

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the
Resolutions of the 2009
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Convention

Part 2: Resolutions B92-LR9



Ministry of Community and Rural Development
April, 2010

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B92: TOWNS FOR TOMORROW PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS the Towns for Tomorrow program funding levels of 75% for communities with populations of 5,000 to 15,000 and 80% for communities with populations under 5,000 are presumably established in recognition of the difficulty many small communities face in financing the local share of project costs;

AND WHEREAS the funding level for projects in a regional district service area is based on the total combined population of all electoral areas rather than on the population of the service area which will be responsible for the local share of costs, which may be substantially smaller;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to revise its funding formula for Towns for Tomorrow grants to provide 80% funding for projects where the local share of costs will be financed by a regional district service area that has a population of fewer than 5,000.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development

The Ministry continues to work at delivering funding programs that try to meet the needs of local governments in British Columbia.

Provincial only programs such as the Towns for Tomorrow program have been developed to help smaller municipalities and recently, regional districts, with their challenges. This includes a cost-share formula of 75-25 and 80-20 (provincial-local government contributions) as well as flexibility to leverage third party contributions to fund the local government share.

Programs such as the Towns for Tomorrow are subject to review. With the recent addition of regional districts as an eligible applicant, there may be opportunities to look at how cost-share formulas are set within the program. Nonetheless, there are still opportunities within these programs to leverage other funding sources, including the Gas Tax Community Works Fund.

In addition, with limited funding available and the need always outweighing funding available, it is important for as many communities as possible to realize financial support. Changing the cost-sharing formula may equate to fewer communities that receive funding support. The Ministry also recognizes the need for communities to understand the true costs of infrastructure projects, including the costs associated with operation and maintenance. Having communities responsible for a fair share of an infrastructure project often provides for improved community involvement and better planning and decision making, adding value to every dollar spent.

B93: FUNDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROVINCIAL ROADS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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WHEREAS the “Municipal Boundary Extension Criteria” as published in September 2002 by the then Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women’s Services does not adequately provide for provincial cost sharing in non-controlled access highway roads that become a local government maintenance and replacement responsibility as a result of a boundary extension:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the “Municipal Boundary Extension Criteria” be amended so that the Province provides funds to cover 50% of the cost to upgrade the roadway to the local government standard, except for a controlled access highway, included in a municipal boundary extension.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development/Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), through its maintenance contractors, maintains all roads under its jurisdiction to a high standard based on the current level of use. This includes all roads that would be transferred to a local government, as part of a boundary extension. The Province will only retain jurisdiction over those roads that serve a provincial function. MoTI does not have the financial capacity to provide capital assistance for upgrades to all roads that are transferred to local governments.

B94: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ASSESSMENT CLASS

WHEREAS the property tax base for local government represents the basis for property tax distribution and municipal revenue;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* empower local government to establish permissive tax exemptions;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has eroded the local government tax base and removed local government opportunity to decide property tax exemptions through Bill 11, the *2008 Small Business and Revenue Statutes Amendment Act*, 2009, which amends the *Assessment Act* to establish a new supportive housing assessment class to provide property tax relief by reducing assessment values to a nominal value:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province consult with local government and UBCM prior to creating and amending legislation that erodes, infringes or adversely impacts the jurisdiction of local government.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development

In regard to Supportive Housing and the request being made of Government by this resolution, it is the current practice of Government to consult with the UBCM, as the representative of local government; regarding legislative amendments to the *Assessment Act* or other statutes related to Class 3 - Supportive Housing.

The Province recognizes the important role that local government has in partnering with the Province to address the issue of homelessness in our communities. It is the intent of the Province to continue to work with local governments in providing opportunities for those most vulnerable in our society.

The Province is cognizant of the financial implications associated with the designation of an eligible property to the Supportive Housing property class and concerns raised by the UBCM regarding infringement on local government jurisdiction. As part of the Province's commitment to address the issue of homelessness, the Province will continue to work closely with local governments and will consult with the UBCM on any future legislative amendments related to Supportive Housing.

B97: FARM CLASSIFICATION – HORSE BOARDING, HORSE STUD AND HORSE SEMEN COLLECTION SERVICES

WHEREAS under BC Regulation 411 / 95 (Standards for the Classification of Land as a Farm) of the Assessment Act, the “boarding of horses”, “horse stud services” and “horse semen collection services” are not recognized “primary agricultural production” categories for the purposes of farm classification unless operated in conjunction with horse rearing;

AND WHEREAS the boarding of horses, horse stud services and horse semen collection services are an integral part of the horse industry in British Columbia, directly support other agricultural businesses and are important to the provincial economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the BC Regulation 411 / 95 (Standards for the Classification of Land as a Farm) of the Assessment Act and consider including the “boarding of horses”, “horse stud services” and “horse semen collection services” as separate and distinct “primary agricultural production” categories in addition to and not in conjunction with horse rearing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development

The horse industry has requested the inclusion of horse boarding, horse stud and horse semen collection services as primary agricultural production (PAP), in order to qualify the land supporting these activities for farm classification.

Submissions to the recent Farm Assessment Review Panel (the Panel) asked that primary agricultural production (PAP) include “value-added products/activities” and “agricultural services” and that “a review be done to the list of PAPs that count toward the income threshold”

Reviewing the PAP list was out of scope for the Panel. However, the Panel recommended a review of the PAP Schedule within three years – “a priority issue to be dealt with to ensure that policy is being applied as intended and that some value-added products and activities are included”. The Ministries of Agriculture and Land and Community and Rural Development will be involved in this review.

B105: INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SOLAR POWER GENERATION SYSTEMS

WHEREAS solar energy systems present real and proven environmental and economic efficiencies for both commercial and domestic applications;

AND WHEREAS enabling programs promoting solar energy systems should be considered a necessary component to the Province's initiatives to address climate change and meet the principles of the Climate Action Charter:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities appeal to the provincial and federal governments to immediately institute meaningful, effective programs that encourage homeowners and businesses to install solar energy systems in their homes and facilities to supplement their electrical consumption, thereby reducing their reliance upon and enabling them to contribute to the provincial power grid.

RESPONSE: Ministry Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Currently, over 90 percent of BC's electricity comes from clean sources and the Province has the full range of renewable energy resources available for development, including solar, wind, hydroelectric, bioenergy, geothermal, wave and tidal. The BC Energy Plan commits BC Hydro to becoming electricity self-sufficient by 2016, while also requiring that all electricity generation in the Province has net zero greenhouse gas emissions. These goals will require the expanded development of a wide range of BC's clean energy resources.

Currently, solar photovoltaic is not cost competitive compared to other available clean electricity resources. The heritage hydroelectric facilities that provide the majority of BC's clean power also support the Province's low electricity rates, which have long been a competitive advantage in attracting industry. The Province is committed to maintaining its competitive rate advantage and, as it seeks to acquire new clean energy resources, will do so in a way that first targets low-cost clean power options.

Both BC Hydro and FortisBC offer net metering programs, which provide homeowners who install solar panels or other clean electricity generators the opportunity to earn credits for power produced in excess of their needs at a rate based on the average price paid for electricity from commercial power projects.

BC also encourages the installation of solar hot water systems through the SolarBC initiative. Solar hot water systems produce heat rather than electricity and are much less costly than similar-sized solar photovoltaic systems. Solar hot water can help homeowners significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, particularly when it displaces natural gas, which is used to heat water in 60 percent of BC homes. SolarBC offers a \$1,000 rebate for solar hot water systems installed by installers registered with the program.

B106: LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION OF OPEN LOOP THERMAL HEAT PUMPS IN GROUNDWATER PURVEYOR JURISDICTIONS

WHEREAS thermal heat pump technology presents real and proven environmental and economic efficiencies for both commercial and domestic applications, in the heating and cooling of buildings, the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association opposes the use of open loop, groundwater-based heat exchange / recovery systems within jurisdictions of public potable groundwater purveyors;

AND WHEREAS this opposition is based upon the serious risk of aquifer contamination and thereby potential public health risks within such jurisdictions by the intrusion of this particular type of thermal heat pump application:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities appeal to the Province to immediately institute effective legislation prohibiting the establishment and use of open loop thermal heat pump systems within the jurisdictions of public potable groundwater purveyors in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Thermal heat pump technology is emerging as a way to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and electricity to provide energy needs to buildings.

Given the potential draw on ground water resources, open loop heat exchanger systems can present potential risks in areas where aquifer drawdown is a concern for water supply. Under British Columbia's Living Water Smart plan, the Province is committed to ensuring regulations are in place to regulate ground water use and ground water withdrawals in priority areas by 2012. Regulation of ground water withdrawal for open loop heat pump systems, along with other ground water resource uses, will be examined as part of this process.

While these provisions are under development, Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, along with our colleagues responsible for ground water regulation at the Ministry of the Environment will be monitoring information and research on the risk and concerns regarding emerging technologies such as these to determine if additional measures are needed to be taken at a provincial level to protect ground water resources.

B107: NEED FOR INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PLANNING PROCESS

WHEREAS British Columbia is recognized as a significant potential provider of clean and renewable energy production and private energy developers may have a role in mitigating the effects of climate change due to fossil fuel use by generating clean power through access to and use of public resources including navigable waters, rivers, forest lands and associated roads;

AND WHEREAS without a comprehensive planning process, these resources may be developed in an inappropriate manner that fails to recognize potential significant adverse environmental, economic and social impacts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to immediately enact a province wide integrated sustainable energy planning process to determine the need for the best technology to be used and any new siting of sustainable energy production.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has recently ordered the British Columbia (BC) Utilities Commission (BCUC) to undertake an inquiry under section 5 of the *Utilities Commission Act* relating to BC's electrical transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30 year period. As part of this inquiry, the BCUC is required to assess the generation resources in BC that will potentially be developed over a 30 year period, grouped by geographic location, and to assess the most cost-effective and most probable sequence of development by geographic area of these generation resources. In making this assessment, the BCUC is required to take account of BC's electricity self-sufficiency and clean electricity goals.

Local governments interested in participating in this inquiry should contact the Commission Secretary at Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com or by phone (604) 660-4700. A draft report setting out the Commission's determinations will be made available for public review by June 30, 2010.

B110: LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND INVESTMENT OF CARBON OFF-SET FUNDS
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WHEREAS the Climate Change Charter requires local governments to purchase “Carbon Off-sets” as part of their obligation to become carbon neutral by 2012;

AND WHEREAS these funds can be more effectively spent by the same local governments that pay it:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to allow local governments to administer and invest in local environmental programs with their own “Carbon Off-set” funds.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Climate Action Secretariat

The Climate Action Secretariat is working in conjunction with the Ministry of Community and Rural Development and UBCM to support the Green Communities Committee (GCC) and Carbon Neutral Working Group in determining how local governments will offset their GHG emissions to achieve carbon neutral status for 2012. Local government representatives to the working group have advised that they would like the opportunity to develop offset projects and/or direct offset payments towards credible offset projects in their community or region.

A credible offset project is one that meets specific criteria in order to demonstrate that the project delivers a measurable *absolute* reduction of GHGs in the atmosphere. Allowing local governments to invest the equivalent of their offset obligation in environmental projects that may not achieve a net reduction in GHGs is not in keeping with the carbon neutral commitment. Over the coming months the GCC, in conjunction with the Carbon Neutral Working Group, will be exploring a range of options in order to develop a local government offset framework that meets the test for credibility and also supports employment opportunities and the low carbon economy in communities across the province of B.C.

B111: CLIMATE ACTION SERVICES

WHEREAS signatories to the Climate Action Charter are committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions but do not necessarily have the resources to monitor opportunities and develop initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the Province and the Union of BC Municipalities are committed to supporting local governments in pursuing these goals, including developing options and actions for local governments to be carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM establish a service for the purpose of advising local governments on matters related to carbon tax, quotas, and opportunities for carbon tax credit rebates and other allied matters.

RESONSE: Ministry of Environment - Climate Action Secretariat

The province is committed to supplying local governments with the information and support they require in order to effectively address climate change. Staff from the Ministry of Community and Rural Development has been addressing questions and issues regarding the Carbon Tax and the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) and other allied matters since the announcement of this program in September 2007.

Local governments who have questions can contact Christie Pangman of the Government Infrastructure & Finance group at 250-387-4068. In addition, to address the request for more information, when delivering education regarding the Climate Action Charter, the Province and UBCM will look for opportunities to provide materials on issues pertaining to the Carbon Tax and the CARIP. This will be provided in conjunction with broader climate action information – including material on the BC Toolkit (www.bctoolkit.ca), through published information and at conferences and webinars.

B112: CARBON CREDITS

WHEREAS municipalities have to adopt a green house gas emissions strategy as part of their Official Community Plan requirement by May 2010;

AND WHEREAS there are communities that have woodlots and community forest licenses pending:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to enable woodlot and community forest licence holders under crown tenure licence, and other local government “green projects” such as greenways, urban forests, and community forests, to retain the carbon sequestering and carbon credits accrued.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests and Range

The Pacific Carbon Trust is considering the purchase of carbon offsets from forest management activities to help government become carbon neutral in 2010. Municipalities are required to have a greenhouse gas emissions strategy as part of their Official Community Plan by May 2010.

The Ministry of Forests and Range together with the Ministry of Environment and Pacific Carbon Trust are developing protocols for use with the Emissions Offset Regulation to quantify the increase in carbon storage or reduction in emissions associated with forest projects. The Emissions Offset Regulation (EOR) requires the offsets from projects to be additional, measurable, verifiable and real. Protocols will be designed to meet this and other requirements of the EOR. To take advantage of offset credits from forest projects it is expected that municipalities will need to develop and monitor projects that meet the requirements under the regulation and use an approved protocol.

Ownership of the carbon and offsets for crown land areas needs to be resolved to include projects within community forests and woodlots. The Ministry of Forests is working on solutions around ownership which will encourage investments on crown land that will increase carbon storage and allow ownership and/or sharing of the resulting offset.

Urban forest projects will likely also need to meet the rigours of the emissions offset regulation and an appropriate protocol in order to be considered valid for the purpose of offsetting emissions.

B113: LANDFILL GAS REDUCTION PROJECTS

WHEREAS the Landfill Gas Management Regulation has been brought into force as part of the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction Statutes Amendment Act*, making local government ineligible for green house gas credits;

AND WHEREAS the green house gases created in the construction and operation of a landfill gas collection system may, in certain instances, exceed the carbon foot print saved by putting these systems in place and more economical, more environmentally beneficial methods of reducing landfill gas could be achieved by such methods as diversion, and innovative landfill cover technologies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to amend the Landfill Gas Management Regulation to become objective based and allow local governments to reduce landfill gas emissions through diversion, innovation and other means; allow these reductions to be eligible for green house gas credits; and provide grant funding for studies and construction of any landfill gas reduction projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment developed the Landfill Gas Management Regulation under the *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*. This regulation was effective January 1, 2009. There is no intent at this time to revise the Landfill Gas Management Regulation; however there is incentive for many landfills to both capture landfill gas and to divert organic waste away from landfills.

In addition, the Pacific Carbon Trust will assist the landfills installing capture systems to sell their carbon emission offsets.

B114: BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CANADA RECYCLING CAPACITY

WHEREAS a large proportion of recyclable materials are exported from Canada to the United States, Southeast Asia and other offshore countries to be processed back into basic manufacturing feedstock;

AND WHEREAS this export of valuable materials results in an increased environmental impact from transportation, a lack of local control of the end markets for our recyclables and a reduced number of Canadian jobs;

AND WHEREAS the recent economic downturn and collapse of the world commodity markets has highlighted BC's and Canada's dependence on foreign markets for recyclable materials, which has had a large impact on financial returns, employment and our ability to maintain our recycling programs;

AND WHEREAS a number of provinces are considering large new stewardship programs to cover more packaging which will increase the amount of materials that need to be recycled:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge both the federal and provincial governments to implement policies and programs that will lead to the creation of increased industrial capacity in British Columbia and in Canada to process recyclable materials;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- mandatory recycled content legislation similar to that which exists in some US states be implemented in BC as one policy to increase the demand for old materials; and
- a grant and / or loan guarantee program for recycling plant infrastructure development should also be implemented.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The policy of the Ministry of Environment under the Recycling Regulation is to set clear industry stewardship requirements for regulated product categories without prescribing the specific process or location where collected products should be managed. We have enjoyed considerable success with our approach to industry stewardship and the ministry is not considering alternative approaches such as mandatory recycled content legislation at this time.

In addition to product stewardship driving recycling in B.C., local governments can further support in-province recycling by working with stewardship agencies and recyclers and by developing local infrastructure and zoning to accommodate the needs of such facilities.

B115: INADEQUACIES OF THE BC PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP RECYCLING PROGRAM

WHEREAS existing BC product stewardship programs, which include tires, paint, electronics and beverage containers are funded through the collection of environmental handling fees paid by consumers at the time of product purchase;

AND WHEREAS many smaller municipalities are regional districts are not being properly serviced by the various product stewards and as a result bear the additional costs of product collections and disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to undertake a complete review of all existing BC stewardship programs to ensure that all communities in British Columbia are receiving the full benefit of the existing stewardship programs before the Ministry of Environment moves on to develop programs for new stewardship products.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Recycling Regulation establishes stewardship responsibilities for producers of prescribed products. The regulation requires the provision of reasonable and free consumer access to collection facilities.

Local governments are encouraged to provide input during the development of and consultation on stewardship plans to ensure appropriate levels of service. To provide input regarding convenient access to collection facilities for existing stewardship plans local governments are encouraged to work with the existing stewardship agencies to meet an adequate service level, either individually or as a collective through the BC Product Stewardship Council.

B116: ONE STOP INDUSTRY STEWARDSHIP RECYCLING DEPOTS

WHEREAS local governments are working to reduce, reuse and recycle by providing appropriate and convenient services for use by the public;

AND WHEREAS current industry stewardship programs operate independently of each other, with multiple depots in a community, making it difficult for residents to participate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government of British Columbia to create legislation and policies directing industries to facilitate the development of one stop depots that accept all industry stewardship products.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The results based model under the Recycling Regulation ensures that producers are able to offer flexible and efficient return collection services for consumers.

Although the ministry supports the development of multi-material return collection infrastructure where it makes sense, the regulation does not require producers to develop common collection systems.

B117: EPR LEGISLATION – OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES

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

AND WHEREAS there are two key features of EPR policy:

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

AND WHEREAS under the Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Regulation, British Columbia Reg. 387 / 99 within the *Environmental Management Act*, local governments are required to remove all ozone depleting substances (ODS) from deposited refrigeration units:

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Under the Recycling Regulation, Schedule 3 (2.2) (a), a stewardship plan is required for *(i) large cooling appliances, including, without limitation, refrigerators, freezers and coolers and (vi) large treatment appliances, including, without limitation... air conditioners*. The plan must be submitted to the Province by January 1, 2012 and a program for the province-wide collection of the items containing ozone-depleting substances will be implemented by July 2012.

B118: PROVINCE-WIDE REFRIGERATION APPLIANCE FEE

WHEREAS under the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) and Other Halocarbons Regulation, British Columbia Reg. 387/99 within the *Environmental Management Act* local governments are required to remove all ODS from deposited refrigeration units;

AND WHEREAS refrigeration appliance product life-cycle management is the responsibility of local government at their waste management facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to charge an upfront fee for the proper disposition of refrigeration appliances (removal of ODS) at the end of the appliance's life-cycle on a province-wide basis.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Under the Recycling Regulation, Schedule 3 (2.2), a stewardship plan for large appliances must be submitted to the Province by producers by January 1, 2012 and a program for the province-wide collection of the units will be implemented by July 2012.

The results based model under the Recycling Regulation sets clear requirements for regulated product categories without prescribing the specific process or fee structure for the management of collected products.

B119: ENVIRONMENTAL HANDLING FEES ON SALE OF NEW ELECTRONICS

WHEREAS the Encorp Return-It electronics recycling program is funded through the collection of environmental handling fees paid by consumers at the time of purchase of new electronics;

AND WHEREAS many smaller municipalities in BC receive recyclable electronics but are not served by Encorp Return-It facilities, and must bear the additional costs of collecting and disposing of end-of-life electronics:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to return the environmental handling fees to municipalities that are not served by the Encorp Return-It electronics program in order to assist with costs to properly collect and dispose of end-of-life electronics.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Recycling Regulation establishes stewardship responsibilities for producers of prescribed products. This stewardship role for producers shifts responsibility for managing end-of-life products and waste from local governments and taxpayers to industry and consumers.

In ESABC's stewardship plan they have committed to service the province through a depot system and mobile collections where it is not feasible to site a depot. The ESABC depot system has expanded and continues to expand throughout the province (e.g. a depot in Quesnel was added in Spring 2009). As part of continuous improvement, ESABC recently completed a population mapping exercise designed to provide the basis for expanding the depot system further such that any area with a population of 4,000 or more would have a depot within 45 minutes drive.

B121: REVIEW OF BEVERAGE CONTAINER RETURN SYSTEM

WHEREAS low deposit fees act as a disincentive to return used containers to depots and Encorp Pacific (Canada) receives deposit and recycling fees for beverage containers regardless of the number of containers returned to depots;

AND WHEREAS there is a reluctance and / or inability for Encorp Pacific (Canada) to terminate depot contracts with operators that are not providing an adequate level of service to the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial government to conduct a full review of the beverage container return system to correct those components of the system that are not working and ensure adequate service levels.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Recycling Regulation provides for convenient beverage container return options by enabling container returns of up to 24 containers per person per day at any retailer where beverages are sold in addition to returns to authorised container redemption facilities (depots) without limit. This ensures that access to return facilities is as convenient as purchasing full beverages in areas that are not well served by depots.

The Recycling Regulation is results based and requires that producers meet collection targets without prescribing how those targets are to be achieved. In the case of Encorp, their most recent annual report indicates that they achieved an overall 77.1% recovery rate for beverage containers within their stewardship program in 2008.

B122: BC RECYCLING REGULATION

WHEREAS the BC Recycling Regulation specifies the minimum amount for beverage container deposit or refund, this amount is lower than the minimum set out in the Alberta Beverage Container Recycling Regulation, and recovery rates will increase with higher refunds;

AND WHEREAS recovery rates in BC have remained at 70-75% for many years and millions of containers still go to landfills, and travelling out of province to collect higher deposits or refunds should be discouraged:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Environment for the addition of milk containers to the Recycling Regulation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment:

The Recycling Regulation makes the producer responsible for the management of its products, including collection and recycling. The Beverage Container Product Category in the Recycling Regulation currently does not include containers for milk, milk substitutes, rice milk, soya milk, flavoured milk, infant formulas, meal replacements or dietary supplements. Milk containers are collected in many municipal curb-side recycling programs.

In 2006, the B.C. Dairy Council (BCDC) started a voluntary recycling program for milk containers. BCDC has hired Encorp Pacific to assist with operating the program, which now includes providing collection services at 144 bottle depots across BC. The program is designed to supplement, not replace, existing collection efforts for milk containers including municipal curbside programs which collect plastic milk jugs. More information on BCDC's program, including their most recent annual report, can be found on Encorps's website at: <http://www.encorp.ca/cfm/index.cfm?It=940&Id=9&Se=39>

B125: POST-CERTIFICATION MONITORING UNDER THE BC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT
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WHEREAS concerns regarding the post-certification monitoring and enforcement of projects authorized under the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* have been identified;

AND WHEREAS post certification procedures are determined on a case by case basis by the Environmental Assessment Director:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to initiate a review of the policies and procedures that relate to the post-certification phase of projects authorized under the *BC Environmental Assessment Act* in order to improve transparency and accountability including:

- (i) Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the BC Environmental Assessment Office and other government agencies and stakeholders, providing clearer lines of accountability and providing a greater level of municipal involvement during the construction and post-construction monitoring phase of projects.
- (ii) Creating a mandated system of independent compliance monitoring by multi-agency representatives, comprising federal, provincial, regional and local government representatives that meet at regular intervals throughout the construction and post-construction monitoring phase of the project, and which reports directly to the Environmental Assessment Office for follow-up action with the proponent.
- (iii) Creating a more open system of reporting with respect to issues of non-compliance and enforcement action.
- (iv) Creating a mandated community liaison committee to facilitate communication between the proponent, regulatory agencies and the local community.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Environmental Assessment Office

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) places responsibility on proponents for ensuring that commitments and conditions are carried out appropriately as called for in the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) issued by ministers as part of project approval.

- Proponents are required to submit a report to EAO detailing compliance with commitments and conditions in the EAC;
- This report is posted to EAO's website as required by legislation;
- Federal, provincial and local government regulators are expected to identify any issues of potential non compliance within their own mandates;
- The EAO may establish a multi agency working group after the EAC is issued to review the proponent's report to ensure that work is carried out appropriately;
- Community liaison committees may be used to provide input raised by community groups and local government;

- The need for such committees is best left to agencies and local government to determine on a case by case basis; and,
- The EAO has the flexibility to address post certification issues on a case by case basis within an overall compliance approach.

B126: SAVING WILD SALMON

WHEREAS in December 2004, the Province of British Columbia appointed six independent citizens to study the issues and policies to protect and enhance the viability of wild salmon and in 2005 called on British Columbia to have the best managed fisheries bar none;

AND WHEREAS the BC Pacific Salmon Forum Board did fulfil their mandate by using existing and new research, and consultation with a wide range of interests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government accept and implement the final report and recommendations of the BC Pacific Salmon Forum Board as published in January 2009.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

We support in principle what is a great report - the Pacific Salmon Forum took on some very complex and challenging issues and condensed them into key points that provide clarity and direction. Some of the recommendations we can adopt immediately. Others would require major changes in the structure of government. While we support the overall visions presented by the Forum, some of the recommendations limit government's options and provide little flexibility in achieving the spirit and intent of the visions by other possible means.

The Province is working with the federal government to develop a new regulatory framework for finfish aquaculture and to transfer administration for it to the federal government by February 2010. In developing this new framework, the Province will encourage the federal government to review the Forum's salmon farming recommendations. The Province and the federal government have already contributed to a collaborative closed containment feasibility assessment study being undertaken by the Save Our Salmon organization.

The need for improved decision-making in watersheds is unaffected by the Court decision. The Province will work with all levels of government and continue to enhance the effectiveness of its resource decision-making in watersheds through processes such as the Resource Management Committee Program. The RMCP brings agencies together when resource decisions are being made so that all interests are identified and possible conflicts can be avoided

B127: CLOSED CONTAINMENT AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGIES

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia receives significant economic benefits from both wild and farmed salmon and depends on the future security, viability and stability of both sectors;

AND WHEREAS emerging closed containment aquaculture technologies offer the ability to separate commercially farmed salmon from the natural environment, limiting negative environmental impacts, especially the transmission of diseases and parasites between farmed and wild salmon:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) requests that the provincial and federal governments move to establish a closed system aquaculture innovation fund;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the provincial and federal governments create and implement a plan to transition open net-cage salmon farms to closed containment system aquaculture.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Ministry) is committed to adaptive management and acknowledges the concerns of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities regarding the future security, viability and stability of both wild and farmed salmon and, in particular, limiting negative environmental impacts between the two sectors.

The Ministry's approach to closed containment is consistent with the recommendation of the Pacific Salmon Forum, which called for a detailed assessment of containment technology prior to any substantive investment of public funds in commercial trials. It is reasonable to take these initial steps to ensure government, as well as industry, focus investments strategically and provide the best possible chance of developing viable and sustainable systems, including the development of a closed system aquaculture innovation fund. To this end, the Ministry, through the Investment Agriculture Foundation, provided financial support to the Save our Salmon Society to support closed containment project development as well as providing financial support to the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, for their comprehensive technical review of closed containment systems. Further, there are several well established federal funding programs administered by Fisheries and Oceans Canada that could be accessed for funding closed-containment research and development projects, namely the Aquaculture Collaborative Research and Development Program and the Aquaculture Innovation Market Access Program.

As required by the recent Supreme Court decision, regulation of finfish aquaculture in marine waters will be transferred to the federal government in December 2010. During the transition, the provincial government will work with the federal government to ensure

an adequate regulatory framework is in place that sustainably manages the aquaculture industry in British Columbia.

B129: DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN PROVINCIAL WATERSHEDS

WHEREAS due to health and environmental hazards the province's lake and watersheds should not be used as dumping grounds for Ministry of Transportation waste:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM supports a thorough investigation and cost benefit analysis of more environmentally friendly alternatives to dumping by the Ministry of Transportation before decisions are made on the disposal of waste in provincial watersheds;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bridges and other Ministry of Transportation structure constructed in and around watersheds be designed to ensure environmentally friendly disposal or reuse at the end of the structure's useful life.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry does not use provincial lakes or watersheds as for waste disposal. Watershed protection is an integral part of ongoing Ministry efforts to support the Provincial Government's mandate of good environmental stewardship, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has a long and accomplished record in this regard. The Ministry has been recognized for its environmental achievements, and has been the recipient of numerous awards for its work in this area.

In addition to complying with all Provincial and Federal government environmental legislation and regulations, the Ministry has developed comprehensive language for protection of the environment in its Standard Specifications for Highway Construction, and implements environmental best practices for highway maintenance activities that are carried out in day to day operations.

There are many processes in place to ensure that design, construction and maintenance works follow environmentally responsible protocols, and the ministry participates fully in this regard. In the specific example of the Kelowna floating bridge, where disposal of old components was necessary after the new bridge was built, and numerous options were reviewed for dealing with the pontoon structures. In the end, it was decided to transport the units to the graving dock, demolish them, and salvage the steel and concrete for re-use.

B130: CONTINUATION OF UBCM COMMUNITY TOURISM FUNDING PROGRAM

WHEREAS the UBCM commenced the Community Tourism Funding program in 2005, which has enabled many areas throughout BC to promote their tourism opportunities;

AND WHEREAS this ability to showcase BC's remarkable tourism destinations has helped to build our local economies particularly in a time when resource-based industries are failing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to continue the Community Tourism Funding program.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

Announced in 2004 by the Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, this \$25 million program was welcomed by communities and provided the opportunity to develop local projects or marketing campaigns to attract tourists. The current state of provincial finances precludes the extension of this program during the current fiscal year.

Should the opportunity exist for more funding for this program in the future, the Province would want to see investments in tourism infrastructure implemented in accordance with a community tourism plan, and investments in marketing incremental to annual investments and coordinated with regional destination marketing agencies where possible.

B131: MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE RECOVERY PILOT PROJECT

WHEREAS more than 15 million hectares of provincial forest is under attack by the mountain pine beetle and other pests creating a growing environmental risk and threat to ecosystems, and putting many B.C. communities at high risk of loss resulting from wildfire;

AND WHEREAS current forest policies and strategies have yet to widely or effectively reduce the wildfire hazard or provide for rapid scale-up of potential bio-energy opportunities in B.C. communities;

AND WHEREAS the Western Silvicultural Contractors Association has proposed a pilot project to reforest through an alternative strategy of harvesting, sorting the wood for saw logs, pulp logs and biomass, and auctioning the timber to existing and new users thereby immediately creating timber jobs in B.C. communities and kick-starting bio-energy opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Forests and Range and the provincial government to implement the Western Silviculture Contractor Association (WSCA) pilot project immediately.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests and Range

The pilot program proposed by WSCA duplicates a number of new and existing programs managed by BC Timber Sales, Forests for Tomorrow and Wildfire Management Branch, which are active and underway.

The MFR's BC Timber Sales program has recently developed alternative approaches to reforesting marginal (small diameter) beetle-killed stands by tendering *Innovative Timber Sale Licenses*. Also the Forests for Tomorrow program issues *Forest Licenses to Cut* to harvest timber that can be used for bio-energy and areas are then ready for planting.

These programs are market-driven and provide alternative strategies for utilizing beetle-killed stands for a variety of products such as saw logs, pulp and biomass. Auctioning these licenses creates competitive and fair forestry jobs in B.C. communities.

The MFR's Wildfire Management Branch is working with the Ferric FP Innovations Wildland Fire Operations Research Group to explore innovative ways of removing fuel hazards and utilizing the fibre for bioenergy generation or pellet production. This is the second year of a two-year call for proposals for innovative solutions to the removal of fuel hazards.

Since 2004, the Province has provided more than \$41 million to local governments, through the Union of B.C. Municipalities, to help pay for interface fire preparation. The funds are meant to partially cover the costs of preparing community wildfire protection

plans and conducting on-the-ground fuel management projects. There are now about 95 Community Wildfire Protection Plans that have been or are currently being developed by communities to address fuel management in these areas. As of July 31, 2009, \$14.9 million remains available to communities.

In addition, the Wildfire Management Branch has recently initiated the Accelerated Community Wildfire Protection program that will actively work with communities to assist in the development and implementation of community wildfire protection plans.

B132: LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS PLANNING

WHEREAS small agricultural producers are significant contributors to local, sustainable food production and associated economies;

AND WHEREAS many small producers are struggling and even ceasing production under current regulatory and economic conditions, which could result in loss of local production and negatively impact the sustainability of BC communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province enable all BC communities to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning within each regional district, including:

- Agricultural area plans
- local food security plans and action strategies
- impact assessments related to the effects of current meat processing regulations
- continuous core funding for establishment of a food systems coordinator position within each regional district

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Purchasing fresh and healthy BC products contributes to a strong BC economy by supporting our farmers and our farming communities. The Ministry works closely with other agencies including the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, regional Health Authorities, BC Farmers' Market Association and BC AgriTourism Alliance in support of local food.

Local food resilience is complex and involves many groups. However, it is most effective when addressed at the local level. Understanding regional agriculture capacity is a good start, and Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has worked with local governments to develop 37 Agriculture Advisory Committees and 34 Agriculture Area Plans and Strategies. Regional Agriologists are available to work with local governments to identify funding sources, key contacts, and effective planning approaches.

Congratulations to the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary on recently establishing an Agriculture Advisory Committee and starting a regional Agricultural Plan.

B133: MEAT REGULATIONS

WHEREAS implementation of the Government of BC's Meat Inspection Regulations has had and continues to have adverse impacts on:

- local meat production and sales, which imposes economic hardship on small scale processors and producers and their rural communities; and
- The ability to meet the demand for locally produced and processed foods in keeping with the principles of sustainability;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding best efforts through provincial initiatives such as:

- The Meat Transition Assistance Program;
- implementation of a transitional Class C License; and
- providing information, education and clarification to industry on the intent of and implementation steps being used in applying the regulations;

AND WHEREAS under the current regulatory framework, the costs and practicality of developing local meat slaughtering capacity are not feasibly meeting local needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to augment the current regulatory framework by implementing a permanent license, similar to the current C license, to permit a lower cost, self contained mobile slaughtering operation to support the continuation of uninspected farm gate sales.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Fully licensed and inspected Class A and B slaughter plants of all sizes are now located in communities across BC, including 1 red meat and 1 poultry mobile plant. Three more poultry mobiles currently have Class C licenses, two of which are located in the central Okanagan. Inspection costs are already fully paid by the Province, at least until 2012.

Virtually all provincially licensed plants serve the direct "farm gate" sales sector and there is significant and growing slaughter capacity in the central Okanagan region. It would be unfair to the fully licensed and inspected operators to create a permanent class of lower cost, unregulated and uninspected slaughter licenses that would undercut the already slim profit margins of the fully licensed operators. It would also be unfair to consumers, who expect that Government will provide food safety oversight to ensure the safety of their meat supply.

In April 2009, the Province committed to phasing out Class C licenses, though a final end date has not been announced. The Province also announced a further \$3 million in funding to help operators make the transition to full licensing and inspection, for a total of \$11.8 million. In the remote and isolated communities of Powell River, Bella Coola and the Queen Charlotte Islands, where meat production levels are low and distances to a licensed abattoir long, the province is holding consultations with small-scale

producers to help them develop solutions for their communities. A report on these consultations is expected by the end of the year.

B134: SHIP TO SHORE POWER AT CONTAINER PORTS

WHEREAS exhaust emissions from large marine vessels at dock can be a significant component of air pollution in port cities, contributing to the formation of urban smog and impacting human health;

AND WHEREAS there is expected to be a significant growth in marine trade between British Columbia and the Asia-Pacific countries in the next decade;

AND WHEREAS shore power eliminates virtually all emissions while ships are in dock;

AND WHEREAS the major obstacle to the implementation of ship to shore power is the lack of an internationally-accepted standard for infrastructure and technology:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to work collaboratively with the federal government, the International Marine Organisation and other critical stakeholders to develop a standard for ship to shore power and a regulatory framework to promote and assist the implementation of shore power at container ports in British Columbia, Canada and throughout the world.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In 2008-09, the Province of BC invested \$3 million to support the installation of shore power at the two cruise ship berths at Canada Place, the first such installation in Canada, and one of only three in North America.

The Province of BC is supportive of further expansion of marine shore power as a means to reduce exhaust emissions from large marine vessels at dock. The Province of British Columbia will work collaboratively with the federal government, the International Marine Organisation and other critical stakeholders to promote the adoption of a common standard for ship to shore power and a regulatory framework to promote and assist the implementation of shore power at container ports in British Columbia.

B135: SALE OF CROWN LANDS

WHEREAS there is a need for a number of local governments to obtain Crown lands to facilitate future commercial planning and sustainable development in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial process and excessive time required for the release and/or sale of Crown lands by local government is seriously impeding this process,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to undertake a provincial mandate to enable the transfer, sale or purchase of Crown lands to be expedited in a timely and efficient manner, thereby allowing British Columbia's local governments to proceed with sustainable community planning and development, creating much needed work in the current economic situation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands delivers guidance across government for Crown land administration by maintaining the land use and allocation policy framework. This strong, cohesive policy function allows us to move quickly to act on opportunities and focus on results.

The Ministry continues to adapt its policy tools, programs and services to the changing economic, environmental and social needs, and to introduce innovative tools to respond to opportunities and challenges facing the provincial economy and communities across the province.

Meeting application processing timelines on land and resource applications is critical to the Province. The average processing time during fiscal 2008/09 for all tenure applications and Crown Grants was 127 days, excluding delays for referrals and surveys. There can be challenges from time to time in achieving timelines with complex application referrals associated with First Nations consultations.

The Province has issued approximately 3,000 Crown Grants and transferred over 66,000 ha of Crown land since 2000/2001. This includes 1,694 ha under the free Crown Grant program.

During fiscal 2009/10 the Province, through the Integrated Land Management Bureau, is targeting 1,000 ha of Crown land to be granted for community development purposes in consultation with First Nations. This will assist local governments by making Crown land available for community development projects such as affordable housing, schools, fire halls and recreational facilities.

B137: INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS

WHEREAS the public power strategy of creating a crown corporation (BC Hydro) which for over forty years produced great dividends for the people of BC, providing a secure, long-term supply of power as well as surplus electricity for export;

AND WHEREAS over 600 water license and land tenure applications have been submitted to the Integrated Land Management Bureau for river diversion projects on creeks and rivers across BC, with a typical project requiring river diversion, dams, logging, powerhouses, and many kilometres of roads and transmission lines, with no requirement for environmental assessment process for projects under 50 megawatts;

AND WHEREAS proposed run-of-the-river power projects do not take into consideration the various social, economic, recreational and environmental impacts that the construction and operation of a facility may have on the neighbouring areas and the region at large, and where each project is considered independently, not assessing the cumulative impact of multiple projects on the landscape;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs has called for a moratorium on private hydro development until there is assurance of “transparent” consultation with First Nations and a review of the terms of existing water licenses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province take a leadership role when granting environmental permits and land tenures within British Columbia relating to the development of independent power projects by:

1. Developing, in consultation with local governments, First Nations, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;
2. Establishing standards for transmission line development that require optimization of existing power lines infrastructure and shared use of lines as a condition of right-of-way agreements and provide regulatory authority to require shared use as a condition of licensing and recognizing and protecting scenic value zones in areas of high tourism activity;
3. Establishing an independent monitoring function to ensure accountability and enforcement of conditions and standards applied to independent power production projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

All clean, renewable energy projects in British Columbia are subject to regulatory processes. In total, a typical run-of-river project will require more than 50 permits, licences, approvals and reviews from 14 regulatory bodies including federal and provincial agencies, local governments and First Nations. Existing federal and

provincial processes assess the potential impact of proposals, including impacts on the environment, protected areas, existing land uses, recreational uses, other resource uses and First Nations' asserted rights and title.

The review process for projects of 50 megawatts or larger is also subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act* and is coordinated by British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office. Smaller projects are assessed as part of the review of permit or licence applications under specific statutes, such as the *Water Act* or the *Land Act*. A water licence application merely starts the review process. Obtaining approval for a clean, renewable energy project could take a number of years.

The British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is undertaking an inquiry under section 5 of the *Utilities Commission Act* relating to British Columbia's electrical transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30 year period as ordered by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. The inquiry has been in suspension, however, it is expected to resume in May or June 2010. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has advised the BCUC that he will be issuing amended Terms of Reference in May 2010 for the Inquiry following the Government's review of the recommendations from the Green Energy Advisory Task Force. A new date for completing the Inquiry will be set out in the amended Terms of Reference.

As part of this Inquiry, the BCUC is required to assess the generation resources in British Columbia that will potentially be developed over a 30 year period, grouped by geographic location, and to assess the most cost-effective and most probable sequence of development by geographic area of these generation resources. In making this assessment, the BCUC is required to take account of British Columbia's electricity self-sufficiency and clean electricity goals. Local governments interested in participating in this Inquiry should contact the Commission Secretary at Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com or by telephone at 604-660-4700.

In recognition of the need to improve service delivery for compliance and enforcement activities, the Province has initiated a Provincial Compliance and Enforcement Coordination Strategy implemented in April 2009. During the recent field season in the Northwest, there was an increased Provincial Government field presence in many areas and significant effort was directed at addressing issues of highest risk to the Crown land base.

Crown land tenures, managed by the Integrated Land Management Bureau, remain an important focus for new compliance and enforcement presence and coordination. Increased coordination of compliance and enforcement activities has helped identify and begin to address issues related to abandoned structures, unauthorized tenures, site contamination, waste and environmental damage.

B138: MINING REGULATORY PROCESS

WHEREAS the current global economic crisis has resulted in significant job losses in the forest industry in British Columbia, and mining has been known as British Columbia's second industry and could be providing jobs lost to forest industry cut backs;

AND WHEREAS there are 800 to 900 mining companies in BC, and no metal mines have been constructed within BC since the Kemess Mine in 1996, even though promising exploratory data has been gathered and 25 to 30 projects are in the regulatory process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to conduct a review of the regulatory process for the approval of mine development within the province of British Columbia in order to streamline and expedite the approval process similar to the process in other Canadian provinces;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all existing environmental standards and regulations as well as community consultation processes remain in place as part of a streamlined process.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

There are currently three mines in or about to begin construction in the Province (New Afton, Copper Mountain, Mt. Milligan). There are also two more large mines that have cleared environmental assessment and are entering the permitting stage (Red Chris, Prosperity). The Province is moving forward with new mine openings that will create jobs and local wealth across the Province to support further economic growth that is already leading the country due to the Olympics.

Focus on Communities and First Nations and Protecting Workers, Protecting the Environment are cornerstones one and two of the British Columbia Mining Plan. Staff at the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources will not and do not compromise safety and the environment in their planning and adjudication of mining projects.

With respect to a review of the regulatory process for the approval of mine development within British Columbia in order to streamline and expedite the approval process, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources agrees with the stated objectives and would like to highlight a number of initiatives that are moving towards that direction:

- The Throne Speech, on February 9, 2010, made clear reference to regulatory streamlining and continuing protection of environmental values. A 'one project, one process' objective was referred to also by Premier Campbell.
- The Province has been advocating for an immediate amendment to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* to give the Federal Government the power to enter into environmental assessment "equivalency agreements" with

Provinces. These agreements would allow Federal and Provincial Governments to accept each other's reviews as equivalent – on a case by case or class by class basis – thereby, truly avoiding duplication. This is a power that British Columbia presently has in its environmental assessment legislation and which has been used with success. The Province feels it is imperative the Federal Government be given the same ability.

- Staff across all natural resource ministries are actively engaged in coordinating the various regulations and processes needed to get resource projects authorized. In the area of mining, this includes making use of regional mine development review committees to coordinate all agency permits, coordinating consultation with First Nations so that all aspects of a mine project are discussed together, and duplicate administrative processes are reduced or eliminated. All this is expected to save Government resources and provide a clear, single window process for applicants and a transparent process for communities.

Work continues across Government on process improvement in the area of citizen centred service delivery. Initiatives now under way are expected to produce results within the coming months, and will continue to do so in the future.

B141: PRIVATE MOORAGE WHARF TENURE

WHEREAS the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is reviewing its policy pertaining to the tenuring of private moorage wharves, and is considering the granting of 'specific permission' tenures at no rental cost:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM communicate to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands its desire to continue receiving referrals on applications for private moorage wharves;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister be requested to ensure that any new tenure for private moorage wharves be limited to a maximum five-year term, with any renewal of permission considered through a review that includes a referral to the regional district.

RESPONSE: Integrated Land Management Bureau

The Private Moorage Policy was revised in July 2008. Prior to these revisions UBCM was notified of the pending changes and direct consultation occurred with several municipalities and regional districts who expressed interest in the proposal. Federal and provincial agencies were also consulted and provided input.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) continues to accept applications and issue authorizations for new applications. This process still includes referral to the regional district. However, if a dock has a footprint of less than 20m², is located on a lake or a river, and satisfies specified criteria the owners do not need to apply to ILMB for a "specific" permission, they are deemed authorized under a "general" permission. This streamlining process is intended to deal with low risk situations.

For lakes and rivers that are deemed sensitive, ILMB can establish designated areas within which authorization can only be granted for docks if an application is made. Local governments and other agencies can contact their ILMB regional service centres to find out more about the process of having such areas established.

The new permissions do not have a set term, unlike the previous tenures that had 10 year terms. The difference is that the permissions can be withdrawn (which would require the dock to be removed also) at any time if the Minister deems it necessary. While there is provision for set terms, this is intended to be used on an exceptional basis only and where there is a good rationale for limiting the term (e.g. the results of a pending coastal planning process that could impact dock location is due in 2015).

B142: REGULATION AND PROTECTION OF USE OF WATERWAYS

WHEREAS the safe, responsible and environmentally sensitive use of our inland waterways for recreational and other purposes is a high priority with many federal and provincial agencies having specific interests and roles in the regulation and protection of these valuable resources;

AND WHEREAS there is no single agency, comprehensive plan, nor adequate regulatory and enforcement framework to sufficiently ensure that these resources are effectively protected and managed for the long term benefit of all residents and users throughout BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) requests that the provincial government immediately take a leadership role and initiate an Inland Waterways Task Force, with stakeholder representation including, but not limited to:

- Provincial Ministry of Environment
- Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Provincial Ministry of Health Services
- Provincial Ministry of Community Development
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Integrated Land Management Bureau
- Transport Canada Office of Boating Safety
- RCMP
- Various local governments, including First Nations

To review the current recreational, environmental and water quality issues related to the safe, shared use of inland waterways and bring forward a comprehensive plan to better manage, regulate, and enforce the shared use of these valuable resources.

RESPONSE: Integrated Land Management Bureau

The development of an Inland Waterways Task Force would require cooperation between a number of agencies at several levels of government. Due to the high complexity of the issues involved, careful deliberation among provincial ministries will be necessary to consider the possible composition of and distribution of responsibilities in any such Task Force. Preliminary discussions are being arranged to determine how management of inland waterways may be better addressed.

B143: STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS local governments are encouraged and required to consult with First Nations on land use decisions;

AND WHEREAS the Province has initiated Strategic Engagement Agreements with First Nations groups regarding resource support for undertaking consultations between provincial ministries and First Nations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be lobbied to include local government within the Strategic Engagement Agreements with First Nations groups and that capacity funding under the agreements include referrals from local governments.

RESPONSE: Integrated Land Management Bureau

The purpose of Strategic Engagement Agreements is to reduce the consultation burden on both First Nations and government, and create a more predictable investment climate for the private sector. The provincial government is pleased that local governments have expressed interest in participating in Strategic Engagement Agreements; however, it is too early to expand their scope.

Given the strong ties between First Nations and local governments, the Province may be willing to consider a role for municipalities and regional districts as these agreements evolve; however, the Province will not be in a position to fund local government capacity.

For approved SEAs, provincial representatives will establish a communication link to update local governments on progress.

B144: FOOD SECURITY AND EDUCATION

WHEREAS there is a growing need for food security and local food production, and there is an increasing need for community space to grow food;

AND WHEREAS there is no mandated elementary school curriculum for local agriculture, food production and school gardens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government for a change to the elementary school curriculum to include local food production, food security and school gardens.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is conducting a curriculum review in the areas of climate change, sustainability and personal health during the 2009/10 school year. The results of this review will be used to inform any future curricular revisions.

Within the existing Health and Career Education curricula, there are Prescribed Learning Outcomes (PLOs) at all grades focused on healthy eating practices and nutritional choices. These PLOs are worded to enable teachers to address them in ways that meet the specific needs of local school communities, such as addressing the topics of local food production and school gardens.

In addition, there are general themes relating to community food production within the elementary Social Studies curricula (K–7).

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands are also coordinating on a communication to schools regarding information and resources for establishing school food gardens, to be distributed in fall 2009.

B145: MEASURING UP THE NORTH FUNDING

WHEREAS the Measuring Up initiatives have been successful in helping British Columbia (BC) communities assess and improve how liveable, age-friendly, disability-friendly, universally designed, and inclusive they are for all citizens and visitors;

AND WHEREAS the Measuring Up The North Initiative, through its unique principles and process, has come to serve as a model for all of BC:

AND WHEREAS the funding for the Measuring Up initiatives has ended August 2009:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the provincial government to ensure that the Measuring Up initiatives are extended and continue their vital work;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government provide adequate funding to local governments to implement Measuring Up initiatives.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

The Province recognizes the importance of healthy built environments in improving the health of people of all ages, abilities, cultures and income levels.

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport is a supporting partner of the Measuring Up the North Initiative. This partnership has created opportunities for increased engagement between the Province, local government and communities. The partnership has also led to the development of many new planning tools to assist communities in becoming more age-friendly, disability-friendly and inclusive for all citizens and visitors.

The Ministry will continue to play a stewardship role in promoting healthy built environments and work with local governments to achieve the provincial government's vision for greener, healthier and more sustainable communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport - Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat

Creating age-friendly communities is one of four cornerstones in *Seniors in British Columbia: A Healthy Living Framework*, Government's action plan to support BC seniors in living healthy, active, independent lives.

The Province works with stakeholders to promote age-friendly communities through the Age-friendly Leaders' Partnership, which brings together more than 20 leaders from business, senior-serving organizations, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), ethno-cultural and Aboriginal organizations, and other sectors, to further age-friendly planning and practices in communities across BC.

Government also supports municipalities in becoming more age-friendly through the work of the Age-friendly Communities Implementation Team (AFCIT). Since its establishment, AFCIT has directly supported 24 local governments and managed the development, production and distribution of age-friendly information materials such as *How Age-friendly is Your Community? A Guide for Local Governments to Getting Started*. AFCIT and Measuring Up are working together to integrate age-friendly and disability-friendly initiatives, beginning with three pilot sites: Sechelt, Port Hardy and Taylor. The results of these pilots will inform future work to create more accessible, inclusive communities across BC.

Age-friendly criteria were incorporated into UBCM and provincial government grants and infrastructure programs for local governments, to encourage them to consider age-friendliness in the development of new initiatives.

B148: INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS there is a critical shortage of physicians in British Columbia, particularly affecting rural and remote BC; AND WHEREAS Canadian medical students who have been forced to study abroad and now wish to return to Canada are facing huge barriers due to a medical training model that is over one hundred years old;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health Services review and correct the obstacles in the existing medical training model that are preventing Canadians, trained as doctors in other Commonwealth countries or the U.S. from returning to Canada to practice;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health Services review and correct the obstacles in the current International Medical Graduate (IMG) Program that also prohibits Canadians trained as doctors in other Commonwealth countries or the U.S. from returning to Canada to practice.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services

Education:

Since 2002, Government has doubled the number of physicians trained in BC, as well as begun to distribute medical education to the North, the Island, the Fraser Valley, and into the Interior of the province.

- The number of first-year students doubled in September 2007, for a potential of 256 Canadian medical graduates per year by 2011/12.
- The opening of the medical program in the Interior is expected to add a further 32 for a total of 288 Canadian medical graduates per year by 2014/15.
- The Ministry of Health Services is expanding postgraduate medical education (residencies) for Canadian medical graduates to keep pace with the undergraduate program growth.
- In 2006, the Ministry also tripled the number of entry-level residency positions for IMGs to 18. 12 of the 18 positions are in family medicine.

In 2008, the Ministry and UBC's Faculty of Medicine worked together to reduce barriers for IMGs who want to access postgraduate medical education in BC. They agreed the IMG-BC Program's three-month assessment will be optional, thereby removing a barrier. They also agreed the IMG-BC Program could expand again, subject to funding, when the current undergraduate and postgraduate program expansions are nearer completion.

Licensing:

In 2008, Government amended the *Health Professions Act* to permit the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC to establish a new restricted license for IMGs who do

not meet the requirements for full licensure in BC. The College came under the *Health Professions Act* on June 1, 2009.

- By-laws enabling a new restricted license are expected by the end of the year. They will allow IMGs to practice in their specific areas of qualifications.
- IMGs who do not meet the requirements for full licensure may be authorized to practice subject to individual-specific limits or conditions that reflect their current qualifications, on either a permanent basis or while upgrading to full registration requirements.

In 2008, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC licensed 632 physicians (temporary and full register): 262 were IMGs - 156 were on the temporary register and 106 were on the full register. IMGs represented 42 percent of the physicians licensed in BC in 2008.

B149: TIGHTENING FACILITY PLANNING TIMELINES

WHEREAS some health authority timelines for facility replacement planning currently average seven years from the time of approval by the Ministry of Health and the regional hospital district, an unacceptable length of time for planning due to inflationary labour and material cost overruns;

AND WHEREAS the exaggerated time period also results in redundant costs to maintain existing facilities, and the repeated forecast needs and capacity revisions become a self-consuming process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province replace facilities in a timely manner, with the goal of a 4-year length of time from initial approval of hospital replacement to construction where feasible.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services

Regarding the capital project approval process, health authorities are responsible for identifying the need for capital projects in their areas. These potential projects are prioritized by all health authorities and submitted to the Ministry of Health Services (the Ministry). In turn, the Ministry and government prioritizes all capital requests to ensure that limited capital funding is directed to the areas of greatest capital need in the Province.

Once a major capital project has been prioritized to proceed, the project business case and procurement strategy is developed. Once these have been approved by government, the project then proceeds through the procurement, design and construction process. Depending upon the complexity of the facility, a major capital project typically takes between three and four years from the initial government approval to proceed through to completion of construction and occupancy.

There can be an impression that major capital projects take longer than three to four years to complete. This impression can be created by including the time prior to government's approval to proceed. While a proposed capital project may be ready to proceed at a local level, it is not necessarily the highest capital priority for limited provincial capital funding.

B152: DRINKING WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES

WHEREAS the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ) are used by health authorities and other agencies to assess the safety of drinking water and to help determine treatment needs;

AND WHEREAS all water suppliers using surface water must provide disinfection, and updates to the GCDWQ Guidelines call for dual treatment recommending that surface water must also be filtered;

AND WHEREAS Interior Health has defined new water treatment objectives for water suppliers within its region using the 4-3-2-1-0 Drinking Water Objectives guideline to ensure the provision of microbiological safe drinking water, and these guidelines recommend filtration for water from all surface water sources and specific water quality parameters for each filtration approach:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the provincial government to implement a process whereby surface water systems with low health risks be risk-assessed and that the guidelines be modified to accommodate for the low risk to human health

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

The Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (the Guidelines) are published by Health Canada on behalf of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water. The Province of British Columbia sits on Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee, and participates in approving the Canadian guidelines through the Committee on Health and Environment. The Canadian guidelines are consistent with the policy in the United States.

The Guidelines give highest priority to the removal of viable microbiological contaminants such as bacteria, protozoa and viruses, and make recommendations for treatment of water to address these risks.

While many groundwater sources may be considered low risk the same cannot be said for surface water. Even surface water from well protected watersheds is at risk from bacteria, viruses and protozoa from faeces of wildlife.

The Canadian guidelines recommend a minimum of a four log reduction in viruses, three log reduction in, or inactivation of, protozoa (such as cryptosporidium and giardia), and control of turbidity and zero coliform, and were developed with surface water in mind. Where risk assessment shows that a greater reduction of protozoa is required, the guidelines recommend a greater level of treatment than three log reduction.

The Canadian guidelines have provisions for unfiltered water systems at low risk, and some health authorities have exemptions of filtration under some circumstances; in

particular, the guidelines for unfiltered systems are two levels of disinfection, surface water is at low risk with very low turbidity, and a watershed protection plan is in place.

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport (MHLS) is aware that implementing such treatment can be expensive, and are seeking to work with Ministry of Community and Rural Development to ensure infrastructure funding programs are prioritized to maximize benefit to impacted communities. MHLS is working with Interior Health, and other health authorities to ensure consistency in approaches to implementing treatment requirements.

B153: STRATA WATER QUALITY REGULATION

WHEREAS health authorities no longer have the jurisdiction to regulate water quality within strata development under the Drinking Water Protection Regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to remove the regulation exemption for strata developments from the Drinking Water Protection Regulations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

This Order in Council Regulation was developed to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy in the development of strata developments, which in nearly all cases, simply redistribute water from approved water systems to customers without the need for further infrastructure. Since this time, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport (MHLS) has become aware of some strata systems that require more complex infrastructure.

The MHLS is aware of this issue and is working with health authorities to review this and find more effective ways of achieving desired outcomes.

B154: HOSPICE CARE – NORTHERN CANCER STRATEGY

WHEREAS the mission of the Prince George Hospice Society is to enhance the quality of life and death of individuals experiencing progressive life threatening illness, and help people work through grief and loss by providing supportive programs and services;

AND WHEREAS the Prince George Hospice House is the only facility of its type in northern BC;

AND WHEREAS the number of people affected by cancer is growing, two in five Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, and one of each two diagnosed will die of cancer;

AND WHEREAS there will soon be a full service regional cancer clinic in Prince George that will present a range of new opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to develop a collaborative model that will include the existing hospice palliative care programs, facilities and societies to ensure a new standard of excellence in end of life care in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services

The Ministry of Health Services is committed to establishing high quality end-of-life care as an integral part of British Columbia's health system. In collaboration with key provincial health stakeholders, including the Northern Health Authority, the government of British Columbia developed the *Provincial Framework for End of Life Care*. The framework guides the provision and coordination of hospice palliative end-of-life care in BC and provides a vision of compassionate and high quality hospice palliative end-of-life care. The framework includes a set of principles, one of which is to develop and deliver collaborative services with health authorities, service providers and other organizations to develop a workable and the most effective system of services.

To further support palliative care for Northern British Columbians, the government of British Columbia introduced the *Northern Cancer Control Strategy (NCCS)*. The NCCS includes developing a regional cancer centre in Prince George, as well as several initiatives to support cancer patients in the North. This includes enhancing Home and Community Care/Palliative Care & End-of-Life Care services by strengthening the integration among an interdisciplinary team of professionals, as well as increasing telemedicine capacity to strengthen services for palliative clients in Northern communities. The Strategy is a joint initiative among the Northern Health Authority, the Provincial Health Services Authority, BC Cancer Agency and Ministry of Health Services.

B155: RAIL LINE PROTOCOL USA AND CANADA

WHEREAS a large number of businesses and industries rely on rail transportation for access to the USA market for receiving and shipping of materials and goods and this mode of transportation can be jeopardized when the only access into Canada is through the USA:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the Province of British Columbia to establish, in consultation with the Government of Canada a protocol on rail line abandonment that affects Canada and the USA.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Railways which cross provincial or international borders fall under federal jurisdiction in Canada. The province has no legal authority in respect of the proposed KFIR abandonment. It is not clear what a protocol would encompass as federal legislation, both in Canada and the United States, which sets out the rail line abandonment process, provides parties (federal agency, railways, levels of government) with responsibilities, rights and obligations as part of that process.

B156: A MINOR ROUTES STRATEGY FOR COASTAL FERRY SERVICE

WHEREAS the transportation services provided by BC Ferries on minor routes along the south coast are as essential for ferry dependent communities as the provincial road network is for other communities, and are an integral element of provincial tourism goals, yet have been subject to fare increases of as much as 120% over the last five years;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs have, through extensive research and analysis, proposed a minor routes strategy that supports the sustainability of island economies and the coastal ferry service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure work with coastal communities and BC Ferries to develop a strategy for the minor southern coastal ferry routes, as proposed by the Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province meets regularly with Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs (FACC) to discuss the coastal ferry model. Ministry staff and the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure have had discussions with the FACC regarding their proposal for a minor routes strategy.

The Province is aware that ferry fare increases continue to be a concern for ferry users. BC Ferries has shared information with the Province on its capital investment plans which include the replacement of several ageing vessels on the minor routes over the next few years. The Province will be reviewing its annual financial contribution to BC Ferries as we periodically review the terms of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract. Stakeholder views will be taken into consideration as part of that process.

The Province recently announced that the Comptroller General will conduct a review of BC Ferries to ensure taxpayers' dollars are being invested as efficiently as possible. The report was completed September, 2009 and is available at http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/OCG/ias/pdf_Docs/transportation_governance.pdf.

B160: ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

WHEREAS motor vehicle crashes in British Columbia are a leading cause of deaths, injuries, and damages resulting in great personal suffering and financial costs, and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) is extraordinarily cost-effective in preventing many serious motor crashes, especially in winter conditions and on resource roads in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS public awareness of Electronic Stability Control is very low and local government wishes to take a leadership role in promoting awareness and use of Electronic Stability Control to improve the safety of all drivers and their families:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM encourage all local governments in British Columbia to adopt a “Choose ESC Policy” for vehicle fleet acquisitions by choosing new and replacement motor vehicles with Electronic Stability Control whenever they are available;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia to:

- offer insurance premium discounts to owners of vehicles with Electronic Stability Control; and
- inform motorists of the benefits of Electronic Stability Control in annual insurance renewal notices;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to reduce the Provincial Sales Tax on all new and used motor vehicles with Electronic Stability Control.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) & Ministry of Finance

Transport Canada has proposed a new safety regulation requiring that Electronic Stability Control (ESC) be installed as standard equipment on all light-duty vehicles for sale in Canada, beginning September 1, 2011.

Any new safety technology – like ESC, as well as seatbelt pre-tensioners, adaptive headlights, or forward collision warning systems – may improve the loss experience of vehicles and may translate into a lower average loss costs for a vehicle. As ESC drives down loss costs, this will be reflected in the rate group assignment of those vehicles. ICBC, like other insurance companies, bases its Collision premiums on actual vehicle model experience, which reflects these lower loss costs.

If ICBC were to use ESC as a rating variable for individual insurance policies in addition to the rate group assignments, it would result in the feature impacting premiums twice.

ICBC is supportive of new technologies, like ESC, that help make vehicles safer. ICBC has ESC related information on its website and has offered to support any national ESC campaign initiated by Transport Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Provincial Sales Tax will be repealed effective July 1, 2010.

B161: HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

WHEREAS the level of maintenance on highways and roads has a significant impact on the safety of the travelling public;

AND WHEREAS the climatic and geographic conditions vary substantially from region to region within the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation to revisit the highways maintenance standards in order to ensure that the maintenance standards recognize the different climatic and geographical differences throughout the province, and revise and upgrade the maintenance standards as required to ensure the safety of all travellers on our roadways.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The ministry recognizes that climate and geography vary greatly across the Province of British Columbia and can impact highway maintenance and safety.

The ministry has implemented highway maintenance specifications that maintenance contractors must meet. These specifications are performance based and require that the same level of service is achieved regardless of changes in climate or geography across the province. The maintenance specifications are also responsive to the classification of the individual highway. Highway classifications are primarily based on traffic volumes, but also consider other influences such as whether the highway is a school bus route, or carries a higher percentage of industrial traffic. Highway classifications are continuously reviewed by each local District office to ensure each highway is receiving the appropriate level of service.

The ministry also reviews current practices nationally and internationally to ensure we remain current with the best practices in highway maintenance.

Through this process of continuous review the ministry ensures its maintenance specifications are consistent with industry best practices and provide a high level of service and traveller safety while providing fiscally responsible road maintenance.

B162: FUNDING AND REGULATION OF COMMUNITY AIRPORTS

WHEREAS community airports are a vital component of local government transportation infrastructure which provide services to residents and opportunities for community economic development;

AND WHEREAS community airports receive little in the way of core funding from senior government, despite an atmosphere of increasing regulation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support rural communities in developing and maintaining airports by requesting Transport Canada and the Province provide adequate, stable funding and clarity of regulation for rural airports.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province supports rural communities in developing and maintaining airports through the Transportation Partnerships Program – an application driven conditional contribution program that partners with airports to provide capital contributions to infrastructure investments that will result in significant, incremental economic benefit. A sub-component of the program focuses on major rehabilitation. Funding is focused on infrastructure development and is not available for operations.

The Province works with the airport community to ensure that the federal government, who has the jurisdiction to regulate aviation, is aware of the impact that regulations, regulatory amendments, or lack of clarity around regulations, have on British Columbia airports. The Province works closely with the federal government to ensure that such issues are addressed.

B163: DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOME RENOVATION CHECKLIST

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has offered a tax credit for home renovations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to research and develop a checklist for home renovation consumers, with the view of protecting them from contractors.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Social Development

In addition to offering the Home Renovation Tax Credit, the federal government has also posted information online to guide homeowners through the renovation process. For example, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has a fact sheet on Hiring a Contractor at:

http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/renoho/refash/refash_009.cfm, which includes a checklist.

B164: MANUFACTURED HOME REGISTRY

WHEREAS building regulation contraventions occur from time to time involving mobile homes that are located within a mobile home park;

AND WHEREAS the title of ownership of a mobile home is filed with the Manufactured Home Registrar while the title of ownership of a mobile home park is filed with the Land Title Office;

AND WHEREAS it is entirely possible for a local government to file a notice of a building regulation contravention with the Land Title Office on the property title of the mobile home park owner, but not with the Manufactured Home Registrar involving the individual mobile home;

AND WHEREAS full and open disclosure is an important cornerstone of a registration system so that potential purchasers of a manufactured home can become informed about possible building code violations prior to purchase;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM endorses changes to the BC Manufactured Home Registry system to allow local governments the ability to also file notices on individual manufactured homes regarding building regulation contraventions similar to and in addition to those provided by section 57 of the *Community Charter*;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to amend the legislation and the regulatory schemes governing manufactured homes to allow for the filing of building regulation contravention notices with the Registrar.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Manufactured Home Registry distinguishes British Columbia as the only jurisdiction in Canada that protects a person's investment in a manufactured home by requiring that the purchase or sale of a manufactured home be registered in a central register before it may be considered a legal transfer. The Manufactured Home Registry is a register of ownership details.

The issue of full and open disclosure to potential purchasers of manufactured homes is an important one. The provincial Building Code is intended primarily to ensure that health and safety standards for buildings are met. However, the Building Code is not meant to guarantee overall construction quality. A building that meets all Code requirements could still have problems. For this reason, the Home Owner Protection Office recommends that all potential home purchasers obtain a full home inspection before making an offer. As of March 31, 2009 all home inspectors operating in British Columbia have to be licensed by the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority.

For manufactured homes that are sold with the land, the Rules of the Real Estate Council of BC require a real estate agent representing the seller to disclose all material defects in the home for sale that cannot be discovered through inspection. Specific material defects that must be disclosed include:

- a defect that makes the home potentially dangerous or unfit for habitation;
- a defect in respect of which a local government or other local authority has given a notice indicating that it should be remedied;
- a lack of appropriate municipal or other building permits.

B166: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

WHEREAS government at all levels should be encouraging the use of “green” methods of energy generation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government of British Columbia provide incentives to encourage new construction to be pre-plumbed and pre-wired for future solar panels or other alternative energy installations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

A number of local governments have expressed interest in becoming “Solar-Ready Communities”. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has been working in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development to introduce regulations under the BC Building Code that would allow local governments to adopt solar-ready requirements for single family homes.

The proposed requirement would provide a consistent approach to solar-ready construction, and would include guidance on required roof space, roof loading and conduit specifications. Public review of these proposed changes occurred over the summer and closed on September 14, 2009. The comments received during this process will be used to finalize the regulatory changes, which will be adopted later in the year.

B172: MAINTENANCE OF UTILITY EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

WHEREAS the aesthetics of cities are important for promoting civic pride and a sense of community;

AND WHEREAS unattended graffiti on utility boxes and utility poles as well as litter along third party right of ways can have a negative impact on the aesthetics of a community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide local governments with the means to enforce clean up of graffiti and litter in a timely manner by utility companies, corporations, agencies and any other entity holding property within the boundaries of a local government.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development

The Ministry of Community and Rural Development recognizes the value of local aesthetics for communities and appreciates the difficulties in managing graffiti and other nuisances. To this end, municipal councils are empowered by the *Community Charter* to address such issues within their communities. Municipalities currently have the broad authority, by bylaw, to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements for the protection and enhancement of the well-being of their communities in relation to nuisances, disturbances and other objectionable situations (*Community Charter*, s. 8 (3) (h)). Graffiti and unsightly conditions on property are specified within this sphere of authority (*Community Charter*, s. 64 (k)).

If a municipality passes a bylaw that requires a property owner to do something (i.e. require them to keep their property clear of graffiti), and if that property owner fails to take action, the municipality may do so in their place. Section 17 of the *Community Charter* provides that a municipality may recover the cost of taking that action as a debt. For work done in relation to land or improvements (such as graffiti removal), the municipality may recover that amount in the same manner and with the same remedies as property taxes.

B173: KEEPING WATERWAYS CLEAR OF UNSAFE AND UNDESIRABLE STRUCTURES / BOATS / HOUSES

WHEREAS waterways such as rivers and creeks run through municipal boundaries, however the management of waterways falls under the jurisdiction of other orders of government;

AND WHEREAS there are instances where structures, such as boats, floating homes, and others, are placed within the waterways and are neglected to the point where they become unsightly and/or potentially hazardous to the environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that other orders of government maintain the waterways within municipal boundaries in a timely fashion; removing structures, boats, houses, and others, that have become unsightly or hazardous to the environment, or provide municipalities the authority to enforce the removal of such structures as they appear in their communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Federal government has jurisdiction over navigation and shipping. There is a common law right to navigation that includes ancillary rights to anchor and moor a vessel for a reasonable time.

Federal government agencies, including the Coast Guard and Environment Canada, have mandates to address vessels in emergency or hazardous situations. If a vessel owner is unknown, a person, organization or government body may salvage a wreck pursuant to the Transport Canada's Receiver of Wreck process.

The Provincial *Land Act* provides options to address unauthorized structures on, or attached to Crown land (including submerged lands). Due to Federal jurisdiction, provisions of the *Land Act* related to seizure and disposal of structures cannot be applied to vessels. Vessels are in the Federal *Canada Shipping Act* as a boat or ship designed, used or capable of being used for navigation. In general, Provincial legislation can apply to non-vessels (e.g. float homes), although Federal legislation may also apply.

There are avenues available for local governments to obtain authority to manage unauthorized float structures and/or vessels within their municipality. Examples include requesting a regulation be enacted under the *Canada Shipping Act* to allow control over anchorage in specific areas, exploring modifications to bylaw provisions, or applying for a Crown land License of Occupation to manage non-vessels in specific areas. The Province recommends that local governments initiate discussions with the applicable Provincial and Federal agencies to ascertain the viable options based on their specific needs.

B174: ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WHEREAS developmental disabilities affect many British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS adults affected by a developmental disability are in need of educational services to allow an opportunity for entry-level employment;

AND WHEREAS access to employment for adults on a disability pension can create a positive impact by the ability to contribute to their independence:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to provide greater resources to provide job entry training opportunities as well as employer incentives to hire adults with developmental and other disabilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Social Development

New employment services worth \$1.8 million annually are now available for persons with learning, developmental, mental health and other neurological disabilities throughout the province. A total of 11 contracts serving various locations throughout the province have been awarded and signed.

It is expected approximately 568 individuals will benefit from these services over the three year contract term, which commenced on July 1, 2009. Service providers will work with the individual, their family and the community to create employment situations that embrace the individual's "ideal conditions of employment," and provide necessary workplace supports, both to the individual and employers.

Funding for these services is provided through the Labour Market Agreement (LMA). On February 20, 2008 the Province of British Columbia signed the LMA with the Government of Canada to improve the ability of British Columbians to gain meaningful and sustainable employment.

B178: ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH FACILITY

WHEREAS the province of British Columbia has a growing quantity of marine and terrestrial vertebrate paleontological remains;

AND WHEREAS there is no proper facility to house, display or provide research opportunities for this material in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province of British Columbia for a facility to preserve, protect, study and display our valuable paleontological resource.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

The Royal BC Museum (RBCM) is the official repository for fossils in British Columbia. There are several other significant fossil collections in the province, such as those in the Courtenay and District Museum, the Peace River Palaeontology Research Centre in Tumbler Ridge, and Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.

A broader discussion about capacity and needs of current facilities as well as the requirements for collecting, storing and managing existing and new specimens needs to take place before the approval for a new facility is considered. The discussion should involve the Provincial Government, the RBCM and the paleontological community, in an effort to identify the provincial standards for the preservation, protection and management of this resource.

B182: PROVINCIAL CONNECTIVITY SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS health authorities throughout the province are using different software systems with no common vendor to access patient health information;

AND WHEREAS substantial dollars are being spent on these software systems, which operate independently of each other due to the current lack of a data-sharing agreement between health authorities;

AND WHEREAS this results in healthcare professionals not having appropriate access to health information for patients who experience problems when outside of the health authority's jurisdiction in which they reside:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government continue to prioritize and develop a province-wide software system, such as eHealth, to provide access to patient information among healthcare professionals, which would result in an increased level of health care being provided to patients.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services

Connecting health information systems is a priority for the Province of British Columbia. Due to the varied systems currently in use across the health authorities, implementing a province-wide solution remains a complex undertaking. Significant efforts and investment have been expended to date and progress is being made.

The investment in province-wide eHealth solutions is substantial and relevant information sharing agreements are being struck among the health authorities and the Province as systems begin to be deployed. As each health authority is a separate public body under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, a blanket information sharing agreement across the Province is not allowable.

A common provincial viewer is being developed to display information from centralized data repositories known as Health Information Banks. These Health Information Banks will include, for example, lab results, diagnostic imaging and prescription information. This eHealth solution will ensure available information is capable of being shared across health jurisdictions.

The Province of British Columbia is committed to enabling health care in a variety of ways. eHealth is an enabling technology focused on providing the right information in the right place at the right time – regardless of jurisdiction. The results will benefit patients and providers alike.

LR2: HARMONIZED SALES TAX (HST)

WHEREAS the harmonized sales tax (HST) will impose an additional seven per cent tax on consumer goods that are currently PST exempt, including school supplies, restaurant meals, hydro bills, safety equipment, strata fees, and new homes; and will have a significant impact on existing and future rental stock;

AND WHEREAS the HST will shift \$1.9 billion in taxes (annually) to individual taxpayers, who will face an average tax increase of \$800 per year;

AND WHEREAS the BC government has indicated that increased revenues generated by the HST will be used to subsidize business, but none of the new tax revenues will be used to fund healthcare, education, affordable housing or job creation;

AND WHEREAS the BC government did not consult British Columbians or municipalities on the effects of the HST;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government abandon its plan to implement a harmonized sales tax.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

British Columbia intends to harmonize its provincial sales tax with the federal goods and service tax effective July 1, 2010.

The HST is the single biggest thing government can do to improve British Columbia's economy. It is an essential step to make British Columbia businesses more competitive, encourage billions of dollars in new investment, lower costs on productivity and reduce administrative costs for British Columbian taxpayers and businesses. Most importantly, this will create jobs and generate long-term economic growth that will in turn generate more revenue to sustain and improve crucial public services.

The Province will provide a rebate of 75 per cent of the provincial portion of the HST paid by municipalities to ensure that, on average, they will pay no additional provincial sales tax due to harmonization.

Since 2001, the British Columbia government has taken significant steps to reduce taxes for British Columbian families and improve the competitiveness of the British Columbia tax system for business. The overall tax burden is generally the second lowest in Canada for British Columbian families and will remain so after harmonization, primarily as a result of significant provincial personal income tax cuts, while corporate income taxes have been reduced and corporate capital taxes have been eliminated.

LR9: TRAFFIC FINE REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS the Province of BC implemented an expanded Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing Program in 2004 which provides local governments 100% of traffic fine revenue from ticket-fines and court-imposed fines on violation tickets;

AND WHEREAS the Province directs that this revenue be used to enhance policing and community-based public safety programs;

AND WHEREAS municipal police forces depend on the traffic fine revenue to maintain existing service levels;

AND WHEREAS the Province has only confirmed the traffic fine revenue sharing levels up to July 2010:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to call upon the Province of BC to confirm the permanent traffic fine revenue sharing plan in order to provide certainty for municipal police budget planning for 2010 and beyond.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community and Rural Development

The Province remains committed to providing local governments with the resources they need to ensure our communities are safe and secure. The Province recognizes that the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing (TFRS) program represents significant financial resources which aid local governments in ensuring community safety and addressing community specific strategic priorities. While all grant programs are subject to annual appropriations from Treasury Board, the Provincial budget passed in 2009/10 includes amounts for the TFRS program to continue status quo for 2011 and beyond.