

2005 UBCM RESOLUTIONS EXCERPTED FROM:

MINUTES of the ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Union of BC Municipalities held in VANCOUVER, B.C. on SEPTEMBER 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2005

PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSIONS – RESOLUTIONS

The first Resolutions session began with Mayor Frank Leonard, Chair of the UBCM Resolutions Committee, in the Chair.

Mayor Leonard was joined by the other members of the Resolutions Committee: Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Dan Rogers, Mayor Herb Pond, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie. 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.

Consideration of Section A resolutions was preceded by the introduction and consideration of SR1.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

**SR1 CONTINUE TRIPARTITE INFRASTRUCTURE UBCM Executive
FUNDING**

WHEREAS the Canada BC Infrastructure Program has been fully committed to

delivering over 300 projects valued at over \$800 million, plus additional local government contributions;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has provided a full GST rebate to local government and has embarked on a new partnership with local government in terms of a New Deal for Cities and Communities, which includes transfer to BC local governments of \$635 million in gas tax revenues;

AND WHEREAS the Government of BC's new Community Water Improvement Program is over-subscribed;

AND WHEREAS despite these programs there remains a need for infrastructure investments to provide cleaner water, cleaner air, environmental protection and other community benefits that will enhance the quality of life in BC communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to implement the commitment to no reduction of current infrastructure program funding by committing to a long-term successor tripartite infrastructure program along the lines of the Canada-BC Local Government Infrastructure Program.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION A RESOLUTIONS

A1 STRATEGY FOR REDUCTION OF CRYSTAL METHAMPHETAMINE USE UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the use, addiction and death rate from use of crystal methamphetamines and other amphetamines continues to increase within British Columbia, resulting in serious health, social, and economic consequences for individuals, families and communities;

AND WHEREAS crystal meth use is a growing problem for local communities and the provincial government has developed a strategy to address the problem:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia work in partnership with local government to address the ongoing problem of crystal meth and provide the financial and other resources needed to:

- Limit access to the supply of the over-the-counter ingredients required to produce the drug;
- Increase public awareness and education about crystal meth use;
- Provide assistance to deal with at risk groups;
- Provide assistance to treat the addiction problems created by crystal meth use; and

- Provide assistance for the additional policing/safety inspection required to ensure the ongoing safety of local communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution LR9 “Strategy for Reduction of Crystal Methamphetamine Use” be withdrawn from the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline (since, in the opinion of the sponsor, the concerns expressed in LR9 were adequately addressed in resolution A1), was endorsed.

A2 STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE RESIDENTIAL GROW OPERATIONS

Kelowna

WHEREAS residential marijuana grow operations pose a significant risk to the occupants, immediate neighbours and first response personnel;

AND WHEREAS the Province has recognized this risk and funded two pilot projects in Surrey and Abbotsford offering an alternative approach to eliminating residential marijuana grow operations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to support developing a provincial strategy based on the pilot projects in Abbotsford and Surrey in consultation with local government, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Ministry of Community Services, and the RCMP.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A3 GROW OPERATION EQUIPMENT SUPPLY AND SALES

Abbotsford

WHEREAS special equipment is increasingly used to grow marijuana indoors (such as timers, nutrients, advanced hydroponics systems, and high voltage light bulbs and generators), which is reflected in a 50% increase in hydroponics stores in British Columbia since the year 2000;

AND WHEREAS children are present in at least 21% of indoor marijuana grow operations, which contain at least one harmful circumstance or hazard (such as weapons, booby traps, explosives, chemicals, other drugs and fire), and this is a particular concern given that indoor marijuana grow operations are 24 times more likely to catch fire than residences:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to require province-wide that all businesses retailing or wholesaling equipment and supplies that are associated with marijuana grow operations, be required to keep track of their customers and submit records of all transactions to the police authority that has jurisdiction in the local government, similar to persons engaged in the business activity of purchasing or taking in barter or receiving used or second-hand goods.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the following phrase in the enactment clause: “require province-wide that all businesses retailing or wholesaling equipment and supplies that are associated with marijuana grow operations” be replaced with “restrict the sale of the special equipment being used to grow marijuana indoors and require that those businesses choosing to sell the specialized equipment associated with marijuana grow operations” was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to restrict the sale of the special equipment being used to grow marijuana indoors and require that those businesses choosing to sell the specialized equipment associated with marijuana grow operations be required to keep track of their customers and submit records of all transactions to the police authority that has jurisdiction in the local government, similar to persons engaged in the business activity of purchasing or taking in barter or receiving used or second-hand goods.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**A4 ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR TSUNAMI Alberni-Clayoquot RD
 PLANNING EDUCATION AND
 INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS the coastal regions of British Columbia are at risk of significant loss of life, property damage and economic disruption in the event of a tsunami;

AND WHEREAS the cost of reducing those risks is beyond the financial capability of coastal communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial and federal governments provide adequate funding to coastal communities for planning, public education and infrastructure improvements to reduce the risk of loss of life, property damage and economic disruption in the event of a tsunami.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A5 PINE BEETLE INFESTATION Prince George

WHEREAS the Pine Beetle epidemic has created a situation where residential property owners’ safety is at risk with dead or dying pine trees left standing waiting to fall over;

AND WHEREAS many residential property owners, including seniors and those on low or fixed incomes, cannot afford the cost of infested tree removal;

AND WHEREAS municipalities do not have the resources to remove Pine Beetle trees from residential properties;

AND WHEREAS owners of parcels of land smaller than 10 hectares have been excluded from the \$40million land rehabilitation initiative:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial and federal governments to declare the Pine Beetle infestation in the Province of BC a natural disaster and provide the needed financial assistance to municipalities, local governments and individual property owners to help eliminate the hazards associated with the Pine Beetle infestation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A6 PINE BEETLE TRUST FUND

Quesnel

WHEREAS the Chief Forester of British Columbia has declared the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation of the Lodgepole Pine forest to be “catastrophic”, and pine composes up to 90 percent of the forest that underpins the forestry-based economy of the interior of BC and the timber that can be harvested in the interior of BC is expected to decrease dramatically in the next 10 years because of the Mountain Pine Beetle, according to the BC and federal governments;

AND WHEREAS the FCM has already taken the first step by calling for action on forest rehabilitation at its Convention and the communities of the affected areas are doing all they can, individually and cooperatively, to prepare for an economic downturn as a result of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government work in partnership with the provincial government to assist communities in their challenge to recreate their economies by supporting Pine Beetle trust funds.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**A7 FUNDING FOR VISITOR
INFORMATION CENTRES**

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS Visitor Information Centres provide a valuable service to visitors to our communities and also to local residents who wish to access information prior to traveling to other areas of BC;

AND WHEREAS the Visitor Information Centres are in a constant struggle because of limited funding available:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to provide increased funding for community Visitor Information Centres, via Tourism BC, from \$1.15 million per year to at least \$3 million per year, in accordance with the recommendation of the November 2004 review of VICs undertaken by the BC Chamber of Commerce.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**A8 REGIONAL FILM COMMISSIONS –
PROVINCIAL FUNDING**

Smithers

WHEREAS Regional Film Commissions, including the Northern BC Film Commission, are an integral component of attracting film and movie production companies to rural and northern communities;

AND WHEREAS the film and movie industry has incredible growth potential in generating revenue and job opportunities in rural and northern BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to continue to maintain funding at last year's level or increase funding for Regional Film Commissions in the years to come;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province consult with all affected stakeholders, especially local government, before making any changes that would affect the funding or locations of Regional Film Commissions.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A9 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Gibsons

WHEREAS housing costs are rising across this community and in BC in particular;

AND WHEREAS senior levels of government have in the past supported affordable housing initiatives;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the provincial and federal governments to make available new monies to address the shortage of affordable housing that is being felt in communities across this province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

A10 CHILD BOOSTER SEATS

Abbotsford

WHEREAS car crashes are the leading cause of death among children in Canada, and children four to eight years restrained in adult seat belts alone have a significantly greater risk of serious injury;

AND WHEREAS road safety legislation should optimize passenger safety for all ages and booster seat legislation would address a major cause of devastating injury for children:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to enact a regulation under the *Motor Vehicle Act* requiring the use of a booster seat in compliance with the *Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations of Canada* for all children 18 -36 kg. (40-80 lbs.) at all times when traveling in a motor vehicle.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Following consideration of the Section A resolutions, Chair Marvin Hunt introduced resolution SR2 for consideration.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR2 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the Union of British Columbia Municipalities has developed standing consultation and cooperation agreements with numerous agencies and organizations;

AND WHEREAS these types of agreements recognize the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties in question, promote sharing of information and encourage the parties to work together on areas of mutual interest:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Capacity Building with the League of Cities of the Philippines, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION B – PART I RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Jack Peake assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section B resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were: Mayor Frank Leonard, Councillor Dan Rogers, Mayor Herb Pond, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolutions B1, B10 and B29 be removed from the Section B – Part I block for individual consideration was endorsed.

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

The resolutions were endorsed as follows:

B2 DRUG COURTS

Port Hardy

WHEREAS the cost in 2000/01 for adults to be housed in correctional facilities was \$2.5 billion (up from \$2.4 billion in 1999/00);

AND WHEREAS the average expense in British Columbia per adult inmate was \$161/day and per youth was \$61/day;

AND WHEREAS out of the 28,926 cases, 184 were young offenders and 77 of those were imprisoned for a total of \$4,697/day;

AND WHEREAS 53% of federal incarcerations were for violent crimes and 17% of those were drug related;

AND WHEREAS five years after Canada's first drug treatment court was established in Toronto there are definite signs of success with two more drug treatment courts opening in Vancouver and St. John, NB and three more to be established, and New York has been able to close prisons with a projected savings of \$18 million:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the provincial government to urge the federal government to supply adequate funding for drug treatment courts in all areas of British Columbia and accessible to all British Columbians.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B3 SAFER CITIES/SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

Duncan

WHEREAS communities across the Island, province and country struggle daily with the serious issues of crime, drug/alcohol abuse, public safety, poverty and homelessness;

AND WHEREAS the *Safe Streets Act*, at best, represents a short-term method of addressing these difficult issues;

AND WHEREAS a proven model exists to effectively and sustainably tackle these issues -the Safer Cities/Safer Communities approach -which focuses on the causes behind these problems and suggests short, medium and long-term measures such as investing in affordable housing and child care, addictions and mental health programming and other harm reduction and prevention initiatives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities ask the BC government to develop and adequately fund over the long-term a Safer Cities/Safer Communities strategy, with a focus on harm reduction and prevention programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this strategy include a well-developed, intelligent series of public education seminars to be delivered by the Province across BC to build the knowledge base and community capacity to implement these programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B4 ICBC ASSISTANCE WITH RESCUE RESPONSE

Valemount

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is enfranchised to provide basic insurance for all motor vehicles in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS costs in relation to motor vehicle incidents can be reduced and life safety increased by having local jurisdictions provide motor vehicle rescue and first responder services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government require financial participation by ICBC and/or the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Provincial Emergency Program) in relation to motor vehicle rescue responses outside of municipal boundaries, in particular through assistance with rescue vehicle operating and/or capital costs and the costs incurred by fire departments and first responders for non-emergency motor vehicle accident traffic control and scene security.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

**B5 CONSTANT AND RELIABLE CELL
PHONE COVERAGE**

Grand Forks

WHEREAS the provincial government has declared that all British Columbians should have “911” access for emergency reasons and many mountainous regions of the province do not have access to “911” via cell phones;

AND WHEREAS cell phone delivery operates on “line of sight” from the nearest tower, and this “line of sight” coverage is not available in many areas of the province due to the cost involved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to consider partnering with a telecommunications company to provide consistent and reliable cell phone coverage in all areas of the province that currently do not have coverage.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B6 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Hope

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* gives municipalities the ability to raise revenues through non-traditional means;

AND WHEREAS the property tax base is unable to support the burgeoning cost of transportation infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to provide a source of revenue to assist municipalities in funding transportation infrastructure costs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B7 EQUITABLE FUNDING OF TRANSIT SYSTEMS

Quesnel

WHEREAS transit services for some communities require provincial and federal government assistance to sustain operation and viability;

AND WHEREAS adequate funding from the provincial and federal governments is an integral component in the implementation and/or expansion of transit in rural mid-sized and smaller communities and it has already been established that transit in rural communities is a necessity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial and federal governments to provide equitable funding to communities for the implementation and/or expansion of a transit system.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B8 TAX EXEMPT TRANSIT BENEFITS

Central Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the use of a public transit system promotes economic benefits, assists in reducing harmful air emissions and contributes to the reduction in the use of fossil fuels;

AND WHEREAS if users of public transit systems were provided an opportunity to claim their user costs as a tax-exempt benefit, there would be increased use of public transit systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities pursue the issue of tax exempt transit benefits with both the provincial and federal governments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B9 MUNICIPAL GAZETTED ROADS

Delta

WHEREAS during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the provincial government and municipal governments gazetted roads by placing a notice in the BC Gazette specifying the location and width of the road;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 115 of the *Land Titles Act*, with support of a Form 12, the Land Titles Office will, on application from the provincial Ministry

of Transportation, convert a provincial gazetted road to a dedicated road, but will not recognize an application from a municipality to convert a municipal gazetted road to a dedicated road:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government enact legislation to require the Land Titles Office to recognize and accept applications from municipalities to convert municipal gazetted roads to dedicated roads.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B11 LAND USE RELATIVE TO AERONAUTICS Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS land use is a local government responsibility under provincial statutory authority;

AND WHEREAS aerodromes, airstrips and heliports have been deemed by the Courts to be a federal jurisdictional matter and not available for regulation or prohibition by local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities encourage the federal government to either actively pursue its responsibility for all aspects of land use relative to aeronautics, or acknowledge this as a jurisdiction of those local governments requesting such jurisdiction.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B12 ELIMINATION OF PROVINCIAL SALES TAX Prince Rupert
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASES**

WHEREAS the City of Prince Rupert pays approximately \$300,000 annually in Provincial Sales Tax on goods and services acquired for direct use in the delivery of municipal services and in capital infrastructure improvements;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is continuing to improve its financial picture and has reported a surplus in excess of \$2 billion without any significant corresponding change in revenue sharing between the Province and local governments, yet the federal government has already decided to eliminate the Goods and Services Tax on purchases by local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all local governments request that the Province of BC immediately and permanently eliminate the Provincial Sales Tax on purchases by local governments;

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 local governments, nor should such exemption be seen as an opportunity to download additional responsibilities to local governments

without providing sufficient funding to compensate for such additional responsibilities.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

B13 REDIRECTION OF INSURANCE PREMIUM TAXES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR FIRE PROTECTION Nakusp

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia collects 4.4% of gross property and vehicle insurance premiums (Insurance Premium Tax), which was originally intended to offset the costs of the Office of the Fire Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS less than 1% of the tax collected is contributed directly to community fire services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province redirect a portion of the Insurance Premium Tax to local governments to help defray the increased costs of fire protection.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B14 PST EXEMPTION ON EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS life-saving and fire equipment is essential in ensuring the safety of all citizens within the Province of British Columbia, including during provincial States of Emergency;

AND WHEREAS the federal government now rebates one hundred percent of federal Goods and Services Tax paid for local government service delivery:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to exempt local governments from the Provincial Sales Taxes on the purchase of fire trucks and other life-saving equipment.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B15 TAX DEDUCTION COMPENSATION FOR TRAINED, UNPAID EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL Midway

WHEREAS volunteer emergency responders are essential to providing adequate emergency coverage in small communities throughout Canada and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find willing individuals to volunteer their time in critical emergency response areas such as ambulance attending, firefighting, road rescue and search and rescue;

AND WHEREAS involving volunteers in unpaid classroom/field training and actual callouts for emergency services, as opposed to employing paid and trained emergency professionals, represents a significant cost savings to government;

AND WHEREAS a tax exemption for the first \$1,000 in honoraria paid (when done so) to emergency services volunteers for their time is not adequate compensation for the considerable time these volunteers dedicate to classroom/field training and other preparatory activities as well as to actual emergency response callouts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that training standards for various emergency services be established by the Province and documented by the Officers in charge of these services (as each service has different requirements for training), and that those volunteers giving that base amount of training time be granted a standard, \$3,000 tax exemption as a sign of recognition and appreciation for the voluntary service and government cost savings they provide.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B16 REAL PROPERTY - MANUFACTURED HOMES

Revelstoke

WHEREAS a manufactured home is not considered Real Property, yet may have delinquent taxes owing;

AND WHEREAS the current method of recovery of taxes by means of distress pursuant to Section 252 of the *Community Charter* is expensive and completely ineffective:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for the purposes of the collection of delinquent property taxes on a manufactured home, a manufactured home shall be treated as "Real Property" and follow the guideline for tax collection as outlined in Section 254 of the *Community Charter* and Section 403-427 of the *Local Government Act*.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B17 MUNICIPAL TAX SALE - ELIMINATING THE
TAX SALE AUCTION**

Nanaimo City

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* specifies the statutory process of tax sale for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the requirement for municipalities to offer properties with delinquent taxes for sale to the general public creates unnecessary complexity and risk for municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Ministry of Community Services to amend the tax sale process to eliminate the requirement for municipalities to conduct the annual tax sale auction and replace it with a process that approximates the forfeiture process in Section 39 of the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act*.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B18 REVENUE GENERATING CAPABILITY

Hope

WHEREAS the approval of casinos in certain local governments has had the unintended consequence of creating a disparity amongst British Columbia local governments in their ability to generate nontraditional revenues;

AND WHEREAS this disparity results in decreased sustainability and a less attractive environment for development in communities that do not have this revenue-generating ability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work in conjunction with the provincial government to develop a strategy that provides other non traditional revenue generating capabilities for local governments across the province.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

B19 DISTRIBUTION OF GASOLINE TAX

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS the provincial government receives \$.03 per litre gasoline tax to be used to support the transportation system in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the monies are to be re-distributed to the approved transportation systems and those transportation systems that are queued have been approved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide equitable funding to all these transportation systems expeditiously.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B20 PROVINCIAL GAS TAX SHARING

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the provincial government annually receives substantial revenues from gas taxes and local governments receive no annual direct revenue sharing from either the Provincial Sales or Gasoline Taxes, and the Province is expected to generate future surpluses through growth and taxation;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government's gesture is in the right direction generating surpluses through growth, however, there are many smaller to medium sized local governments throughout the province that need gasoline tax sharing to either maintain roads or to operate transit systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government implement gasoline tax sharing in the 2006/07 fiscal year or sooner, and that the formula for sharing such gasoline tax with local governments reflect the cost of maintaining infrastructure for vehicular traffic and operating transit services in local governments.

ON MOTION, WAS ENDORSED

**B21 ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTIES
DEEMED CONTAMINATED****Lake Cowichan**

WHEREAS the *Assessment Act* requires the assessor to determine the land and improvements of a contaminated site at actual values and enter these as such in the assessment roll;

AND WHEREAS no remedial action is required of properties deemed contaminated where remedial measures exceed the value of the land and improvements, thereby permitting an existing property defined as contaminated to continue as a going concern while paying reduced taxes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the assessor under the *Assessment Act* be required to value a commercial or industrial undertaking as a property of a going concern if a business or activity is carried on at that property;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 19(4) of the *Assessment Act* clearly state that the valuation of the land and improvements of a commercial or industrial undertaking will take into consideration present use and revenue or rental value considerations where it is still a going concern.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B22 RECYCLING LEVIES**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has collected environmental levies, in products like batteries and tires for several years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to provide an accounting of any and all environmental levies collected in British Columbia to date;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to provide appropriate funding to local government, to be funded from the environmental levies, to establish meaningful and effective recycling programs in local communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B23 RECYCLING: CRADLE-TO-GRAVE**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS recycling efforts have long-term social and environmental benefits to our communities, province and nation;

AND WHEREAS local government is faced with many financial and structural impediments in trying to implement effective, responsible and efficient recycling programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a “cradle-to-grave” recycling policy where the manufacturer of the product is responsible for the ultimate acceptance of the fully utilized good for recycling purposes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B24 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Vancouver

WHEREAS British Columbia is a North American leader in product stewardship, requiring industry-led recycling of products such as paints, bottles, cans, tetra-packs and batteries;

AND WHEREAS reducing waste is a critical component of a sustainable city and part of the City of Vancouver and Greater Vancouver Regional District’s sustainability policies;

AND WHEREAS electronic waste is the fastest-growing component of our municipal waste stream, with thousands of products in storage in homes around the city awaiting disposal;

AND WHEREAS electronic waste contains toxic materials;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Vancouver Regional District is encouraging product stewardship of electronic waste, where the manufacturers and consumers of products take responsibility for their entire life cycle under a “cradle to grave” philosophy;

AND WHEREAS the provinces of Ontario and Saskatchewan have already implemented stewardship requirements for e-waste such as computers, cell phones, TVs and monitors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the British Columbia government implement a product stewardship program for electronic wastes as soon as possible.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B25 NON-NATIVE INVASIVE PLANT LIFE

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the rapid spread of many varieties of well established, non-native noxious plant life is one of the most serious threats to ecological processes, agricultural activity, and native plant and animal habitat in the Province of British Columbia, as well as being a serious source of concern to public health and safety;

AND WHEREAS new species of invasive, noxious plant life are continuing to be introduced to British Columbia on a regular basis:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia commit the necessary resources:

- a) to educate the people of the Province to recognize new species of noxious plant life that are a threat to their health and/or the environment; and
- b) to enable action to be taken quickly and decisively to combat newly introduced species of noxious plant life before each species spread is rampant and uncontrollable.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B26 FUNDING FOR FRASER RIVER
MAINTENANCE/FLOOD PROTECTION**

Delta

WHEREAS the Fraser River between Hope and Georgia Strait is an important transportation and environmentally significant corridor;

AND WHEREAS there has been a steady reduction in available provincial and federal funds to maintain and implement improvements along the Lower Fraser River:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial and federal governments develop a comprehensive and sustainable funding mechanism for ongoing operation of the debris trap, Fraser River dredging, and flood control (e.g. dyking improvements along the Lower Fraser River).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B27 COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS ON
PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LANDS**

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS many community water systems have watersheds in private managed forest lands;

AND WHEREAS owners of private managed forests are required under legislation to protect human drinking water;

AND WHEREAS there is no mechanism for public oversight of forestry operations on such land:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in the interest of protecting human drinking water, the provincial government establish an open and transparent mechanism for regular inspection and monitoring of forestry operations on private land where such operations occur in watersheds of community water systems.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B28 AIR QUALITY**North Okanagan RD**

WHEREAS the Okanagan Airshed was identified as degraded by the Ministry of Environment in 2002, due to consistently high levels of particulates, which create negative health outcomes;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District of North Okanagan Air Quality Action Plan 2005 has identified both smoke and vehicle emissions as key concerns for health;

AND WHEREAS the *Kyoto Accord*, as supported by the federal government, strives to lower greenhouse gases and has reached a voluntary agreement with auto makers on steps to improve fuel efficiency for new vehicles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the provincial and federal governments to strive towards health, supporting standards for enhanced emission levels for auto fuels and the establishment of emission level standards for backyard boiler appliances.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B30 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF
PROVINCIAL ASSETS****Grand Forks**

WHEREAS provincial assets such as land and buildings are being publicly offered for sale at market value;

AND WHEREAS there are times when these assets are sold without the community's knowledge, resulting in lost opportunities and negative financial impacts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any provincially owned lands or buildings that are no longer required be offered first to the local governments for community use at a reduced rate.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B31 BOARD OF VARIANCE ORDERS –
DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMITS****Pitt Meadows**

WHEREAS the Board of Variance is concerned that there is confusion caused by the parallel procedures for the processing of a variance;

AND WHEREAS the provincial legislature recognized the confusion that these parallel procedures were creating and several years ago enacted an amendment to Section 901 of the *Local Government Act* requiring that an applicant seeking a Board of Variance order first apply to Council for a development variance permit;

AND WHEREAS this amendment to Section 901 has never been brought into force:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government bring into force the amendment to Section 901 of the *Local Government Act* requiring applicants seeking a Board of Variance order to first apply to Council for a development variance permit.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B32 ASSURED TIMBER SUPPLY FOR SMALL-SCALE Powell River RD
FORESTRY BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS the transfer of forest resources from licensed tenure holders (tree farm licences) to British Columbia Timber Sales has distanced local communities from the source of their local wealth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Ministry of Forests and Range to require that British Columbia Timber Sales ensure that local, small-scale mills and value-added forestry businesses have access, at open market value, to an adequate supply of wood to ensure the sustainability of their operations and, thus, of the local economy.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B33 COMMUNITY FORESTS Burns Lake

WHEREAS the Community Forest Agreement was introduced in 1998 to:

- Help diversify the forest tenure system;
- Empower rural people living in forest communities to develop and work towards forest management goals based on their collective values and priorities;
- Increase awareness of sustainable forest management at the grass roots level;
- Promote innovative forest practices;
- Bring land into productive use;
- Facilitate investment in community priorities; and
- Enhance the sustainability of rural communities;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory environment and government policies for Community Forest Agreements do not serve the goals of the program, nor do they allow interested communities to access a community forest opportunity or provide for sufficient timber volume to address issues of economies of scale and viability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be petitioned to:

- Revise the current Community Forest regulations and policies to facilitate achievement of the stated goals of the Community Forest Agreement Program; and

- Allocate sufficient timber volume to address issues of economies of scale and viability for existing and new agreements.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B34 SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS despite good faith bargaining on Canada's part, numerous and unanimous trade dispute panel findings in Canada's favour, the United States has not settled the softwood lumber trade dispute in a fair and equitable manner;

AND WHEREAS the softwood lumber dispute has caused damage to our forest industries and their host communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the federal government to adopt a policy in which the softwood lumber dispute is negotiated and settled to Canada's satisfaction, and all tariffs and duties applied by the US government in contravention of NAFTA rulings are immediately returned to the appropriate forest company.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B35 REQUEST FOR IMPROVED CONSULTATION
WITH FOREST COMPANIES**

Tumbler Ridge

WHEREAS the Council of the District of Tumbler Ridge is concerned about timber harvesting and silviculture activities in the Peace River area of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS it is appreciated that there is interest in the Peace River area, and that timber harvesting and subsequent silviculture activities and the subsequent production wells do support local communities and provide an increased level of economic activity;

AND WHEREAS local governments would appreciate the opportunity to meet with forestry company representatives to hear of their plans inside local government areas, so that information can be obtained as to how local governments can best plan to facilitate the increased employment activities and any increases in housing, medical and recreation uses that increased employment may bring:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Minister of Forests and Range direct forest companies to consult with the local government of applicable jurisdiction, so that the level of increasing economic activity can be ascertained and considered with regard to future community and regional developments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B36 REQUEST FOR IMPROVED CONSULTATION
WITH OIL AND GAS COMMISSION**

Tumbler Ridge

WHEREAS the Council of the District of Tumbler Ridge is concerned about oil and gas exploration activities in the Peace River area of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS it is appreciated that there is interest in the Peace River area, and that oil and gas exploration activities and the subsequent production wells do support local communities and provide an increased level of economic activity;

AND WHEREAS local governments would appreciate the opportunity to meet with Oil and Gas Commission representatives to hear of their plans inside local government areas, so that information can be obtained as to how local governments can best plan to facilitate the increased employment activities and any increases in housing, medical, and recreation uses that increased employment may bring:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources direct the Oil and Gas Commission to consult with the local government of applicable jurisdiction, so that the level of increasing economic activity can be ascertained and considered with regard to future community and regional developments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B37 INCLUDING COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN
POLICY DECISIONS**

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS there is now ample data to show that coastal communities are suffering economic stress;

AND WHEREAS some of this can be attributed to declines in some resources, there is still a substantial amount of wealth being generated from resources adjacent to coastal communities, but communities are no longer sharing in most of that wealth;

AND WHEREAS provincial and federal policies and decisions are favoring economic models that largely ignore socioeconomic impacts on coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS it is within the mandates of both governments to have community benefits as a central objective, yet that objective is absent from most decisions, knowing they would have adverse impacts on coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS innovative mechanisms are needed to ensure coastal community access and benefits over time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that both the federal and provincial governments recognize that the health and wealth of coastal communities is a central objective in their mandate, and that they explicitly address the costs and benefits of different options on coastal communities, and choose options that address the potential costs and secure long term benefits;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that both the federal and provincial governments include coastal communities in policy decisions that may impact coastal communities, and meaningfully address our concerns and interests;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities meet with federal and provincial elected representatives and civil servants from various departments to discuss strategies and policy approaches that will explicitly address the loss of access and benefits within communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B38 SALMON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the salmon resource is of the highest social, cultural and economic value to the people and local governments within the boundaries of the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona;

AND WHEREAS the recent funding and production cuts to Fisheries and Oceans Canada Salmon Enhancement Program threaten the future of the salmon resource, and the social, cultural and economic value derived from it;

AND WHEREAS these cuts to funding and production were implemented by the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Minister and his Pacific Region staff without public consultation or proper public disclosure prior to these cuts to funding and production of salmon fry for release:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Prime Minister of Canada direct the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to maintain the current 25 million dollar funding level with a commitment to increasing future funding and to stop any funding or production cuts to the Salmon Enhancement Program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM also request that the Prime Minister of Canada direct the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to initiate no substantive changes to the Salmon Enhancement Program funding or production without a thorough and rigorous consultation process with local government, interest groups and all fisheries stakeholders.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B39 ASSIGNING PROVINCIAL REVENUE FROM POWELL RIVER RD
CROWN LAND TENURES TO REGIONAL
DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS the resources of rural British Columbia are extracted to the benefit of the whole;

AND WHEREAS the benefit to the whole may not accrue in proper proportion to the rural community in which the resource extraction occurs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to assign one percent of provincial revenue derived from rental fees for leases and licences of occupation to the appropriate local government to compensate, in part, for the lack of revenue from resource extraction.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

B40 INDUSTRIAL USE OF MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE Houston

WHEREAS municipal infrastructure (roads) are used for the industrial purpose of extracting provincial resources (wood fibre, mining resource);

AND WHEREAS there are no stumpage fees or royalty sharing allocated to the municipality for infrastructure maintenance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province to create a stumpage fee/royalty sharing system for infrastructure maintenance, or that the maintenance of the infrastructure become a provincial responsibility.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B41 RADIATION THERAPY TREATMENT IN NORTHERN BC Prince George

WHEREAS many residents in northern BC face extreme personal and financial hardship in having to travel hundreds of miles to get radiation therapy treatment that is not available in northern BC;

AND WHEREAS consultation with doctors and medical staff in all areas of the Northeast, Northwest and Northern Interior portions of BC will provide information required to access the need and establish such treatment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to initiate a study through the BC Cancer Control Agency, with the concept of having full cancer treatment including radiation therapy available in the northern half of the province, with the results of the study to be shared with the Union of BC Municipalities membership;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be completed within the next year and include a timetable and guidelines to have radiation therapy treatment available in northern British Columbia as provincial demand increases.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B42 HEALTH CAPITAL FINANCING

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS the Province and Hospital Districts have shared capital financing for health facilities;

AND WHEREAS the Province and Hospital Districts participated in a study to examine the funding relationship, which confirmed the existing ratio of 60/40 Provincial/Hospital District funding as appropriate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province ensure that Health Authorities are provided with sufficient funding to ensure that they are able to meet the agreed to 60/40 funding ratio in health capital financing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B43 ACCESS TO A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF
ADDICTION SERVICES THROUGHOUT BC**

Vancouver

WHEREAS addiction to legal and illegal substances is an issue for all BC local governments and appropriate responses need to be developed province wide;

AND WHEREAS addiction is a health issue that needs to be addressed with a comprehensive health response:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM support access to a comprehensive range of health services to address drug addiction including prevention, treatment and harm reduction interventions so that residents of BC local governments with drug problems have access to addiction services according to community need and distributed throughout the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B44 FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER

Quesnel

WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder causes severe health problems, which ultimately have proven to have long-term effects that could be reduced or eliminated through public education;

AND WHEREAS primary control for legislation, liquor control and licensing rests with the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that manufacturers of alcoholic beverages be required to imprint warning labels on all beverage containers that consumption of their product by pregnant women could be harmful to the health of the fetus.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B45 RESIDENTIAL CARE BEDS

Saanich

WHEREAS since 2002 the BC government has closed hundreds of residential care beds on Vancouver Island and thousands across BC without adequate replacement beds;

AND WHEREAS many acute care beds in our hospitals are being occupied by seniors needing residential care, creating long waiting lists for other acute care services;

AND WHEREAS waiting lists for residential care beds are growing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the provincial government to provide adequate capital resources to re-open or build sufficient residential care beds to meet the demand on Vancouver Island and across BC.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B46 REQUEST FOR OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS**

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS local government representatives attend conferences for an opportunity to meet with senior levels of government;

AND WHEREAS federal ministers or senior officials do not attend the Union of BC Municipalities Conventions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM invite federal ministers and senior officials, in ministries relevant to the members, to attend annual conferences and to request that the ministers/officials be available for appointments with local government representatives.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B47 HOUSING

Vancouver

WHEREAS one in five BC households is in core-need housing need and 15% are paying more than 50% of gross household income on rent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Province to:

- match the federal funding for affordable housing included in the 2005

- budget (\$1.6 billion over the next two years) that will be allocated to BC;
- develop the program framework for investing the federal and provincial funding; and
- through BC Housing, initiate the development of social housing to meet the needs of vulnerable households across BC as soon as possible.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B48 PROVINCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Saanich

WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing and numbers of homeless have reached crisis levels on southern Vancouver Island;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government was warned by a wide range of community groups and gerontology specialists that focusing on an assisted living program from other housing needs would not be the best use of federal-provincial funds for housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the provincial government to reinstate the Homes BC program or similar comprehensive housing program to deliver much needed affordable and appropriate housing for seniors, low income families and individuals and those with special needs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B49 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Vancouver

WHEREAS in the Ministry of Health's 2002 report on Best Practices for BC's Mental Health Reform, supportive housing is a best practice for addressing the needs of people with a mental illness;

AND WHEREAS supportive housing is a cost-effective way of housing vulnerable people, noting that a bed in a psychiatric ward can cost \$500 per day compared to \$20-\$40 a day for supportive housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to work with Health Authorities and other partners to build more supportive housing throughout the province and ensure that funding is available to provide the appropriate support services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B50 SENIORS HOUSING

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS the lack of appropriate housing solutions makes it difficult for many seniors and others with special needs to "age in place", and communities require financial assistance to ensure suitable housing and support services are available to their citizens;

AND WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments have supported affordable housing initiatives in the past:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal and provincial governments to make new monies available to address the need for affordable, seniors-appropriate housing and support services across the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B51 ACCESS TO WELFARE

Vancouver

WHEREAS the number of people who are homeless has doubled in the Lower Mainland and increased throughout the province in the past two years;

AND WHEREAS only one in five street homeless in the Lower Mainland is on welfare and receiving employment assistance;

AND WHEREAS it is impossible to find a job and participate in the economy without first having a place to live and impossible to get a place to live without an income:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government to reduce the barriers and revise the eligibility criteria for accessing the BC Employment and Assistance program to ensure that the street homeless can access those benefits.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B52 WELFARE LEGISLATION - EMPLOYMENT
AND ASSISTANCE ACT**

Victoria

WHEREAS the provincial government announced new welfare legislation in the *Employment and Assistance Act* and this new *Act* outlined a dramatic program of welfare restructuring that includes cuts to benefits and tightening of eligibility rules, and deep cuts have also been made to the Ministry of Human Resources' operating budget;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government announced on February 5, 2004 additional exemptions to the two-years-out-of-five welfare rule, but these changes do not go far enough in meeting the needs of the poorest people in the province and those that are already struggling to deal with the impacts of other provincial program and service cuts;

AND WHEREAS the changes to welfare effectively download provincial responsibility for people in need onto municipal governments as more hungry and homeless people are forced to seek food, shelter, and community support in our neighborhoods, streets and parks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the provincial government to change the *Employment and Assistance Act* to ensure welfare benefits meet the basic needs of individuals and families, including the following changes:

- benefit rates be re-instated and increased (support, shelter allowance and crisis grants);
- easing the eligibility for child care subsidies;
- reversing the requirement that single parents seek work when their youngest child reaches the age of three;
- ending the three week wait for new financial assistance applicants;
- abandoning the two-year independence test;
- refraining from privatizing financial assistance delivery or computerized financial assistance determination; and
- rescinding the law imposing welfare time limits;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM 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

B53 LIBRARY BOOK RATE FROM CANADA POST

Masset

WHEREAS since 1939, the Canada Post Library Rate (commonly called the Library Book Rate), has assisted in extending library services to rural and remote areas;

AND WHEREAS the Library Book Rate has been under negotiation since 2004 between the Department of Canadian Heritage and Canada Post Corporation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge Canada Post Corporation and the Department of Canadian Heritage to retain the current Library Book Rate and extend it to include all library materials including CDs, cassettes, videos and other multimedia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B54 EARLY LITERACY

Vancouver

WHEREAS current research in early childhood development shows that early interventions with language and reading experiences are essential in developing literate and engaged individuals;

AND WHEREAS qualified children's librarians are skilled in the delivery of pre-literacy programs for very young children and their caregivers;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of State for British Columbia has committed to a three year support for a Province-wide Books for BC Babies program in

conjunction with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community Services;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of British Columbia has committed to making British Columbia the most literate jurisdiction in the world;

AND WHEREAS the Literacy Summit acknowledges the need for partnerships in extending the work of literacy into the community at large;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has given support for a National Children’s Agenda and allocates Family Literacy funding through the National Literacy Secretariat:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal and provincial governments to enhance cross-ministerial financial support for early childhood literacy initiatives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM urge local governments to support partnerships between public libraries and early childhood educators in fostering early childhood literacy programs, both in the library and elsewhere in the community;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM forward this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

The Chair then introduced the following Section B – Part I resolutions for individual debate: B1, B10 and B29.

B1 DRUG TRAFFICKING PENALTIES

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS local police forces continue with their efforts to charge drug traffickers;

AND WHEREAS these offenders are being found guilty but are given light sentences and these sentences give a message to the drug community that they are going to get away with their behaviour;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government is encouraged to send this message to Ottawa so that both provincial and federal law supports stiffer penalties to all offenders in the drug trafficking community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities wishes to see these sentences stiffened to ensure that there is a clear consequence to this behaviour.

A motion to add a third enactment clause to the resolution was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word “this” be replaced with the word “a” in the first enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government is encouraged to send a message to Ottawa so that both provincial and federal law supports stiffer penalties to all offenders in the drug trafficking community.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities wishes to see these sentences stiffened to ensure that there is a clear consequence to this behaviour.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**B10 LICENSING OF OFF-ROAD/
ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES**

Thompson-Nicola RD

WHEREAS the issue of licensing of off-road/all-terrain vehicles in British Columbia has previously been before the assembly of the UBCM and endorsed;

AND WHEREAS a Coalition for the Licensing and Registration of Off-Road/All-Terrain Vehicles in British Columbia has submitted an Interim Report on Solutions for a Sustainable Future around this issue and is currently working with a provincial Interagency Policy Committee to develop solutions to recommend to the government;

AND WHEREAS further delays in developing regulations for the licensing, registration and management of off-road/all-terrain vehicles continues to have a detrimental impact on grassland areas and contributes to the introduction of noxious weeds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to enact, at the very earliest opportunity, the appropriate regulations for the licensing, registration and management of off-road/all-terrain vehicles when in use on public right-of-ways and on public lands.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

RESOLUTIONS CONTINUE

Mayor Jack Peake resumed the Chair with consideration of the last Section B – Part I resolution pulled from the block for individual debate.

**B29 BURLINGTON NORTHERN RAILWAY
PESTICIDE PERMIT**

New Westminster

WHEREAS the City of New Westminster strongly supports comprehensive Integrated Pest Management plans based on an ecological approach to vegetation management;

AND WHEREAS in such plans, it is recognized that pesticides are only to be used as a last resort;

AND WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is moving towards the introduction of bylaws to restrict the application of cosmetic pesticides on lands within the City boundaries and as such is concerned that the duration of the BNSF Railway's Pest Management Plan (April 1, 2005 -March 31, 2010) will not be reflective of the City's priorities in the near future:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington Northern Railway be urged to employ herbicide and pesticide spraying practices consistent with those of the City of New Westminster.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be amended to read "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all levels of government, agriculture and industry agree to use pesticides only where a viable alternative does not exist and that they encourage the use of integrated pest management systems", was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all levels of government, agriculture and industry agree to use pesticides only where a viable alternative does not exist and that they encourage the use of integrated pest management systems.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

CENTENNIAL RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Frank Leonard assumed the Chair and took a moment to introduce two historical resolutions for mock debate in commemoration of UBCM's 100th Anniversary.

1916 UNTITLED

Resolved, that this convention respectfully request that when any amendment is contemplated in the Municipal Act, the Executive of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be placed in possession of the proposed amendments in time to consider their effect on British Columbia Municipalities.

1927-18 TRAMPS

The Union are requested to bring to the attention of the Government that in Municipalities where a Railway Freight terminal is situated, many tramps and hobos are taken from trains and railway yards by Railway Police and brought before Municipal authorities and if sent to gaol the Municipality is required to pay \$1.00 per day for each prisoner and it is suggested that it is unfair that the Municipality should have to pay for the keep of these tramps as it should be a provincial charge.

SECTION B – PART II RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Peake resumed the Chair and briefly reviewed the procedures for handling Section B – Parts II and III resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were: Mayor Frank Leonard, Councillor Dan Rogers, Mayor Herb Pond, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie.

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

**B55 REGULATION OF THE HOME AND PROPERTY
INSPECTION INDUSTRY****Gibsons**

WHEREAS the purchase of a home is one of the most important financial commitments a person will make in his or her lifetime and obtaining a “home inspection” is a recognized tool, prudent and essential to assessing the condition of the home, whether new or old, and fast becoming a requirement by the financing company of the home;

AND WHEREAS a “home inspection” may be completed by anyone who purports to be a “home inspector”, since there is no regulation of the industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be urged to join with other provinces in investigating the regulation of qualified “home inspectors” and to implement those regulations as soon as possible.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B56 CONTINUOUS BALCONY DRAINAGE
REQUIREMENTS****Langley City**

WHEREAS building and plumbing bylaws are enacted for the purpose of regulating construction within a community in the general public interest;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 10(1) of the *Community Charter*, a provision of a municipal bylaw has no effect if it is inconsistent with a provincial enactment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *British Columbia Building Code* and the *National Building Code* be amended to include the requirement of a continuous drainage along the outer edge of balconies in multifamily residential projects for reasons of health, safety and protection of persons and property.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B57 IMPACT NOISE ATTENUATION REQUIREMENTS Langley City

WHEREAS building and plumbing bylaws are enacted for the purpose of regulating construction within a community in the general public interest;

AND WHEREAS the *British Columbia Building Code* specifies a sound transmission class rating to address airborne sound (voices, stereo, television), but the *Code* has no impact insulation class to address impact sound (dropped items, footsteps), as the minimum acceptable value;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 10(1) of the *Community Charter*, a provision of a municipal bylaw has no effect if it is inconsistent with a provincial enactment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *British Columbia Building Code* and the *National Building Code* be amended to include the requirement of an impact insulation class to address impact sound in multifamily residential projects for reasons of health, safety, and protection of persons and property.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B58 CHANGES TO LAND ACT REGARDING ACCRETIONS Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the *Land Act* allows accretion of land if the “natural boundary” of a river, stream or lake has changed;

AND WHEREAS accretions under the *Land Act* do not consider or differentiate artificial control of water by dams and future changes in water flows as a result of water flow regimes changing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities appeal to the provincial government to change the definition section of the *Land Act* to disallow accretions if the shoreline changes are due to upstream water control.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B59 ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS**OMMA Executive**

WHEREAS Section 86 of the *Community Charter* provides for an “Alternative Approval Process,” which is a process for electors to indicate to Council that they may not proceed with a certain bylaw, agreement or other matter unless it is approved by assent of the electors (i.e. referendum);

AND WHEREAS the principles of the “Alternative Approval” are well founded as this is an economical method of obtaining elector input;

AND WHEREAS the existing “Alternative Approval Process” has some serious weaknesses in the following areas:

- Determination of number of electors;
- Elector Response Form; and
- Audit of Elector Response Forms Received:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia consult with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Local Government Management Association to improve the “Alternative Approval Process” by providing clarity and transparency.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B60 CARBON MONOXIDE MONITORS**Pitt Meadows**

WHEREAS carbon monoxide (CO), an invisible and odorless gas, can be harmful and even fatal to humans;

AND WHEREAS there have been several recent incidents of dangerous CO levels in ice arenas that have caused illness requiring hospitalization to arena users:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province amend the *BC Building Code* to make CO detectors mandatory in ice arenas.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

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

**B61 MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES IN
RCMP DETACHMENTS****Nanaimo City**

WHEREAS the Federal Court of Appeal ruled that municipal unit police agreements contravene Section 10 of the *RCMP Act* which states that “civilian employees that are necessary for carrying out the function and duties of the Force shall be appointed or employed under the *Public Service Employment Act*”;

AND WHEREAS this decision will have a significant disruptive effect on police service operations, labour relations, employee relations, finances, potential liability and other administrative issues;

AND WHEREAS Justice Canada is currently reviewing the issue and will be making a decision on whether or not to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services Canada take action to maintain municipal employees as support staff for RCMP municipal contract policing services;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if this matter should go before the Supreme Court of Canada, the City of Nanaimo and all other affected municipalities be granted intervener status.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B62 POLICE FINANCING

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has indicated a desire to alter the way provincial policing is funded in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS ensuring equity, value for taxes and efficiency in any policing model is essential to the interests of the Province and taxpayers, both rural and urban:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a service delivery model be developed that ensures that all residents, urban and rural, have reasonable and responsible access to police service with local community input.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B63 MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES OBTAINING
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UPHOLD THE
NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY**

Vancouver

WHEREAS the federal government has recognized the role of policing and enforcement in upholding the new National Security Policy;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has allocated a sum of \$690 million from unused, pre-designated Budget 2001 allotments, Budget 2003 contingency reserves and further supplemented by Budget 2004 funds;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has directed these funds to six strategic areas: intelligence, emergency planning and management, public health, transport security, border security and international security;

AND WHEREAS these monies have been earmarked for federal departments, including the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), with neither acknowledgment that municipal policing forces conduct intelligence and policing activities in lieu of these agencies nor any mention of directing funds to municipal policing forces that may engage in the same activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the federal government to acknowledge the vital role that municipal policing agencies play in supporting Canada's National Security;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the federal government to establish proportionate funding schemes, prorated on RCMP allotments, and control mechanisms for municipal police forces engaged in activities of national importance.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B64 CBRN FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES Vancouver

WHEREAS society has placed significant emphasis on crisis and consequence management capacity in response to terrorist acts based on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) events;

AND WHEREAS police services, and other first responders, will be the first to attend CBRN incidents within their local jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS the lives of citizens will be directly impacted by the capacity of those first responders;

AND WHEREAS the acquisition and maintenance of these capabilities (training and equipment) is very expensive;

AND WHEREAS the current method of obtaining CBRN funding for municipal police services is through the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program grant, disbursed by the Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Emergency Preparedness after provincial and municipal government approval;

AND WHEREAS this present method of obtaining extraordinary funding has proven to be inadequate, time consuming and cumbersome:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the federal and provincial governments to provide increased and streamlined funding opportunities for crisis and consequence management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear events directly to municipal police services (based on their current and identified police responsibilities).

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B65 FACILITIES FOR RELEASE OF OFFENDERS Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS offenders, both young and otherwise, require release on a gradual basis back into society;

AND WHEREAS these offenders require facilities and services that would allow for safe and responsible re-entry into society:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that senior levels of government, both elected and administrative, create facilities through a clear and consultative process with communities in a manner that both recognizes and balances the rights of the individual and the community.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B66 GROW OPERATIONS – BC HYDRO Duncan

WHEREAS the increase in the number of grow operations in British Columbia has become a growing problem for police departments;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro is unable to supply police departments with records relating to unusual consumption of hydro:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities correspond with the Province of BC, requesting that it require BC Hydro to release records to the RCMP and other police departments so that the detection of grow operations in the Province of British Columbia can be simplified.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “and all other utilities” be added after “BC Hydro” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities correspond with the Province of BC, requesting that it require BC Hydro and all other utilities to release records to the RCMP and other police departments so that the detection of grow operations in the Province of British Columbia can be simplified.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B67 SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM BYLAW Vancouver

WHEREAS the false alarm rate of most municipalities currently runs at or near 99%;

AND WHEREAS false alarms are inherently dangerous to the public as they take away essential police services from other “real emergencies” requiring police attendance;

AND WHEREAS false alarms are wasteful of municipal resources in both essential protective/investigative services provided by the police and the unnecessary financial burden that this places on communities as a whole;

AND WHEREAS some police agencies have sought “quick fix solutions” by not attending any unverified alarm calls, resulting in a withdrawal of police services, a public who feel that the police don’t care, and increases in break-and-enter rates within their respective communities as thieves realize that the police will not likely attend;

AND WHEREAS a properly crafted Security Alarm Bylaw coupled with an effective False Alarm Reduction Program is the best way in which to solve the false alarm epidemic which plagues most communities in North America:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge its membership to adopt a bylaw similar to the Security Alarm System Bylaw currently used by the City of Vancouver.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B68 EMERGENCY RECOVERY OPERATIONS

Kelowna

WHEREAS the Province has enacted legislation through the *BC Emergency Program Act*, which requires local authorities to prepare emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters;

AND WHEREAS the personal information of victims of emergencies and disasters that is subject to privacy legislation is required by many of the local, provincial, national and international groups and organizations that want to respond generously to assist those victims;

AND WHEREAS the recording of victim information under the provincial emergency social services process is currently a manual system and that information, if made available electronically, would still be subject to privacy legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General be requested to:

- Create a virtual warehouse and make that software available online to local authorities responding under an adopted local emergency plan;
- Replace the current provincial emergency social services manual client intake system with an electronic system and make that system available online to local authorities responding under an adopted local emergency plan;
- Work with appropriate social service providers (e.g. Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.) to develop a single-standard, client intake system as an expansion of the electronic provincial emergency social services client intake system; and

- Make that system available online to all local authorities responding under an adopted local emergency plan and request that those agencies work co-operatively with local authorities in sharing the information collected on this form and co-ordinating the response to all victims.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B69 RESPONDING TO THE THREAT OF TSUNAMIS

Port Alberni

WHEREAS the British Columbia Utilities Commission approved the 2004 Transmission System Capital Plan of the British Columbia Transmission Corporation without any reference to the risk of tsunamis in the “managed risk program”;

AND WHEREAS hydro transmission infrastructure critical to the economic and physical health of Vancouver Island coastal communities and essential for the timely recovery from natural disasters, remains located within known tsunami inundation zones:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the BC Utilities Commission and the British Columbia Transmission Corporation ensure that the next update to this plan identify tsunamis as a “managed risk program” with a commitment to analyze the risk, prioritize action and schedule the implementation of priorities, with full consultation with our coastal communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B70 PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Delta

WHEREAS the responsibility for emergency services provided by fire, police and ambulance is coordinated by two separate ministries: Health and Public Safety and Solicitor General;

AND WHEREAS the public would be better served by having emergency services reporting to one ministry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province instigate assigning the responsibility for emergency service provision to a single ministry.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B71 EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE

Delta

WHEREAS local government fire departments throughout British Columbia provide emergency medical assistance through the authority of the *Health Emergency Act*;

AND WHEREAS BC Ambulance protocols are preventing some emergency medical calls from being dispatched to fire departments' first responders:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province amend the *Health Emergency Act* to require the BC Ambulance Service to automatically advise local fire departments when dispatching emergency health service calls.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B72 LAND STABILIZATION FUNDING

NCMA Executive

WHEREAS the provincial government, through PEP, has ensured financial support after disasters occur;

AND WHEREAS local governments may foresee potential Acts of God but do not have the funds to avert them:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities prepare a policy paper on land slippage and stabilization that would help protect and decrease liability to all local governments.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B73 PROVINCIAL OPEN FIRE BAN

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the British Columbia Forest Service, pursuant to the *Forest Practices Act* of British Columbia, has the authority to prohibit open fires in the province, with exceptions being areas regulated by local government burning bylaws and privately owned and commercial campgrounds;

AND WHEREAS the threat of forest fire is considered extreme when such a ban is considered by the Forest Service and such a ban should be considered the paramount and ultimate word on whether or not fires may be permitted:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend the appropriate legislation to provide that when an open fire ban is established by the British Columbia Forest Service to be in effect province-wide or in specific areas of the province, that no other authority be allowed to supersede that ban even in areas regulated by local government burning bylaws and privately owned commercial campgrounds, without exceptions.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B74 FIREWORKS

Abbotsford

WHEREAS the misuse and abuse of fireworks causes significant property damage and personal injury, and generates unnecessary costs for taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS a province-wide approach is needed for the safe manufacturing, transportation, retail, wholesale and use of fireworks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia, including public education, enforcement, international and municipal cross border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use or abuse of fireworks.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B75 FIREWORKS BAN

Langley Township

WHEREAS Halloween fireworks continue to cause property and personal damage through misuse and abuse, and generate unnecessary costs to taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia ban the general sale and use of fireworks in British Columbia and that the ban include federal lands within the Province of British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B76 DANGEROUS DOGS

Oliver

WHEREAS the number of complaints regarding dog bites are on the rise and, once a dog shows it is capable of biting, it has the potential to seriously injure a person or other domestic animal;

AND WHEREAS the process of obtaining a warrant to seize a dog could be onerous and time-consuming;

AND WHEREAS Section 49 of the *Community Charter* only gives immediate rights to municipalities if a dog seriously injures or kills:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM be asked to lobby the Province to:

- Amend Section 49 of the *Community Charter* to give municipalities more authority and scope of powers in relation to dealing with dangerous dogs;
- Expand the seizure powers for municipalities to include a dog that has aggressively pursued or bitten a person;
- Give authority to municipalities to impose conditions on owners upon release of a dog impounded under Section 49; and
- Change the definition of “dangerous dog” under Section 49(1) by removing the word “seriously” where it appears before the words injured or injure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B77 DANGEROUS DOGS**Victoria**

WHEREAS Victoria City Council believes difficulties arise in administering the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and that this legislation fails to assign full responsibility to dog owners who behave irresponsibly with their dog;

AND WHEREAS breed specific legislation is not considered an adequate or appropriate solution to the problem and Victoria City Council believes a provincial review and debate of this issue is necessary and that a uniform policy should be established:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia consider an amendment to the provincial *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* to include the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for the breeding and care of animals in British Columbia, to be applied to all dog breeders, dog pounds, shelters and pet stores selling dogs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia investigate the implementation of a system of monitoring, accessible to all animal control agencies, municipal police, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, that will track individuals who repeatedly keep aggressive dogs, including substantially punitive fines and penalties for repeat offenders.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

100th ANNIVERSARY HISTORICAL PRESENTATIONS

Director Susan Gimse, Chair of the Convention Committee introduced Paul Taylor, President of ICBC, the sponsor of the first two parts of the historical presentation.

Mr. Taylor spoke and then introduced a video clip that set the stage for the founding Convention on September 29, 1905 in New Westminster.

Mayor Keary, Mayor of New Westminster in 1905 (played by actor Dean Paul Gibson) welcomed delegates to a re-enactment of the founding meeting, which was held in his city hall. He spoke about the reasons for founding UBCM, proposed the agenda for the meeting, a roll call of the founding municipalities and finally presented the 1905 resolution proposing to establish UBCM.

At that point Mayor Frank Leonard, Chair of the Resolutions Committee assumed the Chair and directed delegates to Special Resolution #3 – UBCM Centennial Recognition.

The resolution was moved by Councillor Bob Bose, Surrey, grandson of Mayor Henry Bose, who attended the founding meeting and Councillor Patricia Wallace, Kamloops, the home of Mayor Charles Stevens, who called the founding meeting and was the first President of UBCM.

SR3 UBCM CENTENNIAL RECOGNITION

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS on September 29, 1905, a motion "That the delegates now present do form a Union of the Municipalities of British Columbia" was unanimously endorsed by all 33 delegates attending the first UBCM Convention;

AND WHEREAS over the past 100 years the collective efforts of all local governments, participating through UBCM, have resulted in benefits that have improved the quality of life in our communities and our province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we hereby reaffirm our first resolution in celebration of the past 100 years of UBCM achievements and in recognition of the ongoing benefits of participation in a province-wide association that represents all local governments in BC.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Mayor Leonard then introduced Ms. Wendy Bancroft. Ms. Bancroft presented a short history of the UBCM from the founding meeting until the present, which was based on work for the publication "Union of BC Municipalities – The First Century".

POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of resolutions resumed with Mayor Herb Pond in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Frank Leonard, Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Dan Rogers, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie.

B78 COMMERCIAL TRUCK SAFETY REGULATIONS

Delta

WHEREAS the volume of truck traffic continues to grow in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS truck and commercial vehicle accidents continue to compromise safety on our roads and highways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province:

- i) adopt a standard curriculum that will become mandatory for commercial vehicle driver licence training in BC;
- ii) introduce a graduated licensing system for commercial vehicle driver licensing;
- iii) develop a commercial driver sanction program that authorizes Police Officers to require that a commercial driver be retested;
- iv) enact regulations that hold the carrier responsible for unserviceable brakes on commercial trucks and trailers; and

v) amend the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* to include commercial vehicle lane designation signing, such that any uncertainty relative to enforcement is clarified;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that Transport Canada and the Province enact regulations that would require container shippers to certify container contents, loading and weight when a cargo is over a specific threshold of weight for federally and provincially regulated loading sites.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B79 MANDATORY INSPECTION OF TRUCK
EXHAUST SYSTEMS**

Kamloops

WHEREAS The City of Kamloops receives numerous complaints from its residents who live adjacent to provincially designated highways and municipally designated truck routes, regarding noise emitted from truck engine retarders;

AND WHEREAS a review of those concerns with representatives of trucking organizations and other interest groups concluded that improperly maintained and/or modified exhaust systems are a likely cause of those noise problems;

AND WHEREAS the measures available to the City in dealing with this issue such as erecting advisory signs, working with the RCMP and increasing awareness within the trucking industry on the proper use of engine retarders have met with limited success:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that mandatory truck exhaust system inspections be part of the biannual inspection program conducted by the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Division, to ensure that exhaust systems have been properly maintained and have not been modified.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B80 ROAD MAINTENANCE CLASSIFICATION
SYSTEMS**

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation road classification systems for winter and summer maintenance determine the allocation of resources to road maintenance in BC;

AND WHEREAS these classification systems result in lower levels of service on the roads and highways of northern British Columbia where traffic volumes do not meet the thresholds needed for high classification:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities write the Minister of Transportation seeking a review of the road maintenance

classification system to ensure northern roads receive adequate levels of service to satisfy safety and economic development requirements.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “northern roads” be replaced with “all BC roads” and that the words “of each region” be added to the end of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities write the Minister of Transportation seeking a review of the road maintenance classification system to ensure all BC roads receive adequate levels of service to satisfy the safety and economic development requirements of each region.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

**B81 EXTENSION OF TRANSPORTATION LOAD
WIDTH RESTRICTIONS**

**Fort Nelson/
Northern Rockies RD**

WHEREAS load width restrictions under the *Commercial Transport Act* prevent the transportation of mobile or modular homes over 16 feet wide on BC highways, even though special permits can be obtained for commercial and industrial transportation purposes for loads up to 20 feet wide;

AND WHEREAS the cost of erecting a stick built home in northern British Columbia is very high and citizens should be entitled to have enhanced accommodation options in the north since healthy communities depend on strong economies, which include access to housing options with a variety of styles and price ranges to choose from and especially in those areas where there are short building seasons, limited housing and rental markets, and a limited number of housing developers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Attorney General, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, and the Minister of Transportation be requested to work with municipal and regional elected officials of northern British Columbia in amending existing legislation to allow for the safe transportation of mobile or modular homes up to 20 feet in width on BC highways to allow all British Columbians equitable housing options no matter what area of the province they reside in.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B82 ROAD ALLOWANCES AS TRAILS

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS linear parks or trails are much valued by citizens;

AND WHEREAS local governments are in the best position to determine where such trails should be created;

AND WHEREAS there are many dedicated but unused road allowances that would serve as trails:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation be requested to establish a policy to grant to local governments, upon request, permission to construct and manage trails on road allowances providing there are no plans to build roads on such property.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B83 MOTOR FUEL TAX ACT

Sicamous

WHEREAS under the *Motor Fuel Tax Act*, ATVs and snowmobiles are specifically excluded from using coloured gas;

AND WHEREAS neither ATVs nor snowmobiles use the public roads which are, in part, supported by proceeds from the fuel tax:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province to remove the restriction against use of coloured fuel for ATVs and snowmobiles.

A motion to add the word “registered” before the word “ATVs” in the enactment clause was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

A motion to add the words “and motorcycles” to the end of the enactment clause was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B84 BUS SHELTER FUNDING

Esquimalt

WHEREAS the Township of Esquimalt has sought to have BC Transit construct and maintain bus shelters, or alternatively to provide funding to municipalities for same;

AND WHEREAS BC Transit does not fund or build bus shelters and encourages municipalities to seek development agreements or contracts with advertising providers;

AND WHEREAS advertising providers only build bus shelters in high volume ridership areas;

AND WHEREAS there is a compelling need to provide bus shelters along all routes to shelter bus passengers from inclement weather, thereby encouraging increased usage of public transit;

AND WHEREAS both the federal and provincial governments have stated that one of their goals is to encourage ridership in public transit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities encourage both the federal and provincial governments to allocate funding to local governments for the specific purpose of constructing and maintaining bus shelters to appropriate design standards on all approved bus routes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B85 APPROACH BAN REGULATIONS

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the new rules from Transport Canada (as Gazetted in November 2004) in their current form will affect all IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) Airports, and particularly smaller and northern airports supported by non-precision approaches;

AND WHEREAS the study initiating these rules was focused on operations conducted at the larger airports;

AND WHEREAS the assessment of the cost of the new proposals was significantly underestimated in the RIAS (Notice of Intent to Implement Regulations);

AND WHEREAS the net affect of the proposed rules will limit access to many airports without enhancing the safety of operations;

AND WHEREAS the travelling public will be inconvenienced in the form of a greater number of missed approaches, diverted flights and reduced number of scheduled departures;

AND WHEREAS the new rules will result in higher ticket prices;

AND WHEREAS the new proposal will impose a significant impediment to access at smaller airports serving many northern and remote communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities write to Transport Canada asking that it evaluate the effect this regulation will have on small airports and the negative impact the regulation will have on economic development.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B86 MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO SET ASIDE TAX SALE Nanaimo City

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* specifies the statutory process of tax sale;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of British Columbia has produced two conflicting decisions on a municipality's ability to set aside a tax sale due to manifest error under Section 423(2) of the *Local Government Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Ministry of Community Services to amend the legislation to confirm the municipality's jurisdiction to set aside a tax sale based on manifest error to include the entire tax sale procedure and not just the tax sale itself or the proceedings before the tax sale.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B87 PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX

Vernon

WHEREAS the provincial government has set as a principle for the new *Community Charter*, that the provision of new sources of revenues for municipal governments would be provided;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government imposes property transfer tax from sales generated within municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government either share the proceeds from the property tax with municipalities, or enable municipalities to impose a property transfer tax on sales within their borders.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word "either" be removed from the enactment clause and the words "share the proceeds from the property transfer tax with local governments" replace the remainder of the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government share the proceeds from the property transfer tax with local governments.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B88 TAX SALE – STRATA FEES – REDEMPTION PERIOD

Ashcroft

WHEREAS the municipality is more frequently being declared the purchaser at a Tax Sale and must wait another year before the property can be sold, leaving the municipality without payment of taxes for four years;

AND WHEREAS more often properties of which the municipality is declared the purchaser at a Tax Sale have outstanding strata fees:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government stipulate:

- a) that there is no redemption period if the municipality is declared the purchaser; and
- b) that the municipality is not held responsible for any outstanding strata fees against a property if the municipality is declared the purchaser.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B89 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS Section 15(1)(q) of the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* provides that “land and improvements if the land and improvements are (i) owned or occupied, and (ii) used exclusively by a non-profit organization for activities that are of demonstrable benefit to all members of the community where the land is located” are exempt from taxation;

AND WHEREAS BC Assessment may apply exemptions under this section without consultation with the local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to amend the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* to require approval of the local government in which the property is located prior to granting or denying an exemption or major change under Section 15(1)(q);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that BC Assessment be required to provide a list of existing exemptions under this section to the applicable local governments for review and approval.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B90 PERMISSIVE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**Vernon**

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* imposes restrictions for a municipality to grant permissive property tax exemptions to property owners leasing to not-for-profit groups;

AND WHEREAS this places not-for-profit groups, who provide much needed services to the community, at a disadvantage, as they have to allocate scarce funds towards property tax and creates inequities whereby not-for-profit groups carry different tax burdens, therefore putting groups required to lease in financial hardship:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Community Charter* to permit permissive exemptions to property owners leasing to not-for-profit groups, and that a mechanism be established to ensure that the not-for-profit group receives the benefit.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B91 PROPERTY TAX PENALTY**Ashcroft**

WHEREAS there is an increasing number of property owners who are habitually late with their property tax payment;

AND WHEREAS the current 10% penalty for late taxes and the interest rate charged on arrears and delinquent taxes is not sufficient to encourage property owners to pay their taxes on time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government set:

a) For late payment of property taxes:

i) On properties that have no arrears or delinquent taxes a penalty of 10% on current taxes.

ii) On properties that have arrears taxes a penalty of 20% on current taxes.

iii) On properties that have delinquent and arrears taxes a penalty of 30% on current taxes.

b) The interest rate for overdue taxes, taxes in arrears and delinquent taxes at a rate of no less than 10% per annum, with interest being charged from the day they become overdue.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B92 PROPERTY TAXES – MANUFACTURED HOMES

Revelstoke

WHEREAS outstanding property taxes on a fire-damaged or destroyed manufactured home cannot be collected from the owner of the property upon which such home is located;

AND WHEREAS a transport or demolition permit cannot be legally issued until the collector signs the “Collectors Certificate for Transport Purposes” stating that all outstanding taxes have been paid in full even if the manufactured home is considered a hazard and a liability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, should a manufactured home be considered a potential liability due to the fact it is deemed as unsafe or a potential accident hazard, the Director of Finance/Collector shall have the authority to sign the release on the “Collectors Certificate for Transport Purposes” as per Section 50(s) of the *Mobile Home Act*, thus allowing for the issuance of a Transport/Demolition permit even though taxes remain unpaid.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B93 COMPENSATION TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR
PROPERTY TAXES OWED**

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS northwest BC communities are owed millions of dollars in property taxes as a result of protection under the *Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act* and subsequent bankruptcy proceedings of Skeena Cellulose Inc./New Skeena Forest Products Inc. (SCI/NSF);

AND WHEREAS northwest communities depend on these property taxes to provide essential community services and to meet the municipalities’ financial obligations to other levels of government and agencies, such as regional district and regional hospital district;

AND WHEREAS the Province has a duty and responsibility to assist these communities as well as had a central role in the sale of Skeena Cellulose and a contributing role in the events which followed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province to compensate the municipalities of Prince Rupert, Port Edward, Terrace, Smithers and New Hazelton for all property taxes owed by SCI/NSF;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province take all possible steps to recover these funds from SCI/NSF and NWBC Timber and Pulp Ltd.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B94 INDUSTRIAL CLASS PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* authorizes local governments to establish alternative municipal tax collection schemes regarding dates on which all or part of the property taxes are due and discounts and penalties for early or late payments respectively, and such alternative collection schemes could prove invaluable in the early detection of potential payment default, but such schemes are purely elective by property owners, and certain taxpayers, particularly large Industrial Class Property Taxpayers, have significant impact on a municipality's financial viability and its ability to provide services;

AND WHEREAS a default in the payment of property tax by one or more large Industrial Class Property Taxpayer also has ripple effect across all local governments including the regional hospital and school districts and the earlier a local government is aware of potential payment default by large Industrial Class Property Taxpayers the sooner it is able to take appropriate steps to curb the levels of services provided and expenditures rather than having to wait for tax sale and other court proceedings for collection of taxes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province amend Sections 235 and 236 of the *Community Charter* as appropriate to allow municipalities to impose alternative municipal tax collection schemes, subject to any appropriate limitations on interest rates and penalties, in order to provide incentives for timely payment of property taxes and improve municipal budgeting and financial management for the benefit of all taxpayers.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B95 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES Invermere

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* allows municipalities to pay for road, sewer and water infrastructure works through a collection of Development Cost Charges;

AND WHEREAS new developments impact the ability of municipalities to provide appropriate protective services equipment, such as fire fighting equipment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities support a change in legislation allowing municipalities to collect Development Cost Charges for protective services equipment.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “protective services equipment” be replaced with the phrase “major protective services capital projects”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities support a change in legislation allowing municipalities to collect Development Cost Charges for major protective services capital projects.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B96 BC HYDRO TAXATION

Trail

WHEREAS under the provisions of the Columbia River Treaty, BC Hydro has been exempted from paying property taxes to local governments in the Columbia River Basin;

AND WHEREAS while the provincial government has indicated it will rescind these provisions, thereby requiring BC Hydro to pay property taxes on its installations, no action has been forthcoming to initiate this change in policy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia take the action necessary to require BC Hydro to pay property taxes to local governments in the Columbia River Basin and Peace River Basin, effective the 2006 taxation year.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “in the Columbia River Basin and Peace River Basin” in the enactment clause, be replaced with “including regional districts and the Islands Trust, for all its installations throughout the province, based on consistent and realistic assessment formulas”, 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 take the action necessary to require BC Hydro to pay property taxes to local governments, including regional districts and the

Islands Trust, for all its installations throughout the province, based on consistent and realistic assessment formulas, effective the 2006 taxation year.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B97 NEW FEES – UTILITIES

Vernon

WHEREAS the original intent of the *Community Charter* was to provide municipalities with greater ability to generate revenue, however, Section 193 states that a municipality may not impose a fee or tax except as expressly authorized under the *Charter*;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have established efficient collection systems for local utilities and taxes and have the authority under the *Charter* to include unpaid utility charges on property taxes and are desirous of undertaking utility billing services for non municipal utility entities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend Section 232 of the *Charter* to include any other legal entity which has lawful authority to impose utility rates and fees.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of resolutions resumed with Mayor Herb Pond in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Dan Rogers, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie.

B98 1% UTILITY TAX ON LONG DISTANCE CALLS

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS Section 353 of the *Local Government Act* authorizes municipalities to receive 1% utility tax on gross receipts of sales of utility services within municipal government boundaries;

AND WHEREAS long distance calls originate from the taxpayers and residents within the municipality and the revenue should be captured to support municipal services to these residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend Section 353 of the *Local Government Act* to reflect that the 1% utility tax includes long distance gross receipts.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

**B99 ELIMINATION OF GST AND EXCISE TAXES
ON FUEL USED IN RCMP VEHICLES**

Fort St. John

WHEREAS RCMP costs include fuel, which is taxed contrary to the spirit of the recent federal government's commitment to rebate 100% of the GST to municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province for support to lobby the federal government to eliminate the GST and excise taxes on fuel used in RCMP vehicles.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

B100 NEW DEAL AGREEMENT

North Cowichan

WHEREAS the governments of Canada and British Columbia and the Union of BC Municipalities have signed an Agreement in Principle to transfer federal gas tax revenues to local governments under the New Deal for Cities and Communities;

AND WHEREAS the Agreement in Principle sets out numerous conditions and restrictions on the transfer of gas tax revenues to local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities negotiate terms for the final agreement that will reduce and simplify the administrative and bureaucratic process to facilitate the transfer of gas tax revenues in an efficient, effective and affordable manner, in keeping with the fundamental basis of the Agreement which is the distribution of gas tax revenue on a stable per capita basis, and enabling municipalities to decide how best to allocate the infrastructure funds.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

Chair Robert Hobson assumed the Chair and continued with the consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

B101 INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

Houston

WHEREAS infrastructure and green grant funding is made available to municipalities;

AND WHEREAS through procedural delays associated with the approval of these funding opportunities, municipalities often face significant increases through inflation that cannot be included in the grant sharing formula:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province to amend its infrastructure procedures to reduce delays or provide a

mechanism by which inflationary costs can be included in the grant sharing formula.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B102 CANADA-BC INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
TIMELINE FOR AWARDING GRANTS**

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS local governments must hold a referendum when proposing new infrastructure or facilities that will be funded through additional taxation or borrowing and the timing of the referendum must coincide with the construction season in most areas of the province;

AND WHEREAS Canada/BC Infrastructure Program criteria requires that local governments obtain public assent, necessitating local governments to proceed to referendum on the basis of the full cost of an eligible project as there is no confirmation of forthcoming grant monies, the receipt of which may substantially reduce taxation rate implications to local taxpayers, thereby increasing the likelihood of a successful referendum:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the federal and provincial governments to amend their processes and procedures to allow for the approval of grant funds in advance of the referendum process, subject to a successful referendum.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B103 GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Houston

WHEREAS the Province invites applications for grant opportunities to local governments on a regular basis;

AND WHEREAS these applications are often requested on very short notice, with program parameters often changing, involving considerable costs and time challenges for local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province to consider resource and timing challenges as part of the grant application process, and ensure that submittal times are reflective of communities with limited resources.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B104 RESTRUCTURE GRANTS

Vernon

WHEREAS historically the provincial government provided per capita funding for major annexations to defray the cost to municipalities to integrate and administer newly annexed areas;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government also funded road maintenance and upgrade costs for a three to ten year phase-in period for major annexations and since these programs are not currently funded there is a disincentive for municipalities to pursue major annexations that involve road works that are below municipal standards in need of significant upgrade expenditures and, if an annexation does proceed, the taxpayers of the annexing municipality fund the upgrading of infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government fund the traditional restructure grants formerly provided for major annexations through both the Ministry of Community Services and the Ministry of Transportation.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

**B105 UNCONDITIONAL GRANTS FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Salmo

WHEREAS the heavy dependence on property taxes and the transfer of funds from income, consumption, and resource tax sources to municipalities is essential to achieve tax fairness in local government;

AND WHEREAS conditional grants are subject to bias in their allocation, lead to the distortion of local priorities, encourage “opportunity” expenditures, and involve unproductive administration costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM work with the Government of British Columbia to develop a long-term program of unconditional grants for local governments funded from income, consumption, and resource taxation sources with the objective of eliminating all conditional grants.

A motion to replace the words “all conditional” with “conditions on” in the enactment clause, was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B106 TRAFFIC FINE EQUITY

Capital RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has legislation that requires the forwarding of a pro rata share of traffic fine revenue to each incorporated municipality within the province, whether served by a local municipal police force or the RCMP;

AND WHEREAS local government in British Columbia is made up of electoral areas within regional districts as well as municipalities, and the taxpayers within the electoral areas pay the RCMP policing costs through the provincial Rural Tax Levy but, unlike municipalities, the electoral areas do not currently receive a pro rata share of traffic fine revenue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to treat electoral areas in a fair and equitable manner consistent with that accorded to municipalities and to annually forward to the regional districts their electoral area's pro rata share of traffic fine revenue.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B107 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION
SERVICE REVIEW**

Port Hardy

WHEREAS the Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) no longer maintains the liability insurance coverage needed for members;

AND WHEREAS members must now seek outside liability coverage in such areas as marine facilities and community partnership programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities request that MIA conduct a full review of its services to ensure it is meeting the needs of the membership.

ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN

**B108 NEW PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING
BOARD REGULATIONS**

Salmon Arm

WHEREAS the Public Sector Accounting Board is considering new regulations regarding financial review of a local government's books;

AND WHEREAS, over the past few years, the format used for the financial statements of local governments has changed resulting in a significant amount of staff time to coordinate data and create these statements, which are difficult for the public and elected representatives to understand;

AND WHEREAS local governments have been advised that in 2006/2007 they will have to account for a municipality's capital assets and assign a value to them resulting in each municipality conducting an inventory of every capital asset, including water lines, sewer lines, roadways, etc., to determine their length, diameter, material, etc., to establish a value;

AND WHEREAS there are distinct differences between corporations that have shares publicly traded and the local government corporation that is responsible to the taxpayers including the following:

1. Local government does not have shares traded for profit.
2. The Board of Directors of a publicly traded corporation does receive financial benefit from a profitable operation. Councils, on the other hand, have no financial benefit from the decisions they make.

3. All of the transactions of a local government are transparent and public. Regulation is specific on reporting procedures. In other words, local governments are accountable to the Province and the Province does monitor that accountability.
4. Overstating local government assets does not benefit taxpayers or elected representatives so what would be the purpose?
5. Administrative staff are on fixed salaries and do not benefit from the surplus that the local government might achieve in a given year;

AND WHEREAS these regulatory accounting initiatives are a “knee jerk” reaction to the Enron scandal and the situation that Ford Motor Company experienced in the United States regarding post retirement benefits and unfunded liability;

AND WHEREAS the additional cost to complete a Control Audit will double the cost of accounting to local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments be exempt from the Public Sector Accounting Board’s regulations and continue to present financial statements to their elected officials and the public in a manner which is clear, concise and easy to understand.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B109 CREDIT CARD PAYMENT SURCHARGE

Vernon

WHEREAS taxpayers have requested the ability to pay City utility charges and taxes using credit cards;

AND WHEREAS the general taxpayer should not be required to share in the cost of providing this service to those specific taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia amend existing legislation to allow municipalities to add a surcharge to any credit card payments, with the surcharge being equal to the transaction fee imposed by the credit company.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B110 LOTTERY FUNDING

Houston

WHEREAS it is important for non profit organizations to access lottery funds to support community programs and development activities;

AND WHEREAS these provincial lottery funds are not available to non-profit organizations if they work with municipalities in their community programs and development activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province to change the funding criteria whereby these non-profit organizations can access funding to support community programs and development activities where municipalities are participating partners.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B111 PROVINCIAL SCHOOL TAXES

Fernie

WHEREAS provincial school taxes are based on assessment and there is a large discrepancy in the amount that resort communities pay based on inflated assessments compared to neighbouring communities in the same school district;

AND WHEREAS this impacts the ability of people to continue to live and work in these communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to reassess the way it collects provincial school taxes to create a system that is more equitable and reflects more accurately ability to pay.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words following “requested” in the enactment clause be amended to read “to review the effectiveness of its current approach to assessment of school taxes within school districts to ensure that it is providing the intended benefits with respect to equity and ability to pay among communities”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to review the effectiveness of its current approach to assessment of school taxes within school districts to ensure that it is providing the intended benefits with respect to equity and ability to pay among communities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B112 HARBOUR PROTECTION - DERELICT VESSELS

Ladysmith

WHEREAS the Town of Ladysmith has made several appeals to the provincial and federal governments to remove derelict vessels from Ladysmith harbour;

AND WHEREAS there has been no action to date by either the provincial or federal governments to enforce removal of derelict vessels from Ladysmith harbour;

AND WHEREAS the risk of environmental contamination and the aesthetic blight posed by derelict vessels is of concern to all coastal communities affected by this issue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly recommend to the Province, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard that immediate action be taken to remove any derelict vessels that have been unoccupied for a period of six months or longer from the harbours of any coastal communities requesting such action.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the word “coastal” be removed from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “by them” be added after the word “taken” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly recommend to the Province, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard that immediate action be taken by them to remove any derelict vessels that have been unoccupied for a period of six months or longer from the harbours of any communities requesting such action.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B113 RURAL LANDFILL CLOSURES

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS closing rural landfills and replacing them with transfer stations is in the best interests of all residents of British Columbia and our shared environment;

AND WHEREAS the cost of carrying out these closures places a substantial financial burden on the residents of sparsely populated regional districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia include the closure of rural landfills and their replacement with transfer stations, as mandated in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plans, as eligible projects under Infrastructure Funding Programs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B114 OUTDOOR SOLID FUEL BURNING BOILER/AIR QUALITY Sparwood

WHEREAS the cost of heating homes continues to rise and with many homeowners looking for economic alternative heating sources, an option that is gaining popularity is the outdoor solid fuel burning boiler which is currently unregulated by the Province;

AND WHEREAS in comparison to indoor stoves and fireplaces, these units generate excessive smoke with particulates that are extremely detrimental to the health of any adjacent property owners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the provincial government to immediately establish standards regulating outdoor solid fuel burning boilers similar to those standards that are in place for indoor woodstoves.

A motion to remove the words “similar to those standards that are in place for indoor woodstoves” from the enactment clause, was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

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

B115 DEPOSIT-RETURN SYSTEM FOR TETRA-PAKS

Nelson

WHEREAS tetra-paks are increasingly used for a range of products including soups, milk and milk substitutes, creating packaging that ends up in landfills;

AND WHEREAS the technology exists to efficiently recycle tetra-paks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities encourage the provincial government to include in the deposit return system all products packaged in tetra-paks.

A motion to add the phrase “and dairy product packaging” at the end of the enactment clause, was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B116 INVASIVE PLANTS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Invasive Plant Council has developed principles and action plans which have been endorsed by the federal and provincial governments;

AND WHEREAS the Invasive Plant Council has been registered as a non-profit society in order to continue its important work:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby all local governments to actively support the Invasive Plant Council by being active participants as well as developing and implementing invasive plant control programs for their respective jurisdictions.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B117 RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

Salmon Arm

BE IT RESOLVED that the *Riparian Areas Regulation* be postponed indefinitely.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B118 WATER AND SEWER PLANNING GRANT

Golden

WHEREAS provincial legislation and regulations require local governments to operate their water and sewer systems in a professional manner for the safety of the public;

AND WHEREAS the costs to train local government staff and improvement districts to meet these new requirements is significant:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province to add significant funding under the Water and Sewer Planning Grant program or a new program to assist local governments and improvement districts to upgrade their staff to meet the required certification standards.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that words following “Water and Sewer Planning Grant program” in the enactment clause be replaced with “or create a new program to fund the training costs of water and sewer operators”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Province to add significant funding under the Water and Sewer Planning Grant program or create a new program to fund the training costs of water and sewer operators.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B119 PRIVATE SEWER UTILITIES

Vernon

WHEREAS private water utilities are subject to the regulation and control imposed by the Comptroller;

AND WHEREAS a private sewer utility is not subject to the same regulation and control other than health for discharge permits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government regulate private sewer utilities in the same manner as private water utilities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B120 INTEREST-FREE LOAN TO REPAIR
FAILING SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS discharge from failing septic fields poses an environmental risk;

AND WHEREAS there is no financial assistance available to property owners faced with a large outlay of cash to fix their failing sewage disposal systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Province and/or the federal government provide no interest, long-term loans to property owners to repair or replace failing septic systems.

On motion, duly moved and seconded that the word “septic” be replaced with the word “sewage” in the enactment clause, was defeated.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B121 CROWN TENURES

Comox-Strathcona RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has been granting Crown tenures in the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona without appropriate zoning and therefore, without benefit of public input through a public hearing process;

AND WHEREAS the granting of Crown tenure by the Province in advance of local zoning bylaw approvals has caused conflict and hardship for both the communities involved as well as the applicants, and has put many applicants into a position of non-compliance with local bylaws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government ensure that the appropriate zoning for the applied-for use is in place prior to any Crown tenure being granted.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B122 SECTION 946 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Capital RD

WHEREAS local governments and regional districts have the power to generate Official Community Plans based upon local input and community values;

AND WHEREAS under Section 946 of the *Local Government Act* the Province can approve a subdivision for a relative without input from the regional districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work with the Province to remove Section 946 from the *Local Government Act*.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B123 PARKLAND DEDICATION**Vernon**

WHEREAS under provision of the *Local Government Act* parkland dedication is not required for a phased strata plan application under the *Strata Property Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the provisions of the *Local Government Act* and/or the *Strata Property Act* to require parkland dedication as a condition of any phased strata plan approval under the *Strata Property Act*, including a phased strata approval.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B124 REGISTRATION OF NOTICE OF NATURAL HAZARD ON PROPERTY TITLE**Gibsons**

WHEREAS local governments receive geotechnical reports, which identify natural hazards on properties within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS local governments are not authorized by the *Land Title Act*, the *Community Charter* or the *Local Government Act* to register a notice of a natural hazard on the title of property where a hazard has been identified:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to amend the *Land Title Act* to allow local governments to file a notice of a natural hazard on the title of a property within the jurisdiction of the local government.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B125 CREATING INCENTIVES FOR MANAGING SMALL DIAMETER TREES**Creston**

WHEREAS the southern interior of the province contains many uneconomical and marginally economical forest types;

AND WHEREAS the structure of these forest types – dense, small diameter trees, and many dead and dying trees – constitute a significant wildfire hazard and resolution of the “small wood” issue was highlighted in the Honourable Gary Filmon’s 2003 Firestorm Review:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government resolve to fully implement the following Filmon Review recommendations:

- “The Ministry of Forests should consider amending Annual Allowable Cut determinations in fire-prone ecosystems to encourage hazard reduction treatments by tenure holders in marginal and uneconomic tree stand areas within the wildland-urban interface.

- The province should investigate alternatives to stumpage as an incentive to encourage the harvest of high risk, low value fuel types.

- Industry should undertake research into the use of small diameter trees in non-traditional forest products markets such as energy and bio-fuel.”

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B126 PROVINCIAL STUMPAGE RATES

Grand Forks

WHEREAS the provincial government has a target stumpage rate, and has set a stumpage rate of \$0.25/M3 for grade 3 logs, which is the rate charged to lumber producers processing timber destroyed by Mountain Pine Beetle, mainly in central and northern British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS in an effort to meet the provincial target stumpage rate, the value not collected from grade 3 logs is being passed on to the value charged for green logs, effectively charging significantly more stumpage to producers mainly in the southern interior, commonly referred to as the grade 3 waterbed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to eliminate as soon as possible the grade 3 waterbed, which is currently subsidizing northern forestry producers, and create provincial stumpage rates that are fair to all forestry operators in the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

The Resolutions session began with Mayor Frank Leonard in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Jack Peake, Councillor Dan Rogers, Mayor Herb Pond, Chair Robert Hobson and Councillor Brenda Binnie.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTORS FORUM

Director Susan Gimse, Electoral Area Representative brought forward the recommendations on resolutions C1 and C2 which had been referred to, and endorsed by, the Electoral Area Directors Forum. Delegates then considered both resolutions.

C1 TAX ON IMPROVED PARCELS

East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act* regional districts may only levy a parcel tax on all parcels of land within a proposed service area, whether or not such parcels contain improvements;

AND WHEREAS for some regional district services, recovering costs by way of a parcel tax on improved parcels only would be appropriate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to include a provision for levying a parcel tax on improved parcels only.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

C2 PARCEL TAX FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 803(2) of the *Local Government Act*, regional districts are not permitted to use parcel taxes to recover the costs of a regulatory service, which includes mosquito control;

AND WHEREAS it may be deemed that the value of mosquito control is equal among all properties within a service area; therefore, levying a parcel tax would be a fair method of tax recovery:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to include the ability for regional districts to levy a parcel tax for mosquito control.

A motion to remove the words “for mosquito control” at the end of the enactment clause, was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian. A motion to challenge the Chair on this point was made and the Chair was subsequently supported in this decision by the majority of delegates present.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Mayor Frank Leonard continued as Chair and presented the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

- A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE
- LR1 New Deal 2
 - LR2 CN Private Rail Crossing Agreements
 - LR3 Escalating Cost of Gasoline
 - LR4 Cheakamus River Watershed
 - LR5 Sale of Terasen to Kinder Morgan
- B. REFER TO UBCM EXECUTIVE
- LR6 Mineral Licence Application Process
 - LR7 Teck Cominco Surplus Power
 - LR8 New Sewerage System Regulation

- C. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE (Issues known before the June 30th deadline date for resolutions)
- LR9 Strategy for Reduction of Crystal Methamphetamine Use **withdrawn by sponsor upon introduction of A1*
 - LR10 Security Guard Dogs
 - LR11 Funding for Community Fire Services
 - LR12 Annual Safety Inspections of Commercial Vehicles
 - LR13 Additional Hotel Room Tax
 - LR14 Enviro Levy
 - LR15 West Nile Virus
 - LR16 Grants-in-Lieu and Negotiated Agreements with First Nations
 - LR17 Library Book Rate
 - LR18 Higher Standard Requested for the Required Building Code for Residential Care Facilities
 - LR19 Civic Election Voting Age in BC
 - LR20 Civic Election Term Length in BC
 - LR21 Healthy Communities Program
 - LR22 North Island Coast Development Initiative **referred to AVICC Executive*
 - LR23 Funding for Dyking and Flood Protection Measures

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

LR1 NEW DEAL 2

Lillooet

WHEREAS the District of Lillooet has no form of public or private transportation systems to assist its citizens to access required health or government services only available outside of Lillooet;

AND WHEREAS the District of Lillooet, in conjunction with the Thompson Nicola Regional District and BC Transit, has developed the Gold Country Transit System;

AND WHEREAS the funding is no longer available for BC Transit to implement new transit systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities, the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government of Canada commit to allowing funding, available under the proposed “New Deal 2”, to be used for the implementation of new transit systems in rural British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**LR2 CN PRIVATE RAIL CROSSING
AGREEMENTS****Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS the provincial government sold the provincial asset BC Rail to Canadian National Railway (CN), assuring British Columbians that the sale of BC Rail would provide benefits to all British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS CN is now imposing private rail crossing agreements, requiring all upgrades and maintenance of said private rail crossings be undertaken at the property owner's risk and expense, under threat of removal of property owner access:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government join with affected local governments and seek a meeting with CN Rail to discuss the status of existing rail agreements and request CN Rail's concurrence to honour these existing agreements;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CN Rail be requested to postpone indefinitely the September 30, 2005 deadline for response to their proposed agreements until there is clarity on the status of any existing access agreements.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR3 ESCALATING COST OF GASOLINE**Williams Lake**

WHEREAS the continuous increase of gas prices is seriously affecting rural communities and especially seniors, who have to travel long distances to obtain essential services, primarily in the health sector:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and all the local governments in BC work to find solutions to:

- Cap or freeze gasoline and other oil product prices immediately;
- Reduce taxation or provide tax credits;
- Open new areas in BC to oil extraction in order to offset rising costs and increase oil capacity in our province, with the purpose of reducing gas prices; and
- Offset costs to rural communities in order to guarantee easy access to essential services such as those provided by the health sector, whether through financial assistance or review of service delivery methods.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be amended to read "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and BC, with the support of local governments in BC through UBCM, develop strategies to deal with the escalating cost of gasoline and other petroleum products", was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada and BC, with the support of local governments in BC through UBCM, develop strategies to deal with the escalating cost of gasoline and other petroleum products.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

LR4 CHEAKAMUS RIVER WATERSHED

Squamish

WHEREAS the lower Cheakamus River watershed has been subjected to horrendous environmental damage because of the major spill of sodium hydroxide on August 5, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the lower Cheakamus River watershed will be subjected to significant environmental stress because of a further reduction in water flow from the Daisy Lake Dam;

AND WHEREAS there are plans to build roads and log the lower Cheakamus watershed in the near future, further damaging the already severely environmentally compromised watershed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia suspend logging, flow reduction and any other changes in use of Crown land in the subject area for a minimum of two years or until the Province has completed an environmental assessment of the potential damage caused by the spill of sodium hydroxide on the lower Cheakamus River watershed and consulted with local and regional stakeholders as to the activities that might be undertaken in the area given the impact of the spill;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a monitoring program be instituted to determine the effects and recovery of the watershed, and that results from the monitoring program be made public knowledge.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR5 SALE OF TERASEN TO KINDER MORGAN

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS there appear to be some significant concerns and questions expressed by a number of communities in the province with regard to the proposed sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan, Inc.;

AND WHEREAS the magnitude and implications of the possible sale on the affected communities of BC have yet to be considered and addressed in any meaningful way:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the BC Utilities Commission to seek public hearings throughout the province to

assess the benefits or detriments to the communities of BC of the proposed sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan Inc.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Following consideration of the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, Mayor Frank Leonard introduced resolutions SR4 and SR5 for consideration.

SR4 A NEW VISION FOR FIRE PROTECTION

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS there is no current vision for the future of fire/rescue service delivery in the Province of BC and there are many service gaps throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS there have been several indications that the provincial government is planning to re-examine its role and responsibilities in relation to BC fire service, which may lead to the Province withdrawing from certain areas of its responsibilities while it defines its new roles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support the Fire Services/Government Liaison Group's creation of a Model for the delivery of fire services to the citizens of BC for the 21st Century.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SR5 CANADA-US TRADE RELATIONS

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the lack of agreement on softwood lumber and other ongoing trade disputes between Canada and the United States continues to have a negative impact on both our economies;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to increase discussions with US counterparts at both the local and national level on the benefits of free trade and an improved Canada-US relationship:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and its members work in cooperation with the provincial and federal governments to strongly encourage US officials to abide by existing trade agreements and work with their Canadian counterparts to improve bilateral trade relations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS

Consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions continued with Mayor Frank Leonard in the Chair.

B127 FISH FARMING

Hazelton

WHEREAS viable wild salmon stocks are a vital component for the economic, cultural and social health of many communities in BC;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government established the BC Pacific Salmon Forum with a \$5 million budget in 2004 as an independent, balanced and impartial body with a mandate to analyze scientific and socio-economic issues in order to develop policy recommendations to protect and enhance the viability of wild salmon stocks and their economic, social and environmental benefits to all British Columbians, especially in regards to the issue of open-net fish farms:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to place a moratorium on any expansion of open-net fish farming on the BC coast until the final report of the BC Pacific Salmon Forum is completed.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B128 PRAWN FISHERY QUOTA

Powell River RD

WHEREAS the economies of many coastal communities are suffering from declines in production and employment traditionally provided by resource industries;

AND WHEREAS fisheries quota systems typically concentrate on licences, employment and revenue in fewer hands and away from smaller centres:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to consult with affected communities on the proposal to introduce a quota system in the BC prawn fishery or other BC Fisheries as it will reduce employment and revenues in many coastal communities when other options, other than a quota, may be available.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B129 WEST NILE VIRUS REGULATION

Salmo

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has adopted a West Nile Virus Regulation empowering medical health officers to order a local government to apply pesticides at the expense and liability risk of the local government;

AND WHEREAS local government responsibilities for public health protection should not exceed those relating directly to services provided by local governments, e.g., potable water and waste disposal, and all other public health

protection responsibilities, e.g., food safety, communicable disease, etc. should remain with senior governments having jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities negotiate an amendment to the West Nile Virus Regulation with the Government of British Columbia to remove all references, direct or implied, to a local government duty, obligation, or responsibility with respect to West Nile Virus.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the enactment clause be amended to read: “THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM build on the support received from the Ministry of Health over the past two years for West Nile Virus prevention by enhancing local mosquito control programs and ensuring an ongoing commitment to collaborative planning and prevention; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health reiterate its commitment to assume the leadership role if an actual outbreak occurs and to provide necessary funding for the resources needed to save lives in the event of an outbreak”, was defeated.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B130 SHARING FEDERAL TRANSFERS

East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the provincial government received, and subsequently distributed to the Health Authorities, additional funds from the federal government for capital projects and equipment;

AND WHEREAS hospital districts are being requested to contribute their standard 40% share to the projects and equipment being funded by this transfer, resulting in an inequitable situation where the provincial 60% share is covered by the federal transfer but no off-setting revenue is available to hospital districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to reconsider the method of funding capital projects for which federal funding is available, so that both the Province and hospital districts benefit equally from such transfers.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B131 PROPERTY TAX TO FUND HEALTH CAPITAL

East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the burden of hospital districts funding 40% of health capital projects and equipment is becoming more onerous as costs and demand increase;

AND WHEREAS local governments are limited to property tax as the method for raising health capital funds, resulting in a loss of “room” for funding standard local government services such as water, sewer, roads and other infrastructure, the cost of which is also increasing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to examine the current method of funding health capital projects and equipment with the intent of reducing the impact on property taxes.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B132 UBCM CONVENTION BE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL **Port Hardy**

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities encourages all members of local government to attend its annual Convention;

AND WHEREAS many local governments do not have the financial resources available for all members of council to attend the Convention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM reduce the Convention registration fees and that accommodation expenses be reduced by holding the Convention outside of both high and shoulder tourist season.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B133 UBCM CONVENTION DAYS **Courtenay**

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities annual Convention is traditionally held for 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 UBCM annual Conventions be held over a weekend, similar to the annual Federal of Canadian Municipalities Convention.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B134 VIDEOCONFERENCING **Burns Lake**

WHEREAS the UBCM represents communities throughout the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the distance between member communities is so great that attendance at UBCM workshops, seminars, and other events can be difficult and cost-prohibitive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM investigate the feasibility of using videoconferencing technology to facilitate member participation in UBCM affairs.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B135 UBCM TABLE OFFICERS ATTENDANCE AT FCM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS UBCM funds the UBCM president to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual General Meeting and Conference;

AND WHEREAS not all senior table officers of the UBCM have the financial ability to attend this Conference:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities fund all of its senior table officers to attend the Annual FCM Conference.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED to UBCM EXECUTIVE

B136 ANNUAL REPORTS AND ANNUAL MEETINGS **Osoyoos**

WHEREAS Section 98 of the *Community Charter* requires Council to prepare an annual report by June 30th of each year (which must include the content set out in Section 98(2) and Section 99 of the *Community Charter*) and also requires Council to consider the annual report at a public meeting and accept submissions and questions from the public;

AND WHEREAS these requirements place a significant additional burden on municipalities, both in terms of costs and time commitment of Council and staff, while the response and interest from the community in the annual report and the annual meeting is negligible at best:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the provincial government to consider an amendment to the *Community Charter* to rescind the requirements for an annual report and annual meeting.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B137 YOUTH SPORTS **Port Moody**

WHEREAS youth participating in sport creates the opportunity for a lifelong commitment to physical fitness and the resultant health benefits that accrue from regular activity and many parents throughout our communities commit not only many hours of volunteer efforts to ensure the success of minor sports, but also commit in some cases hundreds of dollars in registration fees, coaching fees, and equipment purchases yearly;

AND WHEREAS without the grassroots minor sports associations that flourish within our communities, Canada would be without any world class athletes with the ability to compete at an international level in events such as the Pan-American Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities advocate that the provincial and federal governments create a tax credit for parents who make expenditures on registration and equipment fees for children participating in minor sports.

A motion, that the words “or arts programs” be added to the end of the enactment clause, was ruled out of order by the Parliamentarian.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B138 DISPOSAL OF SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Canadian Cattle Industry has taken the necessary steps to protect the consuming public from the possibility of being affected by diseases carried by cattle, including e. coli and BSE, by identifying diseased cattle and specified risk materials that are not to enter the food chain;

AND WHEREAS the disposal of specified risk materials and other animals not suitable for any form of consumption is a drain on the cattle industry and a cost and management issue for local government in their efforts to effectively manage solid waste disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to adopt policies ensuring the waste of specified risk materials is at least cost neutral to local government and the cattle industry;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to adopt policies supporting the pilot projects designed to develop an economic value in the disposal of specified risk materials.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B139 MEAT INSPECTION AND ABATTOIRS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS new meat inspection regulations come into effect in September of 2006;

AND WHEREAS many small abattoirs will require assistance to upgrade their facilities to meet new standards under the regulations;

AND WHEREAS livestock producers in many parts of BC rely on the presence of local abattoirs in order to develop value-added market opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to implement incentive programs to ensure the presence of abattoirs in the livestock producing areas of the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SECTION B – PART III RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Leonard called for a motion to consider the Section B – Part III resolutions as a block.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolutions B159, B161 and B163 be removed from the block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the Part III – B resolutions be adopted (noting that those resolutions for which “no recommendation” was recorded would be automatically referred to the UBCM Executive), was endorsed as amended.

B140 SECURITY AT CANADA’S PORTS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS Transport Canada is proposing amendments to the regulations governing security at Canada’s ports through amendments to Maritime Transport Security Regulations;

AND WHEREAS the City of North Vancouver Council supports port workers’ concerns about port security and acknowledges the pro-active efforts of the waterfront unions to develop practical and cost-effective measures to achieve greater security;

AND WHEREAS the new regulations would establish a dangerous precedent for arbitrary access to personal information through the invasive background checks on the workers and their families, exposing them to loss of employment;

AND WHEREAS the process for appeal under the proposed regulation is too narrow;

AND WHEREAS the proper policing of Canada's ports has been eroded by the massive de-regulation of port security, shipping regulation, cargo checks and container loading and unloading over the last 20 years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities endorse the call of Vancouver waterfront employers and workers on Transport Canada to abandon the implementation of the gathering of invasive and arbitrary personal information on port workers and their families;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that real port security risks be addressed by re-instituting the proper policing of Canada’s ports through reasonable and proper security checks to be paid for by Transport Canada or the Vancouver Port Authority;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

**B141 WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT
DEDUCTIBLE AND REPAIR COSTS**

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS in central and northern regions of the Province of British Columbia there is a high incidence of windshield damage due to the use of winter road abrasive;

AND WHEREAS operating vehicles with obscured vision due to damaged windshields creates a threat to public safety;

AND WHEREAS the present system of escalating deductibles and other practices and policies of ICBC creates a disincentive to timely windshield repair and replacement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Insurance Corporation of BC be requested to provide that the deductible for windshield repair be a claim of its own, which is not accumulated with any escalating deductible limits;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Insurance Corporation of BC be requested to reclassify windshield replacement as part of the comprehensive package, with a \$100.00 deductible and that there be no direct charge for repair of minor chip damage.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B142 INCREASED RAIL TRAFFIC

Houston

WHEREAS the development of the Prince Rupert container port will significantly increase the rail traffic throughout the northwest transportation corridor, causing long delays at level traffic crossings;

AND WHEREAS many communities rely on level track crossings for their citizens to access basic goods and services and to transport their families to and from school, community events or to access emergency health services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province initiate and conduct an impact study with recommendations to alleviate and address the concerns of the many communities that will be affected by the significant increase in rail traffic due to the expansion and creation of new container ports in the province.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

B143 SUPPORT FOR ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION View Royal

WHEREAS the Island Corridor Foundation, a not-for-profit society comprising five affected regional districts and First Nations, was established in 2004 to take possession of and to preserve the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way for the benefit of Vancouver Island communities, residents and businesses;

AND WHEREAS the Island Corridor Foundation envisions the environmental, economic and social benefits of the railway right-of-way to be realized through the development of opportunities in traditional and alternative-use transportation, tourism and recreation;

AND WHEREAS the realization of these benefits can only be achieved through both the support of the provincial government in relief from multiple taxation measures and the federal government in receipt of incentive and infrastructure funding for rail improvement projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial and federal governments support the Island Corridor Foundation's objective to take possession of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue to remove provincial tax impediments to the acquisition of the railway right-of-way by waiving the Property Transfer Tax and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Belt Tax;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Ministry of Community Services to provide representational and material support in accessing federal railway right-of-way maintenance resources and program initiatives.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B144 FEDERAL AVIATION POLICIES AND
BC'S COMPETITIVENESS****Richmond**

WHEREAS the Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is an economic generator and facilitates job creation province wide, with the most recent economic impact study showing that the airport is responsible for a total economic output of \$5.183 billion and 54,182 person years of employment;

AND WHEREAS the connectivity provided by the airport is essential both to keeping British Columbia companies competitive in a global economy and to attracting new economic development and high quality jobs to the province;

AND WHEREAS only 40% of Canada's current bilateral air treaties with other nations allow access by foreign carriers to YVR;

AND WHEREAS this restrictive international aviation policy puts the Vancouver International Airport at a competitive disadvantage with US West Coast airports and prevents it from maximizing its potential as a Gateway between Asia and North America:

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

- (1) enter into immediate negotiations with the United States for a true Open Skies agreement;
- (2) pursue planned aviation negotiations with the Government of China to seek substantial liberalization and improved market access; and
- (3) introduce Canada's own Open Skies aviation policy and pursue it on a global basis with its trading partners.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B145 THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS efforts by the federal and provincial governments to open the Canada-US border to Canadian beef have been partially successful to date and are an important part of returning the cattle industry to sustainability;

AND WHEREAS in order to achieve true industry sustainability, the cattle industry must end its reliance on the US market and processing capability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to facilitate development of British Columbia and Canadian processing capability as well as overseas markets for the cattle industry.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B146 TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**Town of Fort Nelson/
Northern Rockies RD**

WHEREAS the provincial government made a Throne Speech commitment to expand the provisions of the Travel Assistance Program to improve access to funding for medical travel expenses for northern and rural residents and it was announced that Northern Health has proposed three pilot sites for the program (Kitimat, Robson Valley and Fort Nelson) and will continue to explore subsidized accommodation and further develop criteria to implement the program;

AND WHEREAS local and individual communities are best able to assess circumstances and determine the need of their citizens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Northern Health be requested to establish local mechanisms to handle disbursement of the funding for medical travel expenses for citizens within those communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B147 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

B148 CARE HOME FUNDING FORMULA

Port Alberni

WHEREAS the Vancouver Island Health Authority funds public and private care homes, including not-for-profit care homes;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Island Health Authority is developing a formula for care home funding based on required care hours per individual:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities seek the commitment of the Vancouver Island Health Authority to fully fund any formula developed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities seek the commitment of the Vancouver Island Health Authority that the formula recognize the excess care costs of individuals with extreme care needs, whether because of severe dementia and psychogeriatric systems or physical and medical conditions.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B149 PRESUMPTION OF CANCERS OF
FIREFIGHTERS****Langley Township**

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has directed the Workers' Compensation Board to include the presumption that some cancers are caused by employment as a full-time firefighter;

AND WHEREAS most local governments will face increased Workers' Compensation Board premiums to pay for cancer presumption whether they employ full-time firefighters or not;

AND WHEREAS all firefighters, including volunteer and paid-call, are subject to exposure to cancer-causing environments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities support the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC petition to the Government of the Province of British Columbia to direct the Workers' Compensation Board not to discriminate against volunteer and/or paid-call firefighters and to include all persons who serve their communities in some capacity as a firefighter to be provided with the protection of the Presumptive Cancer Regulation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B150 FIRE SERVICES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**Vernon**

WHEREAS arbitrators do not apply weight to all of the factors set out in Sections 4(6)(a) to (g) of the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act*;

AND WHEREAS arbitrators have also failed to consider the different economic conditions and factors that distinguish other municipalities from Vancouver:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province communicate to arbitrators that equal weight must be applied to each factor set out in legislation to ensure that the intent of Section 4(6) of the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* is followed; and also direct arbitrators not to arbitrarily impose parity or "near parity" with Vancouver firefighters collective bargaining.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B151 TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTING POLICY**Delta**

WHEREAS transmission lines are routed through residential areas of many communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there are human health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields emitted from transmission lines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province adopt a policy to route new transmission lines and reroute existing

lines away from residential areas and, where this is not possible, to require undergrounding and shielding of such lines.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B152 UNWANTED TELEPHONE AND FAX SOLICITATION Armstrong

WHEREAS unwanted telephone and fax solicitation is a growing nuisance for residents of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the proposed regulatory framework for the telemarketing industry attempts to protect consumers against fraud and places regulatory requirements on the telemarketing industry but does not adequately address the issue of unwanted telephone and fax solicitation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to lobby the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, Compliance and Consumer Policy Division, to establish a Do-Not-Call Registry which would provide those consumers who do not wish to receive unwanted telephone and fax solicitation an opportunity to voluntarily remove their telephone and fax numbers from telemarketing call lists;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as this is not solely a provincial issue, the UBCM approach the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to jointly lobby the federal government and the CRTC as well.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

B153 LAWFUL ACCESS Vancouver

WHEREAS privacy is being eroded and surveillance increased both nationally and internationally since 9/11;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has revived its 1992 Lawful Access Consultation Document in a recent series of consultations with the ostensible aim of updating law enforcement and national security capabilities to deal with new technologies;

AND WHEREAS the proposals would give law enforcement agencies the power, without judicial review, to compel service providers to store and save existing data specific to a transaction or client;

AND WHEREAS the proposals would allow law enforcement or national security representatives to compel service providers, including libraries which have only a partial exemption, upon written or oral request and without judicial review, to provide personal information about specific individual subscribers, including an individual's name, contact information and dynamic IP address;

AND WHEREAS the proposals would substantially erode existing safeguards that limit access to personal information by law enforcement and national security agencies;

AND WHEREAS no empirical data has been provided to justify the proposed measures;

AND WHEREAS the consultation process has not provided adequate opportunity for public participation and debate, unlike its close co-operation between the government and the telecommunications industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Minister of Justice to conduct a broad public consultation on the impact of the Lawful Access proposals, in order to ensure that police have the ability to lawfully intercept new technology communications and search and seize data to effectively carry out investigations and support prosecutions of crimes, while also ensuring that the privacy interests of Canadians are properly protected.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

**B154 AIR CANADA FARES AND FEES – Kitimat-Stikine RD
BEREAVEMENT FARES**

WHEREAS Air Canada has eliminated the special fares for passengers traveling due to illness or family death and these passengers require this assistance at their time of need:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby Air Canada to reinstate the special fare for travel due to illness or family death on Tango and Jazz fares.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B155 AIR CANADA FARES AND FEES – Kitimat-Stikine RD
TANGO SEAT SELECTION FEE**

WHEREAS Air Canada has instituted a \$15 fee for seat selection on Tango fares and those passengers not obtaining seat selection can be bumped if the flight is overbooked:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby Air Canada to remove the \$15.00 fee for seat selection.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B156 NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM Vancouver

WHEREAS Vancouver City Council unanimously voted to urge Prime Minister Paul Martin to keep his election promise to establish a national child care

program that is committed to standards of quality, universality, accessibility and developmental programming;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver called on Mr. Martin's government to begin the allocation of the promised funding of \$5 billion over five years in the 2004-2005 budget years;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver City Council has highlighted the problems for the City that are the result of the BC government using federal child care dollars to replace provincial funding, reducing child care subsidies to low income families, and allocating early childhood education and child care dollars to the education component to the detriment of the child care system;

AND WHEREAS a recent Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development study concluded that Canada's child care system is a failure, calling it fragmented, expensive and often providing little more than babysitting services though costing parents 20 percent or more of their income;

AND WHEREAS a recent student showed that child care workers are paid only half the average wage in Canada;

AND WHEREAS nine out of 10 Canadians believe a national child care system is essential to the nation's prosperity;

AND WHEREAS a government-operated and funded child care system that is affordable and accessible to all children similar to the \$7/day child care system now operating in Quebec promotes women's equality in the workforce, in school or in job training;

AND WHEREAS the federal Minister of Social Development, Ken Dryden, after meeting with his provincial counterparts in November to negotiate the terms of a federal-provincial agreement on childcare, refused to commit to a universal system, government support for primarily non-profit and licensed care, or accountability mechanisms enshrined in legislation;

AND WHEREAS Minister Hagen issued a news release after the meeting that said that "the agreed upon principles respond to BC's commitment to choice for families, and to targeting families most in need":

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the federal Ministry of Social Development and the provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development to ensure that the promised national child care system is introduced and that it is founded on the federal government's stated "QUAD" principles of: Quality, Universality, Accessibility and Developmental programming.

ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED

B157 PROVINCIAL FUNDING OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS Central Saanich

WHEREAS in the 2003/2004 school year, the Ministry of Education began funding school districts primarily on a per pupil basis;

AND WHEREAS in light of declining enrollment in many districts, under the current funding formula it is difficult, if not impossible, to sustain the delivery of the full range of quality educational programs for which the provincial educational system has been well recognized (in fact, school districts throughout the province have found it necessary to close schools at great detrimental impact to many communities and local neighbourhoods):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Education be requested to review the current funding formula for school districts with a view to increasing the levels of provincial funding and support, including:

- re-instatement of base funding to support school administration, library services, clerical services, supplies and equipment for each school;
- increased supplements for unique geographical factors for small communities, rural settings, sparseness and climate factors;
- greater sensitivity to the challenges posed by declining enrollment and the costs associated with small schools; and
- funding that better keeps pace with inflation and other cost increases.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B158 JOB TRAINING**Vancouver**

WHEREAS there is an increasing demand for construction workers to build the Olympics and other related facilities;

AND WHEREAS there is an inadequate supply of BC construction workers;

AND WHEREAS there are an increasing number of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who could become employment-ready and obtain employment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government to financially support and expand employment services and training programs, including programs like Bladerunners and other programs that provide assistance to help homeless people transition to employment.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B160 COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAM**Vancouver**

WHEREAS public libraries and community networks across Canada were the main initiators of the Government of Canada's Connecting Canadians agenda;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada, provincial and municipal governments have systematically moved access to government information and forms to the Internet, often to the exclusion of other forms of access;

AND WHEREAS access to the Internet is now a necessity for equal access to government resources and democratic participation;

AND WHEREAS the Community Access Program (CAP) was developed to fund free public Internet access;

AND WHEREAS according to the Statistics Canada 2003 Survey, 30% of British Columbians do not have access to the Internet, with this percentage being higher in rural areas due to decreased access to broadband;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia Public Libraries and Community Networks received \$2.7 million from CAP in 2004/2005, down from \$5.2 million in 2002/2003;

AND WHEREAS libraries are the main free Internet public access sites in Canada;

AND WHEREAS community networks provide access to socially excluded communities, groups and individuals as well as test new community-based technologies;

AND WHEREAS both libraries and community networks are major participants in overcoming the digital divide;

AND WHEREAS the demand for free public access to the Internet continues unabated;

AND WHEREAS demand for Internet access now includes training, assistance in printing and filling out important forms such as EI and support in Internet searching;

AND WHEREAS we have been advised that Industry Canada will announce the termination of the CAP program;

AND WHEREAS such cancellation will result in financial hardship for libraries and community networks, especially those in rural and poorer areas, resulting in an increase in the digital divide:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal government to reconsider the termination of the CAP program and the creation of a program providing ongoing support for library and community networks for public access and training;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM convey this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for consideration.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

**B162 REGISTERED RETIREMENT SAVINGS
PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS**

Montrose

WHEREAS some people fail to take full advantage of RRSP contribution entitlement on the grounds that future taxation may de-value the benefit of savings:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that governments be petitioned to amend tax regulations to exempt 20 percent of RRSP withdrawals after the age of 69 from income tax.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

B164 EXPANDED GAMBLING IN BC

Saanich

WHEREAS the current provincial government was elected on a platform of no expanded gambling in BC;

AND WHEREAS the last four years have seen the introduction of Internet gambling, the introduction of 8,000 more slot machines, 24-hour casino operations, raised betting limits and allowed consumption of alcohol on the casino floor;

AND WHEREAS the impacts on individuals, families and communities from gambling and addictive behaviour are substantial and destructive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the BC government to halt the expansion of gambling and reduce the increased levels that have occurred since 2001.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

B165 FOREIGN AID FUNDING

Vancouver

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to increase its foreign aid funding to .7% of the gross national income.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B166 ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Vancouver

WHEREAS as long as nuclear weapons exist, cities around the world will be vulnerable to instantaneous devastation on a scale exceeding even that experienced by Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945;

AND WHEREAS nuclear war would devastate many cities, an accidental missile launch would devastate several cities, and use of a nuclear weapon by terrorists would devastate a city;

AND WHEREAS any nuclear attack would obliterate City Hall and all emergency response mechanisms rendering any city “planning” for such a disaster utterly futile;

AND WHEREAS the world’s foremost line of defence against nuclear dangers is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which is currently in its seventh review cycle, with all parties to the treaty scheduled to meet next May to ensure that the treaty is being fully implemented;

AND WHEREAS all other weapons of mass destruction have been prohibited by international agreement and are being eliminated under international control, and the nuclear-weapon states party to the NPT have undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament;

AND WHEREAS the International Court of Justice unanimously found in 1996 that all states were obliged to “bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”;

AND WHEREAS the World Conference of Mayors for Peace has launched an international campaign calling on the 2005 NPT Review Conference to launch negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, to be concluded by 2010 and fully implemented by 2020, also known as the 2020 vision;

AND WHEREAS weapons of mass destruction have no place in a civilized world:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support a decision by the 2005 NPT Review Conference to commence negotiations on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapon related materials.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**B167 OLYMPIC TRUCE PREPARATIONS –
2006 OLYMPIC GAMES**

Vancouver

WHEREAS the tradition of an Olympic Truce during Olympic Games dates back to the 9th Century BC to enable citizens and athletes to travel and compete during the Games period under the protection of the truce;

AND WHEREAS the International Olympic Committee has revived this concept in an effort to contribute to the search for peace and the diplomatic solution of conflicts;

AND WHEREAS truce initiatives at recent Games have allowed the participation of athletes from ex-Yugoslavia and resulted in a global appeal to avoid the bombing of Iraq;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver, as an Olympic city and a city committed to peace will be deeply involved in the development of the Olympic truce activities in 2010;

AND WHEREAS the City of Torino, which will host the 2006 Olympic Winter Games and Winter Paralympic Games, is undertaking an unprecedented city-based Olympic Truce initiative this September, which will involve 100 mayors from four continents signing a joint appeal for the 2006 Olympic truce:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities endorse the City of Torino's Olympic Truce plans and encourage their member municipalities to participate in the signing ceremony.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED and REFERRED to FCM

The Chair then introduced the following resolutions, B159, B161 and B163, for individual debate.

B159 COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

Vancouver

WHEREAS community social services are vital to the health and well being of thousands of British Columbians, especially women, people with disabilities, children and families in need, and the most vulnerable people in our society;

AND WHEREAS these critical services are dependent on adequate funding by the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has already cut \$100 million from the community social services sector since 2001, and plans to cut at least \$70 million more before March 31 of this year;

AND WHEREAS these cuts are having a devastating impact on families and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the BC government to put on hold any further cuts to community social services funding, and to make every effort to restore program funding to the pre-2001 level.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

B161 INSURANCE PROVIDER FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Grand Forks

WHEREAS tourism and volunteer organizations are critical to the makeup of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the recent unprecedented jump in insurance rates is causing undue hardship for these non-profit organizations, societies and recreational providers throughout the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government set up an insurance provider similar to the Municipal Insurance Association to allow reasonable liability insurance for non-profit organizations, societies and recreational providers.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words following “provincial government” in the enactment clause be replaced with “facilitate the establishment of an insurance provider for non-profit organizations, societies and recreational providers”, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government facilitate the establishment of an insurance provider for non-profit organizations, societies and recreational providers.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

B163 PENSIONS IN CANADA: POLICY REFORM BECAUSE WOMEN MATTER

Vancouver

WHEREAS Vancouver City Council endorsed the position paper Pensions in Canada: Policy Reform Because Women Matter (Appendix B to the report Pensions in Canada: Policy Reform Because Women Matter dated April 14, 2005) created by Women Elders in Action (WE*ACT), along with its 23 recommendations (Appendix A of the report) to improve the economic situation for senior women, many of whom live alone in poverty:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local government elected officials raise the need for pension reform in relevant discussions with the federal government, whenever possible.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the words “to improve the economic situation for senior women” be inserted after the word “reform” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local government elected officials raise the need for pension reform to improve the economic situation for senior women, in relevant discussions with the federal government, whenever possible.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

CONVENTION CLOSING

Director Aaron Dinwoodie closed the Convention. The Convention adjourned at 10:45 a.m.