

# PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the  
Resolutions of the 2010  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
Convention



Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
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## **SR1 RCMP POLICE COSTS & ACCOUNTABILITY**

WHEREAS local governments are concerned about the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP police services and the affordability of these services in the future;

AND WHEREAS local governments are concerned about the accountability of the RCMP to local governments for the delivery of police services at the local level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM implement the following strategy to ensure the federal and provincial governments are fully aware of local government concerns related to the delivery of local police services by the RCMP and the strength of these concerns:

- That a meeting be organized as soon as possible between federal cabinet representatives and local government representatives to discuss local government concerns with the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP services and the need for increased accountability of the RCMP;
- That local governments be requested to write to their federal Member of Parliament, the federal Minister of Public Safety and the President of Treasury Board, highlighting concerns with the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP police services and the need for increased accountability;
- That a meeting be organized as soon as possible between the federal BC Conservative Caucus and local government representatives to discuss local government concerns with the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP services and the need for increased accountability of the RCMP;
- That a meeting be organized as soon as possible between the appropriate provincial cabinet representatives and local government representatives to discuss local government concerns with the rapidly increasing costs of RCMP services, the need for increased accountability of the RCMP and measures that the province can take to assist in addressing these issues.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Province supports the initiative of the UBCM in undertaking this strategy, and appreciates UBCM's involvement and support in the RCMP Contract Negotiations where cost containment, accountability and building a new relationship are key considerations for the new contract.

### **A3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS DATE**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend to the Province that the date for local government elections be moved to the third Saturday of October and that those elected take office on November 1.

#### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Ministry will propose legislative changes moving the date of local general elections to the third Saturday in October. Associated time frames, including the date locally elected officials take office, will also be addressed.

If adopted, this particular change will take effect for local general elections in 2014.



## **B1 COMMUNITY CHARTER CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

WHEREAS conflict of interest is a serious matter in all levels of government and the legal and court costs associated with upholding the conflict of interest provisions of the *Community Charter* are prohibitive;

AND WHEREAS by expanding the role of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner it would be beneficial ethically and financially for ensuring that the interests of the general public are upheld:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the role of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to include matters arising at the local government level.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General**

There are no plans to increase the jurisdiction of the provincial Conflict of Interest Commissioner to include local governments. The Commissioner is an Officer of the Legislature and reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. Given that there are over 150 local governments and in excess of 1,000 local government elected officials, adding local governments to his jurisdictions would require a major expansion in the resources of the Commissioner's office.

As the UBCM's 1996 policy paper on conflict of interest noted, the conflict of interest rules for provincial Members contained in the *Members' Conflict of Interest Act* are different in a number of ways from those of local government governments: they include perceived conflicts, allow for members to represent constituency interests, and contain further provisions respecting the activities of members of cabinet. These specific rules do not apply to local governments, and having a single commissioner responsible for both levels of government raises the danger that the operation of conflict of interest rules between the two levels of government would become blurred for both office-holders and the public.

## **B2 SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS many communities no longer have an assigned provincial judge and therefore have inadequate means to promptly resolve criminal issues;

AND WHEREAS the shortage of judges results in members of the public being poorly served and delays in due process;

AND WHEREAS many communities use community justice mechanisms to deal with first time offenders, reducing court time and helping to seek resolutions to matters in a more expeditious manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be strongly urged to adequately fund the services the community justice programs provide to communities and the now very overloaded court systems.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

All provincial justice agencies are working collaboratively to develop initiatives to make the criminal justice system more efficient and effective. We are committed to looking at new ways of dealing with issues to avoid the necessity of multiple court appearances, subject to other competing government priorities in view of the current fiscal environment.

We are engaged with the federal government and other Canadian jurisdictions at the Federal/Provincial/Territorial table to identify and implement reforms that will improve justice system efficiencies, including addressing delays in the courts. At the same time, we are piloting several initiatives that are testing new models for improved justice efficiency and effectiveness, including the Downtown Community Court in Vancouver and the Prolific Offender Management project in six BC communities.

We are committed to initiatives that reduce reoffending and enhance public safety. The province administers formal alternative measures services to accused adult offenders that allow the individual to accept responsibility for their criminal conduct and make reparations to the community and/or victims without increasing risk to the community. The Province provides funding to locally based Aboriginal Justice Strategy programs that offer community services ranging from court diversion to the re-integration of offenders returning from custody centres. Aboriginal Justice Strategy programs operate in 32 communities throughout B.C.

The Province also recognizes the value of community-based restorative justice programs for communities, offenders, and particularly for victims. We provide funding to these programs through the Community Accountability Program (CAP). Over 50 community-based restorative justice programs across BC are supported through CAP.

### **B3 PROVINCIAL REGULATION OF FIREWORKS**

WHEREAS British Columbia experienced an active fire season this summer due to extremely dry weather conditions and the misuse and abuse of fireworks causes significant property damage and personal injury, and generates unnecessary costs for taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* enables local governments to regulate fireworks, however lack of staffing and funding drastically affects the ability of local governments to provide enforcement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a province-wide approach is needed for the safe manufacturing, transportation, retail, wholesale and use of fireworks;

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

#### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Current provincial fireworks legislation in British Columbia regulates low hazard fireworks only. Fireworks are classified under the *Federal Explosives Regulation*.

The proposed regulatory change would require significant local government involvement and support, which has not been evident in previous efforts to amend existing fireworks regulations.

Local government bylaws are an effective way of implementing best practices that can be adapted and/or modified by local governments to meet unique local needs.

The Province, through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, has previously directed its efforts into public awareness programs on the safe handling and discharge of fireworks.

## **B4 TRANSFORMING THE FIRE/RESCUE SERVICE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

WHEREAS the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will be considering a report titled “Public Safety in British Columbia: Transforming the Fire/Rescue Service Report” which will affect the provision of fire rescue services in the rural areas of the Province;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the impact upon local governments of the recommendations being put forward by the Fire Services Liaison Group to the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government hold consultation meetings for local governments to provide direct input to the Province regarding the proposed Fire Rescue Service Report recommendations.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Province has committed to review the report and respond to its recommendations.

Emergency Management BC has established a Leadership Group of key stakeholders to assist in the review of the report, the determination of priority items and the creation of potential strategies to demonstrate a realistic, practical and deliverable role that the Province might fulfil in addressing the issues outlined in the report, particularly those impacting rural areas of the province.

Local government has representation on the Leadership Group to address individual recommendations.

## **B5 FIRE RESCUE SERVICE**

WHEREAS the provincial government is desirous to enforce the new model of the fire rescue service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government fund the changes and the ongoing costs with the money they collect from the Insurance Premium Tax.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

At this time, there is no anticipated change to legislation, with respect to the disposition of revenue collected through the *Insurance Premium Act*.

The insurance premium tax imposed under the *Fire Services Act* was repealed in the 1998 provincial budget.

When the *Fire Services Act* was amended in 1983, revenue was no longer specifically earmarked for funding either the fire service or the Fire Commissioner's Office.

The tax revenue generated from the tax paid by insurance companies on property insurance premiums is intended to be a general revenue source. This is in keeping with *Financial Administration Act* requirements.

## **B6 FUNDING OF ROAD-SIDE RESCUE SERVICES**

WHEREAS volunteer organizations in many small communities provide road rescue and vehicle extrication services to motorists both inside and outside of municipal jurisdictions but are required to provide their own specialized training, equipment, and liability insurance;

AND WHEREAS the majority of road accidents requiring rescue or vehicle extrication services occur outside municipal boundaries but only fees for service are recovered through the Provincial Emergency Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide core funding for training, equipment, and insurance for volunteer road rescue and vehicle extrication organizations.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The recent report presented to the Province on transforming the Fire /Rescue Service includes several recommendations which relate to this resolution.

The Province has committed to review the report and respond to each of the recommendations. The issue of funding for volunteer road rescue and vehicle extrication organization will be examined as part of our review of the report.

The Province established a Leadership Group of stakeholders, to assist in the responses to the recommendations. Additional subject matter experts and local authority representatives may be asked to assist on Working Groups addressing individual recommendations.

## **B8 LONG-TERM BC COASTAL COMMUNITY FLOOD PROTECTION**

WHEREAS the provincial government recognizes that sea level rise and subsidence are occurring in communities along the BC coast;

AND WHEREAS coastal communities have limited funds for enhancing the level of flood protection:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government, in collaboration with the federal government, develop a long term funding strategy to maintain and improve the level of flood protection for communities.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The federal and provincial governments have partnered to fund projects that will provide flood protection to communities across British Columbia, including coastal communities.

The funding arrangements are brought to communities through the Federal Building Canada Plan, Disaster Mitigation Category of Infrastructure Canada, and the Provincial Flood Protection Program of Emergency Management BC. Flood protection projects implemented under this fund are cost shared between the Federal Building Canada Plan, Emergency Management BC, and the local government of the approved flood protection project.

In British Columbia, flood protection is a shared responsibility. The provincial government has indicated that local governments will be required to recognize this through a financial contribution toward flood protection works. This cost sharing is consistent with other infrastructure projects and also with public safety as a shared responsibility. Cost sharing with the federal and local governments maximizes the funds available to assist many communities across British Columbia with flood protection initiatives.

We are committed to working with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and local governments in identifying strategies for improving flood protection.

## **B9 FIRST RESPONDER SUPPLIES**

WHEREAS the BC Ambulance Service has historically provided replacement oxygen and various medical supplies to first responders following first responder incident calls, but recently this practice has been discontinued in many locations throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS for many volunteer fire departments, the discontinuation of the provision of these resources creates a funding pressure that could result in a loss of first responder services to many of the small and rural communities that need this service the most;

AND WHEREAS first responder services are provided in support of the BC Ambulance Service and the providers of these services should not be expected to incur the cost of the required resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to reinstate the provision of replacement oxygen and various medical supplies to first responder groups on a province-wide basis.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Emergency and Health Services Commission (EHSC) is reviewing the informal practice of many stations of providing oxygen and/or medical supplies on an ad hoc basis to a number of First Responder (FR) organizations, many of which operate in rural and remote areas of the province.

BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) has funded replacement of specific medical supplies for all FRs. However, some stations have historically provided FRs with additional supplies and oxygen on a replacement basis.

The issue is further complicated by BCAS' move to oxygen bottles with a built-in regulator which are not compatible with the bottles that most FRs either own or rent (with separate detachable regulators). Therefore, exchange is no longer an option in many communities.

The EHSC Director of First Responder Services and BCAS Operations are jointly working on developing solutions that are both equitable for all FR agencies and cost-effective for government.



## **B10 FINANCIAL, EQUIPMENT & PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR RCMP RURAL DETACHMENTS**

WHEREAS Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments serving rural communities in British Columbia have limited resources due to small population densities in their service area;

AND WHEREAS many small rural recreational areas experience huge increases in population densities during peak seasonal periods;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide greater financial, equipment and personnel resources to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to assist with increased seasonal demands in rural recreational areas.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General**

The Province recognizes that seasonal influxes of visitors can put an added strain on policing resources within rural communities. Police Services Division and the RCMP are working together on an in-depth study into the current allocation of rural police resources. This will help us determine the scope of the problem and generate some options for solutions.

The RCMP Reserve Program is intended to alleviate temporary staffing shortages caused by leaves and to supplement seasonal policing gaps. The program in its initial inception was not operating to its full potential due to limitations in its design and challenges with its implementation. As a result of an evaluation in May 2008, many of the constraints on the program have been lifted. The Province believes that the program can be adapted as a successful strategy to meet some of the short and long term human resource needs.

## **B11 ADDITIONAL POLICING**

WHEREAS the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax in British Columbia has resulted in the sales tax charged on alcoholic beverages sold in licensed establishments changing from 15% to 12%;

AND WHEREAS a significant amount of police and bylaw enforcement resources are necessary to deal with the impacts from and the patrons of bars, nightclubs and other licensed establishments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM negotiate with the provincial government to allow local governments the ability to request an additional 3% sales tax be levied on all alcoholic beverages sold in licensed establishments within their jurisdiction, and that this money be directed to the local government to help fund existing and additional policing and bylaw enforcement in relation to bars, nightclubs and other licensed establishments.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

With the introduction of the harmonized sales tax (HST), the provincial sales tax has been eliminated. With the elimination of the provincial sales tax, the province no longer has a mechanism to administer and enforce an additional sales tax on alcoholic beverages sold in licensed establishments. Developing new mechanisms to impose such a tax would impose a significant compliance burden on licensed establishments which was removed with the introduction of the HST and would be costly for the province to administer and enforce. .

The Province currently provides funding to local governments through a variety of sources and programs (e.g. Towns for Tomorrow, Building Canada Fund, unconditional Small Community and Regional District Basic Grants).

The government also transfers 100 per cent of net traffic fine revenues to local governments for community policing, crime prevention and other initiatives to help make communities safer. This represents over \$380 million in additional revenue for local governments since 2004.

The government provided in Budget 2010 an additional \$69 million over the next three years in support of the justice system and to enhance public safety. As well, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development has a complement of inspectors throughout the province who work closely with police to oversee licensed establishments and it takes enforcement action against licensees when required.

## **B12 VICTIM SERVICES**

WHEREAS the cost to municipalities of providing police based victim services continues to escalate due to the increased demand for the service;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General initially funded 50% of the cost of the program;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Solicitor General has maintained its funding expenditure at a fixed amount for many years;

AND WHEREAS providing assistance to victims of crime is a social service, which is primarily the financial responsibility of the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM continue to strongly endorse the victim services program and that the Province be requested to fund the program on a 50/50 cost shared basis as it was originally established.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Province funds over 160 victim service programs across British Columbia. This includes over 90 police-based programs and over 70 community-based programs. Police-based victim service programs in communities over 5,000 population are cost shared 50/50 between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) and local governments. This cost-sharing approach recognizes the critical role that police-based victim services play in the police response to crime and trauma, particularly in the area of crisis response.

While the funding formula determines the equitable distribution of provincial funding across the province, it does not limit or prescribe the level of funding of police-based victim services within a community. Some local governments have chosen to fund police-based victim service programs above and beyond the cost-share amount funded by PSSG. This decision is up to each individual local government.

In 2008/09, PSSG updated the funding formula for all victim service programs and increased base funding by \$2.7 million. This amounted to an average funding increase of 22% per victim service program.

## **B13 SUPPORT FOR YOUTH OUTREACH/STREET WORKERS**

WHEREAS many small and midsized communities are critically lacking in support services for youth at risk of becoming homeless or engaged in “at risk” activities;

AND WHEREAS these youth require guidance and education to protect them and help them to become productive adults in society:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase funding and expand youth outreach and street worker programs.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development**

The Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD) is committed to ensuring the safety of British Columbia’s children and youth by providing services for vulnerable youth engaged in “at risk” activities.

MCFD’s commitment and funding to youth issues supports numerous community initiatives or programs that work to support youth, including programs that provide emergency case management, crisis counselling, safe housing, outreach programs, life skills training, services for sexually exploited youth, mediation services and other important services.

To assist vulnerable youth at risk, there is an array of voluntary, community based services available. Youth are also supported through Youth Agreements (which provide residential, educational or other support services, and financial assistance through a Plan for Independence) and Agreements with Young Adults which supports youth transition into adulthood.

The number of youth supported has risen over the years. For example, youth supported through Youth Agreements increased from 463 (March 2007) to 706 (March 2010) and former youth in care supported through Agreements with Young Adults increased from 325 (March 2009) to 368 (March 2010).

In addition, MCFD’s youth services budget has increased from approximately \$31M in 2007/08 to approximately \$40M in 2010/11.

## **B15 GREENER TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that mankind is facing the most serious threat in history to its continuing existence from the profound effects of increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere resulting in climate change and the increasing acidification of the oceans resulting in a drastic reduction of marine life;

AND WHEREAS a significant source of greenhouse gases are from internal combustion engines in the nation's automobiles, trucks, buses and other vehicles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities work collectively with the Province of British Columbia and the government of Canada to greatly expand or create an electrified passenger and freight rail network linking most of the urban centres of the country making it the predominant mode of transportation for both intra-urban and inter-urban travel.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure:**

The SkyTrain service is already fully electric, and the Province is planning aggressive expansion of the system over the next 20 years through our \$14 billion Transit Plan.

The majority of the goods moving through our ports already travel by rail which is considered environmentally advantageous.

Through our Pacific Gateway Strategy, the Province will continue to improve the efficiency and capacity of our rail network and continue to promote the most fuel efficient technologies.

## **B16 INCREASED SHOULDER WIDTH OF HIGHWAYS**

WHEREAS local governments are taking positive steps towards attaining the greenhouse gas reduction targets introduced by the Province in November 2007, through the incorporation and emphasis of alternative transportation and infrastructure in planning and development;

AND WHEREAS residents and visitors to and between communities require safe cycling infrastructure to provide alternative modes of transportation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that safe and adequate cycling be incorporated into highway design and construction consisting of a shoulder width of a minimum two metres that includes a rumble strip alongside the driving lane;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all existing highway improvements and future highway projects include these requirements throughout the province.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (Ministry) policy is to accommodate cyclists on all new or upgraded highways. As part of this mandate, the Ministry strives to increase shoulder width whenever possible on new designs or reconstruction projects.

The current Ministry guidelines call for a minimum shoulder width of 1.5 m, with the width increasing to 3.0 m or wider depending on speed and traffic volume. The minimum width of 1.5 m is based upon the cyclist envelope of 1.0 m as defined by the Transportation Association of Canada plus additional space for rumble strips.

## **B17 BC CYCLING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS cycling is a critical element of the Province's transportation system, serving growing numbers of citizens for commuting, recreation and sport year-round;

AND WHEREAS cycling not only supports BC's greenhouse gas emission goals and public health objectives, it provides community-friendly transportation at low cost to local governments;

AND WHEREAS cycling is an important part of BC's ecotourism industry with routes like the Kettle Valley Railway and others attracting thousands of visitors annually;

AND WHEREAS the development and expansion of safe cycling across the province requires a coordinated approach that includes the relevant provincial ministries working with local governments through UBCM:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province to undertake a BC Cycling Development Program in cooperation with local governments to:

- ensure safety is paramount through the development of cyclist and driver education programs;
- develop a best practices guide for local governments designed to grow cycling traffic and cycling mode share by ensuring consistent standards province-wide in the implementation of cycling infrastructure, including bike lanes and signage, and the creation of cycling routes and loops to encourage destination cycling;
- allocate appropriate funding through the Ministry of Transportation to double cycling mode share by 2020 through strategies including increased capital cost sharing with local governments, safe cycling connections between local governments and safe cycling infrastructure on provincial routes through local governments; and
- consult with stakeholders on necessary amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* to promote safe cycling and to develop appropriate province-wide standards for enforcement of the law as it applies to cyclists and to motorists.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Ministry) realizes the health, environmental and social benefits of cycling. The Ministry continues to consult and work with local governments and cyclists to develop safe and effective cycling infrastructure. Since 2001 the province has invested \$128 million in cycling infrastructure in over 50 communities.

The Ministry continues to invest in new cycling infrastructure through its BikeBC program, as well as working with other provincial agencies to increase cycling throughout the Province.

## **B18 TRAILS ALONG RAILWAY RIGHTS OF WAY**

WHEREAS railway dedication or rights of way in urban areas provide excellent opportunities to develop multi-use pathways or trails, known as Rails-with-Trails corridors, for alternate, active and “green” transportation;

AND WHEREAS feasibility studies have shown that these multi-use pathways can be developed safely so as not to cause significant conflicts with the routine operation of the rail system;

AND WHEREAS the development of off-road multi-use pathways for non-motorized vehicles is in the interest of all levels of governments to reduce motor vehicle use, improve the health of Canadian citizens and reduce emissions from transportation which contribute to climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be asked to support joint-use agreements with railway companies for rails-with-trails corridors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government be asked to undertake legislative amendments to the *Canadian Transportation Act* to recognize the need for parallel corridors to be provided within rail rights of way and authorize provincial and local governments to apply to the Canadian Transportation Agency, in absence of agreement with a railway company, for authority to place trails within rail rights of way where this can be done safely.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Province has supported Rails with Trails projects where all the parties have been in agreement and the trail can safely be accommodated along the rail corridor.

Future support of Rails with Trails projects is contingent on the agreement of all parties for joint use, and proof that the trail and railway can operate safely.

The Province would need to complete a detailed analysis of any proposed amendments to the *Canada Transportation Act* before providing its support.



## **B19 RURAL ROADS ACCESS & MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

WHEREAS, there is growing concern among some rural residents that basic maintenance of rural roads is not being deployed in remote areas of regional districts;

AND WHEREAS, the Ministry of Transportation does not necessarily fund basic road maintenance service to all public road rights-of-way and many people depend on these roads throughout the year for access to their homes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia develop an improved program of basic rural road maintenance;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that remote communities and regional districts be notified about which rural roads are maintained and those that are not.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (Ministry) recognizes the importance of investment in the transportation infrastructure as a means of securing economic growth and prosperity for rural British Columbia.

The Ministry makes significant investments in rural British Columbia in all of its program areas whether it is ongoing maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement of existing infrastructure or capital expansion.

Since 2003/04 fiscal year, the Ministry has invested more than \$400M specifically to address rural road concerns under its Heartlands Program.

Programs have also been developed to deal with specific problems that have developed in rural British Columbia such as funding to assist in dealing with the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation or to assist in allowing mineral or petroleum exploration as is evidenced in the North East of the province. Since 2003/04, the Ministry has invested more than \$120M under its Mountain Pine Beetle Program and more than \$250M under its Heartlands Oil and Gas Program.

## **B20 BC FERRIES – AFFORDABILITY AND DEPENDABILITY**

WHEREAS service levels, fare increases exceeding the consumer price index, and unsatisfactory ‘on-time’ performance negatively impact ferry users, their families and their communities to the extent that the social and economic cost of the service could ultimately result in a migration away from ferry dependent communities;

AND WHEREAS coastal ferries are an extension of the highway system and an essential part of the provincial transportation network, crucial to the economic and social health of the coastal region and the tourism industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Ferry Services be funded and administered as a critical component of the provincial transportation system in order to provide affordable, accessible and dependable service.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

BC Ferries is a critical component of BCs transportation infrastructure and the Province has a strong financial commitment to coastal ferries. This year, taxpayers will contribute \$200 million to support coastal ferry services. That’s more than double the \$95 million contribution made in 2001. Despite government support, the costs of providing ferry services are increasing. Taxpayers across BC contribute significantly, but ferry users must also share these costs.

As BC Ferries is independent from government, concerns regarding operational issues such as on-time performance are best addressed by BC Ferries. The BC Ferry Commission’s annual report indicated that overall, BC Ferries had good on-time performance with 89 percent of sailings departing within 10 minutes of the schedule.

Concerns about on-time performance for a specific route should be shared with the BC Ferry Commissioner who can look into on-time performance issues in his capacity as the regulator.

The Ferry Commissioner recently conducted a probe into BC Ferries on-time performance on the Nanaimo – Gabriola island route. There were mechanical problems with the Queen of Surrey this summer but BC Ferries took steps to minimize the disruption. Customer service is important to BC Ferries and they have been working closely with the Southern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee to discuss scheduling and on-time performance issues.

## **B21 LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BC TRANSIT**

WHEREAS the BC Transit Financial Forecast report noted that BC Transit's goal is to increase ridership by 5% per year leading to a doubling of ridership by 2020;

AND WHEREAS the projected increase in local taxation (on a provincial level) would rise from the existing level of \$63.2 million in 2009/10 to a projected level of \$139.1 million in 2013/14 with no clear indication of how the local community contributions will be funded:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM work with the Province and BC Transit to ensure that senior government financial support is available to mitigate the increased local government contribution requirements to transit funding.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Province of BC provides the most generous transit funding program in Canada resulting in the lowest municipal local government transit funding requirements in Canada.

The Province has increased transit funding in every year of its mandate and remains committed to working with local government, BC Transit and residents to develop the high quality, sustainable and affordable transit services.

The best way to mitigate property tax funding issues is to increase mode share (i.e., get more people on transit).

## **B22 PARK LAND**

WHEREAS Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* requires that an owner of land being subdivided must either provide park land or pay to the local government an amount in lieu of park land dedication, which amount must be set aside in reserves and used solely for park land acquisition and for no other purpose;

AND WHEREAS existing parks might already benefit the subdivision, in which case the local government might prefer to expend its park land fund reserves to improve existing parks and other community or recreational amenities, with such capital improvements being a higher priority than the acquisition of additional land for parks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province amend Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* to permit local governments to expend reserve funds collected in lieu of park land for either park land acquisition or capital improvements to existing park lands.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Local governments have a number of revenue and development tools at their disposal including: development cost charges, development works agreements, latecomer agreements, parkland dedication, and funds in lieu of parkland dedication. Each of these development tools serves a specific purpose.

Funds in lieu of parkland dedication are specifically for the acquisition of parkland only. This is to support a policy goal that up to 5% of all new development area is devoted to urban greenspace, which is critical to maintaining livable and sustainable communities in BC. If some of this money is diverted to improvements for existing parks, there would be less money for parkland acquisition thus, defeating the purpose of the policy.

The Province fully understands that there is more to a park than land. A park must be developed for public use and enjoyment (trails, playgrounds, picnic tables, playing fields, and convenient parking). However, that is not the purpose of parkland dedication or payment in lieu of dedication. Local governments have other revenue tools to finance improvements to the parks. Some of these tools are set out in the following documents:

Development Finance Choices Guide

[http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov\\_relations/library/development\\_finances\\_choices00\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/development_finances_choices00_guide.pdf)

Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide

[http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov\\_relations/library/Parkland\\_Acquisition\\_BPG.pdf](http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/Parkland_Acquisition_BPG.pdf)

## **B23 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES & SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS**

WHEREAS under Section 935.3(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act* it states that Parks Development Cost Charges (DCCs) can be used to pay the capital costs of providing fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, rest-rooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment on park land;

AND WHEREAS this section does not include the ability for municipalities to use parks DCCs to pay the capital costs of synthetic turf fields, but BC municipalities are using synthetic turf for recreational soccer pitches and baseball fields because it is more durable, less affected by wet and cold weather, and unlike natural turf, can be used year-round:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend Section 935.3(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act* to include synthetic turf fields.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are based on the principle of 'user pay'; the cost of infrastructure should be paid by those who utilize and benefit from it. Along with assisting with the provision of core infrastructure, DCCs are also used for parkland acquisition and basic improvements, as urban green space is an important piece of building livable and healthy communities.

The parkland provisions are designed to ensure that this green space is available for public use. Upgrading these facilities beyond basic improvements provides a benefit to the wider community, and thus the cost of such improvements should be shared by all property owners.

Widening the scope of section 935.3 (b) (ii) has been reviewed in the past by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local government, the Province, and the development community. There was consensus that expanding the parkland dedication provisions to a wider range of services would not be pursued.

## **B24 PROVINCIAL MOTOR FUEL TAX**

WHEREAS local governments are not able to generate enough revenue to fund the growing needs of their communities;

AND WHEREAS many citizens and local tax payers cannot afford the higher property taxes and fees that are needed to fund infrastructure repairs and increased services;

AND WHEREAS the government of Canada has chosen to share a portion of their gas tax revenue with local government;

AND WHEREAS the Province collects a 14.5 cents per litre gasoline tax in the areas outside of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Service Region and the Victoria Regional Transit Service Area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province to share a portion of the provincial gas tax with local government in a grant program similar to the Federal Gas Tax program without impacting current funding programs.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

Gas and diesel fuel tax revenues provide significant funding for the provincial transportation system that benefits all communities.

Typically, the Province spends more on the transportation system than it collects in gasoline tax. In the 2010/11 fiscal year, the Province will collect an estimated \$890 million in total fuel tax revenue and reinvest \$1.5 billion in highways and transportation.

As such, the province has less flexibility than the federal government to transfer gas tax revenues to local communities.

## **B25 SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT IN DEALING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE**

WHEREAS many rural British Columbia communities must endure the growing wildlife population, which is not only a nuisance, but a threat to public safety, without the expertise, regulating authority or resources to deal with these populations;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment and its conservation officers have the authority and expertise to deal with these populations, but lack the adequate level of resources to deal with the issue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the Province of British Columbia to put more resources into wildlife management areas in which urban wildlife is a significant problem.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

The Ministry recognizes that urban wildlife issues are a concern for many communities across BC. However, there is no panacea for the problem. Each community has a unique set of conditions, challenges, varied opinions on acceptable management strategies and differing tolerances in relation to human wildlife conflicts. As a result, the Ministry has developed the Wildlife Conflict Prevention Strategy, the Bear Smart Communities Program, and the Urban Ungulates Conflict Analysis report, which are all tools to help communities work in partnership with the Ministry on finding effective and publicly supported solutions to urban wildlife conflicts.

Urban and semi-rural landscapes provide attractive habitats for a number of wildlife species including deer and bear. These are areas which have a variety of food sources and habitat diversity that wildlife species can easily exploit. These are also areas with far fewer natural predators thus allowing wildlife populations such as deer to increase rapidly leading to conflict. Additionally communities continue to expand with new developments thus further increasing human conflicts with wildlife populations.

The most effective, efficient and socially acceptable method for controlling wildlife populations is hunting. Municipalities however, for public safety purposes typically have bylaws in place that prohibit or restrict the discharge of weapons, thus removing this tool. The combination of favourable habitats, high wildlife populations and limited effective tools has exacerbated this problem. The Ministry has established legislation to prevent the feeding of species such as bears, and has enabling legislation to prohibit the feeding of deer in specified areas. Municipalities need to better understand and support and where appropriate help enforce such regulations. Without proper attractant management, no amount of wildlife relocations, euthanization or other management strategies will be effective in reducing urban wildlife conflicts. The Ministry has developed best management practices as referenced above and is prepared to assist in managing this problem through joining committees, attending municipal

meetings, providing expert advice and assisting in the implementation of management strategies to help reduce the scope of this problem.



## **B26 RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION ON PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LANDS**

WHEREAS the study of ecosystem services as they relate to water is still developing and scientists are working to understand human impacts on water and the functions of fresh-water ecosystems in storing, filtering and purifying water;

AND WHEREAS the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* does not impose ecosystem-based riparian regulations and permits selective harvesting to the water's edge on all water courses including fish-bearing streams and community drinking water sheds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the provincial government amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* with the goal to maintain and restore the productivity and resiliency of riparian ecosystems by maintaining along a stream or river all the biological and physical characteristics of an undisturbed forest, including both buffering and connectivity.

### **Response: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines**

The *Private Managed Forest Land Act* is designed to be results-based legislation, setting out five key management objectives for private managed forest land: soil conservation, water quality, fish habitat, critical wildlife habitat and reforestation – all of which protect important riparian area attributes.

The Private Managed Forest Land Council (Council) -- an independent provincial agency established under the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* to administer the Managed Forest Program and protect key public environmental values on private Managed Forest land in British Columbia - has the responsibility for establishing, administering, monitoring and amending regulations, with assistance from Ministry staff and the office of Legislative Counsel, relating to private managed forest land practices.

The Council is also responsible for conducting inspections, audits and investigations in response to complaints - the results of which help inform the Council on the effectiveness of regulations.

Government and the Council will continue to monitor results and look for ways to improve practices.

## **B27 BC RECYCLING REGULATION**

WHEREAS the BC Recycling Regulation specifies the minimum amount for beverage container deposit 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 an increase in the bottle deposit refund in British Columbia to significantly increase recovery rates and to align with that of Alberta, including the addition of milk containers.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

The *BC Recycling Regulation* establishes stewardship responsibilities for producers and sellers of ready-to-serve beverages of all kinds except milk, milk substitutes, liquid meal replacements and infant formula, within a deposit refund system. Minimum deposits and refunds are:

one litre or less for non-alcoholic beverages	5 cents
one litre or less for alcoholic beverages	10 cents
more than 1 litre for any beverage type	20 cents

In November 2008 Alberta increased its deposit levels to 10 cents for all containers of 1 litre or less and 25 cents for all containers greater than 1 litre. Dairy and dairy based beverages were also included in the Alberta system at that time.

For 2009, the Alberta container recovery rate was 81.9 percent (up from 77 percent) as compared to 83.16 percent for BC (2009 overall results). Milk containers are accepted for recycling in many municipal recycling programs and at 144 Encorp 'Return It' depots across BC. This voluntary initiative has achieved recovery rates of 72.3 per cent (including curbside and depot recovery) without imposing deposit-refund requirements.

Increasing deposit-refund values and including milk containers within the BC deposit refund system may result in a marginal increase in the overall container recovery rate. BC is monitoring the Alberta experience to determine if this increase would be large enough to justify the additional impacts to business and consumers.

## **B28 BAN PESTICIDES & OTHER CHEMICALS**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia enact provincial legislation that will ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides province-wide.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

British Columbia recognizes and relies on the mandate of the Federal government to determine acceptable uses of potentially dangerous chemicals. Nine pieces of Federal legislation apply to toxic substances in Canada. New and existing substances are primarily regulated by the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, the *Food and Drugs Act*, the *Pest Control Products Act*, the *Hazardous Products Act*, the *Fertilizers Act*, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Feeds Act*.

Pesticides can only be used in Canada if they have been evaluated and registered by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada. Any user of a registered pesticide must follow the label directions under Federal regulation. Provincial law imposes additional requirements to control the use and sale of pesticides. Collectively, existing Federal and Provincial regulations ensure that pesticides used in the Province of British Columbia pose the minimum risk possible to human and environmental health.

In February 2010, the Province concluded collecting opinions on the regulation of pesticides used for cosmetic purposes. It was clear from the submissions received that most people believed that pesticides should be used only when necessary. The government is currently considering various options to ensure that pesticides are used only when essential.

## **B29 INVASIVE SPECIES**

WHEREAS invasive plant species grow rapidly and outcompete native species, threaten public and animal safety, and have a significant environmental and financial impact on communities throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the spread of invasive plant species is the second greatest threat to global biodiversity, after habitat destruction by land clearing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia minimize the further introduction and spread of invasive species by:

- educating the public, government agencies, and other land managers about non-native vegetation and their impacts;
- dedicating resources to government agencies for control of invasive species; and
- instituting a grants program to assist local organizations in invasive species control;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province act as a conduit to information and sources of expertise on invasive species including identification, prevention and control.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

The Province of BC currently provides support to various initiatives to assess and manage invasive plants on Crown lands, and inside Protected Areas. Ministries work collaboratively with other levels of governments and organizations like the Provincial Invasive Plant Council to deliver invasive plant control programs. This includes the assessment of various types of projects, such as land development, in-stream works and vegetation management proposed by both government agencies and private sector industry. The Province also provides information on the risks, appropriate mitigation and monitoring strategies to project proponents, various practitioners and property owners who are seeking input on various types of activities that are not directly regulated provincially.

The assessment and management of invasive plants is also a major consideration of ongoing monitoring and assessment work being conducted by the Province.

In a difficult economic climate, limited resources and competing priorities constrain the Province's ability to directly financially support new initiatives. Improving awareness of what efforts various levels of government, Crown corporations, non-government organizations and industry could contribute in this regard would be beneficial and enhance the overall management of invasive plants in BC.

### **B30 DERELICT & ABANDONED VESSELS, BARGES & DOCKS**

WHEREAS UBCM has previously endorsed a resolution on the topic of derelict vessels in 2005 and the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges, and docks continues to be of significant concern and cost for local governments and harbour authorities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there are many derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks that pose safety hazards, risks of environmental contamination and visual pollution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to develop a coordinated approach to the timely and adequate removal of all types of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks in all situations and consider the following strategies:

- funding mechanisms such as a fee on vessel registrations or a surcharge on marine fuel to fund the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks;
- designated disposal areas where owners can take their unwanted boats and structures to provide an alternative to abandonment on public property; and
- education and vessel product stewardship programs, for example fibreglass boat recycling centres.

#### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

The Province of BC has been engaged in regular, collaborative discussions with the agencies mandated to address derelict and abandoned vessels since 2009. The Ministry recognizes that the multi-jurisdictional nature of managing abandoned vessels is a key challenge when resolving these issues. The Minister communicated with former Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities Canada, John Baird, former Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Jim Prentice, and former Minister of Environment Canada, Gail Shea, seeking support to establish a senior-level working group to address the very concerns raised by the AVICC and UBCM.

At a regional level, the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO) is working with the Navigable Waters Protection Division (Transportation and Infrastructure Canada), Environment Canada and the Harbour Authority Association of British Columbia to explore options to efficiently manage concerns raised by abandoned vessels. There exists a cooperative spirit in the work done at the regional level, and suggestions to resource the removal of abandoned vessels is a primary topic of discussion.

The BC Ministry of Environment has investigated the potential to include fibreglass boats in a recycle scheme known as Extended Producer Responsibility (e.g., surcharges to recycle batteries and tires). It was determined that the volume of material to be included and the lack of potential for marketing the recycled product makes this option cost prohibitive. Currently, vessel owners are able to dispose of derelicts at a

private operation in Richmond and at landfill sites subject to the terms and conditions imposed by local governments.

In January 2011, a Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels (JWG) was established to explore options and address this issue. NRO, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), Transport Canada's Navigable Waters Protection Division (NRPD) and Islands Trust are represented on the JWG. The JWG has met in January and March of this year to discuss possible short- and long-term solutions and explore options to defray costs associated with disposing of vessels abandoned on public land. MNRO staff are preparing a submission to ELUC for the creation of an interim derelict vessel fund in partnership with the Ministry of Finance.

Transport Canada has the authority to dispose of derelict and abandoned vessels considered to be a hazard to navigation or a source of pollution. Transport Canada assesses each incident and has a record of taking action on priority cases. The NRPD has the authority to intervene when a derelict or abandoned vessel poses an impediment to navigation. NRPD assesses each incident and also has a record of taking action on priority cases.

## **B31 CARBON OFFSETS**

WHEREAS the 176 municipalities which signed the BC Climate Action Charter have committed to measure and report corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and become carbon neutral (in operations) by 2012 which, at present, contemplates that each municipality will need to purchase carbon offsets through the Pacific Carbon Trust to achieve this objective;

AND WHEREAS without further policy and regulatory clarification the monies paid by municipalities to purchase carbon offsets may be utilized to fund non-municipal certified greenhouse gas reduction projects as directed to the Pacific Carbon Trust, the Province or other agency:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and the provincial government ensure that:

- local governments are fully engaged in the development of policies and regulations with respect to the further development and implementation of the carbon neutral mandate; and
- there is a framework in place to provide that local government monies used to purchase carbon offsets will be made available to local governments for any certified greenhouse gas reduction projects in their communities or region.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Climate Action Secretariat**

The Joint UBCM Provincial Green Communities Committee (GCC) has been established under the Climate Action Charter (Charter), to support local governments in meeting their Climate Action Charter commitments, including becoming carbon neutral by 2012.

As part of its mandate, GCC is also responsible to develop a common approach to determining a carbon neutrality for the purposes of the Charter. Recognizing the need to draw on local government expertise in the development of the approach, the GCC established the Carbon Neutral Working Group, comprising members of Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development (MCSCD), UBCM, Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) and local government practitioners. This group provides local governments the opportunity to engage in the development of policies related to the carbon neutral mandate. Based on input and advice for the Working Group as well as feedback received more broadly from local governments, the GCC has developed a draft Local Government GHG Reduction Framework that would enable local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability through investments in local GHG reduction projects. The Framework was first presented at the 2010 UBCM Convention.

The Framework balances the interests of local governments in keeping investments in GHG reduction projects local and practical, with the need for credibility. GCC is continuing to work with local governments to further develop and refine the Framework.

Based on accepted offset criteria, the framework proposes three options for local governments to achieve carbon neutrality:

- Purchasing offsets from a list of credible providers who use GCC accepted standards
- Undertaking a GCC supported local project
- Developing an alternative local government project

For more information on the Framework please visit the BC Climate action Toolkit website: <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/carbon-neutral-government>

The Green communities Committee, Climate Action Secretariat and the MCSCD continue to engage with local governments on the Framework and it is anticipated that additional communication and outreach activities on the Framework will occur over the coming months to provide local governments.



## **B32 EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF CARBON OFFSETS**

WHEREAS 177 local governments have voluntarily signed-on to the BC Climate Action Charter and in so doing have agreed to be carbon-neutral in their operations by 2012;

AND WHEREAS local governments are making significant advancements to become carbon neutral, but are finding it difficult to attain carbon neutrality without the purchase of carbon offsets from the Pacific Carbon Trust or other verified offset providers; and the purchase of such offsets consumes resources that could otherwise be used locally to further reduce carbon emissions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM work with the provincial government, local governments and the Pacific Carbon Trust to expand the scope and criteria of land-based projects that can qualify for immediate carbon credits and establish a model reserve fund that will allow local governments to deposit monies that would otherwise be spent on carbon offsets and use these funds to undertake effective projects in their communities to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment, Climate Action Secretariat**

British Columbia is a leader in the development of carbon neutral government standards including offset regimes.

Pacific Carbon Trust is required to purchase offsets that meet the offset regulation, however they are working with government to identify opportunities for viable offset projects that will reduce carbon pollution and support the growth of clean technology in British Columbia.

A Draft Local Government GHG Reduction Framework was presented at the 2010 UBCM Convention. The Framework was developed by the Joint UBCM – Provincial Green communities Committee in collaboration with local government practitioners and provides a range of options for local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability, including enabling investments in local GHG reduction projects.

A key principle of achieving carbon neutrality requires a tonne for tonne reduction, rather than a specific financial investment based on the monetary value of the tonnes needed to achieve carbon neutrality. Putting aside money in a reserve fund for investments in GHG reduction projects under the proposed GHG Reduction Framework or for purchasing offsets from a provider may provide a useful budget strategy for some communities. However, it is important to understand that in order to achieve carbon neutrality under the Climate Action Charter, local governments will need to balance the tonnes of GHG emissions produced from their corporate activities with an equivalent amount of GHG reductions (either from GHG reduction projects under the Framework or purchased offsets) to get to zero emissions.

The province and PCT have currently developed a draft Forest Carbon Offset Protocol (FCOP) that refers to land-based projects. Urban forests of significant size may be eligible however there will be related project development costs associated with completing a project.

For more information on the Carbon neutral Local Government and the Framework please visit the BC Climate action Toolkit website: <http://www.toolkit.bc.ca/carbon-neutral-government>

### **B33 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS COST RECOVERIES FOR COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS under Province of BC legislation, extended producer responsibility (EPR) places the responsibility for end of life product management on the producer and consumers of a product whereby fees are charged to fund the collection, processing and recycling of such products;

AND WHEREAS local government, through participation in the BC Product Stewardship Council (BCPSC), advocates with a common voice for enhanced stewardship programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia (Ministry of Environment) to monitor EPR programs in regional districts to encourage improved service levels and ensure that stewardship plans are being adequately delivered, and further, to evaluate EPR programs and develop a cost recovery formula that considers distributing revenue collected from the programs back to BC communities that bear the cost of collecting and transporting the material.

#### **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.

To monitor performance of the Province's extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs, the Ministry of Environment is now requesting stewardship agencies to report collection results on a regional basis to encourage improved service levels and ensure that stewardship plans are being adequately delivered. In this context, most of the province's industry stewardship agencies continue to work toward expanding their return collection networks and several have partnered with local governments (e.g. Product Care for household hazardous waste) to enhance collection services for local residents.

The *Recycling Regulation* is deliberately silent with respect to financing mechanisms. Proposals for cost-sharing agreements between industry stewardship agencies and local governments with respect to managing product wastes regulated under the *Recycling Regulation* would need to be negotiated between these two parties directly.

## **B34 FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS waste diversion is a fundamental goal of waste management policy in Canada;

AND WHEREAS extended producer responsibility:

- (a) shifts responsibility for managing the post-consumer stage of a product to the producer and away from municipalities;
- (b) provides incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products; and
- (c) shifts the public sector tax-supported responsibility for waste to the individual manufacturer:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to look at the Ontario extended producer responsibility program and work with BC municipalities and regional districts to implement an expanded extended producer responsibility program to encompass a wider range of waste streams, including industrial and commercial packaging and residential blue box materials, and to shift the costs of waste diversion from municipal taxpayers and businesses onto the producers of the products.

### **Response: Ministry of Environment**

BC is recognized as a North American leader in Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and regulates more product categories than any other jurisdiction. This legislation enhances waste diversion from BC landfills, by requiring the producers of materials and products to collect and recycle what they produced.

The Ministry of Environment Service Plan commits to adding 2 new products every 3 years to BC's *Recycling Regulation*, as well as a commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada Wide Action Plan Phases (calling for all jurisdictions in Canada to regulate packaging under EPR by 2015).

British Columbia is considering developing new programs for the remaining products from the Phase one of the Action Plan, such as adding packaging or expanding the programs for household hazardous waste and automotive products. Should packaging be added to the *Recycling Regulation*, producers of products with packaging would be required to take responsibility for the life-cycle management of their packaging.

## **B35 DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIES & ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION**

WHEREAS our province prides itself as a global tourist destination, and the continued growth of the eco-tourism economy wholly depends on the future survival of our wildlife and stewardship of our wildlands;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia is one of only two provinces in Canada without an endangered species law, the lack of which law leaves over 1,600 species-at-risk without adequate legal protection;

AND WHEREAS a robust law to protect species and ecosystems at risk will provide more certainty to developers, industry and local government decision-makers in guiding development in a way that sustains human well-being and species survival:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM recommend that the Province of British Columbia develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

In June 2010, the Provincial Government fulfilled a commitment made in the August 2009 throne speech by striking a provincial Species at Risk Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force was charged with providing recommendations to the Government to help it update its vision for the conservation of species and ecosystems at risk and ensure British Columbia remains a leader in environmental sustainability.

The task force was to build on the provincial government's Conservation Framework and Conservation Data Centre, and provide fiscally responsible and economically viable recommendations in a number of areas related to species at risk conservation, including:

- Whether changes to the existing regulatory framework are required to ensure ecological and socio-economic considerations are balanced and achieve conservation targets; and
- Advancing private land stewardship to conserve species and ecosystems at risk on private land in B.C. while respecting the interests of taxpayers.

The Task Force was provided with, among other resources, a draft discussion paper from the Local Government Species at Risk Working Group. This group, led by the Ministry of Environment, brings together representatives from provincial, municipal, and regional governments to discuss approaches to protecting species at risk on local government and private lands in BC.

The Species at Risk Task Force delivered its report on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. The Task Force has provided recommendations on key issues related to species at risk, including regulatory framework, private land stewardship, best environmental management practices, and effective First Nations and stakeholder engagement and communication.

The Task Force recommendations will be presented to the Environment and Land Use Cabinet Committee as soon as their agenda will allow. Currently the document is under internal review.

## **B36 PARKLAND DEDICATION**

WHEREAS Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* grants all municipalities the ability to acquire 5% dedication for park land during the subdivision process (or monies in lieu of park land);

AND WHEREAS Section 941 in subsection 5(b) does not apply to a subdivision by which the smallest lot being created is larger than 2 hectares;

AND WHEREAS rural communities often have land zoned for a minimum lot size greater than 2 hectares and as a result are not able to avail themselves of this provision:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial legislation be amended to increase the size of the smallest lot in Section 941 5(b) to be larger than 4 hectares.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The purpose of parkland dedication and payment in lieu of parkland dedication is to provide urban greenspace for general public enjoyment. Extremely low density neighborhoods (such as acreages) provide sufficient private greenspace to residents such that public space is not a necessity. Thus, development in these extremely low density neighborhoods is exempt from the parkland dedication requirement.

The two hectare minimum cut-off size to qualify for this exemption is quite liberal. Standard medium density development is about twelve single family dwellings per hectare. Therefore, a two hectare acreage has the same footprint area as twenty-four suburban houses. As this is a very large parcel, it is unlikely that owners would demand urban greenspace.

Therefore there is no real need to raise the two hectare cut-off to four hectares at this time.

## **B37 TREATY SETTLEMENT COSTS**

WHEREAS open and principled community based agreements with Aboriginal people (treaties) may encompass multiple local governments, but the availability of the land component may be vastly different from one local government to the next;

AND WHEREAS there is a real long-term cost associated with the removal of lands from local government jurisdictions, which may place a burden solely on the land-owning local government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province of British Columbia be requested to include a formula to fairly compensate any local government for the loss of land as a result of settlement agreement with Aboriginal people so that all the parties who benefit from the agreement share the costs and benefits of the agreement equally.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (Ministry) recognizes that local governments are concerned about the transfers of Crown land from within local government jurisdictions and the implications for local government in terms of loss of tax base.

The Province and UBCM addressed this issue in the 2005 report Treaty Settlement Land: The Fiscal Impacts on Local Governments which noted that local governments have the ability to mitigate any adverse effects by establishing servicing agreements with First Nations that would generate revenue.

Local governments and First Nations need to build trust and respect in order to make these service arrangements successful. The collaborative relationships built between local governments and the Tsawwassen and the Maa-nulth First Nations are examples of what can be achieved when neighbouring communities work together.

The Ministry will continue to be instrumental in supporting these relationships by facilitating, where possible, the negotiation of servicing agreements.



## **B38 ALR REVIEW**

WHEREAS since the creation of the Agricultural Land Reserves (ALR), the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has carried out a number of fine tuning reviews in some parts of the province but not others;

AND WHEREAS regional districts are in the process of developing growth management strategies through their Official Community Plans and other regulatory tools to direct and manage growth to designated settlement areas where appropriate services can be provided in order to create liveable and environmentally sustainable communities;

AND WHEREAS it is important to attain a level of certainty with respect to the suitability of retention of ALR lands for community planning purposes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ALC carry out a current comprehensive ALR fine tuning review in those portions of the province which have not had the benefit of a recent review.

### **Response: Agricultural Land Commission**

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) was established in 1972 to preserve and protect farmland and encourage farming. The Agricultural Land Commission, which administers the ALR has worked with local governments for the past 38 years to achieve these primary goals while remaining cognizant of community growth pressures. The principal method to assess and respond to settlement pressures is the Official Community Plan review process. The Commission, through its regulatory role in the OCP process, seeks to ensure that growth pressures are realistic, and can be accommodated without affecting the ALR. Alternately, land within the ALR that may be unsuitable for agriculture could be considered as appropriate for exclusion to help accommodate growth. However, it should be recognized that there are communities where development and growth will be constrained in order to serve the compelling provincial interest to protect food lands.

The Commission remains committed to working with local governments through regional growth strategies and the established community planning process to direct and manage growth.

The Commission also notes that in specific areas, notably the Kootenays and the northern part of the province, that ALR boundary reviews may be warranted which are unrelated to settlement pressures. Concerns have been expressed that non arable lands lie within the ALR in these regions. It is the Commission's view that ALR boundary reviews should be biophysically based (i.e. based on soil and climate criteria), and may include detailed, on-site analysis by qualified professional soils agrologists. The significant resources required for reviews are not currently available within the Commission's operating budget.

## **B39 MEAT REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS the Province's Meat Inspection Regulations are having an adverse effect on the local economy of rural communities due to the hardship they impose on small scale producers and processors;

AND WHEREAS the regulations are also negatively impacting local food security and sustainability due to the distances local producers are required to transport livestock, the stress it places on the animals, and the additional greenhouse gas emissions that result:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to tailor the Meat Inspection Regulations to allow local, and/or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations without lowering health and safety standards, without the requirements for a meat inspector on site when slaughtering, and that any meat processed in such a manner will be allowed to be sold locally to the public.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The BC *Meat Inspection Regulation* enables the construction and licensing of small-scale slaughter facilities specifically designed for low production volumes and small, communities. It also permits the licensing of mobile slaughter facilities.

The BC Government has implemented a graduated licensing scheme for provincial abattoirs that includes varied construction and inspection requirements tailored to support different kinds of livestock producers and different markets, while maintaining strong health and safety standards.

Class A and B facilities have construction and meat inspection requirements that support the commercial viability of BC meat products. Sales from these facilities have no volume restrictions and can be sold anywhere within B.C., thus supporting the resiliency and growth of BC's meat industry.

Class D and E licenses (introduced in April 2010), provide livestock producers in remote areas the opportunity to slaughter restricted numbers of livestock for local sales without constructing full scale facilities. These licenses support the affordability and availability of locally sourced meat in rural areas, while helping to increase livestock production and local food security.

## **B40 UTILIZATION OF BC PINE BEETLE INFESTED FOREST**

WHEREAS BC Stats (2008) indicate the destruction of 14.5 million hectares of BC's provincial forest by the pine beetle which will lead to the release of 990 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, five times that of annual emissions from all transportation in Canada;

AND WHEREAS using BC's pine beetle infested wood to generate biomass energy will improve the local environment by clearing dead trees that would otherwise cause problems with soil erosion, habitat and the threat to communities from wild fires;

AND WHEREAS the use of biomass contributes to reducing emissions that contribute to climate change, in accordance with the Kyoto Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the plantation of seedlings on harvested BC's beetle infected forests will result in a healthy reforestation in the most expedient manner and lead to more jobs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Ministry of Forests and Range and the provincial government to immediately implement effective policies which will allow for BC's pine beetle infested wood to be utilized for bio-energy opportunities that will create new jobs; reduce BC's carbon footprint; mitigate wild fire threat; and lead to the plantation of new healthy forests.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines**

A key priority for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines (Ministry) is to improve utilization. Several measures have already been taken to help solidify bioenergy as a major forest product. The *Forest Act* has been amended to encourage the use of wood waste for bioenergy with the creation of licences to cut that give secondary harvesters the right to remove and process waste and debris in roadside or landing piles.

As part of the *Clean Energy Bill*, the Minister is now able to issue orders to primary harvesters not to burn logging waste if there is an interested secondary harvester and market for the debris. Amendments have also been made to the *Forest Act* to create more flexible scaling options for bioenergy products such as wood chips or hog fuel.

BC Timber Sales offers an innovative form of licence (lump-sum sales) to encourage more use of beetle-attacked timber. We have moved to stand-as-a-whole pricing for beetle-killed stands to strengthen the incentive for bringing more biomass fibre into the marketplace.

The Ministry has also supported BC Hydro in both phases of its Bioenergy Call.

## **B41 INCREASED FUNDING FOR LOCAL RECREATION SITES**

WHEREAS funding for local recreation sites and picnic areas has been significantly decreased in the past five years;

AND WHEREAS vibrant, well-maintained recreation sites are invaluable to communities pursuing tourism as a form of economic development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province to ensure that it provides additional funding for the maintenance and upgrading of recreation sites to enhance and promote economic development through tourism.

### **Response: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

The Ministry of Natural Resource Operations (MNRO) recognizes the valuable social, economic and environmental contributions that recreation sites and trails provide to communities throughout British Columbia. There are now more than 1300 recreation sites and over 800 trails located in all regions of the province.

During these challenging economic times, the Province has been reviewing how we operate and making tough decisions in order to protect core services like health and education.

For the past two years MNRO has leveraged additional funding assistance available from the Federal and Local Governments to achieve mutual goals, including keeping recreation sites and trails open.

In addition, MNRO has established 269 partnership agreements with recreation groups, community organizations, First Nations, private citizens, local governments or forest companies to maintain 378 recreation sites and 260 trails. At 124 recreation sites and 61 trails, user fees are collected and retained by the agreement holder to help pay for services provided. Services may include on-site supervision, garbage removal, ground maintenance, trail grooming, and other activities. In 2009/10, \$2.1 million in user fees was collected.

Recreation sites and trails are an important component of the Province's tourism infrastructure and will continue to provide significant opportunities for economic development in local communities. While government funding for managing recreation sites and trails is limited in the current fiscal environment, the Province is looking for innovative ways of keeping our sites and trails open and safe for the public to enjoy.

## **B42 SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**

WHEREAS there are many communities that have inadequate support for citizens with mental illness and those who have dual diagnosis with addiction issues in need of mental health services, and have a higher risk of homelessness and other health related issues;

AND WHEREAS many members of our communities are unable to function and participate safely and fully in society and require a safe haven such as a drop-in centre:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to expand services and funding for people with mental illness and addictions, especially in small and midsize communities, where seed monies to fund “not for profit”, day programs, street support workers, recreation programs and nutrition programs are critically lacking.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services and Ministry of Social Development**

The Ministry of Health Services (the Ministry), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, health authorities, municipalities and community agencies, is committed to providing a range of evidence-based services and supports for people with mental illness including those who also have concurrent mental health and substance use problems. It is well recognized that people with concurrent disorders are more frequently homeless and many experience severe medical, social and economic challenges that are complex. Regional health authorities are actively involved in supporting this client population through the implementation of the *Homelessness Intervention Project* (HIP), a cross-ministry integrated initiative establishing integrated and coordinated outreach teams in five communities in Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, Kelowna, and Prince George. Through integrated community teams, the benefits of existing facilities and services is maximized by placing a priority on this client population for housing and support services, access to mental health and substance use treatment, and coordinated community resources based on individual needs.

Further, in British Columbia there are currently eight Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams including two newly established teams in Vancouver. ACT provides community-based, assertive care to individuals with severe mental illness including those who may also have a substance use problem. Services are provided from a multi-disciplinary team based model, addressing the range of services an individual requires. In BC we are beginning to see promising results with individuals who have experienced difficulties finding and maintaining housing, as the ACT team members are able to work directly with landlords, housing support organisations and BC Housing while also providing appropriate treatment and behaviour management interventions.

Although the development of the HIP integrated community teams and the ACT teams have been directed to the larger urban communities where the problems are highly visible and concentrated, it is anticipated that the learning gained from implementing these services can be transferable to other housing and support services in small or

mid-sized communities. In addition provincial standards for ACT in both urban and rural settings have been established by the Ministry.

Also, health authorities work with community partners including municipalities and community based non-profit organizations that are often well placed to provide a flexible and responsive range of supports customized to meet the needs of this client population. Health authorities' partner with non-profit organizations in communities throughout the province to provide a broad range of services and supports including residential care, supported housing, clubhouses, day programs, outreach services, psycho-social rehabilitation, recreation and nutrition support programs. An example of this partnership in Sechelt is the Olympic Legacy Housing initiative which through a combination of BC Housing funding, community gaming grant funding and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority funding to Sunshine Coast Community Services Society and the Arrowhead Centre Society will result in eight temporary modular homes from the Olympic village in Whistler being turned into permanent affordable housing and the development of a clubhouse.

The Vancouver Coastal Health Authority provides a full continuum of mental health and substance use services including prevention, early intervention, crisis intervention, withdrawal management (detoxification) services, support and outreach through hospitals and community based clinics, and intensive day and residential treatment and support recovery programs. The service delivery is built on the principle that "Every Door is the Right Door". Similar to all health authorities, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority-funded mental health and substance use service providers are able to make referrals to provincial mental health and substance use treatment services for those individuals who have concurrent disorders and resulting complex care and behavioral needs beyond the services that are available within their own community or health region. An example of a provincial service for people with concurrent disorders is the 100 bed Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction which opened in July 2008. The Burnaby Centre is specifically designed to provide services for adult clients from across BC who suffer from severe substance use disorders and/or mental illness, as well as physical health issues.

The mental health and addictions sector operating expenditures for 2008/09 were approximately \$1.2 billion. This equates to an increase of more than 42 per cent over the 2000/01 total of \$851.4 million.

## **B43 RURAL HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS health care services, specifically small rural medical clinics are important to its patients, some of which are seniors unable to drive or travel long distances;

AND WHEREAS it is important to support the health care in small rural areas of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the Minister to take the necessary action to ensure that doctors and other medical services are adequately provided to all residents in every community of British Columbia.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Ministry of Health Services (the Ministry) provides standards of access to the health authorities, to guide decision making about where services are to be located. Part of these standards state that emergency services must be available to 98 percent of a health region within a one hour drive. The health authorities have strived to achieve this target, and in most cases have been successful (even in rural areas). When a gap exists, government and health authorities have worked closely together to improve the access to service for residents.

The Attachment Initiative ensures that every British Columbian can be attached to a family physician by 2015. Research has shown that attachment to a particular family doctor results in better patient care, and also costs the health system considerably less than comparable patients, especially those with several chronic diseases.

Divisions of Family Practice – affiliations of family physicians with common health care goals and/or practices in the same geographic area. As of August 31, 2010, fourteen incorporated Divisions of Family Practice are fully underway. Additional investments have been made to assist and support rural and remote family doctors to establish Divisions of Family Practices.

Transition of the Emergency Health Service Commission to Provincial Health Services Authority – this will align ambulance services more closely with our health-care system and allow the province to explore more innovative ways to enhance the role of paramedics in serving the needs of patients, particularly in rural and remote communities.

In April 2009, \$20 million in new funding was provided to continue developing new initiatives to further expand and develop programs to assist rural communities to recruit and retain physicians. The Ministry is also supporting recruitment of health professionals for rural communities through additional programs such as the Provincial Nominee Program and Health Match BC.

Since 2003, the GP Services Committee and the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues have introduced a number of initiatives to promote recruitment and retention of BC's family physicians:

- Full Service Family Practice Incentive Program and the Practice Support Program
- Family Physicians for BC
- Maternity Care For BC
- Rural Retention Program
- Rural Isolation Allowance Program
- Rural Recruitment Incentive Program
- Rural Recruitment Contingency Fund
- Rural GP Locum Program
- Rural Specialist Locum Program
- Rural Continuing Medical Education Program
- Rural Education Action Plan
- Northern Isolation Travel Assistance Outreach Program

Government programs and initiatives, in combination with the hard work done by many stakeholders in the BC health care system, have yielded positive results:

- Between 2005 and 2009 the number of physicians practicing in rural BC communities has grown by 30 percent. During the same time the overall provincial population has grown by 6 percent.
- In 2009, the Society of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada reported that BC has one of the best supplies of rural physicians in the country: there is one GP for 874 rural people, compared to the Canadian average of one GP for 1153 rural people.



## **B44 ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS drug and alcohol addictions are known to contribute to a majority of criminal offences and anti-social behaviour, particularly in northern and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS the provision of drug and alcohol addiction treatment services and facilities in northern and rural communities is frequently inadequate to address the demand for such services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the availability of drug and alcohol treatment services and facilities.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

Recognizing that many prolific offenders have significant substance use and mental health problems, the province implemented the Prolific Offender Management Project in 2008 in six municipalities including Williams Lake. The offenders in the program typically have 20 or more convictions for property theft, illegal substance use, and assault. The project uses a two-pronged approach: law enforcement and referring them to specific treatment and support services, such as substance use treatment services and supported housing to reduce their offending. The project brings together resources from enforcement agencies (police, corrections and Crown), mental health and substance use services (regional health authorities), adult forensic psychiatric services (Provincial Health Services Authority), housing and support services, (Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General) and youth justice (Ministry of Children and Family Development). The project is being evaluated by Simon Fraser University and is expected to be completed in spring 2011. If the results are positive, government will consider expanding this approach elsewhere.

Further, in British Columbia there are currently eight Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams that provide community-based, assertive care to individuals with severe mental illness who may also have a substance use problem. Services are provided from a multi-disciplinary team based model, addressing the range of services an individual requires. In BC, we are beginning to see promising results with individuals who have frequent contact with police services and/or have been incarcerated, as the team members are able to work directly with corrections services (including judges) for appropriate treatment and behaviour management interventions.

In addition to the societal and community impacts of drug and alcohol dependence, including criminal activity and social disorder, the profound burden of disease and harm associated with problematic substance use in BC – with consequent personal suffering, economic loss, disability and death – clearly warrants the most effective and evidence-based approaches possible. A key goal is to prevent substance use problems, through comprehensive mental health promotion, targeted substance use prevention, risk reduction strategies, and to provide early intervention and treatment when problems are identified.

The Interior Health Authority provides a full continuum of mental health and substance use services including prevention, early intervention, crisis intervention, withdrawal management (detoxification) services, support and outreach through hospitals and community based clinics and intensive day and residential treatment and support recovery programs. The service delivery is built on the principle that “Every Door is the Right Door”. Similar to all health authorities, Interior Health Authority-funded substance use service providers are able to make referrals to provincial substance use treatment services for those individuals who have complex care and behavioral needs beyond the services that are available within their own community or health region.

An example of a provincial service for adults who suffer from severe substance use disorders and/or mental illness, as well as complex physical health issues is the 100 bed Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addiction which opened in July 2008. Referrals to the Burnaby Centre come from health authority mental health and substance use services and criminal justice services across the province, including Community Court, Probation Services and community-based social organizations.

The mental health and addictions sector operating expenditures for 2008/09 were approximately \$1.2 billion. This equates to an increase of more than 42 percent over the 2000/01 total of \$851.4 million.

## **B45 BC AMBULANCE SERVICES RESPONSE TIME**

WHEREAS the administration and delivery of health care service is the responsibility of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Ambulance Service, operating under the authority of the Emergency and Health Services Commission to provide public ambulance service across the province, has a target to respond within 9 minutes to 90% of the most serious calls (Delta/Echo) from its metro/urban stations and in 2009 responded within 9 minutes to only 52% of those calls placing the citizens of this province at risk:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities call upon the Province of British Columbia to direct sufficient resources to meet the response time criteria to ensure that citizens of this province have access to timely high quality care during medical emergencies.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

Meeting response time targets is a challenge for the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) as it is for most other Emergency Medical Service providers across North America and the world.

Ambulance response times are impacted by: demand, population growth, ambulance deployment models, dispatch processes and policies, weather, terrain, road infrastructure, traffic and geography.

BCAS is not aware of any Canadian emergency medical service provider that is consistently meeting a target of reaching 90 percent of urgent calls in urban areas in less than 9 minutes. In 2008/09, the average response times for BCAS to reach urgent events in urban communities was 10:20.

BCAS' response time goals for urgent events are detailed in our 2010 Service Plan and are as follows:

<b>Urgent (Delta/Echo) Response Time Targets</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Urban/Metro communities % < 9 mins	55%	60%	65%
Rural communities % < 15mins	75%	80%	85%
Remote/Other communities % < 30 mins	80%	85%	85%

BCAS is committed to improving response times for the most urgent calls where it can make the most impact on patient outcomes. Recent initiatives to improve response times include:

- Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) were implemented in all 196 Lower Mainland ambulances in 2009. AVL enable dispatchers to see where all our ambulances are located on a live map and dispatch the closest vehicles to emergency calls.

- In addition to AVL, all ambulances in BC were equipped with GPS units in 2010.
- BCAS has implemented a new integrated dispatch information system in two of three dispatch centres and will roll the new system out to the third centre later in 2010.
- BCAS has added resources to its busiest areas of the Lower Mainland, including adding two 11 hour ambulance shifts in 2007 and two 11 hour ambulance shifts in 2008 in Surrey and one 24 hour ambulance in Burnaby. This \$2 million investment created 20 new full time positions.
- In addition to setting response time targets, BCAS has implemented 'call handling' and 'chute time' targets, to improve performance of the individual components that constitute the overall response time. The chute time is the time it takes ambulance crews to get mobile.

Response times are extremely important but also just as important is the care and treatment paramedics provide when they arrive on scene. Significant investment has been spent on providing additional training and education to paramedics. Targeted efforts in new training and education for BCAS Paramedics and Dispatchers in CPR has shown a 20 percent increase in survival rates of cardiac arrest victims over the last few years.

## **B46 RESTORE & MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR BC LIBRARIES**

WHEREAS the provincial government of British Columbia has stated that one of its Five Great Goals is to make BC the best-educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government recognized that libraries are central to that objective by developing and implementing the “Libraries Without Walls” strategic plan, which allowed libraries to significantly improve and provide services such as the BC OneCard system, Books for Babies, a virtual reference service, and a provincial suite of online databases;

AND WHEREAS last year’s funding cutbacks resulted in the loss of some of these programs and reduction in services for others, and additional cutbacks will mean a further reduction of programs and services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government maintain existing funding levels in 2010 for BC public libraries and reading centres, and further, that funding for BC libraries and reading centres be restored to the levels that were achieved as part of the strategic plan prior to 2009.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Education**

Funding for the public library sector is maintained at nearly \$14 million for 2010. This is 60 percent more funding than in 2001. We have protected core operating grants despite the global economic downturn, and we are working to enhance shared infrastructure.

Five years ago, the Province invested \$12 million to implement the public library strategic plan Libraries Without Walls. Flowing from this plan, the Province and public libraries have launched several province-wide initiatives that have generated substantial economies of scale, enhanced the stability of libraries and improved organizational infrastructure. The powerful synergies of these partnerships and shared strategic priorities are netting tremendous benefits and laying the groundwork for future investment. As a result, libraries are in a much stronger position today, offering more services and dynamic collections than ever before.

Given today’s fiscal realities, we cannot invest in “business as usual.” Instead, we must explore all opportunities to maximize investment in strategic partnerships, leveraging existing capacities for greater shared benefits. For maximum effectiveness, therefore, provincial funding is targeted to collaborative literacy and technology equity initiatives aimed at improving services, reducing costs and increasing access.

## **B47 GREENHOUSES**

WHEREAS British Columbia's food security has become increasingly vulnerable through a growing dependence upon the global market, which in recent times has experienced significantly fluctuating food prices and availability due to a large number of factors which are beyond our local control, including but not limited to:

- rising oil costs for food production and transportation
- climate change causing more severe weather phenomena such as droughts and floods
- increasing global market concentration of food production and stocks
- loss of farmland to urbanization, and less farmland being available for the average farmer;

AND WHEREAS locally grown, community based agriculture can provide for food sustainability and food security, create local jobs, reduce the carbon footprint and enhance economic well being by retaining more money in our local communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to create a program to promote and develop local food production on farmland and in greenhouses sufficient to meet the needs of communities throughout the province of BC.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture**

There are several components to food security including food access, affordability and availability. The Ministry of Agriculture (MA) develops policy, regulations and programming that support the preservation/enhancement of the local supply of food (availability). As British Columbia is not self sufficient in all foods, part of the food supply is satisfied by importing food to meet our demand for fresh foods out of season, foods not grown locally and foods that are more economically grown in other regions of the world.

With less than 5% of the provincial land base capable of food production, MA policies and programming aim to support farm land, farm businesses and farmers to maximize the supply of BC food using sustainable practices. These include:

1. The Agriculture Land Reserve to preserve farm land and water resources.
2. Financial programs to reduce risk to farm businesses and improve the viability of food production in BC.
3. Employment, education and youth programs to meet the demands for farm labour and ensure future generations of farmers.

These are but a few examples of government's commitment to ensure BC's capacity to supply food to British Columbians is maintained and productivity is increasing. This can only occur if federal, provincial and local governments continue to support the

preservation of farm land/water, profitability of farm businesses and encouragement for the next generation of BC farmers.

## **B48 ARTS & CULTURE FUNDING**

WHEREAS arts and culture are universal goods which represent a very important part of the social fabric of all communities;

AND WHEREAS the Province's Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has recommended that the Province restore funding for arts and culture organizations to the 2008/2009 levels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to restore funds to community arts and culture organizations to the 2008/2009 levels.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B24, which called on the provincial and federal governments to "reinststate full funding to the creative sector and related programs and further consider additional investment as part of the economic stimulus programs".

In its response to the resolution, the Province indicated a willingness to "work with the UBCM to look for creative ways to support the sustainability of the arts and cultural sector" and that the Province would "welcome the assistance of the UBCM in convincing the federal government to increase spending in British Columbia".

Members also endorsed resolution 2000-B108, which called on the provincial government to:

- increase "investment in arts and cultural activity and infrastructure to, at minimum, the level [...] of the other provinces";
- work with local governments to ensure that provincial funding would "support and complement local government arts and cultural initiatives"; and
- establish a provincial-local government task force to develop a strategic approach to improving federal investment in BC's arts and cultural sector.

The Province in response expressed willingness to improve provincial investment in arts and culture, and to work with local government to "ensure that local government priorities are considered in the development of provincial policy." With regard to federal arts funding, the Province indicated that it "would welcome the assistance of the UBCM in convincing the federal government to increase spending in British Columbia."

Since 2001 the Province has provided more than half a billion dollars to the arts and culture sector. 2008/09 was a record year for arts funding, with the Province providing \$42 million to artists and art organizations.

This fiscal the Province is providing over \$30 million to support arts groups and artists:



- \$16 million for grants funding through the BC Arts Council (including \$7 million from the Legacy and \$1.15 million from the BC Arts and Culture Endowment Fund).
- \$11.5 million in gaming grants to arts and culture groups for youth, fairs, festivals, museums, and groups with three-year gaming grant commitments throughout B.C.
- \$3 million from the 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy to support BC Spirit Festivals in more than 150 communities across B.C.
- \$350,000 to the Arts and Culture Branch for cultural initiatives.

Despite tough economic times, we are still providing \$30 million this year to artists and art organizations. The BC Arts Council remains the key arts funding agency in B.C. and we are proud of the work this independent and peer-reviewed organization does. As government revenues recover from the worldwide economic crisis, we will ensure grants are available to address the areas of greatest need and the top priorities of British Columbians.

The Province is committed to the long term health of B.C.'s arts sector.

## **B49 SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING**

WHEREAS a stable, effective public education system is instrumental in creating and supporting a successful and sustainable community, and many school districts have announced significant financial challenges for 2010 and beyond;

AND WHEREAS the closure of schools is detrimental to the development of students and effectively removes the heart of the community with significant social and economic loss, and minimizes the opportunity for any growth in the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM strongly request the government of BC to continue its commitment to build strong communities throughout the province by adequately funding education and schools to achieve integrated sustainability of communities throughout the province.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Education**

In 2010/11, BC school districts will share \$4.663 billion in operating grants— the highest ever—an increase of \$112 million over 2009/10. This increase to operating funding includes \$54 million to fund the teachers' wage increase for 2010/11, and \$58 million for the implementation of full day kindergarten this year. Budget 2011 has committed a further \$58 million in funding next year to fully fund full day kindergarten for all five year old students.

Average per-pupil funding is estimated to increase by \$105 from \$8,196 in 2009/10 to \$8,341 in 2010/11 and to \$8,357 in 2011/12. The-per pupil funding amount has increased by an estimated \$2,095 since 2000/01.

The operating grants include a component called the Small Community Supplement, which provides additional funds to districts that operate small schools in rural and remote locations. This supplement will allocate nearly \$65 million province-wide in 2010/11 and has expanded from a \$50 million supplement when it was first introduced in 2002/03.

The Small Community Supplement is a component of the Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors, which assists small, rural and remote districts with additional costs that operate in those areas.

The Supplement for Unique Geographic Factors will total more than \$160 million province-wide for 2010/11, an increase from \$132 million from when the Supplement was introduced in 2002/03.

## **B50 CELLULAR PHONE COVERAGE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS the provincial government made a commitment in 2008 that all rural communities would be provided with advanced communications including cellular phone service within three years, which would provide lower cost communication and support economic growth;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities and vast areas of British Columbia are still without cellular coverage, and the absence of this service poses a hazard to all who travel through the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government and cellular providers to foster economic growth and citizen safety by ensuring that cell phone coverage is available to all rural BC communities and their connecting corridors.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens' Services**

The Government of British Columbia has committed to leveraging the Province's telecommunications buying power to obtain expanded internet and cellular coverage for citizens in rural and remote areas. A large-scale telecommunications procurement is currently underway and expected to be completed by spring 2011.

Cellular coverage is vital to public safety and is economically beneficial to small communities. The procurement is expected to leverage expanded coverage by providing access to cellular services in urban, suburban and rural communities in British Columbia and along the province's primary and secondary transportation highways.

Cellular services have many federally regulated components. As a result, the Province continues to take every opportunity to represent the interest of rural British Columbians by participating in federal telecommunications consultations. The Province advocates for providers to increase service in rural areas and urges the federal government to consult with provinces and municipalities before it makes reforms to existing telecommunications policy.

## **B51 POVERTY REDUCTION PLAN**

WHEREAS poverty and its effects is something that each local government is faced with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the importance of a poverty reduction plan be communicated to the leaders of all political parties in British Columbia highlighting the need to provide adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed, improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce and improve food security for low-income individuals and families.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development**

The Government of British Columbia takes the problem of poverty, especially child poverty, very seriously. British Columbia offers some of the most comprehensive supports for low-income individuals and their families in Canada. These supports include subsidized housing, child care subsidies, employment programs, dental and optical care for children and programs for vulnerable seniors. Some highlights are:

- Increased income assistance rates in 2007 by up to 20%. Employable singles now receive \$100 more per month (\$610 per month), currently the third highest rate in Canada.
- Shelter rates were increased \$50 and are now the second highest in Canada for employable singles, while rates for families with children are up between \$97 and \$200 a month. Single parents now have the second-highest shelter payments in Canada.
- Since 2001, housing and support programs spending has totaled \$2 billion. This year alone the provincial allocation is over \$562 million, more than four times what was spent in 2001.
- Introduced the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) in 2006 and significantly enhanced it in 2008.
- RAP currently provides direct rent assistance to more than 8,800 low-income working families, paying up to \$765 per month (\$9,180 a year).
- The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program has also been improved and expanded, with more than 15,750 seniors' households – that's 3,600 more households than 2001 – receiving a monthly rental subsidy of up \$679.50.
- The Healthy Kids Program now provides \$1,400 per child every two years for additional dental and eye care on top of MSP Premium Assistance.
- Worked with the federal government to design a new made-in-BC Working Income Tax Benefit for low-income working individuals and families that pays up to \$1,150 per year to a single person or \$2,011 per year to a family (including the BC Earned Income Benefit), plus an additional \$515 per year for persons with a disability.
- In January 2010, MSP premiums were eliminated or reduced for about 180,000 low-income families and individuals. The \$2,000 increase in the Medical Service

Plan premium exemption thresholds means, for example, that a family of four with an income of less than \$31,000 now pays no MSP premium.

- Increased the basic personal income tax credit to \$11,000 from \$9,373, effective January 2010. Provincial income taxes have now been eliminated for 325,000 low-income British Columbians since 2001. BC has the lowest provincial income taxes for the first two tax brackets.

## **B52 CHANGES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING ACCESSIBLE RESIDENTIAL BUILDING STANDARDS**

WHEREAS British Columbia Building Code Standards only allow accessible building standards to be applied on multi-family housing and cannot be applied to single family dwellings or townhouse development;

AND WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of all housing types that are accessible:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the *Local Government Act* and / or *Community Charter* be changed and provide policy for local governments to apply tax incentives, development cost proportional forgiveness, density bonusing or other tools to encourage construction of accessible housing in all housing forms.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

There are a number of avenues that a local government can currently pursue to encourage the development of adaptable housing. As an example, the District of Saanich and the District of North Vancouver both have policies encouraging builders to adopt voluntary guidelines for single family and townhouse development. A local government could take this one step further through community planning processes and zoning bylaws, or using tools such as density bonusing or comprehensive development agreements to encourage the development of more adaptable single family housing.

Under the *Community Charter*, local governments need approval from the provincial government to adopt new or amended bylaws that establish standards which vary from the Building Code. The goal in the Province is to have generally standardized guidelines for building standards across the province.

Any changes to local government development finance best practices, policy or legislation is developed in consultation with the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC) chaired by the Ministry. DFRC meets regularly and includes representatives from local governments, UBCM and the development community. The Province encourages UBCM to table this issue at future meetings for discussion.

## **B53 ACCESSIBLE BUILDING CODE STANDARDS**

WHEREAS most communities are trying to build housing and neighbourhoods that will allow their citizens to age in place without having to move so they can remain connected to their community;

AND WHEREAS building codes only allow accessible building standards to be applied on multi family housing and do not apply to single family dwellings or townhouse development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial and federal building codes be amended to allow communities to apply accessible building standards to all residential classes.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Minister of State for Building Code Renewal**

Standards for the design and construction of adaptable housing were added to the *BC Building Code* and came into effect on December 31, 2009. Adaptable housing is designed and built so that accessibility features can be added easily and inexpensively after construction. It particularly benefits individuals whose mobility is limited due to age, disability or illness, making it easier for them to age in place and function more independently in their own homes.

The standards currently apply solely to single-storey suites in new residential multi-unit buildings, wherever adaptable housing is either required by local government bylaw or built voluntarily. This approach provides consistency in how adaptable housing is designed and built, while giving local governments the flexibility to decide whether they want to require it.

The adaptable housing standards were developed by a working group of representatives from all parties involved in residential construction. The process required extensive negotiation and a significant time commitment from group members. Application of the standards was intentionally limited to multi-unit buildings, because the *Building Code* already requires a level of accessibility in this building type and it represents a reasonable starting point for adaptable housing.

Expanding the scope of the existing standards to include multi-storey single-family dwellings and townhouses would be technically challenging and would likely require even more time and effort. It has not been identified as a priority at this time due to resource limitations.

## **B55 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDIES – GRADES 8 TO 12**

WHEREAS many citizens, young and old, do not have a great deal of knowledge about the actual role of local government within their community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM be requested to approach the provincial government requesting “Local Government Studies” be added to the grades 8 to 12 school curriculum.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Education**

BC’s school system generally is designed to enable all learners to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to become active participants in their communities and in society.

More specifically, the Social Studies curriculum, which includes civics, aims to develop thoughtful and responsible citizens who understand and exercise their roles, rights and responsibilities in society. Social Studies is mandatory for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 10. BC students must also take a Social Studies 11 or 12 course to graduate, choosing from among Civic Studies 11, BC First Nations Studies 12 or Social Studies 11.

Students start learning as early as Grade 4 about governance structures and by Grade 5 about government processes such as elections. Educating students about civics, of course, does not guarantee that they will vote once they are eligible.

There are many resources and initiatives intended to encourage both young people and adults to participate in the democratic process. Elections BC, for example, have developed two education kits to introduce youth to the importance of active participation in the provincial electoral process. The kits have been designed to support the prescribed learning outcomes of the provincial Social Studies curriculum.



## **B56 FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS the development of children from the ages of 0-6 is important to the overall development of communities and society;

AND WHEREAS long term funding and investments in early childhood development leads to stronger communities and more socially responsible citizens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM supports the Province's long term funding commitment to early childhood development programs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be advised that the UBCM does not support any proposed cuts to early childhood development programs to offset short term financial short falls in exchange for long term societal impacts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to ensure early childhood development remains a provincial priority for funding.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development**

The Province of British Columbia is committed to ensuring that all children have the best possible start in life. The Government recognizes that access to quality, enriching and nurturing early years programs has a positive impact on children's developmental outcomes.

The Province continues to invest in our childcare system and has made early learning a priority. This commitment includes providing early learning and child care services that support their physical, cultural, linguistic, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) believes that children in British Columbia should be strong, safe, and supported to reach their full potential. With an investment of nearly \$300 million in child care funding this year, and more than \$22 million for early childhood development programs and initiatives, MCFD supports a range of programs and services aiming to optimize the development of healthy children, focusing from birth to six years of age, including the Aboriginal Early Childhood Development Programs. MCFD aims to provide sustainable support to early childhood development and child care services where that is possible. For example, The Success By 6 Early Childhood Development Provincial Partnership met on January 19, 2011 and reached a final agreement of \$1.9 million funding for the 2011/2012 fiscal year. This funding will be added to the \$1.5 million held in reserve (total funding is \$3.4 million, using an accrued \$1.5M from current grant dollars). MCFD has advised Success by 6 that it will consider 2012/13 funding at a later time.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Education**

Phase one of the two-year implementation of full day kindergarten began in September of 2010 for approximately half of B.C.'s kindergarten-aged children. By next September, full day kindergarten will be available for every kindergarten-aged child in B.C. Research shows that a high quality, play-based kindergarten program has long-term benefits for children's academic and social skills that help them to succeed in school and life. Full day kindergarten learning is associated with improved literacy and numeracy, smoother transitions to Grade 1, and increased post-secondary graduation rates.

In addition, the Province has made use of underutilized school district space to deliver early learning services through our StrongStart BC program. We currently have 316 StrongStart BC programs operating in BC. Research shows that frequent access to high quality, play-based early learning programs have long-term benefits for children's academic and social development that supports their success in school and life. This program builds on the success of Ready, Set Learn, a kindergarten readiness program, which the province has provided \$18 million in funding to over the past 6 years. In 2009-2010, there were 24,000 children participating in the StrongStart program.

## **B57 LEGAL AID FOR BC**

WHEREAS local governments, being committed to equal access to justice for all citizens, consider that the provincial government has an obligation to fund legal services to ensure equal access to justice for every British Columbian;

AND WHEREAS reduced provincial government funding has, in the face of significantly increased demand, resulted in deep cuts to legal aid services and staff, thus harming the most vulnerable in our society, predominantly lower-income women and children:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Province to restore and increase funding for legal aid in British Columbia.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General**

Provincial funding for core legal aid services has not been reduced. Since 2005 the Province has been steadily increasing funding for legal aid.

New funding has focused on assisting families in finding earlier and more stable resolutions of their family problems.

As and when the fiscal situation permits, the Province will consider increasing funding for legal aid programs that efficiently and effectively assist British Columbians in resolving their legal problems.

Any new funding for legal aid must be evaluated in the context of government's need to fund essential services.

## **B58 REQUIREMENT FOR GEOTECHNICAL REPORTS FOR NON-HABITABLE STRUCTURES**

WHEREAS section 56 [Requirement for Geotechnical Report] of the Community Charter generally provides that the building inspector may require the owner of land to provide a report certified by a qualified professional that the land may be used safely for the use intended;

AND WHEREAS this requirement as it pertains to applications for building permits for non-habitable accessory or smaller structures in hazard areas is onerous and costly for homeowners who have previously attained a geotechnical report for the primary structure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial government for an amendment to section 56 of the Community Charter to release or relax the liability of building inspectors regarding the requirement for geotechnical reports for non-habitable accessory or smaller structures in hazard areas and to seek clarification with respect to the definition of the word “may” as it applies to the duties of the building inspector with respect to the requirement to issue building permits and request geotechnical reports;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM request financial assistance from the Province to undertake secondary geotechnical studies in order to reduce the need for individual site specific studies.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Minister of State for Building Code Renewal**

The Province has empowered local governments, through Section 56 of the *Community Charter*, to be able to request geotechnical assessments to ensure land can be built on safely for the intended use whether or not a building permit is required.

The Province does not believe that a generalized geotechnical assessment can replace the need for site specific geotechnical assessments.

## **B59 FIRE SMART CANADA COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS many communities small and large in British Columbia are threatened by potential wildfire occurrences adjacent to and within their communities;

AND WHEREAS community wildfire protection plans and operational fuel management projects on public and private lands can significantly reduce the threat and impact of a wildfire event:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities initiate a Fire Smart Canada Community Program similar to the FireWise program in the United States and the Partners in Protection Fire Smart Canada proposal.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

The Canadian Fire Smart program is very similar to the US FireWise program and it contains many similar elements. The Province encourages communities to adopt Fire Smart activities and actions.

If a community is conducting Fire Smart activities and actively participating in the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program, they will be ensuring that wildfire threats to their communities are mitigated.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands are cooperatively exploring the opportunity to recognize communities that are leaders in Fire Smart and community wildfire protection planning.

## **B60 NEW MANUFACTURED HOMES – PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS**

WHEREAS new stick built and pre-fabricated homes are subject to scheduled building inspections during construction by licensed building inspectors, and are subject to protection under the B.C. *Homeowner Protection Act* and Regulations, but new “manufactured homes and mobile homes” are specifically excluded from that protection;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Standards Association is a testing agency but not a licensed building inspection agency, but by virtue of their affixed seal of approval of Procedures for Certification of Factory-Built Houses and Mobile Homes (Can/CSA-A277-90 and CAN/CSAZ240 MH Series-92) manufactured homes and mobile homes are exempted from Section 9 of the B.C. Building Code;

AND WHEREAS the CSA approval applies only to each home at its factory location, not its ultimate residential location;

AND WHEREAS purchasers are offered minimal warranties by the insurance agencies of manufacturers and sellers, which are less than the minimum warranty standards afforded under the B.C. *Homeowner Protection Act*, thus leaving no recourse for government mediation, or advocacy for consumers of these types of residential housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province provide equal protection to consumers of new manufactured single family dwellings through amendments to the B.C. *Homeowner Protection Act* and its Regulations in all of its parts and sections.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General - Minister of State for Building Code Renewal**

The Province does not see the exemption for manufactured and modular homes in the *Homeowner Protection Act* (HPA) to be a consumer protection issue at this time. There is no significant evidence in terms of complaints from consumers of such homes. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) certification appears to provide good standards manufacturers can use to provide well-constructed homes to consumers.

The Province is satisfied the regulatory treatment of manufactured homes is comparable to that of site-built homes and meets Provincial health, safety, and energy and water efficiency objectives. The CSA provides third party assurance that Z240 (manufactured homes) and A277 (factory built homes) conform to applicable standards. Z240 and A277 homes are expected to be installed without alteration at the site or after installation to maintain their certification. This is compared with conventional site-built homes where compliance with the BC Building Code is assessed only at the time of occupancy.

Any requirements for manufactured homes to be included in the HPA and require home warranties will have to consider the availability of home warranty insurance for such products and additional costs resulting from additional regulation.

## **B61 RESTORATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING FUNDING**

WHEREAS the provincial government cut core funding for emergency management, emergency social service and first responder training for the 2009/2010 fiscal year and transferred some of it to year-by-year special access gaming grants, administered by the BC Association of Emergency Managers and the Emergency Social Services Association, that have been denied for the 2010/2011 fiscal year;

AND WHEREAS this financial assistance was relied upon by many small and rural communities and their volunteer organizations to provide critical services throughout vast areas of the province;

AND WHEREAS adequate training is imperative for an effective local emergency program which provides for the safety and well being of the citizens of BC, along with being legislated by Section 6 of the *Emergency Program Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to restore core funding for emergency management, emergency social services, and first responder training to at least the 2008/2009 levels and to continue working with the BC Association of Emergency Managers, the Emergency Social Services Association and other stakeholders to improve emergency program training for every community in BC.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Government remains committed to helping build strong communities by funding non-profit public safety organizations through the community gaming grant program.

The BC Association of Emergency Managers and the Emergency Social Services Association each received a \$250,000 special one-time gaming grant in March 2009. Both organizations were advised of the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch's annual application process.

In fiscal year 2009/10, both organizations applied and were denied because their applications did not meet eligibility criteria, in part because a significant portion of the earlier \$250,000 grant remained unspent and because required financial information was not submitted.

Neither organization applied for volunteer training funds in 2010/11. These organizations may apply again in the next Public Safety sector intake period. More information is available on the branch website at: [www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming](http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming).

Any eligible non-profit public safety organization wishing to train volunteers – including, for example, volunteer fire departments and local search and rescue societies – is encouraged to apply for a community gaming grant.



## **B62 COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY TRAINING**

WHEREAS municipalities are required to have an Emergency Coordinator to recruit, train and educate our volunteers and to have an emergency plan to address emergency disasters;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has abrogated their financial responsibilities by no longer funding for training emergency volunteers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia restore the Community Gaming Grant funding for emergency training for BC municipalities.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Government remains committed to helping build strong communities by funding non-profit public safety training through the community gaming grant program.

Municipal and other local governments are not eligible to receive gaming grants.

Any eligible non-profit public safety organization wishing to train volunteers – including, for example, volunteer fire departments and local search and rescue societies – is encouraged to apply for a community gaming grant. Application information is available on the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch website at: [www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming](http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming).

## **B63 RCMP COSTS**

WHEREAS local governments contract RCMP to provide policing on a cost share formula with the Province;

AND WHEREAS the RCMP has a professional code and self monitoring mandate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that all costs associated with RCMP self monitoring, defending themselves, or individual members in civil law or other malpractice allegations, be borne in total by the RCMP with provincial and federal funding and that no part of those costs, including monitoring equipment or temporary replacement staff, be borne by the local government.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Under the current RCMP Policing Agreements, the costs of legal services and civil claims are borne completely by the federal government. The Province's position in the contract negotiations for the new agreements is that this arrangement should continue – the Province and municipalities should not be responsible for any part of these costs.

Canada has control over the internal management and operation of the RCMP – the existing indemnity protects provinces and municipalities from the results of decisions and actions that are beyond their control.

## **B64 RESTRICTING THE IMPORTATION OF PRECURSOR PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS Canada's role as a producer and exporter of manufactured drugs, such as crystal meth and ecstasy, has been increasing over the last few years;

AND WHEREAS organized criminal groups are operating laboratories to manufacture amphetamine-type stimulants and are major suppliers to the USA, Australian and European markets;

AND WHEREAS legislation to control the importation of substances used to produce amphetamine-type stimulants has been shown to be effective in deterring drug production in other countries;

AND WHEREAS Canada has obligations under the 1988 United Nations Convention to take steps to prevent the diversion of precursor substances and to monitor their manufacture and distribution with a view to reducing significantly the manufacture of synthetic drugs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to call upon the Province of BC to work with its federal counterparts to enact more stringent regulations under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and Precursor Control Regulations to:

- restrict the importation of key precursor products and ensure that only legitimate manufacturers are able to obtain precursor chemicals; and
- enforce the regulations and monitor the end use from bulk sales of precursor chemicals.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

British Columbia has repeatedly written and met with the federal government to address the gaps in the precursor regulatory scheme and increase the maximum penalties for synthetic drug offences.

BC has endorsed the federal private member's Bill C-475 which creates new offences for knowingly owning, using and selling any materials and equipment used in the production of methamphetamine and ecstasy. The Bill has been passed by the House of Commons and is now before the Senate. The Province has also pressed the federal government for more rigorous standards for licensees who import and sell precursors to stop precursors from being diverted into synthetic drug production including mandatory reporting to police of all suspicious sales of precursors. As a result of BC's lobbying efforts, Health Canada has increased the number of inspectors in this province, but more effort is required by the federal government on this issue.

The Province continues to focus its efforts on alleviating the harm that illicit drugs cause in our communities and will continue to work with other agencies to achieve progress in reducing the effects of the drug trade in this province.

## **B65 PRIME-BC FUNDING**

WHEREAS the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME) is the provincially-approved and universally-accepted records management system for municipal police agencies and RCMP in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the PRIME system was solely funded by the Province during implementation commencing in 2003 and, more recently, partially subsidized by the member agencies;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, through the Police Services Division, has mandated that the project become self-funding such that municipalities across BC will be required to fully fund PRIME-BC rather than partially subsidizing the overall costs through the province;

AND WHEREAS this proposed provincial downloading would have significant financial implications for municipalities, including as yet unknown future costs for levies, training and upgrades;

AND WHEREAS the existing governance structure of PRIME-BC provides no accountability to the member municipalities who are now being required to fund the project:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to call upon the provincial government of British Columbia to pay for capital and operations costs of PRIME-BC and to review the governance structure to ensure there is effective municipal representation and accountability to the municipalities regarding the performance of PRIME.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

Municipalities were advised as early as 2006 that the initial user fee of \$500 per officer would be increased to reflect full cost recovery effective January 1, 2008. Although the Province managed to maintain the \$500 user fee through 2008 and 2009, this approach was non-sustainable and did not satisfy the requirements for the system to be fully funded by user agencies.

By 2010, PRIME-BC has matured, enhancements have been made and the user fee of \$1,000 per officer was determined based on the current costs of operating the system. The Province appreciates the impact the fee change will have on policing budgets; however, this state of the art records management system provides unprecedented advantages to police in investigations and solving crimes as well as providing municipalities throughout British Columbia with an effective, accountable police service. PRIME-BC needs to be self sustaining; it is therefore not possible to provide additional operating funding or to postpone the user fee change.

The current governance structure for PRIME-BC has many levels of accountability and all police agencies are invited to participate on regional user committees. There is also representation from police agencies on the Finance Committee, Governing Council and PRIME-BC Board of Directors. Financial information is regularly shared with all of these groups in an effort to ensure full disclosure and operational transparency.

The Board of Directors of PRIMECorp has added three positions to accommodate UBCM's request for more municipal representation.

## **B66 SECURITY OF CANADA POST SUPER MAIL BOXES**

WHEREAS Canada Post has established the use of Super Mail Boxes for the delivery of residential mail in communities;

AND WHEREAS residents are reporting increased illegal access to the Super Mail Boxes resulting in the theft of mail which can also contribute to an increased risk of identity theft:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia call for Canada Post to investigate options for increased security of Super Mail Boxes and implement a solution to reduce illegal access and theft of mail from the Super Mail Boxes.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The theft of mail is a serious matter. When personal information is stolen, there is the risk of identification theft and its long term implications.

Steps which can be taken to reduce the risk of theft include:

- Retrieving mail daily.
- Contacting Canada Post to put a hold on mail delivery if a person will be away on vacation.
- Checking the security of personal mailboxes and reporting any problems to Canada Post.

The Province encourages communities that are experiencing breaches of security to super mail boxes, to contact Canada Post and to report the loss of theft to their local police.

## **B67 RESERVOIR FLOOD BUFFER**

WHEREAS the establishment of reservoir “flood buffers”, storage space to contain flood flows, at BC Hydro facilities is a very cost-effective method of providing community flood protection that reduces the need for expensive dike upgrades and river dredging commonly funded by the Province and local governments;

AND WHEREAS there are many beneficiaries to flood buffers but local governments are often the sole payers of compensation to BC Hydro;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that that Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia direct BC Hydro to establish flood buffers for community flood protection purposes at their reservoir facilities where economically viable;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to compensate BC Hydro for lost power generation revenue through remissions to their water rental fees, if necessary.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

BC Hydro has an agreement in place with the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam (Cities) to provide a flood buffer. This service is provided at a cost to the Cities of about \$35,000 per year per municipality. Responsibility for flood protection lies with the municipalities that develop in the flood plain, subject to BC Hydro (or any upstream works) not exacerbating downstream flood risk.

BC Hydro is amenable to considering additional flood protection, but it would do so insofar that their rate payers are kept whole and BC Hydro takes on no additional risk or liability for doing so. The cost charged to the municipalities is far less than the millions it would have cost the municipalities in terms of development restrictions and dyke upgrades.



## **B68 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANNING**

WHEREAS the majority of funds available under the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program have been used for mitigation work related to the pine beetle infestation in the BC interior;

AND WHEREAS there are insufficient funds remaining to allow coastal communities to assess, prioritize and abate wildland interface hazards in a similar fashion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province to continue to provide funding of the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program for British Columbia's coastal communities.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

In 2004 the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program was implemented with the UBCM, the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) and the Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands.

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program is an effective cooperative partnership between government and communities to achieve the common goal of community wildfire protection and wildfire suppression cost reduction.

Funding for community wildfire protection has been allocated and dispersed cooperatively by the UBCM to communities based upon a clear set of criteria and deliverables.

Government is currently reviewing the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program.

## **B69 TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION PERMIT EXEMPTIONS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLES**

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch has implemented a travel authorization permitting process, as outlined in the Compliance Circular dated June 15, 2009, requiring fire apparatus - operated by or on behalf of a municipality or other authority responsible for public fire control operations - that exceeds legal axle weights as listed in the *BC Commercial Transport Act* and Commercial Transport Regulation to obtain a conditional permit that may limit, prohibit and make direction respecting use on provincial roadway routes:

AND WHEREAS emergency response personnel, in the interest of public safety, just respond to incidents by the most accessible, expedient and direct route possible thereby deeming the travel authorization permitting process impractical and detrimental to emergency response operations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be requested to reconsider its position and exempt public and not for profit emergency response vehicles from the requirement for travel authorization permits on provincial roadways.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

To ensure public safety and protect infrastructure, permits must be obtained before operating an overweight vehicle on a provincial highway. Routes may be restricted for safety reasons.

To reduce concerns about municipal liability, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will continue to issue free permits for overweight fire apparatus to fire departments, municipalities, or other authorities responsible for public fire control operations.

Permits are issued free of charge to fire departments, municipalities, or other authorities on a case by case basis, following an evaluation of contributing factors such as public safety, highway structures and traffic volumes in the permitted area.

## **B70 ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

WHEREAS as a result of the 1993 federal government decision to make accessibility standards voluntary, the transportation policy in Canada remains archaic and plagued with numerous barriers for people with disabilities, lagging far behind many industrialized countries including the United States and Britain;

AND WHEREAS federal regulation and policy are required to ensure the needs of travellers with disabilities are given precedence as new transportation policies, programs and services are developed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM, FCM, provincial and federal governments be requested to ensure that Canadian public transportation providers be required by law, similar to the United States *Americans with Disabilities Act*, to provide physical access for disabled passengers travelling in Canada.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

BC Transit, TransLink, BC Ferries and the Passenger Transportation Board have all made great strides in recent years to improve access and service levels for residents, travelers and commuters with mobility challenges.

All transit users in British Columbia now have access to low floor buses that can easily accommodate passengers travelling with wheelchairs and scooters, and design guidelines have been adopted to ensure that mobility impaired persons can be accommodated at bus stops. HandyDART, Taxi Saver and Taxi Supplement programs are also available for persons unable to use the regular bus system.

British Columbia's taxpayers contribute \$20 million a year to help keep ferry rates affordable for the disabled, eligible seniors, students and those travelling for medical reasons. Where possible, BC Ferries provides mobility-impaired persons with preferred special vehicle loading, elevator service, specially equipped washrooms and preferred parking.

The Passenger Transportation Board is the provincial licensing authority for taxis, limousines and inter-city passenger vehicles in British Columbia. The Board has established a policy to encourage the increased availability of accessible taxis in urban communities and improved services for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Social Development has programs available to assist persons with disabilities, including a special transportation subsidy for those who have difficulties using public transportation services.

**B72 EXEMPTION FROM ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS – BROADBAND**

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* provides an exemption from the assistance to business prohibition for the operation of a service to provide capital financing for services provided by a telephone, natural gas or electric power utility;

AND WHEREAS the availability of high speed broadband service has become as critical to economic development, education, and communication as those services listed above:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to amend Section 797.1(3) of the *Local Government Act* by adding broadband as a service for which capital financing can be provided.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Ministry has been in contact with the Regional District CAOs and Chairs Forum regarding this issue.

The Ministry is awaiting a more detailed proposal of the requested amendments from the CAOs and Chairs Forum and is prepared to continue discussions.

Ministry staff are available for advice and consultation regarding section 797.1(3) of the *Local Government Act*.

## **B73 PROPERTY TAX DEFERMENT**

WHEREAS the Province has developed a property tax deferment program which is being expanded to include families with children under the age of 18;

AND WHEREAS municipalities do not receive payment for the deferred taxes until well after their property tax penalty date and have forgone the penalty; while the Province collects an administration fee and interest from the property tax penalty date and does not in turn compensate affected municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC transfer to municipalities the interest earned from the property tax due date to the date of the actual payment.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

The Province currently provides funding to local governments through a variety of sources and programs (e.g. Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing, Towns for Tomorrow, Building Canada Fund, unconditional Small Community and Regional District Basic Grants).

Any proposed transfer of additional funds to local governments must be evaluated in the context of the government's need to fund essential services.

## **B74 EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAMS TO INCLUDE MAJOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

WHEREAS numerous local governments throughout British Columbia are experiencing significant issues and challenges in relation to local government facilities, in terms of aging infrastructure and inadequate space and functionality;

AND WHEREAS many, if not all, major infrastructure grant programs do not contain significant funding components for the extensive upgrading, renovation, reconstruction and new construction of essential local government facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Province and the federal government for the addition of significant funding components in the infrastructure grant programs to assist local governments with major facilities projects such as municipal halls, fire halls, public safety buildings and public works yards.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

In recent years, most federal-provincial funding programs available to local governments have included categories that would consider 'vertical infrastructure' such as recreation facilities, municipal halls, fire halls and other local government owned and operated buildings eligible for funding. However, the Province recognizes that program priorities in recent years have focused on critical infrastructure, such as water, sewer, drainage and transportation infrastructure, as national and regional studies have shown that this infrastructure is at a higher risk. In addition, most, if not all federal- provincial programs, as well as provincial only programs have considered energy efficiency, reduction in green house gas emissions and the adoption of best management practices as a priority issue to be integrated with all projects.

While federal and provincial priorities are a significant part of the funding programs, programs also consider local government priorities, and therefore, it is important for local governments to clearly identify their local priorities, while incorporating federal and provincial priorities within their projects.

The Province is committed to continue to work with UBCM and local governments in order to develop funding programs that address the priorities of all parties (federal, provincial, and local government) and ensure that available funding for local government infrastructure is utilized in the most efficient and effective manner.

## **B76 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARE OF PROVINCIAL CARBON TAX REVENUES**

WHEREAS the Province implemented a carbon tax, beginning 2008 through 2012, on greenhouse gas emissions stemming from the purchase and use of fossil fuels in British Columbia, to induce market responses resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act*, local governments are required to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets, policies, and actions in official community plans and regional growth strategies to support provincially legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets;

AND WHEREAS local governments require additional fiscal resources to implement new actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support provincially legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province to provide local governments with their per capita share of provincial carbon tax revenues to support capital and operating costs associated with new greenhouse gas emissions reduction actions implemented by local governments and regional transportation authorities to support provincially legislated greenhouse gas emission targets.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

The Province currently provides funding to local governments through a variety of sources and programs (e.g. Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing, Towns for Tomorrow, Building Canada Fund, unconditional Small Community and Regional District Basic Grants).

The Province also provides conditional grants to local governments under the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program. Under the program, eligible local governments receive a grant equal to 100 per cent of the carbon tax paid as a direct expenditure in the previous year. To date the program has provided nearly \$2.9 million to local governments.

A key element of the carbon tax is that it be revenue neutral, meaning that all revenues collected from the carbon tax are returned to taxpayers and businesses through tax reductions.

The three-year Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax Plan laid out in Budget 2010, shows the tax cuts introduced to date to return carbon tax revenues to taxpayers.

The personal tax measures are: a Low Income Climate Action Tax Credit of \$105 per adult and \$31.50 per child which will increase to \$115 per adult and \$34.50 per child effective July 1, 2011; reduction of five per cent in the first two personal income tax rates and a Northern and Rural Homeowner benefit of up to \$200 starting for the 2011 taxation year.

The business tax measures are: a general corporate income tax rate cut from 12 per cent to 11 per cent effective July 1, 2008, to 10.5 per cent effective January 1, 2010 and to 10 per cent effective January 1, 2011; small business corporate income tax rate reduced from 4.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent effective July 1, 2008, to 2.5 per cent effective December 1, 2008 and to zero by April 1, 2012; Industrial Property Tax Credit of 50 per cent of school property taxes payable by light and major industrial properties starting in the 2009 taxation year and rising to 60 per cent in 2011 and a school property tax credit of 50 per cent for land classified as “farm” starting in 2011.

The personal and business tax measures are expected to exceed carbon tax revenues by \$69 million for 2010/11, by \$67 million for 2011/12 and by \$123 million for 2012/13. The government has introduced a number of measures and programs in the past several years to encourage and assist local governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. For example:

- \$136 million to support local government infrastructure projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000;
- \$100 million to support public transit infrastructure investment;
- \$20 million to help switch remote communities, mainly First Nations, from diesel-generated power plants to sources of clean electricity, and to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses;
- \$21 million for Towns for Tomorrow that provides infrastructure funding for smaller communities;
- \$40 million for LocalMotion to build bike paths, develop accessible trails and walkways to encourage alternative transportation;
- The Community Action on Energy Emissions program which provides funding research assistance towards studies, policy work and implementation related to energy conservation and emissions reductions.

As well, the Smart Planning for Communities Initiative empowers communities to undertake planning that is longer-term, incorporates sustainability principles and leads to more compact, complete and energy efficient communities with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. As part of this initiative sustainability facilitators are available to local governments to help them undertake integrated sustainability planning and action.



## **B77 ALLOCATING A LARGER PROPORTION OF FEDERAL GAS TAX REVENUE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

WHEREAS local governments continue to have access to a single consistent source of revenue, that being a property tax, and it is impossible for local governments to achieve long-term sustainability while covering the costs of replacing aging infrastructure from that single tax base;

AND WHEREAS the revenues provided to local governments through the gas tax agreement between the federal and provincial governments and the Union of BC Municipalities have proven inadequate to address the still-growing infrastructure deficit in local jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to work with the federal government to revise the agreement and allocate to local governments a greater portion of gas tax revenues in a manner that allows for sustainable financial planning.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Province agrees that it is essential that the Federal Government continue to share the gas tax revenues it receives with BC local governments to help communities address the pressures associated with aging infrastructure and ensure communities are sustainable over the long term. The Province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) continue to work closely with the Federal Government to ensure the Gas Tax Fund becomes permanent and continues to provide long-term, predictable funding to BC communities.

Since 2005 the Gas Tax Fund has provided \$635 million in infrastructure funding to BC communities and the Program has now been extended from 2010-2014, providing an additional \$1 billion to BC communities. The Federal Government has also committed to making the Gas Tax Fund permanent beyond 2014, which will support sound financial planning for infrastructure upgrades and replacements. The Province and UBCM will continue to seek opportunities to maximize funding opportunities under the Gas Tax Fund to support BC local governments to achieve their infrastructure priorities.

## **B78 LOCATION OF ASSESSMENT APPEAL HEARINGS**

WHEREAS many mid-sized and small municipalities have lost the services of their local BC Assessment Authority office, as operations have been centralized and consolidated to larger regional centres;

AND WHEREAS such loss of local assessment services has resulted in an inequitable, unfair inconvenience and cost as small-town taxpayers are required to travel, in the dead of winter, to have their assessment appeals heard in regional centres, usually at great distances from the communities in which the appeals were launched:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the BC Assessment Authority hear assessment appeals, if necessary through electronic means, in mid-sized and small municipalities in order that taxpayers are not faced with the inconvenience and financial burden of winter travel to regional centres.

### **Response: Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development**

Responsibility for the appointment and location of Property Assessment Review Panels (Panels) – the first level of the property assessment complaint and appeal process – rests with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (Ministry).

Each year, 70 to 75 Panels are appointed to hear property assessment complaints in communities throughout the Province. The location of a Panel is largely dependent on the number of complaints filed in an area in a given year.

The Ministry is cognizant of the fact that the chosen location of a Panel, particularly for those in rural communities, will likely result in some property owners travelling to the Panel location in order to attend a hearing in person.

If a property owner is unable to attend a Panel hearing in person, there are a number of options available for the submission of evidence. For example, property owners have always had the option to provide evidence in written form thereby avoiding the need to attend the hearing in person. In addition, upon request, some hearings have been conducted by teleconference.

The Ministry, through the Property Assessment Review Panel Administration Office, is committed to customer service and is open to examining accommodations that may be needed to address the needs of property owners who are unable to travel to a hearing location. We must however balance these accommodations with fiscal responsibility and fairness to all taxpayers.

## **B79 SOUTHERN STRAIT OF GEORGIA NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA RESERVE**

WHEREAS the Southern Strait of Georgia in British Columbia is an ecologically, economically, and culturally rich area that contains the critical habitat of the endangered southern resident orca and is being harmed by a variety of human activities;

AND WHEREAS the government of British Columbia and Parks Canada agreed in 1995 under the Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy to undertake a study to assess the feasibility of protecting and managing this area as a National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) under the Canada *National Marine Conservation Areas Act*, and have been engaged in the feasibility study since 2004:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM supports the establishment of a large, ecologically zoned NMCAR in the southern Strait of Georgia from the proposed southern end of Haro Strait, up to and including Gabriola Passage, and urge immediate action from the provincial and federal governments to proceed on this initiative while respecting First Nations interests in the area.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

The Province recognizes that there are areas within the study area that would benefit from increased levels of protection. We are working collaboratively with the Federal Government on options available to provide that protection. Additional work is required to understand the views of affected First Nations, and to determine the implications of transferring provincially owned seabed to Canada. It is important to gather all the necessary information to support a decision, given the many provincial interests that are potentially affected by the proposal.

## **B81 MAPPING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S AQUIFERS**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia began mapping aquifers in 1994, but has not mapped any since March 2007 and vast areas of the province remain unmapped;

AND WHEREAS the UN World Water Report 3 (2009), on page 226, identified that water resource management should be based on a quantitative understanding of the state of the resource;

AND WHEREAS aquifers are presently under increased pressure due to the demands of multiple users, especially the oil and gas industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to continue to map and classify aquifers throughout the province to provide baseline information and to ensure that future decisions regarding groundwater management are made with quantitative data.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

Since 1994, 916 developed <sup>1</sup>aquifers have been mapped and classified by the Ministry. Mapping of developed aquifers can only be done where there are data (e.g., water well records). That is why a vast amount of the area of the province (unsettled, mountainous and remote areas) has still not been mapped.

Over the years, mapping has been completed in part with partnership funding from other senior and local governments (Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada, Regional District of Comox-Strathcona, Capital Regional District), especially in areas where there are pressures on the groundwater resource.

The Ministry is currently involved with Geoscience BC to continue to map and classify developed aquifers in the Montney area of the Peace River region where there is significant oil and gas activity.

The Province supports aquifer classification mapping because it provides a prioritized inventory of developed aquifers for rational management and protection of this province's groundwater resource.

The Ministry is also planning to renew its Memorandum of Understanding with the Geological Survey of Canada to carry out regional groundwater assessments in the Nanaimo Basin (east coast of Vancouver Island between Mill Bay and Courtney). Aquifer vulnerability mapping has recently been completed for Vancouver Island, in partnership with Vancouver Island University.

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<sup>1</sup> A developed aquifer is one that is being utilized for water supply, as opposed to an undeveloped aquifer which is not being utilized.

Phase 1 of the Ground Water Protection Regulation was passed in 2004. The Ground Water Advisory Board's work, as well as public engagement on Phase 2 has been completed. In *Living Water Smart: BC's Water Plan* (2008), government committed to improve protection of the quality and quantity of our ground water. This includes regulating groundwater use in priority areas and large groundwater withdrawals. Stakeholders and local government have told us that in addition to regulating groundwater use, new regulations must address well siting and setbacks, additional standards for well construction, cross contamination of aquifers, well pump installation, flow testing, controlling flowing artesian wells, storage of toxic substances, and well reporting requirements.

These improvements to our ground water legislation and regulations are being addressed through the Ministry of Environment's current work to modernize the *Water Act*. Legislation is planned for introduction in the legislature in Spring 2012 with regulations to follow.

## **B82 PROPOSED WASTEWATER SYSTEMS EFFLUENT REGULATIONS**

WHEREAS the UBCM supports the efforts to harmonize the municipal wastewater effluent regulations across Canada, as outlined in the Canada-Wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent (CCME Strategy) and as detailed in Environment Canada's Proposed Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (Regulations);

AND WHEREAS the CCME Strategy cannot be completed without adequate senior government funding contribution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM convey to the federal and provincial governments that local governments cannot commit to the wastewater treatment plan upgrades, as required in the CCME Strategy and the Regulations, without a funding formula that includes funding contributions from the provincial and federal governments.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and Ministry of Environment**

There is no set funding under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent. The CCME Strategy encourages the implementation of full cost recovery and own-source financing tools.

Improvements to existing wastewater treatment facilities could be funded through existing federal and provincial infrastructure programs or through community driven funding. There will be some opportunities for funding under the next round of Gas Tax programs –UBCM is the contact for program details.

The provincial government will continue to explore all local government funding options for wastewater infrastructure, including partnership opportunities with the federal government.

### **B83 ICBC AGGREGATE DATA**

WHEREAS local governments have been mandated by the Province to set community greenhouse gas reduction targets that will require the implementation of sector-specific climate action initiatives;

AND WHEREAS a significant portion of community emissions are produced by the transportation sector of which there is very little aggregate data available to develop a baseline upon which to measure the success of climate action initiatives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province direct ICBC to collect and release aggregate data (e.g. the estimate of vehicle kilometres travelled by vehicle class) that local governments can use to implement and measure the success of transportation-related climate action initiatives.

#### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

ICBC has investigated the technology necessary to support collecting vehicle kilometres travelled. There are a number of concerns, most significantly customer perceptions that it was an invasion of privacy. These perceptions, when combined with the present cost of the technology, put the likelihood of widespread voluntary acceptance of this approach in serious doubt.

In the absence of this technology, there are also administrative challenges to record and track mileage for over three million customers individually at the time of policy renewal, especially given that this is not current practice. Verification of odometers would be difficult as it would require every vehicle to physically attend a broker's office, significantly adding to the time and complexity of the transaction. There are also concerns regarding the cost of implementing such a check and potential risks of fraud.

Currently, ICBC provides available data to the Province to assist with determining greenhouse gases in communities. The Province is continuing to explore options for gathering aggregate data.

## **B84 COMMUNITY ENERGY & EMISSIONS INVENTORY**

WHEREAS the Province has conducted community specific Community Energy and Emissions Inventories (CEEIs) for the baseline year of 2007;

AND WHEREAS local governments and regional districts are and will be, working towards implementing community energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction plans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province commit to funding a CEEI update for local governments every two years.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

The Community Energy and Emissions Inventory is an important piece of the Province's strategy to provide support to local governments in setting targets, policies and actions, and measuring progress towards reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and building compact, complete communities. The Ministry of Environment commits to producing CEEI reports every two years starting in 2010. These reports will contain at a minimum the same amount of detail as the 2007 reports, with the possibility of expanding the scope of the inventory contingent on additional funding.



## **B85 STOP PERMITS ON SCHEDULE 2 LAKES & RIVERS**

WHEREAS the provincial government is in the process of rewriting the *Water Act* to ensure more protection for our shrinking clean finite water sources, and various provincial authorizations under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Water Act* are being used to authorize, and are proposed to be used, to authorize the conversion of fish bearing lakes, streams and rivers and any other fish habitat into toxic tailings ponds for mines;

AND WHEREAS Schedule 2 lakes are contrary to many of the more protective standards that are being discussed under the new “Water Smart” standards for the *Water Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial government to discontinue the permitting of any Schedule 2 lake designations in the province of BC.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

“Schedule 2” is a provision in the Metal Mining Effluent Regulation (MMER) of the Federal *Fisheries Act* that allows for a natural water body to be classified as a Tailings Impoundment Area (TIA).

Proposed TIAs that impact on fish and fish habitat must undergo a *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)* review and require approval by the Federal Cabinet.

In British Columbia, projects proposing a TIA and requiring review under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act (EAA)* must be granted an environmental assessment certificate from the Minister of Environment. This is a prerequisite for any further permits/authorizations than may be required under the *Environmental Management Act* or the *Water Act*.

Where a proposed project requires an environmental assessment (EA) decision by both the Federal and Provincial governments, both governments must approve the proposed project. The EA decision is reached independently by both levels of government and the EA decision rendered by one level of government does not fetter the decision making authority of the other level of government.

The proposed new *Water Act* provides an opportunity to improve aquatic health protection and the alignment and coordination with other federal, provincial, and local laws.

## **B86 MAXIMIZING REDUCTIONS IN GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

WHEREAS local governments have made steady progress to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act to establish greenhouse gas reduction targets, policies, and actions in official community plans;

AND WHEREAS further legislative and fiscal actions by the provincial government are necessary to enable local government actions to maximize reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings, transportation, and solid waste sectors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Province:

- in the buildings sector, accelerate the modernization of the BC Building Code and increase incentives and regulations for residential and commercial building retrofits;
- in the transportation sector, enable local governments and similar local authorities to implement comprehensive transportation demand management measures, coordinate current provincial greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty vehicles with new federal standards, and increase funding for sustainable transportation infrastructure and the Scrap-It Program;
- in the solid waste sector, accelerate legislative measures to reduce waste and emissions in product lifecycles, extended producer responsibility, and packaging; and
- establish standard tools, assumptions, data and forecasting methods so that local and regional targets, policies and actions are coordinated.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Province acknowledges the significant role that local governments have to play in helping to reduce province-wide GHG emissions and appreciates the leadership and commitment demonstrated by BC local governments in taking action on climate change. To maximize opportunities to reduce GHG emissions, the Province has passed significant legislation in the building, transportation and solid waste sectors to accelerate climate action and help BC transition to a low carbon economy, including:

- The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Vehicle Emissions Standards) Act*, to enable the adoption of vehicles emissions standards that will increase automobile efficiency.
- The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Emissions Standards) Statutes Amendment Act*, to regulate landfill gas.
- The *Green House Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act*, to encourage the development of renewable forms of energy and decrease the carbon content of fuels.
- The *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*, to require local governments to establish GHG reductions targets, policies and

actions and encourage the development of more complete, compact, low carbon communities.

With respect to the building sector, the Province has recently introduced new standards for ultra low-flow toilets (4.8 liters or dual flush) and invited local government to sign on to a solar ready rough-in regulation. Work is currently underway on the 2011 BC Building Code, which will include new energy requirements for buildings, green concrete standards, and increased opportunities for grey water reuse. In addition, the Province is working with the Building Officials Association of BC to ensure buildings are being inspected by qualified building officials.

In the transportation sector, the Province recognizes the benefits of national standards for vehicle emissions, and will work with the Federal Government to determine if federal standards provide the same levels of emission reduction contemplated in the emission standards. The Province has made unprecedented investments in transit and cycling to promote sustainable transportation infrastructure, including the \$14 Billion transit plan which will add 1,500 new buses across the province, in addition to the rapid transit/rapid bus in major centres.

Looking forward, the Province will continue to work to work with its Federal and Local Government partners to identify further opportunities to remove legislative barriers and ensure that program funding, legislation, regulation and policy in the building, transportation and solid waste sectors are aligned and support local governments in maximizing GHG reductions in their communities.

## **B87 HAZARDOUS SPILL RESPONSE**

WHEREAS the provincial Environmental Management Branch has been responsible for a wide array of environmental management regulatory programs, including environmental emergency response and spill reporting, but is now limiting their spill response to local governments based on resources available and sensitivity of the spill;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have the in-house expertise or financial resources necessary to respond to and evaluate the hazards associated with spills that occur on public or private property within the local government boundaries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province allocate adequate funding for the provincial Environmental Management Branch that will ensure that all spills that occur in the province can be evaluated for hazards and environmental impact by the Environmental Management Branch and be responded to by the trained professionals at the Environmental Management Branch including any remediation necessary, rather than relying on local governments to take the lead.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

Under the *Emergency Program Act*, local authorities must prepare or cause to be prepared local emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

Ministry of Environment is designated under the Emergency Management Program Regulation as the lead ministry for hazardous material spills and is to provide professional and technical advice and direction at hazardous material or pollution spills.

The Ministry's Environmental Emergency Program (EEP) receives reports of spills in the province and determines the level of response required based on an initial risk assessment.

The EEP provides regulatory oversight, technical assistance, and may take over the management of a spill response if the responsible party (i.e. the spiller) is unable, unwilling, unidentified or is deemed not to be providing the appropriate level of response required.

The program has undertaken a review of existing environmental emergency legislation and is currently evaluating options that could address the issues raised in this resolution. Local governments continue to have a role to play in spill response within their communities to ensure public safety, protect municipal infrastructure and mitigate the effects of spills wherever possible (example: fire department and public works) until the responsible party or ministry-directed spill response contractors can arrive on-scene.

EEP staff will continue to assist local governments as requested and ensure appropriate actions are undertaken by the responsible party to address the spill incident. Where no

responsible party exists, EEP staff will fulfill their role in ensuring appropriate response occurs either directly or through the use of spill response contractors.

## **B88 SECURITY OF WATER SUPPLY**

WHEREAS many BC communities get their drinking water from sources on land privately owned by corporations and individuals other than the local government;

AND WHEREAS communities need to manage the land base to provide a safe and constant supply of water:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a program of assistance for communities with water supplies owned privately to acquire the land comprising the water shed.

### **RESPONSE: Minister of Natural Resource Operations**

The Province has enacted the “Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water in BC” which outlines the Province’s commitment to ensuring safe, reliable and accessible drinking water for all British Columbians. The multi-agency collaborative approach includes protection from source to tap by improving standards for monitoring, treatment and accountability to the public. The amended *Drinking Water Protection Act* and regulations came into force May 16, 2003. This legislation gives drinking water officers within local health authorities increased powers to protect water sources from contamination by any drinking water health hazards. The Ministry of Natural Resource Operations is in the process of finalizing base line Water Quality Objectives (source specific water quality guidelines) for many streams in BC.

Community Watershed Designations continue to be an effective tool where areas are identified for the purpose of protecting water quality and the quantity and timing of water flow and preventing cumulative hydrological impacts caused by forest and range activities in watersheds where water is diverted for human consumption.

While the Province acknowledges the desire and benefits of landownership for drinking water suppliers, this is often only possible at great financial expense and must consider social economic impacts and effects to existing resource based industries.

## **B89 EDUCATION FOR USE OF FULL CUT-OFF LIGHT FIXTURES**

WHEREAS the use of “full cut-off” exterior lighting allows light rays to be directed below the horizon of the light fixture which is a more energy efficient, sustainable option that also reduces light pollution in communities and glare for motorists;

AND WHEREAS public bodies and the commercial sector should be encouraged to utilize full cut-off exterior lighting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and the Province of British Columbia support an education program on the benefits of installing full cut-off exterior lighting fixtures.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

The Ministry of Energy (Ministry) recognizes that full cut-off fixtures in exterior lighting support energy conservation, reduce light pollution and reduce motorist glare. While the Ministry supports, in principle, an education program on the benefits of installing full cut-off exterior lighting fixtures, ENER has no plans at this time to fund such a program. However, BC Hydro’s PowerSmart currently includes messaging on lighting pollution and supports full cut-off fixtures in its street lighting program.

## **B90 EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY – CONSTRUCTION WASTE**

WHEREAS an abundance of construction waste is entering the municipal solid waste stream;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing pressure on local governments to provide resources for the prevention and clean up of illegal dump sites:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the Province to expand extended producer responsibility programs to include construction materials and to work with the manufacturers and retailers of construction materials, to develop systems for tracking materials commonly found at illegal dump sites.

### **Response: Ministry of Environment**

In October 2009, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) supported the Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR. The Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR recommends programs in place by 2015 for packaging and printed materials, electronic and electrical products, mercury-containing products, household hazardous and special wastes, and automotive products.

By 2017, the Action Plan recommends programs be in place for construction and demolition materials, furniture, textiles and carpet, and appliances (including ozone-depleting substances). B.C. is committed to the Canada-wide Action Plan and intends to regulate construction and demolition waste within the target timelines.



## **B91 INTERFACE FORESTS**

WHEREAS rural communities, particularly in the 13 resort communities struggle to balance reduction of wildfire hazard, ecosystem health, tourism and social-recreational values in the forests surrounding their municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the expectation of long-term timber revenue from wildland-urban interface is in conflict with other compelling values and the 2 kilometre buffer zone is insufficient for many local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests and Range update its policies to:

- (a) establish community interface forests as unique buffer zones, with local governments empowered to define the 'zone';
- (b) place stumpage revenue from the sale of crown timber off crown land in the 'zone' in trust for the community to manage the community interface forest;
- (c) amend existing policies to ensure that the primary management goal within the wildland-urban interface should be the reduction of wildfire hazard and promotion of ecosystem health and resilience; and
- (d) work with local governments to fund and implement a comprehensive management program based on current sound science research that protects the economic, environmental and social assets of community interface forests.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

Helping protect communities from the threat of interface wildfires remains a government priority. Since 2004, the Province has provided more than \$37 million to local governments, through the UBCM, to help pay for interface fire preparation.

As of August 31, 2010, 197 local governments and First Nations communities have either completed or are in the process of completing community wildfire protection plans. We know these plans work. Community wildfire protection plans are community driven, and balance the need for wildfire protection with local environmental, economic and recreational values.

That said, the ministry is always open to ideas for improving community wildfire protection. Emphasis is being placed on developing new commercial opportunities such as bio-energy which will help utilize waste fibre in the interface zone which may not be suitable for traditional wood products making treatments even more economically viable.

We fully support the concept presented in the resolution that local governments should review and amend their existing policies and practices to reduce wildfire hazards in interface zones.

## **B92 HIGHWAY CORRIDORS**

WHEREAS many municipalities have significant development and densification along highway corridors, and Section 52 of the *Transportation Act* establishes that municipal zoning bylaws do not apply to land and improvements within 800 metres of a highway controlled area, unless approved in writing by the Minister or his designate;

AND WHEREAS the definition of a “controlled area”, being a radius of 800 metres from an intersection of a controlled access highway with any other highway, land and improvements, has become onerous for local government and possibly provincial staff as well:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to undertake amendments to the definition of “controlled area” within the meaning of Section 52 of the *Transportation Act* that would reduce the effective distance from 800 metres to 500 metres.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The 800 metre distance is not arbitrary; it is a distance which is commonly used by highway authorities as a minimum spacing guideline to provide efficient and safe traffic progression between traffic signals. This distance requirement is used throughout North America.

As the operator of the highway, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is interested in land use influencing traffic activity within 800 metres of an access to a controlled access highway, both along the controlled access highway and on feeder routes connected to the access point on the highway.

A reduction to 500 metres would introduce more risk to highway system performance.

## **B93 ROAD ACCESS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS FOR SELLING OF SHARE, CO-OP & BARE LAND STRATA CONVERSIONS**

WHEREAS pursuant to Part 2, Division 2, Section 8 of the *Real Estate Development Marketing Act* the Province of BC prescribes that road access standards be included in subdivision processes;

AND WHEREAS through the selling of shares, land co-ops and bare land strata, land owners/developers can circumvent requirements set out in such subdivision processes by beginning their developments under the aforementioned ownership regimes and then applying for subdivision or building strata status;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to develop a policy or mechanism to ensure that rural access road and maintenance standards required through subdivision processes also apply to selling of share, co-op or bare land strata conversions.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

The *Real Estate Development Marketing Act* (REDMA) is a marketing and disclosure statute, and does not generally regulate development approvals.

However, REDMA does prohibit the marketing of development units, including “cooperative interests”, where purchasers buy shares in a corporation which owns land, unless the municipality or other appropriate government authority has given development approval. The intent behind this provision is to ensure that all required approvals are obtained prior to marketing. However, if there are no land use restrictions or development conditions or requirements applicable to the proposed development, marketing could commence without further approval.

With respect to the specific issue of access roads and maintenance standards, REDMA requires all developers marketing development property in BC to give all prospective purchasers a disclosure statement that sets out all material facts relating to the development, including any information that could affect the value of the property, such as details about access and road maintenance.

Developers who do not comply with these marketing or disclosure requirements are subject to the enforcement powers of the Superintendent, including “cease sales” orders.

Ministry staff will consider whether further refinements or clarifications to REDMA are warranted to better ensure public protection in the purchase of rural and recreational property.

## **B94 FORESTRY PLANS & PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESSES**

WHEREAS forest stewardship plans approved under the *Forest & Range Practices Act* (FRPA) contain forest development units as large as 760 square kilometres that are much too large for fair assessment by the public and stakeholders to determine possible impacts;

AND WHEREAS consultation processes for forest stewardship plans rely on vague newspaper ads and short comment periods that make it difficult for the public to become aware of forest stewardship plans and the locations of proposed forest development units and hard pressed to respond within designated comment periods:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government provide direction to forest licensees through regulation under the FRPA or other means to achieve smaller, more targeted forest development units in forest stewardship plans;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government improve public consultation processes associated with forest stewardship plans, including extending the period for public consultation for a reasonable period of time after the logging plans are approved.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines and Ministry of Natural Resource Operations**

Under law, forest licensees are required to subject their forest stewardship plans to public review and comment for a minimum of 60 days. Before submitting plans to government for approval, licensees must show how they've addressed public concerns.

As well, many forest companies operating in B.C. have achieved sustainable forest management certification under one of three internationally-recognized standards. Public involvement in forestry operations is a key component of each of these certification standards.

As forest professionals, both industry licensees and Ministry staff are exploring options to improve public understanding of, and input to forestry.

## **B95 BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS**

WHEREAS regional districts do not have the power to establish business improvement areas;

AND WHEREAS a business improvement area would be a valuable economic development tool to generate revenue for marketing, tourism, and other ventures that benefit the commercial sector:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to grant regional districts the power to establish business improvement areas.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Province participated with UBCM on the Regional District Task Force in 2008 and 2009. The Task Force provided directions in their final report in January 2010 that included legislative, best practices and advisory materials as well as pilot projects. One of the proposals developed through that process was enabling regional districts to establish business improvement areas in unincorporated areas.

This item continues to be considered in conjunction with other regional district initiatives that improve regional district performance and effectiveness.

## **B96 COMMUNITY FARM MARKETS**

WHEREAS local community farm markets build communities, have re-vitalized the local economies of urban and rural communities, and can provide food security with a lower carbon footprint;

AND WHEREAS local farm markets require funding to cover start-up costs for infrastructure, promotion and insurance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province to provide funding to contribute to the start-up costs for communities to establish new local farm markets.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture**

The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) is keenly aware of the positive effects of community farmers' markets. The Ministry continues to support the growth and development of farmers' markets across the Province primarily by working closely with the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM). The BCAFM represents over 100 of the 125 farmers' markets throughout BC.

The BCAFM is committed to strengthening and building the capacity of farmers' markets. Membership has grown by over 30% in the past two years and the number of markets has more than tripled since 2000. The economic impact of farmers' markets in BC in 2006 was over \$118.5 million and continues to grow.

Over the past five years, the Ministry has provided staff support and approximately \$133,000 to BCAFM to help build capacity in the sector. An additional \$750,000 was provided by the then Ministry of Income and Employment Assistance for BCAFM to deliver the 2007-2009 Nutrition and Coupon Program. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia invested a further \$219,000 of federal/provincial funding to BCAFM to implement their 2006 – 2010 Strategic Plan.

The support provided is helping BCAFM grow the capacity of this sector, through offering workshops and programs on food safety (MarketSafe), market management and board governance; organizing other educational events and conferences; and providing a forum to assist the sector respond to common issues and take advantage of opportunities.

## **B97 REGIONAL FISHING ECONOMY**

WHEREAS for thousands of years salmon fishing has been of vital importance to the First Nations people both on the Pacific coast and inland along the rivers and to this day the Pacific coast marine commercial fishing industry and the inland sports fishery are both essential to our region as economic generators;

AND WHEREAS at the 57th Annual BC Chamber of Commerce AGM in May of 2009 the delegates passed a “policy for maintaining a vibrant sport fishing industry in British Columbia” and Prince Rupert City Council feels the policy is reflective of only the sport fishing industry, and undermines the commercial fishing industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to support both the commercial fishing industry and the sports fishing industry equitably as they are both critical economic generators for residents within the province.

### **Response: Ministry of Agriculture**

The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) is the lead Provincial agency for BC’s interests in fisheries – both commercial and recreational fisheries in tidal waters. The provincial objectives are the sustainability of these fisheries and to maximize the economic and social and benefits to British Columbians. A balanced approach is needed to support the needs of First Nations fisheries, commercial fisheries and recreational fisheries.

The Ministry engages on a number of activities to realize these objectives. The Ministry monitors commercial harvesting and processing (i.e., Seafood Year in Review) and has commissioned studies to measure the economic significance of both commercial and recreational fisheries to the BC economy (e.g., BC Seafood Sector and Tidal Water Recreational Fishing – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Assessment., etc.). The Ministry participates with the commercial fishing sector, on Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) fisheries management advisory committees (e.g., Groundfish Integration Advisory Board, etc) and supports negotiations on international fisheries allocations to ensure BC interests are addressed (e.g., Pacific Salmon Treaty, tuna, hake and halibut). The Ministry works with industry and various government agencies to fully develop the economic potential of fisheries (e.g., sardines), has invested in securing Marine Stewardship Council eco-certification for BC fisheries, and is taking a lead role in value chain traceability with the seafood industry.

The Ministry works closely with the recreational fishing sector on a management advisory body with the DFO (i.e., Sport Fishing Advisory Board). The Ministry also collaborates with communities and recreational fishing stakeholders and DFO to enhance recreational fishing opportunities and generate more benefits for British Columbians (e.g., pink salmon net pens, recreational shellfish harvesting areas, fishing guide training and accreditation).

## **B98 TIMBER SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS**

WHEREAS since 2004 the constraints on the interior forest districts have increased to where they now negatively impact the timber supply, resulting in a shortage of fibre supply threatening the loss of jobs, which would be devastating to the local economies;

AND WHEREAS before the full effect of the mountain pine beetle was understood, constraints on the forest, in particular visual quality objectives and wildlife tree patches, were applied having a negative impact on local mills' longevity and operations in their traditional areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Minister of Forests insures that there is a comprehensive cost benefit analysis completed along with a cumulative impact assessment on the current impacts of established constraints, in particular the constraints of visual quality objectives and wildlife tree patches.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines**

The Ministry of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines is committed to “filling the gap” or mitigating the expected downfall in the mid-term timber supply resulting from the mountain pine beetle epidemic. In addition to actions like enhanced silviculture, and extending the “shelf-life” of dead pine, the ministry is also exploring other ideas, including relaxing forest cover constraints, such as visual quality objectives, and increasing the size of the timber harvesting land base by adding low-volume stands.

The Prince George Timber Supply Area is a good example. Recent analysis found that timber supply could be increased by five per cent – or 324,000 cubic metres per year – by removing visual quality objectives. A more complete analysis in the Prince George Timber Supply Area will be ready this fall.

Changing some constraints may require legal or policy changes, which will involve public and First Nations consultations. Licensees also have to consider how changing the constraints affects their sustainable forest practices certification and ability to market wood products.



## **B99 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INDUSTRY GROWTH**

WHEREAS communities in British Columbia are envisioning green energy as one aspect of economic diversity and prosperity;

AND WHEREAS present regulations and legislation in British Columbia are not supportive of alternative energy industry growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM assume a priority position to lobby the provincial government to establish levels of feed-in tariffs and tax incentives that will position the alternative energy industry in BC to a level comparable with the USA and Ontario as well as European models.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

The Province is inviting interested British Columbians to comment and help in the development of the Feed-In Tariff program. Comments and input on this were sought until September 30, 2010. Following the end of the public consultation period, the results and comments will be taken into account to develop a draft regulation for consideration by Cabinet. If the regulation is adopted, the Ministry will work with BC Hydro to finalize and launch a Feed-In Tariff program.

The Feed-In Tariff program will give companies the opportunity to test emerging, small-scale clean energy technologies, such as wave and tidal energy in British Columbia communities. This program will help build British Columbia's clean technology sector and get these new technologies to the market faster. It will also benefit remote and off-grid British Columbia communities by giving them clean energy options to power their homes.

The British Columbia Feed-In Tariff program will be very different from Ontario's. Unlike Ontario, we already have achieved over 90 percent clean, renewable power generation.

## **B100 BUY LOCAL BC FRUIT PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS the British Columbia interior tree fruit industry is under extreme hardship;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia interior tree fruit industry represents 800 growers operating orchards that generate \$130 million in wholesale revenue, contribute \$900 million in economic activity and directly employs 1,500 person years at the grower, packer and processor level:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia endorse and implement a "Buy Local" program to promote the sale of local, sustainably produced foods in support of the British Columbia interior tree fruit industry.

### **Response: Ministry of Agriculture**

The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) recognizes the benefits of increased promotion and marketing of local production, both to producers and the public. The 2008 British Columbia Agriculture Plan (Ag Plan) was clear in its endorsement of an enhanced, province-wide 'buy local' marketing program. The Ministry is providing staff assistance, and is re-profiling some funding to support BC Agriculture Council (BCAC).

The BCAC and the Ministry are planning to extend the current Buy BC licensing agreement for a further five years. The Buy BC licensing program forms the foundation of the branding program and clearly demonstrates government's commitment to this initiative.

While the Ministry is not able to fund the branding program to the full extent anticipated in the Ag Plan, the Ministry has been able to provide funding for marketing and enhancement for the tree fruit industry. In July 2010, the Ministry announced a \$2 million investment, matched by a \$3 million contribution from the Federal Government, for the development of new marketing opportunities and infrastructure, and to improve orchard pest management for the tree fruit industry. This funding will allow tree fruit growers to gain the innovative edge needed to promote British Columbian grown fruit.

The BCAC has indicated that they are looking forward to working with the tree fruit sector to assist them in promoting and branding their products. The Ministry will strongly support marketing initiatives such as this and will work with BCAC to broaden and enhance current buy local marketing programs.

## **B101 CREATING GREEN JOBS IN GREEN COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS the current global economic instability combined with the loss of many forestry based industries and their jobs emphasizes the need to build more resilient communities through partnership and innovation;

AND WHEREAS BC local governments and the Province have already recognized the urgent need for positive action on climate change by signing the Climate Action Charter, using the Climate Action Toolkit and existing programs such as the Green Buildings BC for Local Governments program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM support and encourage the development of partnerships of local governments, community colleges, the Province and local investors to establish funding agreements which could provide the basis for stimulating and building enduring economies in British Columbian communities, through attracting and supporting green industries and providing the training for the newly-skilled workers they would require.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development**

The Labour Market Partnerships (LMP) Program (funded by the Canada / British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement) funds projects that support employers, employee and/or employer associations and communities in developing and implementing strategies for dealing with labour force adjustments. The LMP Program recently funded the GLOBE Foundation to examine British Columbia's green economy. Phase 1, completed in February 2010, defines the green economy and its contribution to British Columbia's economy and labour market. Phase 2, completed in September 2010, examines economic opportunities and challenges for the green economy, and provides recommendations to support its growth. Additional funding has been provided to the GLOBE Foundation to prepare three communication pieces from the Phase 2 work; one summary piece to be widely distributed, one on education for post-secondary institutions and training organizations, and one on the labour market to be used as a reference tool by governments, businesses, post-secondary institutions and career centres.

Public post secondary education institutions in BC, including community colleges, are delivering an increasing number of courses and programs that support green industries including sustainable resource technology, waste water management, clean energy and sustainable building technologies.

The Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation under construction by Okanagan College in Penticton will host trades and technology training, act as a laboratory, and provide business incubation space as well as research and development activities.

Northern Lights College, recently branded as “BC’s Energy College”, is constructing Energy House with regional community partners, which combines training facilities (e.g. Wind Turbine Technician program lab) with demonstrations of clean energy applications for businesses and residents

## **B102 CLEAN ENERGY ACT EXEMPTIONS FROM OVERSIGHT**

WHEREAS the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) has properly regulated and provided independent oversight of utilities in this province for many years;

AND WHEREAS the *Clean Energy Act* seriously restricts the BCUC's mandate to protect the interests of British Columbian consumers through scrutiny of utility resource planning and activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the *Clean Energy Act* to reinstate the BCUC's ability to protect consumer interests through public and transparent scrutiny of the utility sector.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

Clean Energy is a provincial economic priority. Through the *Clean Energy Act*, we are realigning the role of the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) in how it regulates BC Hydro for domestic customers. This ensures alignment of our clean energy priorities, how BC Hydro delivers on these priorities, and how the BCUC provides regulatory oversight.

Certain strategic projects have been exempted from BCUC oversight as these are seen as key projects to delivering on Government's clean energy vision. The BCUC will continue to regulate BC Hydro's domestic supply and rates. While BC Hydro's plans will now be submitted to Government, the BCUC will still be reviewing the projects, expenditures and contracts required to deliver those plans.

## **B103 ELIMINATION OF PROVINCIAL FUEL TAX**

WHEREAS local airports and communities recognize and appreciate that the Province eliminated fuel taxes on international cargo operations, and that the carbon tax is not applicable to international flights;

AND WHEREAS other provincial jurisdictions have eliminated fuel tax on international flights, placing them in a more competitive position to significantly enhance new opportunities and gain new business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of British Columbia eliminate the fuel tax on all international passenger flights, which would cost the government approximately \$20 million annually in forfeited revenue but the growth in international travel would quickly offset this amount and generate a net increase in government's overall revenues, as well as supporting economic development in airport communities and improving BC's international connectivity, building a base for future growth.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

Premier Gordon Campbell announced in September 2010 that the provincial government proposes to eliminate the 2 cent-per-litre jet fuel tax for international flights by April 1, 2012.

The elimination of the jet fuel tax for international flights is subject to the approval of the legislature and YVR and airlines moving ahead with proposed expansion plans.

## **B104 COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM EXPANSION**

WHEREAS community forests are area based forest tenures managed by and for BC communities and while the number of Community Forest Agreements (CFAs) has increased rapidly in the last decade to represent 1.5% of the provincial AAC, the size and area of many existing CFAs are not viable and many additional communities have expressed an interest to participate in the program;

AND WHEREAS the Community Forest Agreements have and will continue to supply benefits such as employment, wood products, timber supply to local milling facilities, aesthetic, recreational and watershed values to 54 communities in the province even during the economic downturn;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the findings of the Province's Working Roundtable on Forestry's March 2009 Report, recommendation #23, the Minister of Forests and Range has committed to expanding the Community Forest Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be petitioned to implement the Forestry Roundtable recommendation #23 to expand the Community Forest Agreement Program in a manner that maintains the objectives of this unique tenure.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines**

The Community Forest Agreement Program has expanded rapidly. Today, B.C. has 39 operating community forests, almost three times as many as in 2007, managing 1.2 million hectares with an annual allowable cut of 1.1 million cubic meters.

In 2009, the *Forest Act* was amended to eliminate the five year probationary period. The result is that the initial term of a Community Forest Agreement (CFA) was extended to a minimum of 25 years. This allows holders to develop operations, clients and financing for the long term.

The Ministry is currently transitioning 21 five year probationary licences into 25 year agreements.

Since March 2009, one existing community forest has been granted an increase in size (6500ha), three more communities (123K m<sup>3</sup>) have been given opportunities for a community forest, and there is approximately 120K m<sup>3</sup> available in existing plans for future expansion.

Aside from the 120K m<sup>3</sup> in existing plans there is no other volume available. Any expansion to the CFA program is at the expense of other programs (woodlots, first nations, etc). Government is always trying to find the right mix/balance. When more volume becomes available the expansion of CFAs will be considered.

## **B105 COMMUNITY FOREST LAND BASE**

WHEREAS BC's community forests are struggling to secure a viable land base to involve communities in the local forestry and provide local jobs and economic and environmental benefits to forest communities;

AND WHEREAS BC Timber Sales administers an abundance of land, without the level of community input and benefit as community forests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to grant the BC Timber Sales land base and tenure to community forests.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Mines (Ministry) has had early discussions with the B.C. Community Forest Association exploring expansion, and is exploring options that meet the needs of community forest operators and the province.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) must auction approximately 20 percent of BC's timber to support the timber pricing system. The solution, like many things in forestry, lies in working together. Continued discussion and teamwork will lead to a solution.

The Ministry is exploring ways in which BCTS and communities can work collaboratively.

The community forest program continues to expand. There are 39 operating community forests in British Columbia, almost three times as many as the 14 operating in 2007.



## **B106 PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR AIRPORT MARKETING PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS local communities across British Columbia recognize their airports are a significant economic generator but there is no systematic marketing effort for our airports;

AND WHEREAS recent changes in international agreements will facilitate travel from Asia and the recovering world economy will stimulate new route planning by airlines, and the World Route Development Forum held in Vancouver in September 2010 – in North America for the first time – will give the province additional profile among airlines and travel planners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia work with BC airports to create an air service marketing program that would generate awareness of what our province has to offer leverage financial resources and initiate a greater sharing of information among partners to help improve BC's marketing, and increase international and transborder flights to BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a program, involving the Province, BC airports and regional economic development agencies as well as destination marketing organizations and tourism agencies, would include promoting British Columbia as Canada's gateway between North America and Asia for air travelers and air cargo, as well as identifying specific target markets in the US and Europe and appropriate promotional materials.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure:**

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure supports the goal of the proposed program – it is important to have a strategy in place to maximize the benefits from the various airport infrastructure projects around BC.

Due to the current economic climate, the Province does not have funding available for this initiative.

However, the Vancouver International Airport and the other airports can work with the Province to ensure that ongoing work on Open Skies and the Pacific Gateway are merged with and complementary to this marketing program.

## **B107 LONG TERM ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF SHORT-LINE RAILWAYS**

WHEREAS Canadian Pacific Railway has issued a Notice of Sale or Discontinuance of Railway Line in accordance with the Canadian Transportation Act for the recently closed rail line between Armstrong and Sicamous;

AND WHEREAS rail provides a cost effective and reliable transportation option required for the development of economically sustainable, environmentally responsible and financially viable communities throughout British Columbia and Canada and is fundamental to the growth strategies and economic development plans of many local and regional jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments commit to a funding program that will support the economic viability of short-line railways, thereby maintaining valuable railway transportation infrastructure and corridors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government commit to protecting rail rights-of-way during discontinuance to ensure that all communities, the Province of British Columbia and the government of Canada maintain transportation options to respond to economic development and community needs into the future.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development (RESO) has the lead on this file, with assistance from the Integrated Land Management Bureau, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

RESO staff is working with local governments and affected shippers to determine the efficacy of a business case to assist in determining future rail service financial viability and models for service provision. Lower cost options for a partnership to take ownership of the rail right of way should be examined as part of a business case.

Prior to supporting a request to the Federal government to protect rail rights-of-way subject to discontinuance, the Province would require a more detailed examination of the effectiveness of the proposal.

The provision of a provincial government funding program for economically-depressed shortline railways in British Columbia would be a significant financial challenge. The Province does not fund shortline railways.

## **B108 TRADE AGREEMENT EUROPEAN UNION**

WHEREAS the Canadian government has entered into negotiations with the European Union for a comprehensive economic trade agreement;

AND WHEREAS European corporations are insisting on full access to procurement by sub national governments - including local governments, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies, which could significantly reduce or eliminate the right to specify local priorities when public money is invested in goods, services or capital projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request:

- a briefing from the Province of BC on the scope and content of trade negotiations with the European Union;
- the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to provide sector-by-sector analysis of the potential impacts on municipal functions and powers of the procurement regime that the European Union is seeking; and
- the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the government of Canada not to provide the European Union with access to sub national government procurement; and
- that the provincial government negotiate a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment**

The Province has a strong relationship with UBCM, including a legislated duty to consult in the *Community Charter* that has been exercised under recent internal negotiations such as the British Columbia-Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

For the first time, provincial governments have been invited to participate in international trade agreement negotiations, specifically for a proposed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union. The provinces and territories are active participants in most matters under their jurisdiction, including government procurement. The negotiation of trade agreements includes confidential information which impacts the final outcome of the agreement.

During this time, the Province has been in a position to inform UBCM at the staff level of ongoing trade negotiations and has done so. As negotiations progress, the Province will brief UBCM to receive input on potential negotiating scenarios.

## **B109 MARIJUANA GROW-OPS**

WHEREAS illegal marijuana grow operations are an ongoing problem in British Columbia and increasingly in rural areas posing substantial public safety and social risks to neighbouring properties, communities, and society at large;

AND WHEREAS regional districts have been requested to assist the RCMP in any way possible to combat the effects of grow operations and other illegal drug manufacturing properties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the provincial government, the RCMP and regional districts to develop the necessary strategies and tools that will enable regional districts to assist in the elimination of illegal marijuana grow-ops and other drug manufacturing operations in rural areas and to ensure that environmental and safety concerns left in the aftermath of such operations are addressed.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is working with police, local governments and other agencies to develop solutions to address the serious problem of illegal drug production in both rural and urban areas. The Province has implemented a number of strategies to combat marijuana grow ops.

The *Civil Forfeiture Act* gives government the ability to target the financial base of criminal activity by using civil court orders to recover money and assets acquired through or used in unlawful activities, including marijuana grow ops. Money recovered under the Act is used to compensate victims of crime and fund crime prevention programs. Police have successfully used the *Civil Forfeiture Act* to forfeit grow-ops' money and assets to the province.

The Province supports the RCMP's Coordinated Marijuana Enforcement Team (CMET) to assist in the coordination of intelligence on marijuana grow-ops and related criminal activity across policing jurisdictions. In addition, we continue to support the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU) which has offices in Kelowna and Prince George.

Amendments to the provincial *Safety Standards Act* (SSA) in 2006 permit local governments to obtain residential power consumption information from BC Hydro and power authorities for those residences with higher than average power consumption. A number of local governments have used this authority to combat grow operations through electrical safety inspections and the use of safety orders under the SSA. Some jurisdictions have faced legal challenges to these inspections.

PSSG will continue to work together with local governments, the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development, and police to apply the SSA and to explore options for regional districts, which have limited regulatory authority compared to municipalities.

## **B110 BC FERRIES SUBSIDY**

WHEREAS children suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer who reside on Vancouver Island and in coastal communities may require treatment at the BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver;

AND WHEREAS the ferry subsidy to access non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community helps alleviate the financial burden incurred while travelling for reasons associated with the children's health conditions;

AND WHEREAS the ferry subsidy is restricted to the patient (and an escort under certain conditions), and does not cover the cost of parents travelling back and forth from their home to Vancouver during the extended period of their child's treatment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Ferries and the provincial government, through the Ministry of Health Services, recognize the financial challenges for some families and provide help by subsidizing the ferry fares of immediate family members incurred when travelling back and forth on BC Ferries during the extended period of a child's treatment.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Travel Assistance Program (TAP) is a corporate partnership between the Ministry of Health Services and private transportation carriers who agree to provide fare discounts to patients.

TAP is available province-wide to B.C. residents who are required to travel outside their home community to obtain non-emergency, physician-referred specialist medical care.

At the 2008 UBCM Convention, the province committed to establish a program that would provide families needing to travel to BC Children's Hospital with support and accommodation.

The BC Family Residence Program was launched in April 2010, and \$7.4 million has been budgeted for the 2010/11 fiscal year to help alleviate the financial hardship families may experience while their child requires care at BC Children's Hospital.

## **B111 CAPITAL COST OF HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS Regional Hospital Districts were originally created, among other things, “to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospitals and hospital facilities”;

AND WHEREAS in some Regional Hospital Districts, non-Aboriginal residents residing on First Nations land do not contribute to the capital costs of hospitals and health facilities yet are users of these facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Health Services to establish an equitable provincial system to collect funding for regional hospital capital projects from non-Aboriginal residents residing on First Nations lands.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Province is aware of the evolving issue of non-Aboriginal residents residing on First Nations land and not contributing property tax to local regional hospital districts.

The issue is complex and is addressed on a case-by-case basis as the provincial government undertakes either treaty or reconciliation negotiations with individual First Nations bands. Where these negotiations take place, the province ensures the issue of contributing to local regional hospital district taxation is included in negotiations.

Regarding discussions with the West Bank First Nation, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has advised the Ministry of Health Services that the issue of contribution to the local regional hospital district is on the discussion agenda.

## **B112 IMPROVED TRAINING FOR RURAL GENERAL PRACTITIONERS**

WHEREAS the medical needs of the residents of small, rural, Canadian communities are identical to residents of more urban centres;

AND WHEREAS the training provided by Canadian medical programs does not prepare our general practitioners for the many and varied challenges they must meet in a small, rural setting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the necessary government ministries and medical education programs to identify and develop appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Province of British Columbia recognizes that physicians practicing in rural settings face many and varied challenges. In 2002, the Province entered into an agreement with the BC Medical Association (BCMA) to establish the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC) to oversee the development and application of programs to assist physicians providing care to rural communities. This standing committee is comprised of representatives from rural physicians, health authorities, the BCMA and the Ministry of Health Services.

The JSC has developed and oversees the application of a number of programs designed to help attract physicians to practice in rural BC communities and to be successful in this environment. Comprehensive information on the JSC and on the programs it sponsors can be obtained at the web site:

<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pcb/rural.html>

Some specific initiatives that JSC has undertaken to support the selection and preparation of physicians for successful practice in rural BC communities include:

- Rural physician representation on the Admissions Committee for the Faculty of Medicine at UBC to support the selection of applicants from rural BC communities;
- Promotional programs to encourage students from rural BC communities to pursue careers in rural medicine;
- Compensation for rural physicians for time spent teaching undergraduate medical students on the challenges, advantages and successful methods of practicing medicine in rural communities;
- Funding for extra training for new physicians undertaking their first year of practice in rural BC communities;



- Funding for urban physicians who would like to practice in rural communities and/or provide locum support in rural communities to acquire the skills necessary for successful practice in rural communities;
- Incentives for undergraduate medical students to spend a minimum of 4 weeks with rural physicians to learn about the challenges, advantages and how to successfully practice medicine in rural communities;
- Funding to support rural physicians pursuing additional advanced skills to help them successfully practice medicine in rural communities;
- Funding to support rural physicians obtain specialist skills that would be beneficial for rural communities;
- Enhanced funding for rural physicians over and above the funding all BC physicians receive for Continuing Medical Education from the BCMA to enable them to continuously update and upgrade their skills;
- Provincial, rural physician locum programs that provide rural GPs and rural Specialists with locum relief to take time off to further develop their skills and/or take vacation;
- Establishment of a Rural Co-ordination Centre (RCCbc) to strengthen the interaction, communication and professional support rural physicians receive and provide to one another through networking and professional conferences:  
[www.rccbc.ca](http://www.rccbc.ca)
- The development and 2010 launch of the CARE course – Comprehensive Approach to Rural Emergencies ( CARE course ) for rural physicians to assist them successfully deal with the unique challenges of providing emergency medical care in rural areas.

In 2009, the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada identified BC as having among the very best supply of physicians to rural population in Canada with 1 GP per 874 in rural population. The Canadian average is 1 GP per 1,153 in rural population.

In 2009 the Province and the BC Medical Association agreed to commit a further \$20,000,000 to the JSC to further strengthen the effectiveness of programs that attract and support physicians practicing in rural BC communities. The objective is for BC rural physicians to continue to be among the very best supported rural physicians in Canada.

## **B113 PALLIATIVE CARE FEES**

WHEREAS the medical health care coverage covers the cost of fees for palliative care within acute care facilities but not within residential care facilities;

AND WHEREAS many palliative care patients are serviced through residential care facilities due, in part, to the limited availability of palliative care beds within acute care facilities and are then burdened by the inequity of being billed for costs associated with palliative care that other families experiencing the same traumatic circumstances are not required to bear:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that the costs of palliative care are the same in residential care facilities as they are in acute facilities.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Ministry of Health Services, in conjunction with the health authorities, is committed to delivering high quality hospice palliative end-of-life care as an integral part of the health care system. The goal is to ensure that palliative clients and their families have appropriate access to a range of quality hospice palliative end-of-life care services in a variety of settings in the community when needed most.

The cost for palliative care is fully paid for by the Province. It is important to note that there is a per diem fee for the cost of room and board to clients receiving palliative care in a home-like setting such as residential care. Clients receiving palliative care in an acute care setting (i.e. the hospital) are not charged a per diem rate.

It is important to understand that Home and Community Care services are not insured services under the *Canada Health Act*, whereas Hospital services are. Individuals who receive hospice palliative care services in publicly subsidized hospice beds pay the lowest residential care rate (\$29.40 per diem) which may be partially or fully waived in cases of significant hardship. No one who needs palliative care in a residential care setting will be turned away. For this reason, the per diem is not viewed as a barrier to hospice palliative care.

## **B114 DEVELOPMENT OF A LIVABLE-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY**

WHEREAS the Measuring Up The North Initiative (Phase 1) has been successful in helping BC communities assess and improve how livable, age-friendly, disability-friendly, universally designed and inclusive they are for all residents and visitors;

AND WHEREAS many time-limited initiatives such as MUTN Phase 1 and others in the province have started the momentum but there is still a great deal more to do;

AND WHEREAS MUTN has developed tools and processes and learned lessons that could contribute to a province-wide initiative:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to create a framework called the Livable-Inclusive Communities Strategy that communities can use as a guideline to plan for livable, age and disability friendly communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial Livable-Inclusive Communities Strategy include provincial funding and support as well as provincial awards that recognize and encourage business, community, local governments and individuals in their efforts.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Province has supported local governments to make their communities more livable and inclusive through a variety of initiatives and programs. Examples include ActNow BC Seniors Communities Parks, Age-friendly Community Planning and Program Grants, Accessible Tourism, BC Healthy Communities Initiative, Green Cities Award, LocalMotion Fund Planning for Communities Initiative, Green Communities Initiative, and the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund. Since 2007, the Province has invested over \$50 million towards this goal.

The Province continues to collaborate with UBCM and other partners to produce tools (including guidelines) for local governments to develop livable and inclusive communities for BC residents and visitors. Recent collaboration led to the development of a Health 201 Resource Kit for local governments and design professionals and a set of guidelines for making Official Community Plans more age-friendly and disability-friendly. The Province will also continue to support local governments in their efforts to make their communities more friendly for all ages.

The Province applauds the efforts of local governments to continue the livable-inclusive communities' momentum. It recognizes that many communities are developing their own livable-inclusive strategies. As such, work is underway to explore expanded provincial approaches to community engagement and collaborative efforts across ministries and between governments, community organizations and citizens to augment the work that has been done to make British Columbia accessible and inclusive for all.

## **B115 RE-INSTATEMENT OF GAMING GRANTS**

WHEREAS in the Fall of 2009 the Ministry of Housing and Social Development announced changes in the Government Gaming Grant Program as a result of unprecedented global economic challenges;

AND WHEREAS the aforementioned changes included a reduction or elimination of gaming grant funding to a number of non-profit organizations, including the elimination of funding to arts and cultural organizations, major capital projects grants and playground grants;

AND WHEREAS the reduction and elimination of this funding has impacted the ability of non-profit organizations to deliver services that contribute to the economic viability, sustainability and cultural fabric of our communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly request the BC government to continue its commitment to build strong communities by funding non-profit organizations through the Government Gaming Grant Program.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Province remains committed to helping build strong communities by funding non-profit organizations through the community gaming grant program.

The amount of gaming grant funding provided to non-profit organizations is contingent on spending priorities established by government and the funding made available each year in the budget.

Given the world-wide economic situation, and fiscal pressures faced by the Province, gaming grant funding has been targeted to non-profit community organizations that provide programs in the key areas of health and social services, youth, public safety and Parent Advisory Councils.

Gaming grant funding in fiscal year 2010/11 was \$120 million, an increase of \$7 million over 2009/10. Funding levels and priorities will be reviewed as part of the 2011/12 budget planning process.

Eligible non-profit community organizations may apply through the gaming branch website at: [www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming](http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/gaming).

## **B116 6 STOREY WOOD FRAME RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS the British Columbia Building Code was recently amended to permit the construction of six storey wood frame residential buildings from the previous maximum of four storeys;

AND WHEREAS the addition of two storeys of wood frame construction will require new design elements and construction techniques that address issues such as water ingress, seismic events and fire fighting capabilities and the British Columbia Building Code does not require any type of additional certification for professionals, trades or contractors involved in the design and construction of six storey wood frame buildings:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to establish additional qualifications for professionals, trades and building contractors involved in the construction of six storey wood frame residential buildings.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – Minister of State for Building Code Renewal**

The Province believes additional qualifications for professionals, trades and building contractors are not required for the construction of 6-storey wood-frame residential buildings.

Amendments to the BC Building Code were drafted based on a detailed technical analysis and assessment of the role of each of the players involved in designing and construction. Analysis has concluded that design professionals play the key role in both design and review of these buildings.

The Province worked closely with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) on addressing specific design considerations for design professionals around fire protection, shrinkage and seismic structural safety. These design considerations are addressed in special practice guidelines published by APEGBC.

## **B117 MANDATORY TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING CONTRACTORS**

WHEREAS the British Columbia Building Code sets out a number of technical provisions for the construction of buildings;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Building Code does not require mandatory training for building contractors responsible for achieving a number of the technical provisions contained within the British Columbia Building Code:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to introduce mandatory training requirements for building contractors involved in the construction of buildings.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General – Minister of State for Building Code Renewal**

At the direction of the then Minister Responsible for Housing, the Homeowner Protection Office (HPO) began consulting in 2006 on ways to increase the professionalism of the residential construction industry. An industry task group was subsequently convened to collaboratively develop a new system of minimum qualifications for residential builders. The task group submitted its final report in October 2008.

The HPO has circulated this report to other stakeholders in the sector for their feedback, which has been incorporated in the HPO's final recommendations for regulating residential builders' qualifications. These recommendations are currently being considered by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Minister of State for Building Code Renewal.

Regulating the qualifications of general contractors in the institutional, commercial and industrial sector, who work closely with professional architects and engineers, is not a priority at this time.

## **B118 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS**

WHEREAS the current policy of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development requires that all recipients of social assistance must be available for, and actively seeking, employment in order to be eligible to continue receiving benefits;

AND WHEREAS several successful projects providing essential skills for work training have been run in communities with significant success in providing many people with basic skills necessary to be successful in the search for a job:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be petitioned to change their policy to permit any person to be identified by the local administration of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development as lacking marketable employment skills and be approved as exceptions to the “actively seeking work” requirement, and be encouraged to participate in an essential skills for work program, all without loss of social assistance benefits.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development**

Ministry of Social Development (Ministry) policy recognizes that many income assistance recipients are capable of working or looking for work within their current skill capacity. At the same time, policy recognizes that some recipients require additional skills to help them find work. For these clients, the ministry requires recipients to participate in employment programs to become more employable as part of their employment plan. Participation in these programs satisfies the recipient's employment obligations, which must be met for the recipient to receive financial assistance.

The Ministry has a continuum of employment-related services to which recipients are referred for participation. Service providers across this continuum are selected for their demonstrated ability to move recipients into sustainable employment in the shortest possible timeframe. As income assistance is a program of last resort intended to help clients back into employment as soon as possible, recipients are generally not permitted to combine income assistance with other sources of income, such as training allowances, or to attend programming which may unnecessarily delay a recipient returning to employment. Research has shown that this employment-first strategy is the right strategy, having increased employment rates and income levels and reduced poverty rates for thousands of former clients.

## **B119 FOOD SECURITY FOR BC**

WHEREAS there is an international shortage of food and the world population is growing at a rapid pace;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia was 73% self sufficient in producing the province's food requirements in 1985 and just 48% self sufficient producing its food requirements in 2001;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia land base has less than 5% available land suitable for the production of food:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities prevail upon the provincial government to work with stakeholder associations to develop and implement strategies and policies to ensure British Columbia is self sufficient in food production by the year 2020.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture**

There are several components to food security including food access, affordability and availability. The Ministry of Agriculture develops policy, regulations and programming that support the preservation/enhancement of the local supply of food (availability). As British Columbia is not self sufficient, part of the food supply is satisfied by importing food to meet our demand for fresh foods out of season, foods not grown locally and foods that are more economically grown in other regions of the world.

With less than 5% of the provincial land base capable of food production, the Ministry of Agriculture policies and programming aim to support farm land, farm businesses and farmers in maximizing the supply of BC food using sustainable practices. These include:

- The Agriculture Land Reserve to protect farm land.
- Financial programs to reduce risk to farm businesses and improve the viability of food production in BC.
- Employment, education and youth programs to meet the demands for farm labour and ensure future generations of farmers.

The Ministry of Health Services has funding responsibility and oversees the implementation for Food Security Model Core Program which is the BC government's primary initiative related to food security. Community Food Action Initiative receives \$1.5 million from the Ministry of Health Services to deliver food security programs which take place at the Regional Health Authority level.

These are but a few examples of government's commitment to ensure BC's capacity to supply food to British Columbians is maintained and productivity is increasing. This can only occur if federal, provincial and local governments continue to support the



preservation of farm land/water, profitability of farm businesses and encouragement for the next generation of BC farmers.

## **B120 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS – INSURANCE COVERAGE & LIABILITY**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province on behalf of BC local governments to:

- a) Amend the provincial motor vehicle regulations to request the motor vehicles carry a minimum of \$5 million in third party liability insurance coverage; and
- b) Amend the *Negligence Act* to eliminate joint and several liability for municipalities in the context of motor vehicle accidents.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The current limit of third party liability coverage in ICBC Basic insurance, the mandatory amount every motorist must purchase, is \$200,000. In many cases, this amount is sufficient to cover the costs of the damages for which the motorist may be responsible. Additional third party liability coverage is available as an optional product from ICBC or from any private insurance company in BC that offers automobile coverage. In this way, motorists can decide the level of additional coverage that best meets their needs in terms of protection and cost.

Increasing the mandatory amount of third party liability coverage to the level suggested would result in a significant increase in the premium charged for Basic insurance. In addition, there may be competitive and trade agreement issues related to removing a line of business from private insurance companies and putting it under the mandatory insurance requirements.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General**

The Ministry of Attorney General is continuously evaluating British Columbia's civil liability regime to ensure that it is fair and efficient, but favours incremental changes to the regime. For example, the Ministry completed a consultation on a reduction of the ultimate limitation period in 2006 and is continuing work on reforms in this area of the law.

## **B128 TOWNS FOR TOMORROW PROGRAM CHANGES**

WHEREAS local governments are subject to additional reporting requirements and shorter deadlines for the provincial Towns for Tomorrow program as a result of an abrupt change to include the federal government as a funding partner;

AND WHEREAS this abrupt inclusion of federal dollars results in additional reporting requirements, no additional funding, and a shorter deadline of March 2011:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC and the federal government to reinstate the original reporting and deadline requirements for the Towns for Tomorrow program.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Province pursued a partnership with the federal government in 2009 with respect to Towns for Tomorrow (the program) to expand funding opportunities in the broader local government capital funding envelope, thus providing additional opportunities for local government to access funding for much needed capital projects. The Province recognizes and appreciates the efforts of program recipients to meet amended deadlines. The Province has always maintained that these amended deadlines were voluntary, but still necessary, in order to leverage the additional funding opportunities.

Consistent with past years of the program, and consistent with the program guide, the province has continued to require quarterly progress reporting from successful recipients. Further, the program was subject to a broader funding program audit, performed by the Auditor General of British Columbia. Recommendations included maintaining, and in some cases, improving overall monitoring of approved projects. In order to address the recommendations of the Auditor General, and maintain the overall integrity of the program, it is felt that the current reporting requirements are a necessary component of the program.

## **B130 EXPANDED TIMEFRAMES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION SPENDING**

WHEREAS both the provincial and federal governments have granted extraordinary grants to some local governments in order to stimulate employment and build much needed infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS these grants come with short timelines for the immediate implementation that bring capital and planning challenges to the local governments that result in waste of taxpayer dollars:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial and federal governments to implement flexibility into the deadlines and deal with each applicant on a case by case basis in order to maximize the effectiveness of the grants and create quality infrastructure for all Canadians.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

The Province is aware of the challenges faced by local governments with respect to the timelines attributed to projects funded under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (ISF) and the Building Canada Fund – Communities Component Top-Up (BCF-CC Top-Up).

On December 3, 2011, as a result of the challenges faced by local governments, the federal government announced the extension of the construction deadline for a number of Economic Action Plan infrastructure projects. This extension is intended to allow those time challenged projects to be completed. Proponents of projects under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, the Building Canada Fund Communities Component Top-Up, the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program and the Knowledge Infrastructure Program will now have until October 31, 2011, to complete their projects.

The Province continues to work with local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of these projects, recognizing the importance of having these projects completed and ensuring the necessary infrastructure is built to support critical local government services to their respective communities.

## **B132 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION TARGETS IN OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLANS**

WHEREAS the Province has indicated that the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets required to satisfy Section 877 (3) of the *Local Government Act* should be expressed as a specific reduction from an identifiable baseline in order for a local government to ensure its future eligibility for Provincial grant funding;

AND WHEREAS the inventory of data necessary for the establishment of a community wide emissions baseline, or for future measure of community wide emissions does not exist, and many local governments do not have the resources to obtain this data;

AND WHEREAS it is inappropriate to establish specific GHG reduction targets that are not based on relevant and accurate information, and have no meaning with regard to measurement and achievability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province not tie greenhouse gas reduction targets that are required in Official Community Plans to provincial grant funding until such time as more precise community wide emissions baseline data is in place.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development:**

The Province's Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) provides all local governments in BC with a community energy and emissions inventory.

The purpose of CEEI Reports is to provide local governments and other users with accurate, consistent and relevant community-level energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions information.

One of the principles upon which the CEEI is built is 'continuous improvement', i.e. a commitment to strive to continue to improve the accuracy of data collection and analysis methods, contingent on available resources and reporting needs, on an ongoing basis. One example of an area for possible improvement is provision of data at the Electoral Area jurisdictional boundary level.

At this time, the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development is not tying GHG reduction targets that are required in Official Community Plans to provincial grant funding.

### **B133 SINGLE TRANSFERABLE LICENSE PLATE**

WHEREAS many resource-based, rural and remote British Columbian drivers must rely on large vehicles for business, work and basic winter transportation;

AND WHEREAS drivers cannot afford the double insurance charged by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) for a second fuel-efficient vehicle that could be used when the larger vehicle is not needed;

AND WHEREAS the double insurance nullifies any cost savings in fuel efficiency of a second fuel-efficient vehicle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM encourage the provincial government, as part of its Climate Action Plan, and to stimulate the economy, to direct ICBC to allow drivers, who can drive only one vehicle at a time, to purchase a single license plate that could be transferred between fuel-inefficient and fuel-efficient vehicles, as needed.

#### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Province is committed to meeting its legislated greenhouse gas targets (33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050), and will continue to work with ICBC in exploring vehicle insurance options that could help meet these ambitious targets.

Assigning a license plate to each specific vehicle is important for law enforcement and insurance purposes. For example, police may better investigate hit and run incidents, and more easily locate vehicles when linked to a specific plate. Each plate serves to identify the Basic insurance policy for that particular vehicle. As well, the requirement that each vehicle have Basic insurance reduces the number of uninsured vehicles on our roads.

As part of their long term strategy, ICBC will be looking at ways to improve pricing and make premiums more reflective of driver and customer risk. Possible changes could include a discount for customers when there is more than one vehicle owned and operated by the same person.

## **B137 GREYWATER DISCHARGE SITES**

WHEREAS Section 13 of the British Columbia *Environment Management Act* restricts the discharge of greywater in Shuswap Lake;

AND WHEREAS the Province has not actively enforced the restrictions on greywater discharge into Shuswap Lake:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide greywater discharge sites on and/or along all applicable recreational fresh water lakes and waterbodies.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment**

The Ministry of Environment has been actively working together with the Shuswap Houseboat Association, local businesses, local government, Interior Health, as well as Transport and Environment Canada, to find a solution to the Greywater discharge issues on Shuswap and Mara Lakes.

The Ministry of Environment as a regulatory agency, and not a funding agency, is trying to find a solution by balancing the desires of the community, set reasonable targets for industry to obtain, and make decisions as supported by science to eliminate the discharge of greywater from private vessels and commercial houseboats on these waters.

To further this goal, we encourage the UBCM to continue to explore the various funding mechanisms and opportunities, including cost sharing and partnership opportunities with private industry and government, and working within the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process to help in creating a solution.

## **B138 OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION & DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS there has occurred an environmental disaster of unprecedented proportions in the Gulf of Mexico due to the unforeseeable difficulties that can be encountered in offshore drilling for petroleum products;

AND WHEREAS the damages to the 2000 km of Alaskan shoreline plus 1300 sq km of ocean habitats from the Exxon Valdez accident are still being felt more than 20 years after that accident;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia marine waters and coastline could well face an equally enormous environmental catastrophe:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC implement a legislated ban on off-shore oil and gas exploration and development for all future time;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the federal government to implement a legislated ban on west coast offshore exploration and programs for all future time.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

There is an existing Federal moratorium on the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas and, accordingly, there is currently no offshore oil and gas development in British Columbia. The Provincial Government has been clear that we will only pursue the development of an offshore oil and gas industry if it can be done in a scientifically safe, environmentally sound and socially responsible manner.



## **B139 BULK CRUDE OIL TANKER TRAFFIC**

WHEREAS the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project will result in increased crude oil tanker traffic and risk of accidental oil spills in northern coastal waters in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS a crude oil spill will have devastating and long lasting effects on the Pacific North Coast area that is recognized for its unique and diverse ocean ecosystems, which provide critical marine habitat and marine resources that sustain the social, cultural, environmental and economic health of coastal communities, including First Nations communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM be opposed to any expansion of bulk crude oil tanker traffic in Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound in British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the federal government to establish a legislated ban on bulk crude oil tanker traffic through Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound in British Columbia.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

As a coastal province, marine transportation is important to our economy and the well-being of our coastal communities. Ocean going vessels are powered by and, in some cases carry as cargo, fossil fuels. Most coastal communities, including Vancouver Island, are able to obtain supplies of oil and gasoline by barge and tanker transport. It is important for tankers to reach our ports.

To date, British Columbia's tanker history has been excellent. Tankers have been delivering and exporting petroleum and refined products in the Lower Mainland for 100 years. The Federal Government has regulatory authority over tanker traffic on the British Columbia coast. There is no moratorium on tankers entering British Columbia ports.

The Provincial Government has been clear that development of oil and gas can only move forward in a scientifically sound, environmentally safe manner.

## **B140 TAR SANDS OIL**

WHEREAS the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project proposes to deliver tar sands oil for loading onto crude oil tankers and delivery overseas via northern coastal waters;

AND WHEREAS mining of tar sands oil contributes unacceptably to climate change and to degradation of the environment and is contrary to the principles of the BC Climate Action Charter that has been signed by 177 BC local governments and the Islands Trust as a commitment to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2012:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities oppose tar sands oil being shipped in pipelines across northern BC for loading onto crude oil tankers.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy**

On May 27, 2010, Enbridge Inc. filed an application with the National Energy Board of Canada (NEB) for the construction and operation of the pipeline. A Joint Review Panel (JRP) will lead a full environmental review under Federal law. Further information is available on the NEB website at <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/>.

On January 19, 2011, the JRP announced that more details are required before the review process can move forward. Based on written and oral comments received during the original round of panel sessions, the JRP concluded that Enbridge needs to provide additional information on the design and risk assessment of the pipeline project before continuing further with the review process. Once the information is filed, the JRP may issue a Hearing Order which will outline the timeline and ways in which interested persons, including members of the public and Aboriginal groups, may participate further. Additional information is available at <http://gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca/clf-nsi/hm-eng.html>

The Government of British Columbia is committed to ensuring that any energy development is environmentally responsible and scientifically sound in order to benefit British Columbians and meet the needs of the people of this Province.

## **B141 REDUNDANT COVENANTS ON PROPERTY**

WHEREAS redundant covenants on title can contradict a local government's zoning bylaw and negatively impact development potential for private owned property;

AND WHEREAS approvals for release of the charge(s) by the signatories to the charge(s) can be difficult to obtain and local governments are not authorized by the Land Title Act, the Community Charter or the Local Government Act to release the charge(s) from title:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to amend the Land Title Act to allow local governments to apply to the BC Land Title & Survey Authority for the release of the charge(s) from title.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands**

It is assumed that the term "redundant covenants" as used in the UBCM resolution refers to privately held restrictive covenants whose terms have become obsolete. Although restrictive covenants registered on title to a property may, in some cases, appear to contradict or limit a local government's land use planning goals or zoning provisions applicable to a particular property, they cannot override anything prohibited by a local government's bylaws. However, restrictive covenants are enforceable as private contracts that attach to the land and bind successive owners of the land beyond what would otherwise have been permitted under local government bylaws. Options currently exist to allow the removal of restrictive covenants from title.

If a covenant is found to be unreasonable in terms of its impact on the persons having an interest in the land involved, the Supreme Court may order the covenant to be cancelled or modified under section 35 of the *Property Law Act* once the required criteria have been met to the satisfaction of the Court. Note that a local government would not likely have standing to make an application under this section unless it held an interest in the land that was subject to the covenant, which is uncommon.

In cases where a local government is the beneficiary of a statutory covenant (i.e. one that is registered under section 219 of the *Land Title Act*), the local government can apply unilaterally to the Land Title Office to have the covenant released without the consent of the party who granted the covenant in the first place.

## **B142 LAND USE CONTRACT DISCHARGE/AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS many local governments in British Columbia have residential land use contracts dating back to the 1970s that may be tied to old or obsolete zoning bylaws;

AND WHEREAS it may be difficult to get each and every property owner to agree to discharge or amend a residential land use contract involving multiple properties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia enable local governments to discharge or amend a residential land use contract where the owners of at least 51% of the properties within the residential land use contract agree to the discharge or amendment.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Land Use Contracts (LUCs) were enabled from 1971 to 1978 to authorize local governments and developers to override the provisions in zoning bylaws with mutually agreed upon contractual provisions, which could include matters that could not be dealt with through regulatory bylaws at that time, such as design and the provision of amenities.

All LUCs were voluntarily entered into by the local governments, in accordance with the terms that they contained, however many local governments and developers did not consider the longer-term issues that would exist decades after the initial development project was built and ownership of subdivided properties was decentralized.

Many of the buildings constructed under LUCs are reaching the end of their useable life, and in many instances the LUC is interfering with land redevelopment in accordance with new community objectives and values.

Changing the rules that the LUC establishes to enable local governments to amend or rescind them needs to be considered in the broader context of contract law.

Richmond has asked to participate in a trial project in which it would seek support for discharging LUCs that apply to single family neighbourhoods. The Ministry is considering this project proposal.

## **B143 YOUTH TREATMENT PROGRAM OPTIONS - SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

WHEREAS families in BC face difficult decisions with few options when dealing with youth struggling with abuse and addiction;

AND WHEREAS previous attempts to create legislation in the province to protect these youth were abandoned:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urges the Province of British Columbia to implement a further avenue of support for youth struggling with addiction and substance abuse when all other options for intervention and voluntary treatment have failed, similar to programs available in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba where detox and treatment options are available to families whose youth struggling with abuse have refused treatment.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development**

The Ministry of Health Services through the Health Authorities delivers youth substance use outreach, withdrawal management and treatment services. The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has legislation through the *Child, Family and Community Service Act (CFCSA)* for child welfare related youth services. In particular, MCFD is responsible for community mental health services for children and youth, children and youth with special needs, youth justice, child protection and services for high risk youth.

There are no plans in the near future to introduce legislation mandating detoxification or treatment of youth with substance use problems beyond the current regulatory frameworks (i.e. through the *CFCSA*, Youth Justice or the *Mental Health Act*).

In severe situations, the British Columbia *Mental Health Act* includes a provision for involuntary admission to a designated facility or hospital for individuals with a mental disorder who also meet other specific psychiatric criteria. A substance use disorder is considered a mental disorder, and as a result can be included as meeting one, but not all, of the specific criteria for involuntary admission to hospital.

MCFD and several other ministries are also currently working together to develop processes within the current regulatory frameworks that will enhance engagement with youth who may be reluctant to engage in services to address severe problems.

MCFD and the Ministry of Health Services in collaboration with other ministries and community partners have developed a comprehensive 10-year-plan to address mental health and substance use across the lifespan. The plan was released on November 1, 2010, and will support a whole-systems approach to improve the range of integrated services and supports to meet various levels of need across the continuum. This will include earlier 'youth friendly' evidence-based interventions to prevent development of more serious problems or reduce the impact of problems experienced by youth.

## **B144 TOBACCO USE ON PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS local governments provide open public spaces for parks, recreation and community events, and the public has the right to enjoy freedom from the effects of tobacco use while on public lands;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC collects taxes from the sale of tobacco products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to allocate a portion of its tobacco tax revenue as funding for local governments to use for education and signage to reduce tobacco use on public lands owned by local governments.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance**

The provincial tobacco tax is intended to be a general source of revenue for government as part of the consolidated revenue fund (CRF).

In general, provincial revenue sources, such as the tobacco tax, are not allocated to specific provincial or municipal spending programs. A main reason is that tying revenue to specific programs significantly constrains the government's flexibility to adjust spending priorities as circumstances change.

Revenue generated by taxes, such as the tobacco tax, is required to fund provincial government programs in health, education and other social services. The Province uses some of the revenue to develop and operate several programs to educate British Columbians on the health dangers of smoking, restrict smoking in various public places and provide assistance to smokers trying to quit.

In regards to controlling smoking, the Province supports the development of municipal and regional smoking control bylaws, which may include restrictions on smoking in outdoor public areas.

## **B145 BASE LEVEL HARM REDUCTION**

WHEREAS addiction has been recognized as a medical issue rather than a moral failing;

AND WHEREAS research has shown that harm reduction measures like needle exchange and safe consumption sites save lives and money by reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of community-based harm reduction services is all too often treated as a political rather than a public health issue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Province to legislate that base levels of harm reduction services, including needle exchange and access to safe substance use equipment and detox and treatment beds, be made available in every local government in British Columbia in order to ensure that political pressure does not limit access to necessary health services for those affected by problematic substance use and addiction problems, including adequate funding to support these services.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The government of British Columbia recognizes that problematic substance use is a complex health problem. As such, it requires a comprehensive response, incorporating various evidence-based health system approaches in the domains of prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. BC's support for harm reduction services is reflected in several policies, including *Every Door is the Right Door: a British Columbia Planning Framework to Address Problematic Substance Use and Addiction (2004)*; *Harm Reduction: A British Columbia Guide (2005)*; *Following the Evidence: Preventing Harms from Substance Use (2006)*; and *Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia (2010)*. Furthermore, the Province provides funding for harm reduction supply distribution to ensure that harm reduction supplies are available throughout the province. Health authorities are responsible for delivery of health services, including harm reduction programs, in their jurisdictions. Accordingly, health authorities work with key partners, such as local governments and law enforcement, to plan for appropriate service delivery for vulnerable populations requiring harm reduction services.

## **B146 MEDICAL CANNABIS**

WHEREAS the federal medical cannabis program administered through Health Canada's Marihuana Medical Access Division does not satisfy the constitutional rights of critically and chronically ill patients to access marihuana for medicinal use;

AND WHEREAS the use of cannabis by legitimate cannabis patients is a health issue, and as such should be under the legislative purview of provincial governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to work with the federal government toward the goal of decentralizing the administration and oversight of legitimate medical cannabis use and production from federal authority to provincial health ministries as part of their public and personal health mandate.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

Health Canada's *Marihuana Medical Access Regulations* define the circumstances and the manner in which access to marihuana for medical purposes is permitted. The Regulations contain three main components: Authorizations to possess dried marihuana; licences to produce marihuana, which include *Personal-Use Production Licences* and *Designated Person Production Licences*; and access to supply of marihuana seeds or dried marihuana. These regulations ensure individuals residing throughout Canada who suffer from grave and debilitating illnesses have consistent access to marihuana for medical use.

The provincial government has neither the necessary expertise nor the infrastructure to license individuals who apply to possess marihuana or to monitor its production, cultivation quality and distribution.

Unlike synthetic cannabinoids like Marinol and Cesamet, which are available through pharmacies in the province, marihuana for medical purposes has not been reviewed for patient safety and issued a Health Canada Notice of Compliance. Should marihuana be formulated and marketed as a pharmaceutical and receive a Health Canada Notice of Compliance, the province may reconsider its position.



## **B149 ACCESSIBILITY DESIGNATION**

WHEREAS many members of our society are affected by accessibility limitations;

AND WHEREAS communities who strive to make accessibility a priority are often unrecognized and unknown to those who might utilize them:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport to implement a Provincial Accessibility Capital designation similar to the Forest Capital of British Columbia designation administered by the Association of BC Forest Professionals, and to award that designation to a community or region within British Columbia on a two-year basis.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development**

The Ministry of Social Development has launched and supported a number of initiatives to generate accessible and inclusive communities.

In 2006/2007 – 2007/2008, the province granted 2010 Legacies Now \$2.62 million to establish the Measuring Up Accessibility and Inclusion Fund to support community projects aimed at increasing accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. The fund has provided 84 communities with grants totaling \$1.52 million (each grant is up to \$25,000), and there are currently over 100 communities involved in Measuring Up across the province.

2010 Legacies Now is transferring the resources of the Measuring Up program, as well as responsibility for its accessibility-related projects, to a trusted partner, the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC). This will ensure British Columbia communities continue to benefit from the accessibility program as a legacy of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

## **B150 PROHIBITION OF FIGHTING EVENTS UNLESS REGULATED BY AN ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

WHEREAS Section 143 (2) of the *Community Charter* authorizes local governments to adopt a bylaw to regulate "professional boxing, wrestling and similar activities, contests and exhibitions";

AND WHEREAS regulating professional boxing, wrestling and similar activities, contests and exhibitions by an athletic commission ensures fighters' safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia prohibit professional boxing, wrestling and similar activities, contests and exhibitions unless regulated by an athletic commission under Section 143 (2) of the *Community Charter*.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development**

Municipalities currently have several ways to regulate athletic events in their jurisdictions.

Athletic Commissions can be established under s.143 (2) of the *Community Charter* (CC) or s. 338 of the *Vancouver Charter* (VC). These commissions have the delegated authority of Council to regulate "professional boxing, wrestling and similar activities, contests and exhibitions" (CC s.143 (2)(a)). The provisions are available to oversee and regulate such activities and contests. Athletics Commissions have been created in several municipalities ranging in size from Vancouver to Trail.

Additional tools are available to municipalities through their powers to regulate businesses. These powers include prohibiting the kind or location of various types of performances (CC s.59 (1)(d)), prohibiting the place in which public amusements can be held (CC s.59 (1)(e)) and the outright prohibition of "professional boxing, professional wrestling and other professional athletic contests" (CC s. 59 (1)(f)).

Keeping the authority to regulate these events within each municipality provides every community the opportunity to decide for itself which events to allow and which to regulate or prohibit.

The Province has maintained a clear and consistent position over the past 20+ years that it does not regulate sports of any kind. In addition, the province has encouraged the federal government to clarify the appropriate section of the *Criminal Code* which addresses 'prize fighting'.

## **B151 AMENDMENT TO COMMUNITY CARE & ASSISTED LIVING ACT (CHILD CARE LICENSING REGULATIONS)**

WHEREAS the Province is mandated to regulate and enforce health, safety and staffing standards for child care facilities to protect our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS new regulations enacted in 2007 have placed a burden on those community facilities that are attempting to meet the needs of a wide variety of clients, some of whom are employed by resource based companies requiring their employees to work long and varied shift schedules:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the Province of British Columbia to review the Child Care Licensing Regulations in consultation with child care operators, and where necessary, make amendments to the Community Care and Assisted Living Act that would better serve the needs of shift work clients, and parents with multi-age children.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development**

The Province understands the difficulties facing families with children of various ages who work shift hours. Prior to amending the *Child Care Licensing Regulation*, the Province of British Columbia conducted province-wide consultations with child care service providers.

The Regulations include a flexible structure to accommodate providers who offer child care to parents working shift hours or long shifts, providing that there is not any increased risk to health and safety and the situation is in the best interest of the child. To that effect, child care operators may apply for exemptions from the requirements of Licensing Regulations, if they wish to provide more than 13 hours of care per day. The Government of British Columbia is continually considering ways to ensure that the health and safety of the province's youngest citizens are met, while also providing flexibility and convenience for working families in need of child care.

## **B152 LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH CHANGES TO SUPPORT INDUSTRY CHOICE**

WHEREAS both the winery licenses and distiller licenses are controlled by the Liquor Distribution Branch which has set separate yet very specific guidelines for each industry;

AND WHEREAS the distillers of BC are only permitted to sell their products off-site to Liquor Distribution Branch stores and any other retail stores designated by the Liquor Distribution Branch, provided they have an agent's licence;

AND WHEREAS holders of the distillers license under the current Liquor Distribution Branch regulations are not permitted to:

- sell directly to the food and beverage industry;
- charge a fee for samples provided during tastings;
- host events at the manufacturing facility;
- operate a lounge; or
- set aside an outdoor area on their property to host patrons for outdoor picnic events, as allowed by the winery licenses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the legislation and regulatory structure with respect to alcoholic beverage manufacture, distribution and sale in British Columbia to ensure fairness and balance among components of the industry – including the artisan distillers.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

The Liquor Distribution Branch announced a new policy for British Columbia craft distilleries on November 5, 2010. Qualifying craft distilleries are now able to sell their products directly to bars, restaurants and private liquor stores. With respect to the other issues in the resolution (fee for samples, hosting events, operating a lounge, outdoor picnic area) the Ministry will conduct a review and consult with industry as needed.

## **B154 FINANCING THE DELIVERY OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS the transfer of Employment Insurance funds from the federal government to the provincial government under the Labour Market Development Agreement and the related business transformation process currently underway will result in a significant restructuring of the procurement and delivery of employment and training services for clients;

AND WHEREAS the delivery of employment and training services in communities is most effectively delivered by community-based agencies that have an understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the local labour market;

AND WHEREAS the proposed contract payment model proposed by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development in the “Business Transformation Project Stakeholder Information Package” released on May 11, 2010 will make it difficult or impossible for many community based agencies to secure the financing required to manage the contract start-up costs without severely affecting other services delivered by those agencies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to alter the proposed contract payment and financing structure to allow for advances to be paid to the successful proponents that will be selected to manage the community-based Employment Service Centres across the province.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development**

The Ministry released its Public Information Package on BC Bid ([www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca)) in the Spring 2010, and Ministry representatives toured the province and learned some of the issues from Service Providers.

As a result of Service Providers expressing concerns about their ability to access financing, we approached financial institutions. We wanted to determine:

- Whether the contract and financial structure were barriers to financing;
- Whether financial institutions would lend money for start up and other costs, to be amortized over the five year life of the Contract, based on the Contract and payment structure; and
- Whether they were concerned in principle with lending based on a government contract.

All of these were concerns raised by our Service Providers in the consultation sessions the Ministry held. All of the financial institutions informed the Ministry that there were no barriers to financing based on the contract and payment structure, that financial institutes would certainly lend money for start up costs amortized over the five years of the Contract, and that financial institutes were not concerned with lending based on a government contract. They all clarified that they would certainly have to analyze the financial position of the particular Service Provider and do a risk analysis based on their individual application. Some financial institutions agreed to provide the Ministry contact

information so that Service Providers would understand the programs available and be able to more easily understand what financial institutions have to offer. That information is posted on our website:

[http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/community\\_organizations/service\\_providers\\_business\\_transformation.html](http://www.labourmarketservices.gov.bc.ca/community_organizations/service_providers_business_transformation.html).

The Ministry of Social Development released the Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) on October 22, 2010. This document, available on BC Bid ([www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca)), details the payment structure for the new Employment Program of British Columbia. The Ministry is committed to encouraging the participation of our experienced community-based Service Providers in the provision of employment services. The Ministry has refined the payment structure to more effectively address the needs of smaller community-based agencies. While the Contracts for the Employment Program of British Columbia are subject to an open competitive process, the Ministry wants to ensure that there are no systemic barriers to qualified and experienced Service Providers bidding on a Contract, or participating as a partner in a bid.

The payment structure, described in Appendix K of the draft RFP, includes operating funding for the ESC (including storefront, satellite, outreach and itinerant services) to cover the basic infrastructure. In addition, variable service fees are provided for actual services delivered and outcome fees are available for a successful outcome (Labour Market Attachment) established in the Client Action Plan and the timeliness of achieving the outcome. Direct cost reimbursements are for financial supports provided to Clients to support their Program participation and to reimburse for services purchased from independent third parties (e.g. tuition fees). To support the Contractor's ability to maintain cash flow, high cost Financial Supports and Purchased Services may be advanced (prepaid) based on the forecasted requirement.

Service Providers are encouraged to consider non-exclusive partnership arrangements with multiple Proponents wishing to take on the role of the Contractor.

The successful Proponent will need to demonstrate their ability, experience and expertise to deliver all of the Core Services and in serving all Clients, including Specialized Populations, in the Contract's Catchment Area. In order to provide all of these services to the diverse Client base, it is expected that Contractors will leverage existing infrastructure, resources, and Service Providers within the community. It is expected that Contractors will form partnerships with a network of Service Providers who know the community being served, and understand and have experience in providing services to Specialized Populations. Whatever partnership is identified in the proposal will be embedded within the Contract. Contracts will be monitored to ensure that Contractors are delivering on their commitments.

## **C10 RCMP CONTRACT COST DOWNLOADING**

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia can now be subject to unexpected costs as a result of major criminal investigations involving RCMP resources drawn from outside their local jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS these unexpected costs have the potential to create severe financial hardship for local governments;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM, on behalf of local governments across British Columbia, is currently negotiating with other orders of government to develop a new RCMP contract;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM give its RCMP contract negotiating committee a clear and unequivocal mandate to ensure that the new contract will explicitly assign to other orders of government all costs incurred for resources drawn from outside a local government's jurisdiction in the normal course of any major criminal investigation.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

To clarify, this is not a contract renewal issue; it is a contract management issue.

For municipalities that provide police services, the *Police Act* requires them to provide policing with a police force of sufficient strength to enforce the laws and maintain law and order. Municipalities are expected to prevent, respond and solve all crime issues within their communities. Some municipalities do not have the level of expertise or capacity to provide major criminal investigative services, in which case resources from elsewhere may be brought in to provide these services.

## **LR1 WESTNILE VIRUS LARVICIDING PROGRAM FUNDING**

WHEREAS the Okanagan Valley, including the regional districts of Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan, North Okanagan, Columbia Shuswap, Kootenay Boundary and Thompson Nicola are high-risk zones for west Nile Virus and the virus is now established in the southern BC interior;

AND WHEREAS local governments are legislated under the BC Public Health Act and West Nile Virus Control Regulation BC Reg 357/2004 to mitigate the West Nile Virus health hazard by mosquito larviciding as directed by local medical health officers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM recommend to the provincial government to provide local governments in West Nile Virus high-risk zones with adequate sustained funding to carry out mosquito larviciding each spring and summer.

### **RESPONSE: Ministry of Health Services**

The Ministry of Health Services (MoHS) has reviewed the UBCM resolution. MoHS supports a targeted (high risk zone) West Nile Virus mosquito larviciding program this year. Provincial funding to support this program is under active consideration and a decision is expected shortly.