allocate policing resources on a basis which recognizes seasonal population influxes.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A4 SUPPORT FOR SAFE STREET ACT AND URBAN TRESPASS ACT**Kelowna**

WHEREAS the increasing number of individuals creating disorder on streets (property crime/robberies, aggressive panhandlers/squeegee persons, graffiti and litter) is having a negative effect on the quality of life of citizens and visitors;

AND WHEREAS the existing legislative tools are inadequate to effectively deal with those issues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government enact a “Safe Streets Act” similar to the legislation already in existence in Ontario to allow police and communities to more effectively deal with aggressive behaviour and to ensure that the penalties and laws are consistent throughout the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Trespass Act* to provide useful statutory authority or enforcement action for businesses and private property owners in urban settings.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that MLA Lorne Mayencourt be invited to speak to delegates on the resolution, was defeated.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second enactment clause end with the word “owners”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government enact a “Safe Streets Act” similar to the legislation already in existence in Ontario to allow police and communities to more effectively deal with aggressive behaviour and to ensure that the penalties and laws are consistent throughout the province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Trespass Act* to provide useful statutory authority or enforcement action for businesses and private property owners.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A5 IMPLEMENTING THE “NEW DEAL” FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN CANADA**Nelson**

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has worked for years lobbying the Federal Government of Canada to create greater financial capacity for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the quality of life of Canadians is largely determined by the prosperity of our cities and communities;

AND WHEREAS in the 2004 Speech from the Throne, the Prime Minister committed to a “New Deal” for Canada’s municipalities, which is to include raising the GST rebate for municipalities to 100 percent and working with provinces to share a portion of the gas tax revenues with municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage prompt implementation of the “New Deal” for Canadian municipalities and specifically that the GST rebate and the proposed gas tax initiative be available to all local governments.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “municipalities and specifically that the GST rebate and the proposed gas tax initiative be available to all” be removed from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage prompt implementation of the “New Deal” for Canadian local governments.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A6 OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**Smithers**

WHEREAS municipalities are continually faced with downloading of services from the provincial and federal governments and municipalities are facing increasing infrastructure capital costs and increasing operational costs;

AND WHEREAS the Community Charter initially proposed allowing municipalities to generate alternative sources of revenue and the Province has still not addressed new sources of revenue for municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Charter be amended to permit municipalities to generate additional sources of revenue, other than what is currently listed in the Charter;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province allow municipalities to implement, within their boundaries, fuel taxes to pay for infrastructure capital and liquor taxes to pay for health programs and protective services.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word “municipalities” be replaced with “local governments” in the first enactment clause and that the phrase “or in other provincial legislation” be added to the end of the first enactment clause in place of the second enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Community Charter be amended to permit local governments to generate additional sources of revenue, other than what are currently listed in the Charter or in other provincial legislation.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A7 SMALL COMMUNITIES COST SHARING UNDER NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**UBCM Executive**

WHEREAS small communities continue to express concern that they don't have the fiscal capacity to afford their one-third funding share required under the current Canada-BC Infrastructure Program (CBCIP), yet the need for new and upgraded infrastructure is significant in these communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that with respect to small community needs in the forthcoming Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the new program should continue to set aside a portion of funding for small and rural communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the new program be structured to reduce the one-third share required for local governments that have a low fiscal capability.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A8 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX**Saanich**

WHEREAS housing is a cornerstone for building strong communities and access to housing is pivotal to community stability (it is a key determinant of a healthy community since where and how people live not only affects individual health, but the social and economic well-being and character of the whole community);

AND WHEREAS affordable housing is a key component of a community's social infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS senior government funding for social housing has not been sufficient to meet the needs of many communities;

AND WHEREAS local government lacks revenue sources appropriate to fund affordable housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- a) the Province of British Columbia provide a redistribution of a portion of the Property Transfer Tax to local governments (on a municipal and/or regional basis); and

- b) the funds collected be directed to housing trusts dedicated to the provision of affordable housing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A9 HOME OWNER GRANT INDEXING

Maple Ridge

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government consider indexing the value limit each year for the average market value increase experienced in the Province of British Columbia.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words following “value limit” in the enactment clause be replaced with “of the Home Owner Grant each year consistent with the average residential property market value increase experienced in the Province of British Columbia”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government consider indexing the value limit of the Home Owner Grant each year consistent with the average residential property market value increase experienced in the Province of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

A10 NAV CANADA SERVICE REDUCTION

Smithers

WHEREAS Flight Service Station and onsite weather operations contribute significantly to the viability, serviceability and safety of operations at our airports;

AND WHEREAS any reduction in these services has significant financial, liability, safety and serviceability impacts on the operations of our airports and therefore on our communities overall:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly oppose any reduction in the level of service at Flight Service Stations and/or Weather Stations at Community Airports and lobby the federal government to require NAV Canada to maintain current operational levels of service.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A11 GRAVEL EXTRACTION AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

LMMA Executive

WHEREAS gravel, sand, silt and other debris extractions in waterways are required to control flood, erosion and/or seepage risks in many communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS it is difficult for individual municipalities and operators to secure the necessary authorizations from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for gravel, sand, silt and other debris extractions in waterways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government take the lead role in flood protection by working with communities and the DFO to streamline the authorization process for gravel, sand, silt and other debris extractions in waterways.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A12 WEST NILE VIRUS FUNDING

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS West Nile Virus is a potential human and livestock health issue in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS continuing funding is required for long-term monitoring, mosquito control measures and public education;

AND WHEREAS one-time funding grants available to local governments in 2004 are not sufficient to prepare long-term monitoring and public education programs and to undertake mosquito control measures:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide annual funding to local governments who request it for monitoring, public education programs and mosquito control measures to enhance public and livestock safety.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A13 AVIAN INFLUENZA DISASTER RELIEF RECOVERY

Abbotsford

WHEREAS municipal governments in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia are contending with the Avian Influenza crisis;

AND WHEREAS the poultry community is devastated by the disease and the economic impacts of the epidemic are now witnessed by businesses directly and indirectly associated with the poultry industry;

AND WHEREAS the City of Abbotsford appreciates the importance of eradicating the disease, and is cooperating with the federal and provincial governments on a range of related issues, the City is not in a position to provide financial support to those families and businesses devastated by this disaster;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities adopted resolution CSCP04.2.06, entitled, “Disaster Relief Recovery – Avian Influenza” at its 2004 Annual Conference as a category “A” resolution and forwarded a letter regarding disaster relief recovery to the Minister of State (Public Health), the Honourable Carolyn Bennett:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the federal government of Canada to respond to the BC poultry industry request to the federal party leaders for \$340 million in rapid recovery support to help the industry recover from the devastating Avian Influenza crisis.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “and the Province of British Columbia” be added after “the federal government of Canada” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the federal government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to respond to the BC poultry industry request to the federal party leaders for \$340 million in rapid recovery support to help the industry recover from the devastating Avian Influenza crisis.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

RESOLUTIONS CONTINUE

Resolutions resumed with Mayor Peake in the Chair.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR1 WIRELESS LEVY FOR 911 EMERGENCY SERVICES

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS there is currently a levy placed on land line customers to support the delivery of 911 emergency service in those areas where the service is provided;

AND WHEREAS the users of cell and wireless services do not pay a call answer levy to support the delivery of 911 emergency services where the service is provided;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government introduce legislation/regulations, in cooperation with the industry, that would allow a levy to be placed on cell and wireless services to contribute to the costs associated with the delivery of 911 emergency service in those areas of the province where the service is available.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SR2 ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT**UBCM Executive**

WHEREAS it is recognized that collaboration between the provincial government and local government is necessary to manage the complex and challenging issues of environment management,

AND WHEREAS that collaboration is supported by the Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities between the UBCM and the provincial government which fosters on-going communications and cooperation and also sets out a principle of liability protection that states "Any devolution of authority or responsibility should provide local government with protection from any liability arising from the delivery of Provincial programs or standards when acting in good faith and without negligence";

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has established a new approach to environment policy which focuses on:

- Shared Stewardship and Risk Based Approach,
- Partnerships and Compliance,
- Liability and Use of Qualified Professionals;

and is informing the development of several new policies, legislation and regulations;

AND WHEREAS the new approach to environment policy has not fully addressed several of local governments specific interests or concerns around protection of local government liability respecting the use of qualified professionals in delivery of regulatory programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide local government with clear protection from liability when following due process in the delivery of a provincial regulation or policy, including but not limited to the areas of:

- checking or not checking the qualifications of a declared qualified environmental professional,
- carrying out regulatory authority, including approving permits that rely on the report of a qualified professional,
- accepting site profile reports,
- development delays due to disputes or amendments to a qualified professional report,
- accepting amendments to the SPEA recommendations by a qualified professional based on requirements of other environment legislation or site development constraints,
- performing or not performing monitoring or evaluation of the implementation of qualified professional prescriptions,
- subsequent damages to fish habitat, developer interests, subject site or neighbouring sites due to development that has been approved or proceeded based on faulty or incomplete qualified professional reports;
- that for the purposes of accountability, it be clearly outlined where local government bears responsibility for decisions and outcomes in the site development approvals process when using qualified professionals.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION "B" – PART I RESOLUTIONS

Chair Marvin Hunt assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section B resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were: Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Brenda Binnie, Councillor Patricia Wallace and Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the Section B – Part I resolutions be adopted, was endorsed.

The resolutions were endorsed as follows:

B1 AGE OF CONSENT**Nakusp**

WHEREAS the age of consent for sexual activity in Canada is 14, one of the lowest in the world;

AND WHEREAS the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth represents a gross imbalance of power between an adult and a child and constitutes a form of child sexual abuse that causes extreme lifelong emotional, physical and sexual harm;

AND WHEREAS raising the age of consent would assist in the prosecution of child sexual predators and provide children and youth with an additional measure of protection until they reach a higher level of maturity and understanding about the issues involved in engaging in sexual activity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government ensure the right of children to be free of adult sexual exploitation by amending the Criminal Code to state that no adult can engage in sexual activity with a child under 16 years of age.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B2 CIVIL LIABILITY REVIEW

Creston

WHEREAS the Town of Creston supports the Union of BC Municipalities – Municipal Insurance Association Joint Task Force recommendations contained in the Task Force’s submission to the British Columbia Attorney General’s civil liability review:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to introduce legislation that supports the UBCM/MIA Joint Task Force recommendations contained in the Task Force’s submission to the British Columbia Attorney General’s civil liability review.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B3 DRUG PENALTIES

Chetwynd

WHEREAS illegal drug sources and sellers are associated with organized crime, creating health and safety concerns for innocent people, causing economic harm to legitimate businesses and governments and significant costs to police enforcement and judicial systems;

AND WHEREAS present drug-related fines, penalties and jail terms are not reflective of community values and do nothing to deter such actions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments increase all penalties associated with drug-related crimes to reflect the serious impact of illegal drugs on our communities and to discourage the trafficking of illegal drugs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all drug-related fines and all property and proceeds of drug-related crimes be turned over to the local government responsible for paying related policing costs and any costs incurred by local government in relation to any related judicial proceedings.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B4 ALTERNATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM FUNDING GRANTS

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the present justice system is not cost effective, timely, nor fair as it applies particularly to first-time and youthful offenders and minor offences;

AND WHEREAS victims of these offences do not receive a sense of justice in a system that has long delays and often trivializes offences;

AND WHEREAS Alternative Justice Programs can address all these shortcomings with appropriate criteria, set by the Province and monitored by the RCMP or other local police force:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Province of British Columbia to mandate, implement and fund Alternative Justice Programs where community organizations exist, meeting provincial criteria and standards, or where they may exist in the future;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local government be given the option as to whether or not it wants to implement the mandated provincial program or implement its own Alternative Justice Program using volunteers from the community.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B5 KEEP OF PRISONERS

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the City of Prince Rupert pays \$2.6 million for policing services and along with other local governments whose policing costs make up a substantial amount of their budgets and it is recognized that the communities policed by RCMP have a cost sharing formula depending upon the population of the community and the City along with some communities pay for the keep of prisoners at an annual cost to the City of Prince Rupert of \$327,000 and the payment under the new Keep of Prisoners Program include reimbursement for federal and provincial prisoners and the payment received per hour as at February 2003 was \$9.52 per hour which is barely above the minimum wage rate;

AND WHEREAS the rate of pay for guarding prisoners in Prince Rupert and many other municipalities is governed by Collective Agreements and the hourly rate of pay on an average is almost twice the hourly rate of pay presently reimbursed by the Province and by setting such a low rate of hourly pay for reimbursement, the Province has effectively downloaded the cost to local property taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Solicitor General be asked to reimburse the municipalities the cost of keep of prisoners who have allegedly committed offences under federal and provincial legislation at a rate equal to not less than the rate paid by municipalities to guard all prisoners.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B6 HIGHWAY RESCUE SERVICES

Merritt

WHEREAS highway rescue is an important service that is performed by fire rescue departments to respond to accidents both within and outside municipal boundaries twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week;

AND WHEREAS equipment needed to respond to highway rescue operations on the provincial highway system is utilized to serve all public travelling in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the cost of manpower and equipment to provide this service is borne by municipal taxpayers to enable response to accidents on surrounding provincial highways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government for increased financial support for highway rescue equipment and remuneration and/or wages for fire rescue members while outside their fire protection boundaries to provide highway rescue service.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B7 ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION AND PROCEEDS OF CRIME

Abbotsford

WHEREAS illegal marijuana grow operations are the fastest growing organized crime in British Columbia, consuming escalating amounts of local governments' limited resources and putting protective services, such as police and fire, increasingly at risk from illegal marijuana grow operators protecting their crops;

AND WHEREAS the leniency of sentencing provisions in the courts is not acting as a deterrent for illegal grow operations;

AND WHEREAS law enforcement agencies that participate in investigations in British Columbia are largely funded by local government through either a contract with the Province for RCMP services or through a municipal contract for policing services, and the current legislation excludes local governments from sharing in the proceeds of disposition of forfeited property;

AND WHEREAS an increasing number of illegal marijuana grow operations are found in residential areas where residents, especially children, are at risk and vulnerable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia to pursue legislative changes to seek harsher penalties for persons involved in the growing and distribution of illicit drugs, including a specific policing initiative to actively eliminate the production of illicit drugs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the federal government to amend the current legislation to include the direct transfer of the proceeds of disposition of forfeited property by the federal government directly to the local government where the original investigation was conducted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to pursue changes to the Community Charter to empower local governments to exact penalties on land owners that permit marijuana and other illicit drug producers to operate on their properties.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B8 MOWING OF HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Fort St. James

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation has significantly reduced its budget for the mowing and brushing of its highway corridors, leading to highway corridors which look unsightly and leave a lasting poor impression on visitors to our province;

AND WHEREAS despite being characterized as an aesthetic concern by former Transportation Minister Judith Reid, brush and high grass are a safety concern in the following respects:

- a) Brush and high grass attract and hide wildlife along highway corridors leading to increased animal/vehicle accidents;
- b) Fuel build-up in highway corridors increases the risk of interface fires in our communities; and
- c) Tall grass and brush along highway corridors can increase the risk of vehicle or human-caused wildfires;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon the provincial government to immediately restore funding for brushing and mowing of all British Columbia's highway corridors.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B9 CELL SERVICE ALONG HIGHWAY 16

McBride

WHEREAS Highway 16 is the major east/west corridor in central British Columbia, and sees large volumes of commercial, general and tourist traffic travelling through remote areas that are without telephone access;

AND WHEREAS there is literally no cell phone coverage from the Alberta border to the City of Prince George along Highway 16, a distance of approximately 400 kms, and for many others areas west to the coast:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to ensure that cell phone coverage is available to the travelling public along the entire BC highway system.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**B10 TAX REFUND FOR MUNICIPAL ENERGY PROJECTS
(CONSERVATION/ALTERNATIVE ENERGY GENERATION)**

Salmo

WHEREAS UBCM members stated in 2001 that the provincial and federal governments should consider using GST and PST revenues to promote energy conservation and alternative energy sources;

AND WHEREAS neither the provincial nor the federal governments have developed energy conservation or alternative energy generation programs funded from energy sales tax revenues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial and federal governments to implement a full sales tax refund policy for machinery and equipment for municipal energy conservation and/or alternative energy generation projects.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B11 INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX

Kitimat

WHEREAS the government of the Province of British Columbia collects a 4.4% tax on the premiums for insurance;

AND WHEREAS the funds gathered through this tax are directed to general revenue and only a small portion of the amount collected is redirected through the budget to fund what was the original intent of the tax:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government direct the funds gathered from this tax to local governments, to offset the cost of fire protection related services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B12 FEDERAL FUEL TAX

Salmon Arm

WHEREAS municipalities are unable to meet the capital costs of foundational infrastructure within their communities;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister, Paul Martin, has committed to assisting municipalities with the funding of infrastructure through revenue sharing of the Federal Fuel Tax;

AND WHEREAS this new federal infrastructure funding, based on the Fuel Tax, needs to be administered equitably, must have long-term certainty, and must be in addition to existing funding programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities prepare a position, based on the attached questions, on the proposed Fuel Tax Infrastructure Funding to define the collection, application, terms, and conditions of this funding;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the infrastructure funding to local governments not compromise existing or future funding for provincial highways.

Questions to be attached:

- a) *How much Federal Fuel Tax is collected in a given year in Canada? In the Province of British Columbia?*
- b) *How would the funding to municipalities be administered? Directly to municipalities or through the Provinces?*
- c) *How should the funding be distributed to municipalities? Based on per capita? Kilometres of road? Total assessment of municipality? Amount of tax collected within the boundaries of the host municipality?*
- d) *Should the funding be designated for road infrastructure only?*
- e) *Will the new funding compromise the existing Canada/Provincial Infrastructure Funding?*
- f) *What will the time commitment of this revenue sharing be? As budgeted annually with no certainty or a long term commitment?*
- g) *Will funding be applied only to projects as a percentage of the total cost of the specific project or can the funding be used to pay for 100% of a capital project? Can funding be used for payments on a long term debenture for a capital project?*
- h) *Will capital projects supported by this federal funding and requiring debt servicing affect the limits that are set out by the Local Government Act regarding debt capacity of a municipality?*
- i) *Will funding be indexed?*
- j) *Will there be consideration for Canada's rural municipalities with regard to funding allotments?*

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B13 EXCESSIVE PACKAGING AND UNSOLICITED WASTE**Port Moody**

WHEREAS the amount of packaging generated by industry that ends up in our waste stream has climbed astronomically over the past century, and municipal residents must cover the cost of this excessive waste;

AND WHEREAS municipal residents also receive significant unsolicited material at their homes through Canada Post and other forms of door-to-door delivery, and though residents do not request this material and many do not want or read it, those residents must dispose of the materials and all residents must pay for that disposal nevertheless:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM write to the provincial and federal governments asking them to work with industry to reduce packaging and excessive waste that ends up in the municipal waste stream, and to increase the recyclability of packaging materials, including consideration of charging industries based on excess waste created by their products and packaging and/or offering incentives for waste minimization;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM write to the federal government requesting that a disposal fee be imposed on those sending unaddressed ad mail through Canada Post, to be spent on waste reduction initiatives and a portion returned to local governments to cover the costs of waste disposal.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B14 MILK CONTAINER RECYCLING**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS ready-to-serve milk containers are not included in the deposit/return system (Beverage Container Stewardship Program Regulation);

AND WHEREAS the exception of ready-to-serve milk containers is inconsistent with the Province's stewardship principle and plans in the British Columbia Industry Stewardship Business Plan:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ready-to-serve milk containers be included in the provincial beverage container deposit/return system.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B15 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE STEWARDSHIP**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS some household hazardous waste materials and products generated from residential sources that are prevalent in the municipal solid waste stream are not captured by provincial product stewardship initiatives;

AND WHEREAS there has been an increase in marketing and use of certain products containing hazardous materials, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and electronic devices:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that antifreeze, dry-cell batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, electronic devices and thermostats be included in provincial product stewardship regulations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B16 FLOOD PROTECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING**LMMA Executive**

WHEREAS flood control works protecting infrastructure of local, provincial and federal interest require significant upgrades;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no accessible provincial or federal funding for necessary flood protection infrastructure improvements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government take the lead role in flood protection by securing federal and/or provincial funds for flood protection infrastructure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**B17 FLOOD PLAIN AND STREAMSIDE/LAKESHORE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT****Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS the Province, through the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, provided legislation and technical assistance to local government for floodplain management and the Province adopted the *Fish Protection Act* (1997) and Streamside Regulations (2001) and provided financial and resource support to local governments in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has withdrawn the provision of technical assistance to local government and developers, without consultation, and the Ministry has indicated that it will continue to develop policies and guidelines which the Province intends local government will adopt, and which will impose on local government unforeseen costs and liabilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities inform the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection that abandonment of the provision of floodplain information and management and environmental management without local consideration or consultation has resulted in the stalling of development approvals and that the Minister should reinstate the mandate for floodplain management and streamside lakeshore environmental management to this Ministry.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**B18 FRASER RIVER DREDGING****LMMA Executive**

WHEREAS silt, gravel and debris are accumulating in the Fraser River between Hope and Georgia Strait;

AND WHEREAS there is a reduction of dredging in the lower Fraser River due to the elimination of federal funding, which when combined with the sediment accumulation is over time increasing flood levels and restricting commercial and recreational water activities along the river between Hope and Georgia Strait:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the federal government work with the Fraser River Port Authority and government agencies involved in channel dredging along the Fraser River from Hope to Georgia Strait, provide them with an immediate cash infusion of \$35 million and work toward developing a sustainable funding strategy for dredging of the main and secondary channels along this section of the Fraser River.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**B19 DEVELOPMENT PERMITS FOR INSTITUTIONAL USES****Kelowna**

WHEREAS there is currently no prescribed legislation that defines an ability for a local government to make requirements regarding the character of development, including landscaping and the form, exterior design and finish of buildings and structures that are to be constructed for institutional uses;

AND WHEREAS the lack of that prescribed legislation has led to institutional buildings that are not acceptable to local government and that are inappropriate and uncomplimentary to the communities in which they are located:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities seek amendments through the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services to the *Local Government Act* to prescribe that local government may include institutional uses within community plans and make requirements, by way of mandatory development permit regarding the character of development, including landscaping and the form, exterior design and finish of buildings and structures that are to be constructed for institutional uses, with the exception of institutional buildings and structures that are under the direct control of a senior level of government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B20 LOCATION OF RETAIL LIQUOR SALES OUTLETS**LMMA Executive**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government change its regulation to require local government input into the location of retail liquor sales outlets.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B21 MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE INFESTATION**Williams Lake**

WHEREAS the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation is assuming catastrophic proportions both for the environment and the economy;

AND WHEREAS this crisis will have an enormous impact on all affected communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to return a fair portion of the resource revenue generated through timber harvest via stumpage to affected local governments;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds be returned, proportionally to the size of the infestation in the area, for use in addressing impacts to the local region, including infrastructure degradation from overuse, economic development to utilize dead beetle wood, and activities to offset future harvesting downfalls.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B22 PARK FOREST MAINTENANCE**Montrose**

WHEREAS provincial policy does not permit the removal of standing dead trees and windblown trees, or the removal of timber to create fireguards, from provincial parks;

AND WHEREAS this level of environmental protection leads to the accumulation of fuel, exposing provincial parks themselves and adjacent forest and communities to an ever-greater fire risk with consequential human, environmental and economic loss:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be petitioned to reconsider the parks forest management policy to:

- 1) encourage the clean-up of blow-down timber and standing dead timber; and
- 2) permit the construction of firebreaks to minimize the risk of fire damage to parks and adjacent areas.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B23 PARK DAY USE AREAS**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS provincial park day use areas and highway rest stops are valuable services provided for the benefit of all British Columbians and tourists travelling through our province;

AND WHEREAS the Province has indicated an inability to properly fund these services and has invited local government to assume financial and operating responsibility for these services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to provide appropriate budgets for the continued funding and sustained operation of these services that contribute to tourism and road safety at no cost to local government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B24 PROPOSED LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON PACIFIC WHITING (HAKE) THREATENS ON-SHORE PROCESSING Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot has invested millions in the development of the on-shore Hake processing industry with a view to diversifying economies hard hit by downturns in the forest industry;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Government Department of Fisheries and Oceans, which declared a moratorium on the Joint Venture Hake fishing vessels in Canadian waters, is considering lifting the moratorium to facilitate an increase in the Total Allowable Catch, which will likely result in the closure of the plants in the Alberni-Clayoquot region and the loss of approximately 500 jobs and hundreds of thousands of dollars to the municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support the retention of the moratorium on Joint Venture vessels in BC and communicate a strong message to the Government of Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that affected communities must be fully consulted prior to any further decision regarding this fishery.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B25 EXTENSION OF ELECTRICAL GRID TO THE NORTHWEST REGION Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS vast areas in northwestern British Columbia north of Highway 16 are not serviced by the provincial electrical grid, and the region's immense natural resource development potential is consequently not realized;

AND WHEREAS there is no government plan or policy to extend the electrical grid to this region, and current policies such as independent power production and reorganization of BC Hydro may undermine development of an integrated transmission system for the northwest;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Minister of Energy commit to writing a comprehensive plan for extension of the electrical grid into the northwest region that considers long-term community and resource development needs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B26 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES Surrey

WHEREAS the majority of local governments in BC deliver Emergency Medical Services (EMS) through their fire departments under the Emergency Medical Assistant First Responder program;

AND WHEREAS EMS delivery is the responsibility of the provincial government through the Emergency Health Services Commission and the British Columbia Ambulance Service;

AND WHEREAS local governments receive no compensation from the Province for their contribution to the EMS system;

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

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B27 PROVINCIAL FUNDING OF HEALTH FACILITIES Saanich

WHEREAS health facility capital funding levels have decreased significantly over the past two years;

AND WHEREAS deferred maintenance results in both more costly repairs down the line and buildings and their operating systems wearing out faster;

AND WHEREAS insufficient investments in building and modifications to reflect changing uses and new technology can compromise resident care and healing, perpetuate poor conditions for staff and staffing efficiencies and limit the number of and speed at which residents can be treated;

AND WHEREAS eventually the cost and benefits to renovate older health facilities to current standards exceeds the cost and benefits of replacement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of BC to invest in health capital at more appropriate levels to maintain, upgrade and replace publicly funded health facilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of BC to reinstate its historic share of major health capital projects and offsetting operating cost increases to all Health Authorities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B28 FUNDING FOR REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Kitimat

WHEREAS there is concern about the adequacy of current levels of health care funding in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS budget documents show that Regional Health Authorities will see operating budgets drop \$100 million from 2003-04 to 2005-06:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities oppose the \$100 million cut to Regional Health Authorities' operating budgets and call on the provincial government to adequately fund Regional Health Authorities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B29 IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS BY HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Delta

WHEREAS Health Authorities are redesigning and realigning acute and emergency services and are downgrading hospitals without prior meaningful community consultation;

AND WHEREAS the transfer of specialized services has resulted in decreased access for some communities through the inability of BC Bedline to find appropriate care at an alternate facility, longer wait times at regional hospitals and additional transfer time from one community to another:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to require Health Authorities to develop a strategy for reporting out to communities, including plans for proposed changes to emergency and acute services and regular progress updates at the local level.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B30 FEDERAL ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Vancouver

WHEREAS Canada has seen a loss of low-cost housing, which includes rental accommodation and houses, and has more and more people living on its streets over the last two decades;

AND WHEREAS through government action and/or inaction at both the federal and provincial levels, we know that more individuals and families are finding it harder and harder to attain and maintain adequate housing and that for many of those who have housing, maintaining a roof over their heads means that they and their families go without food, clothing, heat and other basics;

AND WHEREAS homelessness and the lack of affordable housing for children, youth, their families and others in our communities, affects the health and quality of life of Canadian society:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government, with its provincial, municipal and non-government organization partners, take immediate and meaningful action to ensure that low income

Canadians have adequate and affordable housing and that particular attention is paid to the housing needs of children, youth and families including immigrants, those with disabilities and those with mental illness and that an annual report on the progress of this initiative is issued to the public through the popular media.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B31 HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP

Saanich

WHEREAS heritage in our communities includes not just old buildings, but also artifacts and architecture, historic sites and land, historic and prehistoric resources, archival and interpretive materials and activities that reflect our roots;

AND WHEREAS the current BC government has relinquished responsibility for heritage sites and buildings of the province through a policy of privatization of services;

AND WHEREAS the current BC government is divesting itself of responsibility for stewardship of a public trust, eliminating funding to programs such as the Heritage Trust, and jeopardizing future heritage policy and investment through ministry downsizing of the Provincial Heritage Branch:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the BC government to maintain stewardship of heritage resources by investing the appropriate funding levels required to preserve, protect and enhance our heritage resources throughout British Columbia and on Vancouver Island.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B32 HERITAGE FUNDING

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS it is important to many British Columbians that our province's history be preserved and protected to enable the public to understand the cultural, social and financial evolution of our province and to better appreciate and acknowledge the contribution of those who built the communities we live in that make British Columbia the place we now enjoy;

AND WHEREAS the study and enjoyment of our heritage can be an important part of the economy of the province, particularly in small and rural communities in the interior who rely on tourist dollars to create jobs, sustain existing businesses and stimulate investment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government restore funding to the appropriate Ministries and local heritage organizations to enable them to preserve, protect and make available to the public, British Columbia's history through museums, archives and heritage related facilities and programs to a degree sufficient to benefit all British Columbians.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B33 REDUCED FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS under current Insurers Advisory Organization criteria, to realize reduced fire insurance premiums residences must be located within an 8km travel distance from a fire hall;

AND WHEREAS in areas where road conditions vary from highway to gravel, travel distance is not a good indicator of adequate response;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Insurance Advisory Organization change the criteria for reduced fire insurance premiums to travel time rather than travel distance.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B34 RESOLUTION OF TREATIES**NCMA Executive**

WHEREAS the Aboriginal people of British Columbia have been promised resolution of treaties;

AND WHEREAS resolution of treaties will bring certainty and release prosperity for the benefit of all British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition both the provincial and federal governments to give high priority to the treaty process and make a serious effort to negotiate fair and equitable treaties.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B35 IMPACT OF MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
BUDGET CUTS****Fort Nelson**

WHEREAS the Province's effort to balance the provincial budget has resulted in province-wide budget cuts to social services;

AND WHEREAS community and social services are the responsibility of the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada and should remain so, especially since senior governments collect income tax for the express purpose of funding social services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be petitioned to maintain its funding for social services, since it continues to raise taxation for that purpose and, especially, be petitioned to maintain those services in full in northern and isolated communities, which do not have access to other private non-profit agencies or services that are usually existent in larger communities, nor the financial resources to provide locally-funded services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B36 COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES**Lumby**

WHEREAS community social services are vital to the health and well-being of thousands of British Columbians and provincial cuts have created a negative impact on families and communities;

AND WHEREAS it is the right and responsibility of local governments to advocate on behalf of their citizens to other levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the downloading of provincial responsibility for people in need onto local governments creates a strain on communities which were not consulted before the cuts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities, on behalf of its members, request that the provincial government consult with and provide local governments with the opportunity to participate in discussions related to those policy changes that have an affect on families and communities regarding social assistance and social safety net programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION "B" - PART II RESOLUTIONS

Chair Hunt continued as Chair and briefly reviewed the procedures for handling Section B – Parts II and III resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Councillor Brenda Binnie, Councillor Patricia Wallace, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Mayor Jack Peake.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that all Section B, Parts II and III resolutions be admitted for debate, was endorsed.

B37 OPPOSITION TO BILL 79 – THE COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST AMENDMENT**Trail**

WHEREAS Section 2 of the *Columbia Basin Trust Amendment Act*, Bill 79, replaces local government power to appoint Columbia Basin Trust Members with an opportunity to nominate candidates for the Lieutenant Governor's selection;

AND WHEREAS under Bill 79, the Lieutenant Governor may decline any nomination from a local nominating committee;

AND WHEREAS the Lieutenant Governor may "remove any director after receiving a written request to do so from, a) the minister, or b) the board of directors";

AND WHEREAS the above diminishes Columbia Basin communities' power to determine their representatives to the Columbia Basin Trust;

AND WHEREAS Section 5 of Bill 79 removes specified public accountability from the Board of Directors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government rescind the legislation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B38 NEW SAFETY STANDARDS ACT AND REGULATIONS**North Vancouver City**

WHEREAS the provincial government has passed legislation creating a new Safety Standards Authority that will remove our safety standards system from government control;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is currently creating a new *Safety Standards Act* and regulations for the compulsory trades that deregulates the qualifications required to perform regulated work;

AND WHEREAS the new regulations will no longer require government oversight of regulated work:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities express its opposition to both the creation of the new Authority and the *Safety Standards Act* changes.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B39 BILL 75 – SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS STREAMLINING ACT**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS by Bill 75 the provincial government enacted the *Significant Projects Streamlining Act*, which provides the provincial government with sweeping powers to override local government bylaws, plans, policies and powers;

AND WHEREAS the powers granted to the Province under this Act have the potential to seriously undermine the current structure for ensuring cohesive regional/municipal land use planning and the important public safety protection that local government involvement brings to project development;

AND WHEREAS the *Significant Projects Streamlining Act* contradicts the provincial promotion of the Community Charter as a vehicle for recognizing local government as a responsible and autonomous level of government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities coordinate a program for shared funding amongst local governments to provide financial assistance for legal costs incurred by a local government initiating a legal challenge to an incident of the Province's implementation of the *Significant Projects Streamlining Act*.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B40 FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS many British Columbia communities have franchise agreements with utility companies that involve the payment of franchise fees to municipalities, providing an important revenue stream;

AND WHEREAS the assent of electors was received when the original agreements were entered into:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of BC amend the Community Charter by adding a clause stating that Section 22(1) does not apply to extensions or renewals of agreements “entered into prior to 1979” with the electors’ assent.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B41 INJURY INSURANCE CLAIMS**Creston**

WHEREAS the number of lawsuits against local governments for injury claims by individuals who refuse to accept responsibility or be accountable for their own actions is rising at an alarming rate;

AND WHEREAS insurance costs to local governments as a result of these increasing lawsuits are rising at an alarming rate and thereby reducing funds available for local government operations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia introduce legislation which will allow for a means (i.e., an independent tribunal) to determine whether or not a litigant in a questionable case acted in a responsible manner, and the insurer then be permitted to base the amount of settlement in these cases on such findings.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B42 CHANGE TO COMMUNITY CHARTER**Fraser Valley RD**

WHEREAS Section 108 of the Community Charter outlines restrictions on previous municipal councillors or board directors from using information gained that is not public information with a resulting pecuniary gain;

AND WHEREAS the penalties for such contravention of the public trust are warranted, actions that may be brought against a former councillor or board director may present a liability to the local Charter or to the possible defence of a former councillor/director due to the requirements of the application of an indemnity bylaw with subsequent recovery of costs if the former councillor/director is found at fault and, if possible, to recover such costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province is requested to change the Community Charter so that the potential liability of the local government is limited to a specified term and not left in an unlimited period of exposure - that is not to say an offence by a former councillor/director should be limited; rather, only the local government’s liability due to costs arising from action over which local government has no control.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B43 POLICING COSTS**Williams Lake**

WHEREAS the City of Williams Lake received an increase of \$260,000 in RCMP costs for 2004 and municipalities between 5,000 and 15,000 population are making significant contributions to funding of police costs in their own communities, and policing costs are pooled between these 32 communities and then divided among them;

AND WHEREAS these municipalities do not have access to other revenue sources to offset the ever-increasing costs of policing and have little or no involvement in the development and oversight of RCMP budgets, and City Councils are held accountable to their taxpayers for all expenditures, including policing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments immediately reduce policing costs to municipalities that use RCMP services beginning in 2004, and that the Union of British Columbia

Municipalities bring together the 32 communities with populations between 5,000 and 15,000 to address the impact of pooled costs and to explore working together to lobby for municipal involvement in the development, prioritization and oversight of the RCMP budget for the years 2005 to 2006;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments involve municipal governments with populations between 5,000 and 15,000 using RCMP policing in the development of non-discretionary policy, such as pay increases, overall budgetary increases and so on with regard to RCMP budgets, and also that regional policing be considered if cost effective.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second enactment clause be omitted from the resolution and that the words “immediately reduce policing costs to municipalities that use RCMP services beginning in 2004, and that” be replaced with the word “with” in the first enactment clause and that the first enactment clause end with the word “RCMP”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments, with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, bring together the 32 communities with populations between 5,000 and 15,000 to address the impact of pooled costs and to explore working together to lobby for municipal involvement in the development, prioritization and oversight of the RCMP.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B44 POLICING COSTS

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the Province of BC has determined that electoral areas and municipalities under a population of 5,000 will contribute towards the cost of rural police financing beginning in 2007, as stated by the Solicitor General at the 2003 UBCM Convention;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM has committed to working with the Ministry and the RCMP to establish a committee and develop a best practice guide to ensure input from small communities and rural areas in the delivery of local police services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any tax to be levied be negotiated by UBCM with the Province of BC based on the following principles:

- a) That any formula implemented to recover policing costs be based on the principle of fairness and equity, in which all regional districts are treated equally and contribute to policing by paying their share based upon the service provided and not through an ‘ability to pay’ formula;
- b) That any tax to be implemented by the Province to cover policing costs be identified as a provincial policing cost tax and not a regional district tax for the purpose of collection;
- c) That community policing remain the responsibility of the Province but that a formal mechanism be developed for local government, municipalities and electoral areas to act in an advisory capacity on policing issues affecting local communities; and
- d) That approximately 30% of the Provincial Rural Tax levied on the Rural Property Tax Notice be acknowledged as part of any electoral area tax contribution for community policing in each regional district.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “approximately 30% of” be removed from point d) of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any tax to be levied be negotiated by UBCM with the Province of BC based on the following principles:

- a) That any formula implemented to recover policing costs be based on the principle of fairness and equity, in which all regional districts are treated equally and contribute to policing by paying their share based upon the service provided and not through an ‘ability to pay’ formula;
- b) That any tax to be implemented by the Province to cover policing costs be identified as a provincial policing cost tax and not a regional district tax for the purpose of collection;

- c) That community policing remain the responsibility of the Province but that a formal mechanism be developed for local government, municipalities and electoral areas to act in an advisory capacity on policing issues affecting local communities; and
- d) That the Provincial Rural Tax levied on the Rural Property Tax Notice be acknowledged as part of any electoral area tax contribution for community policing in each regional district.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B45 PROVINCIAL POLICE AND COURT COSTS

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS in the present system of financing police and court costs are incurred by the taxpayer and not the offenders committing the crime;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is delivering a new approach to police financing in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Attorney General and the Solicitor General work together to develop a program to apportion the costs of policing and court actions to those convicted of the crime.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B46 ALLOCATION OF POLICING COSTS

Vernon

WHEREAS policing costs within the Province of British Columbia are not shared equally among the population they serve;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has recognized the need for equity and fairness and intends to implement a new financing formula for police services in rural areas and small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia implement a financing formula for policing costs based upon a per capita basis for both rural and urban communities immediately.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

Councillor Brenda Binnie assumed the Chair and continued with the consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

B47 POLICING FUNDING REVIEW

Sparwood

WHEREAS the provincial government has determined that there are inequities between the amount paid for policing by communities with a population under 5,000 and those with a population over 5,000;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has asked that each local government think outside the box when formulating suggestions for a new policing formula;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that \$4.8 million in revenue will be generated in the East and West Kootenays alone from traffic violations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to look at a formula that would see traffic violation revenues returned to each of the local governments through their respective regional districts to offset the costs of policing.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the remainder of the sentence following the word “each” in the enactment clause be replaced with “local government to offset its costs of policing”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to look at a formula that would see traffic violation revenues returned to each local government to offset its costs of policing.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**B48 POLICE GOVERNANCE****Delta**

WHEREAS while policing agencies are moving towards integration of services to better respond to public safety and security needs, there has been no collaboration between levels of government (federal, provincial and municipal) to reform current models of policing;

AND WHEREAS in addition to providing policing needs at a local level municipalities cannot sustain increased policing costs as a result of the demands of the integrated policing approach that is required today:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the federal government establish a task force (with municipal police input) to develop a model for a national unified police governance that will clearly identify the roles and funding responsibilities of each level of government and ensure a process that will work effectively and efficiently across the three levels of government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and CONVEYED to FCM**B49 SHARING OF LIQUOR TAX FOR POLICING****Prince Rupert**

WHEREAS the provincial government receives a substantial amount of revenue from liquor taxes and recently increased tax on liquor to capture as much as \$81 million in extra revenue;

AND WHEREAS local governments with populations over 5,000 are mandated to provide and fund policing services on a cost share basis with the federal government, and municipal policing costs are rapidly increasing due to liquor related offences requiring increased enforcement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide a portion of liquor tax to local governments to defray the cost of policing or, alternatively, grant local governments taxation authority to levy a tax on all liquor sold within local government jurisdiction in order to defray the cost of policing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**B50 CANADIAN COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FUNDING****Kitimat-Stikine RD**

WHEREAS the Canadian Coast Guard, as the mandated principal provider of maritime search and rescue, has a responsibility to support and oversee the activities of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is increasingly dependent on other funding sources to provide and maintain vital search and rescue services because of restricted Canadian Coast Guard funding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the federal government expand funding for the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary to include assistance to community-based auxiliary units for the purchase, operation and maintenance of capital assets, equipment and supplies required for marine search and rescue.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and CONVEYED to FCM**B51 BC HYDRO STREET LIGHTING SERVICE****Sooke**

WHEREAS UBCM's members find the present response time by BC Hydro to requests for streetlight maintenance unacceptable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that BC Hydro provide a commitment to respond to the requests to repair streetlights within 21 calendar days of being so advised in writing.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

B52 BC HYDRO LOCATES SERVICE**North Cowichan
Sydney**

WHEREAS BC Hydro has decided to no longer provide field locates of its buried underground hydro services;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro's proposed alternative of using plans to locate its services is unreliable, creates a safety concern, and adds to a municipality's underground construction costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Hydro reinstate the field locate service for buried underground hydro service.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B53 SIZE OF COUNCIL**Port Coquitlam**

WHEREAS Section 118 of the *Community Charter* introduced several new concepts related to, and effective prior to, the 2005 municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS these changes require municipalities whose population exceeds 50,000 to either increase the elected councillors from six to eight for the 2005 election, or to hold a referendum to determine if the elected councillors for the 2005 election should remain at six or be increased to eight, at least six months prior to the 2005 election;

AND WHEREAS the holding of a referendum has a significant financial impact on a municipality, which is not necessary given the other possible alternatives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial government legislate the following alternatives to the requirements of Section 118 of the *Community Charter*:

- 1) The provision of a counter petition opportunity;
- 2) The holding of the referendum at the same time as the 2005 election for application to the 2008 election.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B54 HIGHWAY SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS**Houston**

WHEREAS the Council of the District of Houston has a concern regarding general highway safety for vehicle traffic throughout the whole northern region of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS this concern may be alleviated by additional highway safety enhancement in various areas of the northern region of the Province of British Columbia, where presently such enhancement is non-existent;

AND WHEREAS it is believed that, if every effort is made to increase highway safety, the physical harm, emotional and mental stress, and resulting medical and insurance costs of highway traffic accidents may all be reduced;

AND WHEREAS an initiative to increase highway safety is timely, considering the volume of vehicle traffic on highways in the northern region of the Province of British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Transportation, to install rumble strips on the outside edge of each paved highway, where they do not presently exist in British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this should be accomplished by establishing provincial policy that these rumble strips be installed whenever repair work or construction is undertaken.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “and center line where needed” be added after “outside edge” in the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Transportation, to install rumble strips on the outside edge and center line where needed on each paved highway, where they do not presently exist in British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this should be accomplished by establishing provincial policy that these rumble strips be installed whenever repair work or construction is undertaken.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B55 TRANSIT SERVICE TO SMALL COMMUNITIES

Thompson-Nicola RD

WHEREAS the residents residing in a number of small communities in the province have no public transit service and, as a result, have limited access to such services as health care and education in larger communities;

AND WHEREAS BC Transit has no flexibility in its funding formula to allocate funds for expansion of transit service to unserved small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government, through BC Transit, be requested to make further funding commitments to transit to provide funding for public transit to unserved small communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B56 PROTECTION OF MUNICIPAL NETWORKS

Vernon

WHEREAS currently Ministry of Transportation Approving Officers, when approving rural development subdivision/applications, consider general road capacity;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the Ministry of Transportation recognize and expand its approving criteria to include an analysis of future transportation needs and consider major street network plans of the adjacent municipality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation protect important transportation links between rural and urban areas by means of acquiring road rights-of-way through covenants or easements.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

Councillor Patricia Wallace assumed the Chair and continued with the consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

B57 URBAN ROAD STANDARDS

Vernon

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation should recognize the need to consider development standards during subdivision or development approval;

AND WHEREAS it is important to residents that there be continuity of road standards between rural and urban areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that subdivision or development applications in rural areas that are part of a future adjacent municipal growth area plan be required to upgrade roads to an urban standard;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provision of sidewalks and bicycle paths also be a condition of granting approval of rural development applications.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second enactment clause be omitted from the resolution, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that “urban-like or high-density” be inserted before the word “subdivision” in the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that high-density or urban-like subdivision or development applications in rural areas that are part of a future adjacent municipal growth area plan be required to upgrade roads to an urban standard.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B58 CN RAIL/BC RAIL AGREEMENT

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the CN/BC Rail agreement leads to a container port in Prince Rupert, a major rail hub in Prince George, re-opening the Hythe Connector in the Peace, creating hundreds of direct jobs while opening vast new opportunities throughout northern BC in fishing, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing;

AND WHEREAS municipalities will benefit from more taxes, new passenger rail tourism, and less truck damage to roads, while shippers enjoy lower rates, faster turnarounds and 600 new rail cars;

AND WHEREAS all northern communities, including First Nations will benefit from the resulting \$125 million dollar Northern Economic Development Initiative, providing spin-off opportunities and provincial revenues to the benefit of all British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Province to complete the CN/BC Rail agreement as soon as possible.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

B59 FERRY SERVICE TO COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS in 2003 the Province of British Columbia transformed BC Ferries from a Crown corporation into an independent commercial organization, with a mandate to provide a safe, reliable and efficient ferry service to coastal communities, while at the same time trying to find ways to mitigate costs to the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS coastal communities are almost solely dependent on ferry access to health/dental care facilities, purchasing goods and services as well as finding ways to diversify their local economies through tourism enhancement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the BC Ferry Authority and the Province of BC on behalf of coastal communities to stress the importance of improving the current level of service, replace aging ships and recognize that marine highways are an extension of provincial highways and therefore travel must be affordable, accessible and dependable.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B60 AMENDMENT OF HIGHWAY ACT AND COMMUNITY CHARTER

**Fort Nelson/
Northern Rockies RD**

WHEREAS adoption of the *Community Charter* was to have given "natural powers" to municipalities and enhance the role of local governments by simplifying the process to govern and regulate matters within the boundaries of municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the *Highway Act*, Section 54(2), which cites that a zoning bylaw under the *Local Government Act* does not apply to land or improvements within a radius of 800 metres of the intersection of a controlled access highway with any other highway, unless it has been approved in writing by the Minister before its adoption and which impedes the ability for smaller municipalities to simplify the process of adopting zoning bylaws by forcing them to obtain Ministerial approval prior to adopting zoning bylaws;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter*, Section 41(3), which cites that as a restriction on the authority under Section 40(1), if the highway or part of a highway to be closed or reopened is within 800 metres of an arterial highway, the bylaw under that section may only be adopted if it is approved by the Minister Responsible for the *Highway Act* impedes the ability for smaller municipalities to simplify the process of closing roads by forcing them to obtain ministerial approval prior to closing roads;

AND WHEREAS any zoning bylaw or road closure which does not have a direct impact on an arterial highway should not have to be scrutinized by the Ministry of Transportation, thereby allowing smaller municipalities to function in a more expeditious manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services be requested to amend the *Highway Act* and *Community Charter* to permit smaller communities the same ability afforded other communities when enacting zoning bylaws and road closures, unless said zoning bylaw or road closure directly impacts or interferes with an arterial highway.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B61 INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS

Terrace

WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly difficult to find willing individuals to volunteer their time in the critical emergency response areas of ambulance attending, firefighting, search and rescue, and other similar emergency response situations;

AND WHEREAS volunteer emergency responders are absolutely essential in most communities in Canada due to the simple fact that these communities cannot possibly afford full-time paid responders, and the dependence on volunteers has become part of Canadian culture and is an accepted part of everyday life;

AND WHEREAS these volunteers need to be recognized in a concrete and meaningful way for what they give to society as a whole:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage the federal government to pass legislation to amend the *Income Tax Act* to provide a \$3,000 deduction on taxable income for volunteers performing a minimum of 100 hours service in the taxation year as ambulance attendants, firefighters or persons assisting in search and rescue operations, or other emergency situations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B62 DIFFERENT TAX RATES FOR LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS

Central Saanich

WHEREAS urban sprawl creates higher infrastructure costs, higher transportation costs, and other costs borne by society;

AND WHEREAS municipalities on the fringe attempt to control urban sprawl;

AND WHEREAS property tax incentives may be used to encourage appropriate development and reduce urban sprawl over the long term;

AND WHEREAS in rural areas a property tax rate that focuses on improvements will increase the cost of establishing estates and "monster" houses, and will encourage land to be preserved for rural and agricultural purposes;

AND WHEREAS in urban areas a property tax rate that focuses on land will encourage higher density development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province empower municipalities with the ability to adjust the weighting of the property tax mill rate between improvements and land according to the designations of urban or rural.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B63 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FRONT LOADING**Vernon**

WHEREAS current legislation requires payment of development costs charges at the time of subdivision approval or building permit issuance, which can be a financial burden upon developers as there are significant up-front costs for new developments;

AND WHEREAS if development costs charges can be made later in the development process, such as at the time of land sale, it can reduce the front-end development costs and encourage new growth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government consider alternate ways for a municipality to collect development cost charges.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B64 HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES**Langley Township**

WHEREAS the conservation and preservation of our heritage is vitally important to our society;

AND WHEREAS new development often takes place in an area where heritage homes and properties once stood;

AND WHEREAS new development should contribute financially towards the preservation of our history and heritage through public acquisition of selected sites:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to amend section 933(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act* by adding the words “and heritage conservation sites” at the end of that clause.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B65 ENCOURAGEMENT OF RAILWAY CAPACITY EXPANSION**Fernie**

WHEREAS insufficient railway capacity is strangling the sale of coal and other British Columbia resources and is constraining heartland economic development while causing a dangerous and polluting diversion of heavy and hazardous commodity traffic to tax-funded roads;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia’s unique classification of railway right-of-way as a “utility” results in a cumulative property taxation of \$9,000 per mile, equal to ten times the rate of Alberta and three times the national average:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that British Columbia’s provincial, regional and local governments encourage the expansion of railway infrastructure by taxing railway right-of-way as ordinary industrial property.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B66 COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEE REGULAR WORKING HOURS: EXTRAORDINARY EMERGENCY EVENTS**Thompson-Nicola RD**

WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts responding to extraordinary emergency events such as wildfires and floods dedicate resources, including employees, to responding to events;

AND WHEREAS such response places a financial burden on the responding agency, because staff regular hours worked during emergency events are not paid for by the federal and provincial governments and at the same time staff are unable to perform their regular duties while protecting government-owned resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness be requested to amend the Federal/Provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements and the provincial government be requested to amend the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation to allow local government to recover 100% of both regular time and

overtime salaries of employees directly involved in responding to an extraordinary emergency event where a state of local or provincial emergency is declared.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B67 PROVINCIAL FIRE LOSS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services issued a request to all fire departments on November 24th, 2003 requesting that all fire departments send in fire reports for all fires regardless of dollar loss;

AND WHEREAS this reporting requirement imposes additional work loads for fire departments across the province and the compensation of \$3 per report barely covers the cost of investigation and filing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services reimburse local governments for the investigation and reporting cost for all fires under \$500 at \$50 per report on fires of this nature that are investigated and reported.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

POLICY SESSION - RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of resolutions resumed with Councillor Patricia Wallace in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Councillor Brenda Binnie, Mayor Jack Peake, Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Chair Marvin Hunt.

B68 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BEING EXEMPT FROM PAYMENT OF PROVINCIAL SALES TAX

Revelstoke

WHEREAS the provincial government has promised new revenue sources for local governments and has suggested a partnership approach between the Province and local governments to better serve the needs of our citizens;

AND WHEREAS the federal government, through its recent GST exemption for local governments, has recognized the need for senior level government financial support for communities who are facing ever-increasing demands for services, some of which are a direct result of federal and provincial government cutbacks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities approach the provincial government to immediately exempt local governments from the payment of Provincial Sales Tax.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the second enactment clause from resolution C13 be appended to the resolution, replacing the word "rebate" with "exemption" and omitting the words "should be regarded as additional revenue", was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities approach the provincial government to immediately exempt local governments from the payment of Provincial Sales Tax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such exemption should not result in any reduction of grants in lieu or any other monies presently directed from the provincial government to municipal governments, nor should such exemption be seen as an opportunity to download additional responsibilities to municipal governments without providing sufficient funding to compensate for such additional responsibilities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B69 GST REBATE FOR TAX-SUPPORTED EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**Cache Creek**

WHEREAS the education of our children affects the future of our country;

AND WHEREAS School Boards, universities, colleges and technical institutions across Canada are faced with reduced funding that has resulted in some school closures and reductions in some programs;

AND WHEREAS communities are adversely impacted by such initiatives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to develop working relationships with appropriate education agencies to lobby the federal government for a 100% rebate of Goods and Services Tax for all tax-supported education institutions.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be reworded to read “that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the federal government apply a 100% Goods and Services Tax rebate for all tax-supported institutions, including schools, hospitals and post-secondary institutions”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the federal government apply a 100% Goods and Services Tax rebate for all tax-supported institutions, including schools, hospitals and post-secondary institutions.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B70 COMMERCIAL RECREATION REVENUE SHARING**Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD**

WHEREAS Land and Water British Columbia Inc. has established a Commercial Recreation Tenure Incentive Program to meet the provincial government’s objective to encourage economic development through increased tourism by implementing a commercial fee for use of Crown resources;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia benefits immensely from commercial recreation users by boosting the province’s profile through tourism enhancement as well as generating revenue for provincial coffers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to institute a fair and equitable policy that would also provide a share of the revenue to the local governments affected by commercial recreation operators in their area.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B71 CREDIT UNIONS**Gibsons**

WHEREAS British Columbia credit unions are community-based and community-oriented financial institutions;

AND WHEREAS over 1.5 million British Columbians are the owners/members of credit unions;

AND WHEREAS credit unions are the only financial institutions in 39 communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS credit unions are committed to enhancing the communities they serve by giving back to their communities through dividends, patronage payments, support of community programs and support of innovative economic development initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia credit union system is the largest network of financial institutions in the province with 330 branches in 125 communities;

AND WHEREAS Credit Union Central of British Columbia has become the “banker” for the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS a number of local credit unions have won tendered competitions to provide financial services to their local municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments give credit unions every opportunity to respond to tenders for provision of financial services to local government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B72 SUPPORT FOR INVASIVE PLANT STRATEGY

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS invasive plants can detrimentally impact the economy, social values and the environment;

AND WHEREAS the Fraser Basin Council, working with stakeholders throughout British Columbia, has developed the “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government for full implementation and funding of the “Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia”, developed by the Fraser Basin Council.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B73 INCLUSION OF HOGWEED ON NOXIOUS WEED LIST

Nanaimo RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia imposes a duty on all land occupiers to control noxious plants designated in the *Weed Control Regulation* in Schedule A, Part 1 and Giant Hogweed is not designated as a noxious plant by the *Weed Control Regulation*;

AND WHEREAS Giant Hogweed is a noxious plant in several areas of the province and has a negative impact on human health, the environment and agricultural economic activity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province designate Giant Hogweed as a noxious plant in the *Weed Control Regulation*, or some other legislation of comparable stature, and impose a duty on all land occupiers to control Giant Hogweed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this duty to control Giant Hogweed be enforced using provincial rather than local government resources.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B74 BTK (BACILLUS THURINGIENSIS KURSTAKI)
AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAY**

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the Gypsy Moth has been identified as a serious threat to the health of the native Garry Oaks and the ecological integrity of Garry Oak ecosystems;

AND WHEREAS aerial spraying programs of the pesticide BTK (*Bacillus Thuringiensis Kurstaki*) are one of the management tools used in Gypsy Moth management in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS significant data gaps preclude comprehensive assessment of the short and long-term effects of spray programs on non-target species in Garry Oak ecosystems, including species at risk:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be encouraged to fund rigorous and comprehensive pre- and post-spraying inventory and monitoring programs to assess the affects of BTK spraying on non-target species in Garry Oak ecosystems.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B75 RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities is supportive of and vitally interested in harmonizing streamside protection measures;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is drafting the Riparian Areas Regulation for enactment in late 2004 or early 2005, and has been proceeding without extensive nor open consultation with local governments;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM membership resolved, in the 2002 Environment Action Plan, that any new riparian assessment regulation should:

- Provide liability protection for local government when making land use decisions based on a report by a Qualified Environment Professional on fish habitat;
- Ensure that no new responsibilities are downloaded on local government and that all training costs and management costs required to implement the new Regulation are paid for by either the federal or provincial government;
- Ensure the process is timely and cost effective, from the community perspective;
- Ensure an integrated approach is implemented to avoid conflicts between different levels of government;
- Ensure that a balance is maintained between development and protection of the environment;

AND WHEREAS the proposed Regulation will not include institutional land uses, including federal and provincially administered lands, promoting a fragmentation of riparian protection, which may compromise the effectiveness of the Regulation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM membership not endorse a tripartite agreement for implementing a Riparian Areas Regulation unless the following measures have been satisfied:

- A comprehensive legal and logistical review of the Regulation by an objective party to identify, assess and address the implications of the Regulation to local governments;
- Assurance of open involvement of local governments in the development of the compliance, enforcement and implementation strategies; and
- Assurance of open involvement of local governments in development of the guidebook for implementation of the Regulation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Riparian Areas Regulation be extended to apply to institutional uses, including federal and provincial Crown lands.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that an additional bullet point be inserted between the first two bullet points of the first enactment clause reading “Full liability protection for local governments”, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that “lands under treaty negotiations” be added at the end of the second enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM membership not endorse a tripartite agreement for implementing a Riparian Areas Regulation unless the following measures have been satisfied:

- A comprehensive legal and logistical review of the Regulation by an objective party to identify, assess and address the implications of the Regulation to local governments;
- Full liability protection for local governments;
- Assurance of open involvement of local governments in the development of the compliance, enforcement and implementation strategies; and
- Assurance of open involvement of local governments in development of the guidebook for implementation of the Regulation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Riparian Areas Regulation be extended to apply to institutional uses, including federal and provincial Crown lands and lands under treaty negotiations.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B76 UNCONFINED AQUIFER PROTECTION**Nanaimo RD**

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities has previously endorsed a resolution supporting new provincial groundwater protection legislation and identifying a need for the Province to provide the resources and initiative to implement its legislative responsibility and authority for the province's groundwater resource;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that although groundwater protection legislation should address all groundwater resources in the province, some areas of the province are underlain by unconfined aquifers that may be more vulnerable to contamination from certain surface activities and if these aquifers become contaminated, they may require a long time or substantial costs to resolve the impact:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province, in enacting groundwater protection legislation, ensure that the regulatory and operational requirements that apply to the commercial, industrial and development sectors be sufficiently prescriptive and effectively administered and enforced to protect the province's unconfined aquifers from contamination and that the Province supports local government efforts to protect aquifers and their sources.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Mayor Malcolm Brodie assumed the Chair and continued with the consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

B77 ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT BOARDS**Midway**

WHEREAS the provincial government indicates that there will be increased development of green power projects utilizing water sources and these projects will impact on existing and future water rights throughout the affected river systems throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the projected drought due to climate change will further impact water resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia actively, and as soon as possible, establish and finance Water Management Review Boards, in consultation with impacted municipal jurisdictions throughout the province.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that “municipal jurisdictions” be replaced with “local governments” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia actively, and as soon as possible, establish and finance Water Management Review Boards, in consultation with impacted local governments throughout the province.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**B78 NATURAL SHORELINES: RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE****Gibsons**

WHEREAS many municipalities are experiencing or likely will experience considerable growth in development, especially in marine and freshwater shoreline development;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing scientific evidence that marine riparian areas are as important as freshwater ones, and that sea levels will likely continue to rise and the size and frequency of storm surges likely increase;

AND WHEREAS many natural marine and freshwater shorelines act as pollution filters and buffers to erosion, thus helping to protect water quality and safeguard public health, municipal infrastructure and private property:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government pays extra attention to emerging values and roles of natural marine riparian areas in helping protect our coastal communities and the ocean waters beside them;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Union of BC Municipalities, whenever possible, promote the values of riparian buffers along their respective marine and freshwater shorelines through policies, bylaws and guidelines, as well as through public education and awareness, whether or not there are Development Permit Areas or Environmentally Sensitive Areas designated or established.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “members of” and “whenever possible” be omitted from the second enactment clause and that “their respective marine and freshwater shorelines” be replaced with “its members’ respective marine and freshwater shorelines” and that “model” be inserted before “bylaws”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government pay extra attention to emerging values and roles of natural marine riparian areas in helping protect our coastal communities and the ocean waters beside them;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities promote the values of riparian buffers along its members’ marine and freshwater shorelines through policies, model bylaws and guidelines, as well as through public education and awareness, whether or not there are Development Permit Areas or Environmentally Sensitive Areas designated or established.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B79 SHIPPING AIR EMISSIONS

Port Moody

WHEREAS ships have vaulted ahead of other local air-pollution sources and are now, for instance, our region’s largest source of sulphur oxides, a major contributor to smog and the cause of acid rain;

AND WHEREAS recent studies have suggested that air pollution likely causes more deaths than traffic accidents, and fine particles from diesel engines such as those on ships are a major medical concern because their emissions are carcinogenic:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government move to immediately strengthen air emissions regulations in the shipping sector, including considering requiring ships to use lower-sulphur fuels, reducing ship speeds in coastal waters, having ships plug into local electrical systems rather than running engines for power generation while docked, and requesting that Vancouver Port Authority waters be designated International Maritime Organization “Special Areas” where stricter regulations would apply.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words following “while docked” in the enactment clause be reworked and moved to a second enactment clause reading “that the UBCM express support for designation of North America’s west coast ports as International Maritime Organization “Special Areas” where stricter air emissions standards would apply”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government move to immediately strengthen air emissions regulations in the shipping sector, including considering requiring ships to use lower-sulphur fuels, reducing ship speeds in coastal waters, having ships plug into local electrical systems rather than running engines for power generation while docked;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM express support for designation of North America’s west coast ports as International Maritime Organization “Special Areas” where stricter air emissions standards would apply.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B80 SPECIES AT RISK**Comox-Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS species at risk are found throughout the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative that species at risk are protected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the appropriate legislation to allow for the granting of tax exemptions to landowners who conserve ecologically significant areas containing species at risk, as defined in the federal *Species at Risk Act* and/or any future provincial *Species at Risk Acts*.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word “property” be added before “tax exemptions” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the appropriate legislation to allow for the granting of property tax exemptions to landowners who conserve ecologically significant areas containing species at risk, as defined in the federal *Species at Risk Act* and/or any future provincial *Species at Risk Acts*.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B81 BEAR AWARE PROGRAM**Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection has stated that the Ministry is and continues to be a strong supporter of the provincial Bear Aware program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to maintain the Bear Aware program and provide the required funding through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund for communities pursuing the “Bear Smart” program, including community-based education programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B82 SMALL APPLIANCE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE**Port Moody**

WHEREAS small appliances are one of the fastest growing materials in our solid waste stream, with a 279% increase in GVRD per capita disposal of these items between 1998 and 2001;

AND WHEREAS these items are disproportionately high in toxicity, containing such toxins as lead, hexavalent chromium, tin, copper, mercury, polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastics and brominated flame retardants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities write to Electronics Product Stewardship Canada and the provincial and federal governments to express its concern over the increasing amount of electronic solid waste and the fast obsolescence of these products, the inability to economically repair or upgrade older products, the high toxicity of electronics and the manufacturer’s responsibility for disposal of its own toxic products;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request immediate implementation of a national industry-funded stewardship program for electronics without further unnecessary research.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following portion of the second enactment clause be added to the end of the first enactment clause “and request immediate implementation of a national industry-funded stewardship program for electronics” and that the second enactment clause then be replaced with “that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to pass legislation requiring that industry participate in an e-waste recycling program”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities write to Electronics Product Stewardship Canada and the provincial and federal governments to express its concern over the increasing amount of electronic solid waste and the fast obsolescence of these products, the inability to economically repair or upgrade older products, the high toxicity of electronics and the manufacturer's responsibility for disposal of its own toxic products and request immediate implementation of a national industry-funded stewardship program for electronics;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to pass legislation requiring that industry participate in an e-waste recycling program.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B83 FAMILY ACCOMMODATION IN SECONDARY SUITES

Coquitlam

WHEREAS the City of Coquitlam, through its Secondary Suite program, is committed to providing safe and affordable accommodation for people living in Coquitlam;

AND WHEREAS it is the view of Coquitlam City Council that the secondary suites provided by homeowners for the sole purpose of providing accommodation for immediate family members are often necessary and should be encouraged;

AND WHEREAS senior government legislation and regulations do not recognize the unique nature of secondary suites occupied by family members of those persons owning and residing in the dwelling unit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend the BC Building Code and other pertinent legislation to simplify requirements for secondary suites utilized explicitly for the accommodation of immediate family members of the owner and occupier of the primary residential dwelling.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “the BC Building Code and other” be removed from the enactment clause and that the enactment clause end with the word “suites”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend pertinent legislation to simplify requirements for secondary suites.

ON MOTION, as amended, was NOT ENDORSED

B84 COMMUNITY WATERSHED LAND USE RECREATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENTS

Kimberley

WHEREAS the *Drinking Water Protection Act* may now require a water supplier to undertake water assessments that identify, inventory and assess the drinking water source for the water supply system, including land use and other activities and conditions that may affect that source;

AND WHEREAS the water supplier does not have authority to control land use, including recreation activities that may affect the water source when the water source is located on Crown lands:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be required to conduct adequate risk assessments that identify, inventory and assess threats to drinking water, including recreation activities, prior to approving such use on Crown lands within community watersheds.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing the deactivation of fog horns be admitted off the floor for debate, was endorsed.

DEACTIVATION OF FOG HORNS**Comox-Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS the Canadian Coast Guard has a mandate to provide navigational aids and safety services to mariners and communities on the coast of BC;

AND WHEREAS Canadian Coast Guard management based in Victoria, BC has unilaterally decided to remove fog horns at three lightstations on the Inside Passage without the necessary consultation with mariners and coastal communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to immediately order the reconnection of these essential aids to navigation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister instruct his Victoria staff to stop any further disconnections or removals of horns, and to reconnect all former fog horn installations at staffed lightstations and other major sites on the BC coast.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B85 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND WATER SUPPLIERS**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

WHEREAS the Okanagan Valley has the fewest water resources per capita of any region in Canada;

AND WHEREAS local governments and water suppliers require the ability to optimize available water resources;

AND WHEREAS Land and Water BC Inc. (LWBC) is proposing to transfer to fee simple numerous existing leased location lots surrounding drinking water reservoir lakes which serve Okanagan Valley customers;

AND WHEREAS the vast majority of these lots are substantially smaller than the 1 ha minimum provincial funding standard for new lot subdivisions not served by community sewer:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management instruct LWBC to immediately abandon the proposal to sell the leased recreation lots on all drinking water reservoir lakes serving the Okanagan Basin Watershed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B86 FEDERAL FUNDING FOR RESTORATION OF FORESTS
IMPACTED BY THE PINE BEETLE EPIDEMIC****NCMA Executive**

WHEREAS new information from the provincial government documents that the Pine Beetle infestation has now spread throughout most of the interior of BC, covering an area seven times the size of Vancouver Island, and will result in approximately 200 million m³ of unsalvageable forest in excess of the area that will be salvaged as part of normal forestry operations;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has signed the Kyoto Protocol and has made a public commitment to sustainability;

AND WHEREAS a dead and idle forest is a net contributor of carbon dioxide, while conversely a healthy forest represents a significant carbon sink and contributes to sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities immediately develop a strategy to lobby the federal government to significantly increase its investment in rehabilitation and reforestation with a focus on regenerating those areas of the forest that have lost market value and will not be returned to productivity as part of normal forest operations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pursue this action both directly and in conjunction with BC area associations, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, First Nations, Industry, and the provincial government.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “develop a strategy to” be removed from the first enactment clause and that a point b) be added to the first enactment clause reading “include in that discussion the issue of financial assistance to local governments and private property owners negatively impacted by this natural disaster”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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

- significantly increase its investment in rehabilitation and reforestation with a focus on regenerating those areas of the forest that have lost market value and will not be returned to productivity as part of normal forest operations; and
- include in that discussion the issue of financial assistance to local governments and private property owners negatively impacted by this natural disaster;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pursue this action both directly and in conjunction with BC area associations, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, First Nations, Industry, and the provincial government.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Mayor Malcolm Brodie presented the report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

- 1) **EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE**
LR1 Oil and Gas Regulatory Improvement Initiative
- 2) **REFER TO UBCM EXECUTIVE**
No resolutions were recommended for referral to the UBCM Executive.
- 3) **LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE (Issues known before the June 30th deadline date for resolutions)**
LR2 Drug Courts
LR3 Emergency Recovery Operations
LR4 Annual Reports and Annual Meetings
LR5 Provincial Open Fire Ban
LR6 Community Social Services Funding
LR7 Property Tax Exemptions for Royal Canadian Legions
LR8 Pine Beetle Infestation

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

LR1 OIL AND GAS REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS it has become publicly known as of July 15, 2004 that the Ministry of Energy and Mines is undertaking the Oil and Gas Regulatory Improvement Initiative (OGRII), a process that may comprehensively overhaul BC’s oil and gas regulatory regime;

AND WHEREAS many aspects of oil and gas development directly affect the operations of local government, including local zoning, rights of way, utility use, noise and dust by-laws, and economic development;

AND WHEREAS OGRII may therefore affect many aspects of both the structure and exercise of local government powers in BC;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy and Mines has not consulted with municipal councils and regional district boards on OGRII;

AND WHEREAS in 2003 the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed resolution B129, calling on the Ministry to consult with local government on the development of coalbed methane standards, without a satisfactory response by the Ministry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Ministry of Energy and Mines formally include local governments in the consultation process for the Oil and Gas Regulatory Improvement Initiative, presenting in public sessions before relevant local governments and seeking formal responses.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

POLICY SESSION - REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions session continued with Mayor Malcolm Brodie in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Councillor Brenda Binnie, Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Patricia Wallace and Chair Marvin Hunt.

B87 INCREASED ELECTRICITY RATES

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS BC Hydro is proposing a seven percent increase in electricity rates effective April 1, 2004 and a further two percent increase to be effective in 2005;

AND WHEREAS resource dependent communities are facing economic hardship:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities object to BC Hydro's proposed increase in electricity rates.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B88 REGIONAL DISTRICT INTERESTS IN ADDITIONS TO TREATY SETTLEMENT LANDS

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS four Agreements in Principle (AIP) negotiated with First Nations in 2003 by the provincial and federal governments have been ratified by all three parties;

AND WHEREAS only one of these AIPs required the parties to take into account the interests of the regional district in cases where a proposal is made to add land that is within the regional district but outside a municipality to First Nations treaty settlement lands post-treaty:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all treaties and Agreements in Principle negotiated with First Nations by the provincial and federal governments require that, in addition to the current requirements with respect to municipalities, regional districts also be consulted and accommodated before lands are added to First Nations treaty settlement land post-treaty.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that "and local trust committees" be added after "regional districts" in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all treaties and Agreements in Principle negotiated with First Nations by the provincial and federal governments require that, in addition to the current requirements with respect to municipalities, regional districts and local trust committees also be consulted and accommodated before lands are added to First Nations treaty settlement land post-treaty.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B89 UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS TO REGIONAL DISTRICTS**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS provincial unconditional grant eligibility for regional districts is based on population;

AND WHEREAS local governments must prepare five-year financial plans to project revenue and expenses;

AND WHEREAS regional districts desire certainty concerning forecast revenue in the form of unconditional provincial grants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province utilize federal census information to determine regional district grant eligibility.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B90 UBCM CONVENTION DAYS**Courtenay**

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities' Annual Convention is traditionally held over five working days;

AND WHEREAS it may be difficult for local government elected officials to leave their place of employment or their business during the week for this length of time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities' Annual Conventions be held over a weekend, similar to the annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Conventions.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B91 CHANGE OF NAME FOR UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES**Kootenay Boundary RD**

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

AND WHEREAS Municipalities and Regional Districts are referred to as Local Governments:

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

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words "take the necessary steps to" be added before the word "change" in the enactment clause, was defeated.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive and brought back at next year's Convention, was defeated.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B92 AUDIBLE BIRD SCARE DEVICES**Abbotsford**

WHEREAS audible bird scare devices (ABSDs), also known as propane-fuelled exploders or cannons, are in use in many agricultural areas of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS provided ABSDs are used in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries the activity constitutes a normal practice of farm operation and agricultural activity appears to be exempt from local government bylaws and nuisance or injunction action;

AND WHEREAS the City of Abbotsford continues to work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, residents and the agriculture industry to develop a strategy to ultimately eliminate the use of ABSDs by encouraging adherence to the Ministry's guidelines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the British Columbia provincial government to:
acknowledge the principles of the Community Charter and not offload current provincial responsibilities onto communities, such as the regulation of audible bird scare devices, without adequate funding;

consult with affected local governments regarding the impact of provincial funding reduction and identify the accompanying financial resources, in consultation with local governments where such reductions are to be implemented; and
consider banning ABSDs if it cannot enforce the guidelines or supply funding to local governments.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B93 MANAGEMENT OF CULL ANIMALS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the recent BSE crisis resulted in a large number of cull cows that have no market, and greatly reduced access to markets for processing by-products and waste;

AND WHEREAS the recent closure of the Armstrong rendering plant has removed a possible avenue to deal with waste materials;

AND WHEREAS local government is not equipped nor prepared to accept cull animals, processing by-products, processing waste and specified risk materials in the solid waste management stream:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to establish a proper economic and regulatory environment to facilitate the efficient, responsible and effective management of cull animals, fowl, processing by-products, processing waste and specified risk materials by the private sector.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be revised to read “that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to devise a provincial strategy to facilitate the efficient, responsible and effective management of cull animals, fowl, processing by-products, processing waste and specified risk materials that does not include the disposition of these materials in the local solid waste management stream”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to devise a provincial strategy to facilitate the efficient, responsible and effective management of cull animals, fowl, processing by-products, processing waste and specified risk materials that does not include the disposition of these materials in the local solid waste management stream.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B94 FUNDING FORMULA FOR EDUCATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Cache Creek

WHEREAS schools are a fundamental component of a healthy, vibrant community and vital to a community’s future well-being;

AND WHEREAS the present formula for funding schools is based on student enrollment;

AND WHEREAS the decline in rural student populations has resulted in the closure and consolidation of some schools:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the British Columbia School Trustees Association and the provincial government to develop a funding formula that would better help to maintain a basic level of education opportunities in rural communities.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be revised to read “that the provincial government work with affected stakeholders, such as the BC School Trustees Association, to review the current school funding formula so that it better reflects the special circumstances of different communities”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government work with affected stakeholders, such as the BC School Trustees Association, to review the current school funding formula so that it better reflects the special circumstances of different communities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B95 A LOTTERY PRODUCT IN SUPPORT OF SENIOR CITIZENS CARE

Houston

WHEREAS the Council of the District of Houston has concerns regarding general care for senior citizens in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS this concern does not diminish, and continues as many British Columbia communities experience problems with declining local economic opportunities and many demands on a limited tax base;

AND WHEREAS it is known that various lottery products are created through the British Columbia Lottery Corporation to provide financial support to a variety of ongoing events and activities, as well as organizations, in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS it is believed that a lottery product may be created to generate financial support for senior citizens in the Province of British Columbia to directly assist with their care through funding for various projects, facilities and activities;

AND WHEREAS such an initiative is timely considering the aging population in the Province of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Premier of British Columbia consider the creation of a lottery product in support of the senior citizens of British Columbia, to fund their various projects, facilities and activities on a continuing basis;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solicitor General of the Province of British Columbia, whose responsibility the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) is, be requested to have the BCLC research and develop, as well as implement, a lottery product in the Province of British Columbia, the revenue from which will go directly towards care for the senior citizens of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B96 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION – ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Rosland

WHEREAS public libraries have exclusive control of their expenditures subject to their approved budget under the *Library Act* (1996) and the cost of general liability insurance and officer's and director's insurance has risen dramatically in the last four years;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Insurance Association of BC only covers organizations that belong to and are controlled by their regional district or municipality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Municipal Insurance Association to include all forms of governance of public libraries as defined in the *Library Act* (1996) within their eligibility rules.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B97 LIBRARY ACT

Columbia Shuswap RD

WHEREAS the *Library Act* forbids the payment of per diem to Library Trustees for attendance at Library Board meetings, etc.;

AND WHEREAS this causes some Trustees to be unable to attend some functions and also causes some hardships to local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities forward this matter to the Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services asking that the *Library Act* be changed to allow Library Boards to pay trustees a meeting stipend over and above their travel expenses.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION "B" - PART III RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Jack Peake assumed the Chair for the consideration of Section B – Part III resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Councillor Brenda Binnie, Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Councillor Patricia Wallace and Chair Marvin Hunt.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing the establishment of an emergency radio system be admitted off the floor for debate, was endorsed.

EMERGENCY RADIO SYSTEM

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS 2003 saw many emergencies, from forest fires to floods, throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS many of these emergencies occur in locales that do not have access to radio or telephone signals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to equip and manage an emergency radio frequency using the best technology available to broadcast on the local level during emergency operations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution addressing the topic of community watersheds be admitted off the floor for debate, was endorsed.

COMMUNITY WATERSHEDS

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has not acted to grant management authority to legally constituted water purveyors over community watersheds used for potable water as recommended by UBCM resolution 1998-B65;

AND WHEREAS there are continuing conflicts of use within community watersheds used for potable water all over British Columbia, as exemplified by the pending sand and gravel extraction application in Chapman Creek Community Watershed that serves approximately 21,000 Sunshine Coast residents;

AND WHEREAS the local purveyor of water and therefore the local ratepayer bear all the long term financial liability for water treatment and for maintaining water supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the British Columbia provincial government to enact legislation that empowers local government water purveyors to protect the community watersheds used for potable water.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution from the City of Coquitlam be admitted off the floor for debate, was defeated.

B98 CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AND FIREARMS REGISTRY

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS the federal government committed to the taxpayers of Canada that the National Firearms Registry for long guns under Bill C-68 would cost no more than \$2 million dollars;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General's Report submitted to Parliament on December 3, 2002 determined that the minimum cost of the federal Firearms Registry for long guns will exceed \$1 billion;

AND WHEREAS an administrative review by a consultant for the Justice Department verified that the Gun Registry will cost an additional \$541 million before being fully implemented, and another \$1 billion to operate; and that these spending estimates do not include the cost of associated programs;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Taxpayers Federation recently announced that it believes the Firearms Registry for long guns will cost the taxpayers of Canada at least \$2 billion;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada determined that the Justice Department has consistently failed to provide both Members of Parliament and the Auditor General with accurate information regarding the cost overruns of the Registry;

AND WHEREAS the government has failed to provide any conclusive or verifiable evidence that the registration of long guns is preventing crime or keeping guns out of the hands of criminals;

AND WHEREAS the money spent on the Firearms Registry for long guns would have provided MRIs for every hospital in Canada, or provided for the hiring of at least 10,000 police officers;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Canada are in dire need of funding to assist with the provision of local services including public transit, the maintenance of local infrastructure such as roads, bridges, sewers and hospitals, and local law enforcement;

AND WHEREAS eight provinces, three territories, police associations, police chiefs and police officers across Canada have withdrawn their support of the Firearms Registry for long guns; five recent public opinion polls have demonstrated that a majority of Canadian taxpayers support the abolition of the Firearms Registry in favour of spending on other national priorities; and six provinces are refusing to prosecute charges associated with the Firearms Registry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon Parliament to abolish the unworkable National Firearms Registry for long guns;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the tax dollars being spent on the Registry be redirected to programs in support of municipal infrastructure, health care, education and local law enforcement.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B99 RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PRESENT NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRY

Houston

WHEREAS the Council of the District of Houston is utterly appalled at the exorbitant cost of the National Firearms Registry, funded by taxpayers, and that the said Registry is ineffective in negating the illegal importation and subsequent use of firearms;

AND WHEREAS these concerns are continuing, and the cost of the National Firearms Registry is still escalating;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Government of Canada, through the Prime Minister:

- to hire an independent outside investigator to report on the exorbitant cost of the present National Firearms Registry; and
- implement an inquiry into the ineffectiveness of the present National Firearms Registry and find a resolution.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B100 APPROACH TO END THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

Vancouver

WHEREAS the trafficking of children in Canada has been identified and is a major phenomenon, much of which is controlled by organized crime for the purposes of prostitution;

AND WHEREAS the trafficking of children to and in Canada has been acknowledged by the Canadian government and non-government organizations (NGO) internationally as well as by local organizations and police;

AND WHEREAS Canada is a signatory to Article 24 of the *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*, which requires States Parties to adopt “appropriate measures” to protect witnesses from “potential intimidation or retaliation” including physical protection, relocation, and, within legal constraints, concealment of identities and may also mean the international relocations of witnesses where appropriate and Article 25 that provides for the protection and support of victims (who will also usually be witnesses under Article 24);

AND WHEREAS Canada has indicated its support for the Protocol to *Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, which is a supplement to the United Nations *Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime*;

AND WHEREAS Canada is also a signatory to the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, specifically Article 35, which states “States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the...traffic in children for any purpose or in any form”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of Canada ensure that the new *Criminal Code* includes language that addresses the trafficking in children and that Family Court Youth Justice Committees work with all levels of government, youth organizations, other NGOs, the Bar, the police and others, in arriving at effective methods for ending the trafficking of children and for monitoring them.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B101 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Abbotsford

WHEREAS an increasing number of illegal marijuana grow operations are found in residential areas where residents, especially children, are at risk and vulnerable, and a growing number of people buy and rent houses for illegal marijuana grow operations, and realtors and property owners are under no legal obligation to disclose to potential buyers whether or not a house was used for an illegal marijuana grow operation;

AND WHEREAS federal and provincial privacy legislation forbids the disclosure of personal information, including information that may identify an individual associated with criminal activity except where there are compelling circumstances affecting someone’s safety or health and the third party was consulted before releasing the personal information, and that third party personal information may be protected from disclosure by statute notwithstanding compelling circumstances:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the provincial government to pursue legislative changes to allow the disclosure of information that may identify an individual associated with criminal activity if said disclosure is in the public interest.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B102 COORDINATED APPROACH TO COMBAT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH PROSTITUTION

Vancouver

WHEREAS Article 34 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that participating countries shall “undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent:

- a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity;
- b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices;
- c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials”;

AND WHEREAS there are a significant number of youth involved in the sex trade in the Lower Mainland and other parts of the province;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for children becoming involved in the sex trade are multi-factorial:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government support a province-wide network that incorporates youth, schools, parents, educators, police, social services, drug and alcohol counsellors and the Crown, which would focus on the education of youth and the criminal prosecution of those who are involved in all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B103 ABORIGINAL CHILD WELFARE PROVINCIAL COURT

Vancouver

WHEREAS Aboriginal families continue to be disproportionately represented in the child welfare system as a direct result of the residential school legacy and other forced assimilation policies;

AND WHEREAS Aboriginal people have the inherent right to self-government as recognized by the federal government under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support Aboriginal groups in the establishment of an Aboriginal child welfare provincial court that will oversee the welfare of Aboriginal children and their families;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments provide funds to train, educate, communicate, establish, build, legislate, and undertake whatever is necessary to prevent Aboriginal children and their families from being separated.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B104 YOUTH DRUG COURT

Vancouver

WHEREAS drug courts are proving to be cost effective to the justice system in other jurisdictions – as much as 1/10 to 1/20 of the cost of incarceration;

AND WHEREAS participants in drug courts have an over 50% lower recidivism rate and graduates are staying clean longer than “regular” attendants at treatment programs;

AND WHEREAS the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* provides for extra-judicial measures and promotes non-custodial sentencing;

AND WHEREAS Article 33 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child directs that participating countries “shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the federal and provincial governments establish a youth drug court in the province, on a priority basis.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B105 ROAD SAFETY AS A REQUIRED LEARNING OUTCOME

Richmond

WHEREAS vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury among people between the ages of one and 25 in BC today;

AND WHEREAS road safety education can increase awareness among young people of the risks involved in being on the road and change their attitudes toward risk behaviour involving vehicles, making them less willing to engage in or support unnecessary risk-taking:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Ministry of Education to:

- designate road safety education as a required learning outcome in the provincial school system for all grades from Kindergarten to Grade 12; and
- designate the use of the new and existing ICBC road safety teaching guides and resources to deliver the road safety learning outcomes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B106 ROAD SAFETY AS A REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A DRIVER'S LICENCE

Richmond

WHEREAS vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury among people between the ages of one and 25 in BC today;

AND WHEREAS road safety education can increase awareness among young people of the risks involved in being on the road and change their attitudes toward risk behaviour involving vehicles, making them less willing to engage in or support unnecessary risk-taking:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Responsible for ICBC) to:

- require successful completion of a road safety education program within the Graduated Licensing Program to obtain a Class 5 driver's licence; and
- consider modification of existing ICBC road safety teaching guides and resources to deliver the road safety education outcomes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B107 BC FERRIES SENIORS RATES

Kitimat

WHEREAS tourism is an important part of the British Columbia economy that must be encouraged and promoted;

AND WHEREAS BC Ferries has a seniors rate that is only available to in-province seniors;

AND WHEREAS charging a different rate for out-of-province seniors is discriminatory and acts as a disincentive for seniors to holiday in our province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government and BC Ferries to extend the current BC seniors rate to all seniors.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B108 ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Mount Waddington RD

WHEREAS the economic survival of business, tourism and industry for island communities depends on continuous, reliable ferry service for the flow of goods, services and people;

AND WHEREAS ferry service represents the only form of access for many island communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia designate ferry services as an essential service whereby:

- a) work stoppages are not allowed, as a condition of employment; and
- b) any labour disputes be settled by a process of mediation and arbitration.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B109 PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING**Port Moody**

WHEREAS Transport Canada recommends against using cell phones while driving because of adverse effects on situational awareness, including reaction time and mirror sampling, and research has show that phone use in motor vehicles quadruples the chance of a collision during the call period, a rate equivalent to the impairment caused by legal intoxication, and the same research reports that hands-free phones do not seem to offer safety advantages over hand-held devices;

AND WHEREAS the use of electronic devices while driving has escalated dramatically in recent years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) write a letter to the provincial government voicing the UBCM's support for restrictions on the use of cellular phones by drivers.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B110 HARMONIZATION OF PST ON FILM PRODUCTION**AVICC Executive**

WHEREAS over 30,000 BC residents earn a living directly and indirectly from the motion picture industry and rising competitive pressure is causing the motion picture industry to relocate to other jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS some provinces treat film production as a manufacturing process not a service while some jurisdictions have harmonized the PST with the GST and exempt film production from PST and other jurisdictions charge no PST:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province harmonize the application of PST and treat film production as a manufactured product for PST purposes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B111 PROPOSED LIQUOR TAX**Fort St. John**

WHEREAS the abuse of alcohol places a burden on society and is a contributing factor to homelessness;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to direct 5% of the existing revenue received from the sale of liquor sold through rural agency stores, licensed retail stores and government liquor stores to the municipality in which the outlet is located, with the funds to be utilized to fund homeless and homeless-at-risk shelters and detox facilities.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause end with the word "located", was defeated.

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

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to direct 5% of the existing revenue received from the sale of liquor sold through rural agency stores, licensed retail stores and government liquor stores to the local government in which the outlet is located, with the funds to be utilized to fund homeless and homeless-at-risk shelters and detox facilities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B112 REDUCTION OF PHOSPHATES IN MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER**Lake Cowichan**

WHEREAS the discharge of phosphate nutrients causes the eutrophication of valuable fish bearing streams and pollutes drinking water;

AND WHEREAS local governments face considerable costs in having to comply with required phosphorous concentration guidelines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to implement measures to discourage the use of phosphate detergents and encourage phosphorous-free alternatives, through such measures as environmental taxes or rebates.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B113 PROPOSED SCOTT ISLANDS MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Port Hardy

WHEREAS Environment Canada wishes to establish a Federal Marine Protected Area around the Scott Islands;

AND WHEREAS the Protected Area may include a massive section of the southern Queen Charlotte Basin;

AND WHEREAS the Protected Area may exclude existing fishing opportunities, vessel traffic and impact future resource development in the Basin:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly recommend to Environment Canada that the current provincially protected status of Scott Islands remain as it is and that the Ministry conduct additional studies towards minimizing bird/human conflicts in the surrounding ocean.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B114 OIL AND GAS MORATORIUM

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS preliminary science suggests that the north coast of British Columbia has offshore oil and gas reserves that may equal or better the offshore Hibernia oil fields, and the federal government has had a moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Queen Charlotte Basin since 1972, and the science of exploration and extraction has been highly developed to ensure protection of the environment;

AND WHEREAS the royalties from the development of offshore oil and gas could provide significant net revenues to federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments to fund health care, education, transportation and other services to the benefit of all British Columbians, and exploration and development will create business and employment opportunities throughout the province, most significantly in those coastal communities currently suffering the highest unemployment rates in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities fully support the lifting of the federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration in the Queen Charlotte Basin.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, to table the resolution, was defeated.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, to call the question on the resolution, was endorsed.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B115 OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS offshore oil and gas exploration is an important issue, particularly to coastal British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there are many different perspectives on the advisability of proceeding with offshore oil and gas exploration:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the provincial and federal governments to convene a multi-party interest process regarding offshore oil and gas exploration with a view to developing a consensus on if or how both governments should proceed with offshore oil and gas exploration;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this multi-party negotiation include local parties deemed to be affected, including local governments.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

In the interest of time, Mayor Peake called for a motion to consider the remaining Section B – Part III resolutions as a block.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolutions B140, B118, B144, and B119 be removed from the block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolutions B130 and B136 be withdrawn, was endorsed.

**B130 LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR NURSES, PHYSICIANS
MIDWIVES AND PHARMACISTS**

Mackenzie

WHEREAS a Loan Forgiveness program is in place for nurses, physicians, midwives and pharmacists who serve three years in under-serviced communities;

AND WHEREAS a longer period of service by health care professionals would provide more certainty and stability to under-serviced communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend the Loan Forgiveness program to require five years of service in an under-serviced community.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

B136 SERVICES TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Campbell River

WHEREAS access to community-based services and support is essential to promoting equality and protecting the health, safety and social conditions of women;

AND WHEREAS organizations and individuals work in our communities and municipalities across British Columbia to support women, gender equality and an end to violence against women and children;

AND WHEREAS the BC provincial government has stated that the interest of women and gender equality will be brought about through economic security and by improving personal safety and security in our communities;

AND WHEREAS poverty persists and is growing among elderly women living alone, female lone parents, Aboriginal women, women of colour, immigrant women and women with disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the BC provincial government has affected BC's entire network of women's centres by cutting legal aid, welfare, Aboriginal, domestic and violence services, health care and social assistance, community health services, home support and home care;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in its Canada 5th Report cited the BC Liberal Government for its sweeping programme of cuts that disproportionately impact BC women and girls:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon the provincial government to immediately restore funding for vital services and programs to protect the health, safety and livelihoods of BC women;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work with all levels of municipal, provincial and federal governments to advance women's equality and correct adverse social conditions in order to end gender discrimination and achieve women's equality in British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the remaining Section B – Part III resolutions be adopted (with those resolutions for which no recommendation was made being referred to the UBCM Executive), was endorsed.

B116 NEEDS-BASED UTILITIES SUBSIDY

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the rising cost of basic utilities is increasing the cost of living for Canadians and those Canadians with low incomes or fixed incomes or relying on social assistance cannot afford these increases;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has provided a rebate in the past and the problem appears to be recurrent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities request that the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of BC commit to providing a needs-based subsidy to offset the increased costs for electricity and natural gas.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B117 PARKING FEES IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the imposition of parking fees in provincial parks has caused people to use other areas where there are no parking, garbage or toilet facilities, thereby causing hardships in neighbouring areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly recommend that the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection remove parking fees from provincial parks.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

**B120 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HEALTH
AUTHORITY BOARDS**

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

WHEREAS the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional Hospital District Board recognizes the need for transparent and accountable management of the delivery of health care services in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health Services is encouraged to revert to the original concept of 1/3 provincial appointments, 1/3 local government appointments and 1/3 appointments through direct public election for members of Health Authorities.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B121 ELECTION OF REGIONAL HEALTH BOARDS

Hazelton

WHEREAS health care continues to be the number one concern for BC residents;

AND WHEREAS authority for health spending in British Columbia (34% of the provincial budget) has been delegated to five Regional Authorities, members of which are not elected but provincially appointed, and do not lobby for particular community needs or interests, and do not have any direct accountability to the people through elected representation;

AND WHEREAS, in comparison, school board members are elected and therefore accountable to the contributing taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to institute an election process for Health Authorities similar to that of school boards, thereby ensuring that directors are accountable to the citizens of the region.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B122 HEALTH AUTHORITY STRUCTURE**Kitimat-Stikine RD**

WHEREAS some Regional Health Authorities have been unable to achieve equitable access to health services and improved efficiency because the regions are too large and diverse to effectively administer;

AND WHEREAS adequate communication and consultation with local communities, as well as accountability to local communities, remains unsatisfactory because of the regions' size and lack of local representation on the Boards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to realign the Health Authority boundaries to correspond to smaller Health Service Delivery Areas, which would result in a health care structure conducive to ensuring equitable access to cost-effective health care services.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B123 TELEVISIONING NORTHERN HEALTH AUTHORITY MEETINGS**Kitimat**

WHEREAS healthcare is a number one priority with British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the regionalization of health care management has removed local access to health care decisions to the point where people do not have the ability to know what is going on;

AND WHEREAS the Northern Health Authority has been requested to televise its meetings on local cable TV stations in the same manner as Council and School Board meetings;

AND WHEREAS the Northern Health Authority has stated that local cable TV providers have told them they will not expand meeting coverage beyond Council and School Board meetings:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities contact local cable providers and demand that they provide coverage of Northern Health Authority meetings as a public service.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

**B124 ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE
IN CANADA****North Vancouver City**

WHEREAS under-funding, the de-listing of services and privatization has deteriorated Canada's Universal Healthcare System and put it into serious jeopardy;

AND WHEREAS the Royal Commission on the Future of Healthcare in Canada, headed by the Honourable Roy Romanow, has presented a blueprint to correct, preserve and enhance Canada's Healthcare System:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Future of Healthcare in Canada, chaired by the Honourable Roy Romanow;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities commend the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia for their efforts to have implemented into Federal legislation all of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the future of Healthcare in Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

**B125 REIMBURSING COSTS INCURRED FOR TRAVEL REQUIRED
TO GIVE BIRTH****Port Hardy**

WHEREAS due to the current moratorium on all local deliveries, planned birthing is no longer attainable north of Campbell River;

AND WHEREAS all pregnant women must travel to a larger centre two weeks prior to the scheduled due date;

AND WHEREAS travel and accommodations are necessary in most cases to fulfill the birthing requirements imposed by the moratorium on local deliveries;

AND WHEREAS to receive partial assistance from the Ministry of Human Resources for travel and accommodations a physician's statement attesting that the birth is a life-threatening situation must be obtained;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Human Resources limits resources to one week of the required two week pre-birth date:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government develop a travel and funding policy that supports the policy on relocation to meet birthing requirements.

ON MOTION, as amended was ENDORSED

**B126 PRIVATIZATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

Chetwynd

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is seeking to privatize the Medical Services Plan records administration;

AND WHEREAS American companies are seeking to bid on the privatization process;

AND WHEREAS American companies can be compelled by the *USA Patriot Act* legislation to turn over confidential information controlled by the corporation to the FBI without notifying Canadian officials or the individuals involved;

AND WHEREAS this will result in the confidential information of British Columbia residents being turned over to American government authorities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government not privatize the administration of our personal medical records to any American company or any affiliate of an American company that can be compelled by the *USA Patriot Act*.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B127 FUNDING FOR AFFILIATED CARE HOMES

Port Alberni

WHEREAS residential care homes are providing a valuable service to our communities;

AND WHEREAS there is a disparity in funding increases between Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) residential care homes and VIHA-affiliated residential care homes;

AND WHEREAS there are no guidelines for defining standards of care and the compensation to be received providing such care;

AND WHEREAS the government has downloaded costs of increased wages and benefits onto affiliated care homes by providing inadequate funding without any rationalization for the level of funding provided:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

- the provincial government ensure that Health Authorities are required to provide equal financial treatment to all residential care homes in their jurisdiction, whether run by the Health Authority or by an affiliated organization; and
- the provincial government is called upon to provide guidelines for the standards for levels of care for residential care homes and detail the compensation which will be paid for providing such care; and

- the provincial government is called upon to explain its current funding regime and allocation of funding to affiliated residential care homes.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

**B128 TENANCY PROTECTION FOR RESIDENTS OF SUPPORTIVE
AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**

Vancouver

WHEREAS the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* outlines a new model of care for seniors who do not require constant care;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* lacks tenancy protection for seniors who are residents of supportive and assisted living facilities;

AND WHEREAS the Seniors Health and Housing Coalition report titled “Regulation of ‘Independent Living’” details the shortcomings of the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* and suggests the development of a new framework to remedy the lack of tenancy protection for residents of supportive and assisted living facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government establish a comprehensive legislative and regulatory framework to address care, safety and security of tenure issues for residents of both supportive housing and assisted living facilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province consult widely with local governments, seniors organizations, housing and health providers and the general public in the development of the framework.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B129 PLANNING FOR ASSISTED AND SUPPORTIVE LIVING

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the provincial government created Health Authorities to support the Province’s vision of providing high quality patient-centered care, improve health and wellness and create a sustainable, affordable public health care system;

AND WHEREAS Health Authorities need to work more closely with local communities to develop a long-term plan to address the need for assisted/supportive living and long-term care facilities for the aging population of British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to avoid the high costs, both financially and socially, by developing a long-term plan for assisted/supportive living and long-term care facilities in consultation with local communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B131 BULLY FREE COMMUNITIES

Langley City

WHEREAS there are many people in our communities who have lived with, or are living with bullying;

AND WHEREAS bullying is a learned behaviour and occurs in more environments than just the school yard;

AND WHEREAS bullying is not confined to children only;

AND WHEREAS individuals and communities have the power to prevent bullying before it becomes a problem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon citizens to recognize bullying for the social problem it is and encourage them to make a difference by taking the time to get involved and help make our communities bully free.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B132 AGE DISCRIMINATION**Vancouver**

WHEREAS seniors over 65 years remain vulnerable to mistreatment, denial of services and discrimination due to being elderly;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Human Rights Code defines age as “an age of 19 years or more and less than 65 years”;

AND WHEREAS due to this discrimination there is no statutory protection or recourse against age discrimination for those over 65 years;

AND WHEREAS a recommendation was made to extend protection against age discrimination for seniors over the age of 65 years in a report produced in January, 1998 by the British Columbia Human Rights Commission called “Human Rights for the Next Millennium”;

AND WHEREAS changing the definition of age to extend to those over 65 years should not affect programs or benefits that have been accorded as a special support to seniors in society;

AND WHEREAS changes in the definition of age to extend to those over 65 years should not affect any proposed statutory changes related to mandatory retirement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Attorney General of the Province of British Columbia to change the definition of age as presented in the *Human Rights Code Amendment Act, 2002, c.62 (Bill 64)* from “an age of 19 years or more and less than 65 years” to “an age of 19 years or more” so that seniors over the age of 65 years, or those who intervene on their behalf, have recourse to protect against age discrimination and mistreatment due to being elderly, provided such amendment does not affect the statutory provisions on mandatory retirement.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B133 WELFARE LEGISLATION**Coquitlam**

WHEREAS in April 2002 the provincial government announced new welfare legislation in the *Employment and Assistance Act* and outlined a program of welfare restructuring that includes cuts to benefits and tightening of eligibility rules;

AND WHEREAS the changes to welfare effectively download provincial responsibility for people in need onto municipal governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the provincial government to change the *Employment and Assistance Act* to ensure that welfare benefits meet the basic needs of individuals and families;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to end the centralization of employment and assistance field services, so as to prevent barriers to assistance access by keeping physical services within the local community.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B134 PROVINCIAL WELFARE POLICY**Trail**

WHEREAS unprecedented new provincial laws: 1) limit the time people classified as employable can collect Income Assistance to 24 months of every 60 months and reduce benefits for families with children; and 2) deny some people income assistance absolutely, given the two year independence test;

AND WHEREAS the Province made a dramatic last minute adjustment in policy to reduce the number of “employable” welfare recipients who would be cut off welfare in the coming year but has not changed the law itself, leaving recipients open to more severe policy and cuts in future;

AND WHEREAS the people potentially affected are among the poorest and most vulnerable in our society, and are already struggling to deal with the impacts of cuts to other federal and provincial programs and services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to rescind the laws introducing income assistance time limits and reducing benefits.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B135 END CHILD POVERTY

Vancouver

WHEREAS more than 132,000 of British Columbia's children, one in five and almost three times the entire population of New Westminster, live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS two thirds of this number resides in single parent households, many of which receive no support from the absent parent;

AND WHEREAS many of these children continue to fall between the cracks with the current legal, financial, and social measures now in place;

AND WHEREAS Canada is a signatory to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes Article 27 (1) "the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development"; and (3) "States Parties...shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and in the case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing" and in 1989 the Canadian government made the commitment to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of Canada undertake, in a comprehensive and non-stigmatic manner, to end child poverty in Canada.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B137 EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

Cowichan Valley RD

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to ensure that all children, irrespective of family financial status, have equal opportunities for early learning and care, which means that families have access to equal, affordable options in child care;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the provincial government to return the \$23 million taken from the regulated quality child care subsidy program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the provincial government to restore child care funding to 2000/2001 levels and also to return the income threshold eligibility for child care subsidy to 2000/2001 rates;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to ensure that the federal EDI and Multilateral Framework Funds are used in BC to enhance quality, affordable, accessible early learning and care facilities and programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities pressure the federal and provincial governments to act now to put research into practice;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities hold accountable the federal and provincial governments regarding the taxpayers' dollars which were intended to enhance existing child care services and programs.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B138 ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**Vancouver**

WHEREAS research consistently demonstrates the crucial importance of pre-school learning and literacy in ensuring an individual's subsequent success in school and later life;

AND WHEREAS BC public libraries are in every BC community, run thousands of children's and early literacy programs and are the only social institutions mandated to foster literacy skills in pre-school children and to support and empower their parents in creating a learning environment;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government in its most recent Speech from the Throne stated its commitment to "ensure that all children have every opportunity to experience the excitement of learning and be the best that they can be";

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is creating a strategic plan to direct its future involvement with public libraries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities strongly encourage the provincial government to recognize the indispensable role that BC public libraries play in fostering early childhood education;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province's strategic plans for both early childhood development and public libraries recognize the important role public libraries play by enhancing and funding support for BC public libraries in early childhood education endeavours;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government ensure that BC public libraries are represented on all provincial advisory committees on literacy and early childhood development.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B139 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS Community Schools have provided a valuable service to diverse groups and individuals;

AND WHEREAS cuts to funding and a change of mandate from the Province have forced Community Schools to cut many of their programs that benefited the broader community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to restore funding levels to allow Community Schools to have the flexibility to provide services to the broader community.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B141 ENHANCEMENT OF REGIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**NCMA Executive**

WHEREAS a stable, educated workforce is crucial to the economic viability of rural, remote, and resource based communities and rural areas are experiencing outward migration of the workforce to other provinces or larger centres;

AND WHEREAS community colleges and other training institutes struggle to provide relevant programming for students using existing funding models more suited to areas with a high-density population:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province of British Columbia to develop alternative or additional funding models that would assist in enhancing existing programs and allow development of new, relevant, and innovative training opportunities that can be accessed within the region.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B142 MITIGATION OF WORKFORCE SHORTAGE**NCMA Executive**

WHEREAS it is known that, as our population ages, we will be facing a workforce shortage within the next ten years and that we must actively encourage young people to enter the trades in order to mitigate this shortage;

AND WHEREAS the cooperation of industry is crucial to the success of any apprenticeship program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province of British Columbia to work with the Apprenticeship Board to ensure that an increased number of apprentices are trained yearly;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province explore incentive programs to encourage industry to work with the Apprenticeship Board to ensure that there are apprenticeship positions available in which to complete their training in the region.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B143 CHANGE OF NAME FOR FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES**Fruitvale**

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities represents more than just municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities change its name to the Federation of Canadian Local Governments.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

The Chair then introduced the following Section B – Part III resolutions for individual debate: B118, B119, B140 and B144.

B118 CREATION OF MINISTRY OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING**Terrace**

WHEREAS every dollar of manufacturing output in British Columbia generates \$3.01 in total economic activity and 94% of manufacturing jobs are reported as full-time jobs with wages 25% above the provincial average;

AND WHEREAS every effort must be made to create an environment that promotes not only recruitment but also retention of manufacturing in BC, and the provincial government does not have a cabinet post dedicated to or charged with the responsibility of promoting manufacturing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities encourage the provincial government to create a Ministry of Advanced Manufacturing.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B119 HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION**North Cowichan**

WHEREAS there is no clear, coordinated and comprehensive vision of health promotion in British Columbia that sets it apart from prevention and illness care;

AND WHEREAS acute care priorities and ongoing crises in the health care system are subjugating investment in British Columbia health promotion and prevention initiatives;

AND WHEREAS voluntary, nonprofit organizations and frontline workers make substantial contributions to vibrant, self-reliant and sustainable communities, yet lack of funding, restrictive criteria and inefficient coordination of existing funds are compromising the capacity of these organizations to act on the health determinants and the health status of their citizens at a time when more and more is expected of them;

AND WHEREAS Health Promotion Foundations have been found to be a successful method of funding and prioritizing health promotion in other parts of the world, e.g. Australia, Switzerland, Thailand, Austria and Korea:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Government of British Columbia to support, through legislation, the establishment of an independent, at-arms-length from government, Health Promotion Foundation in British Columbia.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that point two of the enactment clause from resolution C21 be added to the resolution, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Government of British Columbia to:

- 1) support, through legislation, the establishment of an independent, at-arms-length from government, Health Promotion Foundation in British Columbia; and
- 2) generate a sustainable, annual provincial contribution towards health promotion activities in British Columbia by dedicating \$1.00 per person per year, or the equivalent of \$4.077 million in 2003, from Medical Services Plan premiums to a Health Promotion Foundation.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B140 EDUCATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOURCE INDUSTRIES

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the wealth of all British Columbia is built on a foundation of our natural resources and the four main sectors that utilize those resources: forestry, agriculture, mining and oil and gas;

AND WHEREAS many children in British Columbia receive little or no education in the importance of these sectors of our economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to ensure that all students in British Columbia receive formal, balanced and meaningful education in the importance of forestry, agriculture, mining and oil and gas to our province.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that “and sustainability” be added after the word “importance” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to ensure that all students in British Columbia receive formal, balanced and meaningful education in the importance and sustainability of forestry, agriculture, mining and oil and gas to our province.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B144 ESTABLISHMENT OF GAMING RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Coquitlam

WHEREAS problem gambling is known to be associated with casinos:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to create an independent provincial research organization, akin to the Alberta Gaming Research Institute.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED