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SECTION ER

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

Section ER contains resolutions submitted by the Union of BC Municipalities Executive that pertain to proposed amendments of the UBCM Bylaws.

SECTION ER

EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

ER1 ELECTRONIC VOTING AT UBCM CONVENTION

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the UBCM Executive has undertaken extensive research into electronic voting, in response to feedback from UBCM Convention delegates expressing concerns with the efficiency of the procedures for tabulating votes on resolutions at Convention;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM Bylaws do not presently allow for electronic voting on resolutions at Convention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 13(a) of the UBCM Bylaws be amended to provide for electronic voting on resolutions at Convention, as follows:

13. VOTING AT CONVENTIONS:

- (a) Voting on ordinary resolutions normally shall be by a show of voting cards or by electronic voting keypad, as determined by the Chair.

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

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

In the event that electronic voting keypads are not available or not functioning, the Chair may call for a standing vote, whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a count of those standing in favour of and against the motion. In the event that the result of the standing vote is questioned by fifty or more voting delegates then present, or at any time at the discretion of the Chair, the Chair shall order that the matter before the Convention be determined by ballot, and the result of such ballot shall be final.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

For the reference of the UBCM membership, the original text of Section 13(a) of the UBCM Bylaws appears below:

13. VOTING AT CONVENTIONS:

- (a) Voting on ordinary resolutions normally shall be by a show of voting cards and the Chair's decision as to whether a motion is won or lost is final, unless immediately upon the decision of the Chair being declared,*

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

Conference decision: _____

SECTION SR

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Section SR contains resolutions submitted by the Union of BC Municipalities Executive that pertain to priority issues for the UBCM membership.

SECTION SR

COMMUNITY SAFETY

SR1 MEDICAL MARIHUANA

UBCM Executive

WHEREAS the delivery of the current federal Marihuana Medical Access Program is open to potential abuse and exploitation by criminal elements;

AND WHEREAS under the current Marihuana Medical Access Program police and fire services have identified community safety issues regarding medical marijuana grow sites such as increased participation by organized crime groups; home invasions because of the potential profits with the illicit sale of marijuana; health issues for children living in houses where marijuana is grown; increased residential fires; use of dangerous chemicals; chemical dumping in sewer systems; and electrical injury to growers and their families:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be requested to take immediate steps to institute improvements to the Marihuana Medical Access Program that will respect the privacy of individuals and require the distribution of medical marijuana through licensed commercial producers to reduce the risk of exploitation by criminal elements and ensure the safety of our communities.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has considered several resolutions requesting that where a medical marijuana license is issued by the federal government that the site comply with local government regulations. In 2010 the membership referred resolution A4 to the UBCM Executive, and upon consideration of the resolution the Executive recommended that a new resolution on this issue be developed and submitted to the 2011 UBCM Convention. The Committee would point out that members considered a similar resolution on medical marijuana, 2009-B65, but did not endorse the resolution due to privacy concerns.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2010-B146, which expressed concern over the ability of seriously ill Canadians to access marijuana for medical purposes, and proposed that to address this problem the oversight of medical cannabis be transferred to the provincial government as part of its health mandate. In response to the resolution, the federal government stated that it was not prepared to transfer the responsibility for the control and management of medical marijuana over to the provinces.

The Committee understands that the federal government has announced a new program for access to marijuana for medical purposes. Under the new federal program Canadians diagnosed with a serious illness will still, with the approval of a physician, be able to obtain marijuana for medical purposes. However, under the new program designated-person production licenses will be phased out and individuals will no longer be able to grow marijuana for medical purposes in their homes and communities. The changes announced by the federal government would appear to address local government concerns about the ability of Canadians to access marijuana for medical reasons, while at the same time addressing local government concerns about community safety.

See also resolutions C4, C5 and C6.

Conference decision: _____

SECTION A RESOLUTIONS

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

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

SECTION A

COMMUNITY SAFETY

A1 RCMP INTEGRATED TEAMS

Kent

WHEREAS the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Teams were established without consultation with the municipalities that they are to serve;

AND WHEREAS the integrated teams have been formed to serve the Lower Mainland rather than individual municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments are not required to financially support the RCMP Lower Mainland Integrated Teams.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments are not required to financially support *any integrated police teams established in the province.*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B87, which requested that the Province fund all integrated police teams. There are five integrated teams funded by local governments in the Lower Mainland: Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT); Police Dog Services (PDS); Emergency Response Teams (ERS); Forensic Identification Services (FIS); and Integrated Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Services (ICARS). The Committee also recognizes that a number of these integrated police services, such as IHIT, ERS, and ICARS, have been established in other areas of the province.

In response to the 2007 resolution the provincial government has taken the position that municipalities are responsible for providing the services that integrated teams cover. If a municipality does not have the level of expertise or capability to provide these services at the required standard, then the municipality must contract with another agency to provide those services.

The Province emphasized that it subsidizes integrated teams and also funds general programs such as DNA analysis and the implementation of PRIME (the province-wide police record management system), that benefit all local governments and police agencies. In addition, the Province noted that under the Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing grant program, the Province disburses 100% of traffic fine revenues received in the province.

An amendment to the enactment clause is proposed to acknowledge that integrated policing initiatives are not limited to just the Lower Mainland, but are also found in other areas of the province.

Conference decision: _____

ELECTIONS

A2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – ONLINE VOTING

Fort St. John

WHEREAS *Local Government Act* Division 9 – Voting Opportunities does not allow the ability to offer online voting to electors in local government elections;

AND WHEREAS this additional service provision would assist the general population especially the elderly, disabled, snowbirds, and those working in camp, to participate in the democratic process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to initiate the policy analysis and legislative changes required to implement online voting for the 2014 local government election.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2000-B13, which requested that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to enable local governments to use the Internet for voting purposes. At the time, the Province indicated that it was “committed to investigating alternative methods of voting that would provide greater choice to local governments while ensuring the integrity of the voting process”, and that a review by provincial staff was already underway.

More recently, the Committee understands that Vancouver council approved in principle the use of Internet voting on a pilot basis for advanced voting in the 2011 general local election, pending approval of the Internet voting bylaw by the Minister. In response to the Vancouver bylaw on Internet voting, the Minister indicated to Vancouver council that neither the Vancouver Charter nor Local Government Act provide clear authority for Internet voting, and that significant legislative change would be needed to establish a clear basis for Internet voting in local government elections. Without the necessary legislative change, ministerial approval of an Internet voting bylaw could create the basis for a challenge to the elections process or results.

The Province’s position on the Vancouver bylaw is in line with discussions between the Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the UBCM Executive in January 2011, when the Minister advised that while the Province is supportive of the concept of Internet voting and the ministry is looking into e-voting options, there are a number of challenges that still need to be addressed (i.e. security, voter identification) and as a result Internet voting would not be ready for 2011. The Minister noted that beyond the technological challenges, legislative amendments would be necessary before electronic voting could be permitted.

See also resolutions C8 and B16.

Conference decision: _____

TRANSPORTATION

A3 BC FERRIES RATE INCREASES

Port Clements

WHEREAS BC Ferries announced in early 2011 that ferry rates would increase 100% in four years on

all northern routes;

AND WHEREAS the ferry route to Haida Gwaii is an extension of Highway 16 and an essential service for its residents for both personal and freight transportation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to recognize our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and provide the independent BC Ferry Commission with a mandate to provide comprehensive recommendations aimed at creating equity between our terrestrial and marine highways and keeping jobs in northern BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that the BC Ferry fares and cores service levels are frozen at current levels until such time as the provincial government implements legislation that recognizes our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and creates equity between BC's terrestrial and marine highway systems.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a number of resolutions over the years with respect to BC Ferries. Many resolutions have requested that ferries be administered and funded as a critical component of the provincial transportation system and be treated as an extension of provincial highways and therefore travel must be affordable, accessible and dependable (2001-B64, 2004-B59, 2007-B18, 2010-B20).

The UBCM Executive established a Ferry Fares Advisory Committee in November 2010 in response to concerns from many coastal communities about projected fare increases for the 2012-2016 rate period. The Committee has undertaken extensive research and consulted with the previous and present Commissioner and ministry staff on the fare setting process. As well the Committee met with the Minister of Transportation on May 4, 2011 to advise of UBCM policy with respect to ferry fares and express concerns that increased fares would not be sustainable and would be a serious impediment to the economic and social sustainability of coastal communities.

On May 24, 2011 the provincial government put forward Bill 14 -Coastal Ferry Amendment Act, 2011, which will place a 4% cap on ferry fares across all routes for one year, until the Commissioner has had an opportunity to undertake a review and provide recommendations to the Minister regarding how to "better balance the interests of ferry users and the financial sustainability needs of ferry operators."

The Committee continues to monitor the Commissioner's review process and has encouraged the Commissioner to engage coastal communities in consultations in the coming months.

See also resolution C9.

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

A4 ENHANCED SENIORS' CARE OUTREACH & PREVENTATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

Victoria

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and well-being of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood houses, senior's centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and preventative health programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government provide funding for more seniors' outreach, preventive health programs, and better coordination among existing services.

However, the membership has endorsed several related resolutions that would work towards keeping seniors active and connected, including:

- creating a framework that communities can use as a guideline to plan for livable, age and disability friendly communities (2010-B114)*
- funding and initiatives for Measuring Up the North, which helped BC communities assess and improve how livable, age-friendly, disability-friendly, universally designed, and inclusive they are for all citizens and visitors(2009-B145)*
- implementing age-friendly tools which will help adapt the built, physical and social environments of their communities to support the needs of seniors (2007-B152)*

UBCM also administered a Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative (SHSI) grant, which was created through a one-time \$2 million grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. In 2007, the Ministry of Health provided a \$0.5 million grant to further support the initiative and to incorporate a focus on Age-friendly projects.

In the initial phases of the program, the emphasis was on information sharing, including workshop sessions at all five Area Association meetings, the development of a Seniors in Communities website, and grants for 'Seniors in Communities Dialogues.' Feedback and analysis of these initial grants led to the creation of pilot project funding, which was available to local governments in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

In the fall of 2008, the first round of Age-friendly Community Planning grants was available to local governments. This was followed by a second round of community planning grants in the spring of 2009. In early 2010, grants of up to \$20,000 were also available to support community planning initiatives and/or

community projects focused on age-friendly communities and the ability of seniors to age in place.

See also resolutions C27, C28, C29 and C30.

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

A5 RETENTION OF CARBON OFFSETS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Smithers

WHEREAS, beginning in 2012, local governments in British Columbia will be required to purchase carbon offsets in order to achieve carbon neutrality;

AND WHEREAS local governments lack funding to achieve carbon neutrality through improvements to local infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to allow each local government to retain its own carbon offset monies, with the requirement that the monies be placed in a reserve fund for future local carbon-reduction initiatives.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B110, which called on the Province to allow local governments to administer and invest in local environmental programs with their own “carbon offset” funds. Members also endorsed resolution 2010-B31, which called for the establishment of a model reserve fund in which local governments might deposit monies that would otherwise be spent on carbon offsets, with the aim of using these funds to undertake effective projects in their communities to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions.

The Committee would point out that UBCM has been working closely with the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat to create a Local Government GHG Reduction Framework that would enable local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability and meet their commitment to become carbon neutral. The framework includes an option for local governments to select from a list of measurable GHG reduction projects, established by the Green Communities Committee, which could be undertaken in their communities to counterbalance their remaining corporate emissions.

The Committee notes that under the Green Communities Committee carbon neutral framework, local governments are able to invest in carbon neutral reserve funds. Such funds re-allocate the monies that would have been spent on offsets to investments in community GHG reduction projects. However, technically -in the context of the commitments made under the Climate Action Charter -mere establishment of a carbon neutral reserve fund alone does not mean that a local government would achieve complete carbon neutrality in their corporate emissions.

Conference decision: _____

LAND USE

A6 AQUACULTURE AGREEMENT

AVICC Executive

WHEREAS on February 9, 2009, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government—not the provinces—should regulate fish farms, prompting both orders of government to negotiate an Aquaculture Agreement that was reached on December 10, 2010;

AND WHEREAS neither the provincial nor federal government sought to consult with UBCM about how the Aquaculture Agreement would impact local governments, specifically those communities that have bylaws (including zoning) in place with respect to where and how fish farms operate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial and federal governments recognize the authorities and responsibilities of local governments with respect to aquaculture and immediately consult with them about the impact and implications of the new Aquaculture Agreement;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments recognize and respect local government bylaws (including zoning) in the siting, approval and operation of fish and shellfish farms.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial and federal government consultations on matters related to aquaculture, to ensure that local government's authority related to land use is recognized and taken into consideration prior to decisions being made about aquaculture operations (1997-B54, 2003-A6, 2003-B88).

See also resolution C17.

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

A7 TREATY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FUNDING

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between UBCM and the Province of British Columbia included 'New Relationship' matters within the mandate of the Treaty Advisory Committee, in addition to treaty negotiations;

AND WHEREAS there is no formal pathway within the context of New Relationship funding which includes the interests of local governments;

AND WHEREAS the information gained from these advisory committees is invaluable for negotiations with First Nations thereby benefitting all parties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation to provide adequate core funding to Treaty Advisory Committees and related organizations.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members previously endorsed a resolution calling on senior orders of government to provide local governments (through TACs) sufficient funding to properly research and prepare positions and concerns for treaty negotiations (1995-A14). UBCM members also endorsed a resolution calling on the provincial government to restore funding to Treaty Advisory Committees to ensure local governments continue in the context of the MOU on consultation (2002-B44).

In 2002 the provincial government announced it would no longer provide funding support to Treaty Advisory Committees. The government said its decision to eliminate funding was part of its shift to a more strategic approach to consultation. UBCM advocated for the restoration of predictable annual funding to TACs/local governments involved in the treaty negotiations.

In 2009 the Province approached UBCM about using funds from the Supporting Treaty Implementation Pilot Project (STIPP) program to support the operations of Treaty Advisory Committees (TAC) for the 2009/10 fiscal year since the Province was unable to support TACs due to the economic climate. The STIPP program was amended and an opportunity for TACs to apply was created. TAC funding through the STIPP program was offered again for the 2010/11 fiscal year.

Conference decision: _____

SECTION B RESOLUTIONS

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

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

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

- Part 1 - Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy
 - previously considered and endorsed resolutions;
 - resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy; or
 - other major previously approved policy papers/ documents.
- Part 2 and Part 3 - Resolutions Proposing New Policy
 - resolutions on topics not previously considered;
 - previously considered but not endorsed resolutions;
 - topics of local or regional significance;
 - topics of national significance and recommended, as appropriate, for consideration by FCM.

The Resolutions Committee has discretion in classifying these resolutions as:

- Part 2: those issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government.
- Part 3: those resolutions on matters of interest to local communities that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

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

SECTION B - PART 1

Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

This section contains resolutions that:

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

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

“SHALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR PART 1 - B RESOLUTIONS BE ADOPTED?”

If the motion is approved by delegates, all Part 1 - Section B resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

“I MOVE THAT RESOLUTION B(x) BE REMOVED FROM THE BLOCK AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FOR DEBATE.”

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

If the motion were approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion was decided.

SECTION B1

LEGISLATIVE

B1 DUTY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS TO RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY

Prince George

WHEREAS the breach of Section 117 of the *Community Charter* (Duty to respect confidentiality) by elected officials undermines the public trust in the elected body and exposes the local government to unacceptable and avoidable risk;

AND WHEREAS the available legal remedies for sanction of elected officials who breach the duty to respect confidentiality are insufficient:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to provide additional provisions for sanction of elected officials who breach the duty to respect confidentiality, including but not limited to, amending Section 110 of the *Community Charter* (Circumstances in which a person is disqualified from office on council), to include “the breach of Section 117 of the *Community Charter* (Duty to respect confidentiality)”.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B64, which requested that the provincial government develop explanatory materials and guidelines to complement Section 117 of the Community Charter and parallel section(s) of the Vancouver Charter, to provide elected officials with a better understanding of the duty to respect confidentiality. The resolution further requested that additional penalties be considered for deliberate breach of confidentiality, including potential disqualification from office.

In response to 2007-B64 the provincial government committed to developing explanatory materials and guidelines for local government officials on the duty to respect confidentiality. The provincial government also committed to working with the Local Government Leadership Academy to include information in its curriculum about the duty to respect confidentiality. However, the provincial government suggested that a full review of the confidentiality issue, including consideration of the importance of “whistle-blowers” in some situations, would be necessary before considering any legislative amendments.

The Committee also notes that UBCM members endorsed a related resolution, 2007-B63, which called on the Province to amend the prescribed oath or affirmation of office in the Community Charter and Vancouver Charter, in order to make it clear that the oath includes the “duty to respect confidentiality” contained in section 117 of the Community Charter.

In response to 2007-B63, the Province pointed out that section 120(2) of the Community Charter authorizes a council to establish, by bylaw, an oath or affirmation of office that is different from the oath contained in Local Government Elections Regulation 380/93. The Province suggested that in this way a local government could “include words in their oath or solemn affirmation that relate to the duty of a council member to respect confidentiality”.

See also resolution B125.

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B2 FIRST LINE FIRE TRUCK REPLACEMENT GUIDELINES

East Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the Fire Underwriters Survey requires that all first line fire apparatus (fire trucks) for small communities and rural centres be replaced after 20 years in order to retain fire insurance grading recognition for that apparatus;

AND WHEREAS fire apparatus in small communities and rural centres is still in excellent condition after 20 years due to very low hours of operational use; the cost apply for a limited extension past 20 years is not economical; and the cost of replacement of first line fire apparatus every 20 years is onerous on taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby for change to the Fire Underwriters Survey requirements for replacement for first line fire apparatus such as fire trucks and other fire fighting vehicles to ease the financial burden to taxpayers in small and rural centres.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Fire Underwriters Survey amend the retirement guidelines for replacing fire apparatus (i.e. fire trucks) to recognize usage and miles driven rather than simply requiring automatic replacement on a 25-year basis (2007-B11; 1995-B72; 1992-B81).

Conference decision: _____

B3 FIRE & POLICE SERVICES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ACT

Nelson

WHEREAS the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* was enacted over fifteen years ago with the goal of facilitating collective bargaining with fire and police;

AND WHEREAS the results are that the Act has not lead to improved collective bargaining rather it has resulted in the parties invariably ending up at an impasse and the collective agreement being settled through binding arbitration with awards that are not in line with the economic reality of British Columbia communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Minister of Labour review the impact of the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* on collective bargaining to determine if it has met its goals that were established at the time.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2005-B150 and 1993-A25, regarding the way in which collective bargaining decisions are made in relation to the delivery of fire and police services. The issue is a long-standing concern of local government when negotiating collective agreements for fire and police services.

Conference decision: _____

B4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC & ROAD RESCUE SERVICES

Stewart

WHEREAS Emergency Management BC is initiating a major policy review in 2011 and their current policy regarding road rescue services is to provide a provincial task number for road rescue responses outside of a municipal boundary, but not within a municipal boundary;

AND WHEREAS there are some municipalities in BC with very large rural boundaries that contain resource or similar roads that are wilderness and remote in nature, yet are accessed by tourists and others, increasing the frequency of motor vehicle accidents requiring a municipal response:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC (Emergency Management BC) to develop policy exceptions that provide a provincial task number to a municipality responding to a road rescue in a wilderness or remote area within a municipal boundary.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting reimbursement for costs associated with responding to motor vehicle accidents (2006-B64; 2005-B4; 2004-B6; 2001-B6; 2001-B8; 2000-B15). However, members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province fund a municipality responding to a road rescue in a wilderness or remote area within a municipal boundary.

Currently, the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) reimburses fire departments that respond to police or ambulance calls in the electoral areas of the province at a rate set by policy. PEP also provides WCB and liability coverage for these calls and reimburses for repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment. The current policy and reimbursement rates for out of boundary road rescue calls were developed through the deliberations of a road rescue task group.

Conference decision: _____

B5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COSTS

Sooke

WHEREAS the tanker truck incident on April 16, 2011 in Goldstream Park on Highway 1 (the TransCanada Highway) resulted in the complete closure of this highway for approximately twenty-four hours, and necessitated the response of four fire rescue services and one hazardous materials unit, the District of Sooke being one of them;

AND WHEREAS the resulting administrative setup provided significant challenges for response team members in terms of being reimbursed financially:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia and other agencies or provincial ministries as needed, with regard to facilitating the reimbursement process for volunteer and career fire rescue services across British Columbia in a timely manner.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting reimbursement for costs associated with responding to motor vehicle accidents (2006-B64; 2005-B4; 2004-B6; 2001-B6; 2001-B8; 2000-B15).

Currently, the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) reimburses fire departments that respond to police or ambulance calls in the electoral areas of the province at a rate set by policy. PEP also provides WCB and liability coverage for these calls and reimburses for repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment. The current policy and reimbursement rates for out of boundary road rescue calls were developed through the deliberations of a road rescue task group.

Conference decision: _____

B6 FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING FUNDING

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS provincial funding supporting the training of volunteer first responders has been reduced by the Emergency and Health Services Commission;

AND WHEREAS the reduction of funding will impact all fire departments throughout BC that are delivering emergency pre-hospital assistance under the Provincial Emergency Medical Assistant First Responder Program;

AND WHEREAS emergency medical services is a provincial responsibility which is delivered, in part, by a majority of local governments in BC through their fire departments under the Provincial Medical Assistant First Responder Program and which has been acknowledged by the provincial government as a valuable program in providing patient support until paramedics arrive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to continue its commitment to fully financially support the training of dedicated volunteer first responders to ensure they have the skills required to provide high quality pre-hospital emergency assistance to patients where first responders are the first to arrive on the scene.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B2, which requested the reinstatement of core funding for emergency management training. In response to the resolution, the

Province indicated that it 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.

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.

Conference decision: _____

B7 SCRAP METAL LICENSING & REGULATING

Greenwood

WHEREAS damage and loss resulting from the theft of metals costs British Columbia millions of dollars each year;

AND WHEREAS there are no mechanisms in place to regulate, control, monitor and enforce the market for scrap metal that provides the economic basis for metal theft, vandalism and property crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a system to licence and regulate the scrap metal economy in British Columbia and to consider mandating the Product Stewardship Program with responsibility to implement and monitor these regulations.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a system to licence and regulate the scrap metal economy in British Columbia and in the process consider different methods of implementing the regulation, such as the use of a model bylaw to allow local government to assist in enforcing the regulation or mandating the Product Stewardship Program with responsibility to implement and monitor these regulations.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B92, which requested that the Province implement a system to regulate the scrap metal industry. An amendment is being proposed to request that the province look at a number of different options in enforcing the new scrap metal recycling regulations.

The Province of British Columbia at that time indicated that it recognized the importance of this issue for local governments and was working with the police and stakeholders to examine opportunities for both legislative and non-legislative solutions.

See also resolutions B77 and C3.

Conference decision: _____

B8 KEEP OF PRISONERS COST

Fort St. John

WHEREAS Corrections BC has an annual budget of \$4.3 million dollars per year that has a fixed quarterly budget of \$1.075 million to reimburse RCMP detachments for all provincial prisoners kept in locally owned RCMP buildings;

AND WHEREAS this funding allocation per prisoner fluctuates in accordance to the number of prisoners kept each quarter (most recent average reimbursement of \$6.63 per prisoner per hour) and does not reflect the true operating cost to the local government for keeping these prisoners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC reimburse the full costs incurred in housing provincial prisoners that are held in locally owned RCMP detachment buildings.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting an increase in the reimbursement rate for the keep of prisoners (2008-B24; 2004-B5; 2003-A4).

UBCM has recently undertaken a member survey on Keep of Prisoner (KOP) costs in local government and will be preparing a report on this issue.

In response to the 2008 resolution, the Province indicated that the government was committed to ensuring services are delivered in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. To ensure that municipalities are equitably compensated, Keep of Prisoners agreements provide an hourly prisoner rate determined by dividing the total number of provincial prisoner hours into the annual Keep of Prisoner budget.

In addition to working to reduce the number of provincial prisoners in lock-ups through the use of video court appearances, revised prisoner transport schedules and increased hours of admission at regional correctional centres, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is working toward securing additional funding that will increase the Keep of Prisoner budget, thus increasing reimbursements to municipalities.

See also resolution C7.

Conference decision: _____

B9 PROVINCIAL COURT OF BC – JUDICIAL RESOURCES

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS it has been identified in the “Report of the Provincial Court of BC Concerning Judicial Resources, September, 2010” that the Provincial Court of British Columbia cannot presently fulfil its mandate to provide timely access to justice as the judicial complement is below that in 2005;

AND WHEREAS as a result of insufficient judicial and support staff levels the Provincial Court of BC's ability to provide services to the citizens of British Columbia is inefficient and is affecting the administration of justice in the province;

AND WHEREAS communities throughout the province are being adversely impacted due to unreasonable delays and the increasing backlog regarding all types of cases within the Provincial Court of BC jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to promptly increase the judicial complement, court registry staffing, and sheriff's services as is necessary to prevent further deterioration of the Court's services to the public.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to ensure that funding and staffing are adequate so that the courts are able to provide services to citizens across British Columbia (2009-B2, 2007-B88, 2001-B49, 2000-B53, 1991-B35).

Conference decision: _____

B10 RESPONDING TO THE THREAT OF TSUNAMIS

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS the coastal communities of British Columbia are at risk of significant loss of life in the event of a tsunami;

AND WHEREAS the key to effectively managing the risk within each community, in the event of a tsunami, is a warning system;

AND WHEREAS many coastal communities have limited financial resources to provide critical emergency response services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase financial support for all coastal communities to provide emergency response warning systems.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-A4, which called on the provincial and federal governments to "provide adequate funding to coastal communities for planning, public education and infrastructure improvements to reduce the risk of loss of life, property damage and economic disruption in the event of a tsunami".

In response to resolution 2005-A4, the provincial government referred to its Tsunami Integrated Preparedness Project (TIP), which included a grant program for communities at risk; public workshops and meetings; a

Tsunami Smart guide; and the development of a fax server and interactive voice response notification system. At the time, the Province also suggested that equipment purchase for emergency response might also be eligible for funding through the Province's Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP).

Conference decision: _____

B11 FLOOD MITIGATION PROGRAMS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS current funding programs for flood mitigation that require 1/3 of project funding from local government as well as requiring that the local government assume ownership of the works for a period of 10 years, in some cases result in an unrealistic burden on affected taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the financial inability of the residents to meet the requirements of the funding program often precludes a planned proactive approach to known flood issues thereby minimizing environmental impacts associated with mitigative works and instead results in a reactive approach when an imminent threat occurs, resulting in greater costs and greater environmental damage, in addition to the traumatic and sometimes devastating impacts on affected residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to develop programs that take a proactive approach to flood mitigation rather than continuing to try to download additional responsibilities on local governments that are ill-equipped and lacking in financial capacity to address these situations in a proactive manner that best respects the residents and the environment.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions in support of flood protection measures – most recently 2007-A1; 2006-B18 and 2006-B19; 2004-A11 and 2004-B16; 2003-B21 and 2003-B82.

Conference decision: _____

B12 DIKING DISTRICTS

Coquitlam

WHEREAS the Province desires to transfer responsibility of operating and maintaining diking district assets to local government;

AND WHEREAS the cost of operating and maintaining diking district assets, and the associated liabilities of operating and maintaining the assets are undefined:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC undertake a full cost, operating and condition assessment of diking district assets to determine the most appropriate and cost effective delivery of flood protection to property owners;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if local government provided flood protection is deemed to be in the best interests of property owners, the Province of BC be asked to provide adequate funding for the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the diking district assets.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions in support of flood protection measures – most recently 2007-A1; 2006-B18 and 2006-B19; 2004-A11 and 2004-B16; 2003-B21 and 2003-B82. However, the membership has not previously requested that the province undertake a full cost, operating and condition assessment of the remaining diking districts in the province and provide adequate funding for the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the diking district assets.

Conference decision: _____

B13 911 CALL LEVY

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS cost recovery for 911 Emergency Telephone Service should be established on an equitable system based on the likelihood of its use, rather than by parcel tax, which over-taxes ranchers and under-taxes mobile home parks, or on the value of residents' land or improvements, which is irrelevant to the service;

AND WHEREAS the CRTC (Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission) provides local governments with an option for 911 cost recovery as it mandates all service providers, upon request, to bill and collect a 911 fee or levy on behalf of a local authority; however, this is only available for wire line telephone services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact legislation that would require wireless telephone service providers to collect 911 service costs on behalf of local governments, upon request, as has been done in Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2004-SR1, which requested the provincial government to enact legislation that would require wireless telephone service providers to collect 911 service costs on behalf of local governments.

Currently there is an agreement between the telecommunication companies and various regional districts to pay a levy per land line customer to assist in the delivery of 911 emergency service in the area, but cell and wireless services are not covered under that agreement. In Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan the operation of 911 emergency service is paid for by both land line and cellular subscribers and is supported by a provincial regulation and through an agreement with the industry.

Conference decision: _____

B14 PROVISION & FUNDING OF VICTIM SERVICES

Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS the matter of costs to local governments for providing police based victim services continues to escalate due to the increased demand for the service;

AND WHEREAS the authority for providing victim services is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for victim's issues, development of legislation, policies and programs, and for providing training and delivering and funding programs that support victims and their families:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to assume all responsibility for the provision and funding of victim services within the province of BC.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province look at the funding for victim services programs (2010-B12; 2008-B4; 2006-B9; 2003-VictimsServices Program; 1996-B43). However, members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province assume all responsibility for the provision and funding of victim services.

See also resolution C1.

Conference decision: _____

B15 CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Armstrong

WHEREAS crime prevention programs have assisted in the recovery of over \$800,000 in property and \$17 million in seizure of drugs in BC which goes into provincial general revenue;

AND WHEREAS all crime prevention programs are supported solely by local fundraising efforts:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to include funding for crime prevention and community policing programs from proceeds of crime revenues.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2005-B3 and 2008-B58, both of which requested the provincial government to provide funding for crime prevention programs.

In response to resolution 2008-B58 the Province indicated that it provided some funding for crime prevention through its support for the BC Crime Stoppers Advisory Board Society.

The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for funds from the disposition of forfeited property related to crimes, to be distributed to local governments for policing costs (2009-B4, 2004-A1, 2004-B3, 2004-B7, 2003-B3, 1998-B2, 1993-B30, 1992-B58).

In response to resolution 2009-B4, the Province pointed out that the "Civil Forfeiture Act allows for local governments and communities to share in the proceeds of forfeited property through funding grants in support

of crime prevention and crime remediation activities”.

Conference decision: _____

ELECTIONS

B16 ONLINE VOTING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS it is desirable to increase the level of interest and participation in local government by young people in the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government introduce online voting in local government and provincial government elections.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed
Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government introduce online voting in local government elections.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2000-B13, which requested that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to enable local governments to use the Internet for voting purposes. At the time, the Province indicated that it was “committed to investigating alternative methods of voting that would provide greater choice to local governments while ensuring the integrity of the voting process”, and that a review by provincial staff was already underway.

More recently, the Committee understands that Vancouver council approved in principle the use of Internet voting on a pilot basis for advanced voting in the 2011 general local election, pending approval of the Internet voting bylaw by the Minister. In response to the Vancouver bylaw on Internet voting, the Minister indicated to Vancouver council that neither the Vancouver Charter nor Local Government Act provide clear authority for Internet voting, and that significant legislative change would be needed to establish a clear basis for Internet voting in local government elections. Without the necessary legislative change, ministerial approval of an Internet voting bylaw could create the basis for a challenge to the elections process or results.

The Province’s position on the Vancouver bylaw is in line with discussions between the Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the UBCM Executive in January 2011, when the Minister advised that while the Province is supportive of the concept of Internet voting and the ministry is looking into e-voting options, there are a number of challenges that still need to be addressed (i.e. security, voter identification) and as a result Internet voting would not be ready for 2011. She noted that beyond the technological challenges, legislative amendments would be necessary before electronic voting could be permitted.

An amendment to the enactment clause of this resolution is proposed to omit the reference to provincial government elections, since those elections are not within local government jurisdiction.

See also resolution A2.

Conference decision: _____

**B17 DETERMINING ELECTION RESULTS WHERE A TIE VOTE
EXISTS AFTER A JUDICIAL RECOUNT**

Richmond

WHEREAS the Province has announced that over the next three years it will be working toward the implementation of a range of legislative amendments relating to local government elections based on the recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force, which presents an opportunity to also consider, review and consult in relation to additional election issues;

AND WHEREAS a resolution relating to runoff elections was endorsed by UBCM in 1996 (resolution B53) but was not implemented by the Province even though it would provide a fair and cost-effective runoff election process in the event of a tie vote following judicial recount:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to enact amendments to elections legislation that would:

- permit runoff elections to be staged on a reduced scale, as compared to the original election (i.e. limited number of polls); and
- provide that runoff elections be between only those candidates who received the same number of votes following judicial recount.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee notes that, as the sponsor has indicated, UBCM members endorsed resolution B53 in 1996, which requested the Province to amend "Section 142 [of the Municipal Act] to permit only those candidates with an equality of votes to participate in a runoff election, and to permit the runoff election to be conducted on a smaller, more appropriate scale than the original election".

Conference decision: _____

TRANSPORTATION

**B18 REGULATION OF INSTALLATION OF SIGNS, SPEED & PEDESTRIAN
CROSSINGS WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES**

Rossland

WHEREAS the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure has the legislative authority to make and issue regulations under the *Transportation Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Minister may make regulations respecting the use of provincial public highways by persons or vehicles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that a municipal Council may, by a bylaw with the approval of the Minister, be granted the legislative authority to regulate the installation of signs, regulations of speed and pedestrian crossings on arterial highways within the municipal boundaries.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B101, which requested that municipalities be granted the authority to regulate motor vehicle speeds and pedestrian crossings on arterial highways within municipal boundaries. A number of small communities have raised concerns about the speed of vehicles on highways within municipal boundaries, and the related increased risk of pedestrian/vehicle accidents. Most recently, arising out of discussions at the Small Talk Forum at the 2010 UBCM Convention, these concerns were conveyed to the Minister of Transport & Infrastructure in a letter from the UBCM Small Community Representative.

In its response to resolution 2007-B101, the Province indicated that it already works with municipalities that request changes to speed limits on provincial highways through their communities. Requests are evaluated based on provincial policy, local traffic conditions and engineering studies. Further, the Province has suggested that if speeding is a concern, then this issue should be directed to the RCMP. Studies in North America have consistently found that lowering the speed limit by posting a sign does not affect the actual operating speed of motorists unless it is backed up by continuous and intense enforcement.

Conference decision: _____

B19 BIKE LANE SWEEPING

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS governments invest in the provision of cycling lanes adjacent to provincial roadways to promote healthy lifestyles and provide alternatives to single occupancy vehicles;

AND WHEREAS gravel and other debris on the cycling paths pose a risk to cyclists and act as an impediment to the use of alternative modes of transportation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure to amend road maintenance contracts to increase the frequency of bike lane and highway shoulder sweeping.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B108, which called for increased frequency of bike lane sweeping.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions calling for measures to improve the safety of cycling along provincial roadways, including:

- *Increasing the width of paved shoulders (2007-B99, 2010-B16)*
- *Funding for safe cycling infrastructure on provincial routes (2010-B17, 2006-B110, 2008-B83)*
- *Requiring the refurbishing of highway shoulders when highway upgrading projects are undertaken adjacent to communities, to allow for safe travel by pedestrians and cyclists (2007-B14)*
- *Constructing bicycle lanes or other provisions for bicycle traffic whenever works compatible with such construction are taking place adjacent to roadways (2006-B140)*

Conference decision: _____

B20 OFF ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) LICENSING & SAFETY

Powell River RD

WHEREAS the provincial government planned to introduce legislation in late 2010 to provide for ORV licensing and safety features;

AND WHEREAS such legislation would greatly enhance back-country activities in rural British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to enact ATV licensing legislation as soon as possible in 2011.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province enact legislation and regulations with respect to off-road and all-terrain vehicles (2002-B9, 1999LR4, 1996-B16, 1993-B36).

In November 2009, the Province announced and is in the process of developing a new framework for managing ORV and ATVs. UBCM is presently represented on a Joint Advisory Group and a local government working group has also been established to provide feedback and comment to the Ministry on specific local government interests as the new framework is developed. When the Province made the announcement about the new ORV regulatory framework, the Minister responsible indicated that it would take approximately two years before the new management framework would be implemented.

Conference decision: _____

B21 RAILCAR SERVICE

Mackenzie

WHEREAS there are a limited number of railway companies providing service in the province, and communities and industries rely on this mode of transportation for transporting their products to market;

AND WHEREAS it is difficult for industries to acquire sufficient railcars in a timely manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial and federal governments ensure that these railway companies provide adequate railcar service to all regions within the Province of British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the preservation, improvement, and in some cases re-instatement, of both passenger and freight rail service in BC (1995-B57; 1997-A12; 2001-B97; 2002-LR7; 2003-B7; 2003-B62; 2004-B58; 2004-B65).

Conference decision: _____

B22 ALLOCATING CARBON TAX FOR TRANSIT FUNDING

Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia, through measures such as the Climate Action Charter, the Carbon Tax and the Provincial Transit Plan, has been a leader in recognizing the importance of reducing greenhouse gases;

AND WHEREAS local governments face significant financial challenges in order to increase transit services, a key element of the Provincial Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to direct a portion of all carbon taxes collected to enable an increase in the proportional share of provincial funding for all transit services and programs.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B76, which called on the Province to provide local governments with a per capita share of provincial carbon tax revenues. These revenues would support the capital and operating costs associated with greenhouse gas emissions reduction actions implemented by local governments and regional transportation authorities, as they worked to meet provincially legislated greenhouse gas reduction targets.

In response to the 2010 resolution, the provincial government re-iterated its position that the carbon tax is meant to be revenue neutral and “all revenues collected from the carbon tax are returned to taxpayers and businesses through tax reductions”.

The membership also endorsed resolution 2008-SR2, which called on the Province to examine the application of the BC Carbon Tax with the intent of mitigating impacts and creating incentives for local governments and residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Conference decision: _____

TAXATION

B23 BC HYDRO FAIR COMPENSATION

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS Crown Corporations are expected to pay their fair share of property taxes by providing a grant-in-lieu;

AND WHEREAS private utilities pay property taxes to municipalities and regional districts on property including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines, and private utilities and BC Hydro provide municipalities a 1% tax on gross sales revenues within their jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to explore the taxation of BC Hydro and implement a fair and equitable method of compensation to all local governments for the provision of local and regional services.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions relating to Crown Corporation assets and the payment of either grants in lieu of property taxes, or full property taxes based on assessed property values (2009-B44; 2005-B96; 2001-B21; 2001-B24; 1995-A6). Further, UBCM General Policy 1.8 states that "property taxation distribution...should be based on actual value assessments and grants in lieu of taxes paid by other governments and their agencies should be paid on the same basis as the ordinary taxpayer."

In response to resolution 2001-B21, the BC Ministry of Finance stated that "[s]ome provincial investments are so massive that full grants would be out of all proportion to the services that communities provide these Crown investments and would completely distort the tax bases of these communities by comparison with other communities. The BC Hydro dams on the Columbia and Peace rivers are examples of such massive investments."

The provincial government in 2009 indicated that it had reviewed its grants-in-lieu policy and made a decision to create a more transparent policy rationale for calculating the grants for generating facilities to provide additional funds to communities which host and/or are impacted by power generating facilities, and for adjusting these grants into the future and to enhance payments already made to regional districts. The Province also indicated that it had decided not to provide additional grants on other provincial facilities in regional districts.

Under the Community Charter s. 220(1)(a), Crown Corporations are exempt from paying property taxes.

See also resolutions C11, C12, C13 and C14.

Conference decision: _____

B24 VARYING TAX RATES

Lake Cowichan

WHEREAS there is no legislative provision to allow municipalities to impose separate tax rates for each of land and improvements to encourage property owners to make significant improvements to their properties or to reduce the impact of sudden fluctuations in property values;

AND WHEREAS the current legislative mechanisms such as the revitalization tax exemption or the assessment averaging provisions provided under the *Community Charter* and Assessment Averaging & Phasing Regulation, B.C. Reg. 370/2003, respectively, have not been proven to be useful tools for mitigating the impact of uneven assessment changes on taxation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be lobbied to amend Section 197 of the *Community Charter* to allow municipalities to have the flexibility of levying separate tax rates for each of land and improvements for each property class.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed previous resolutions calling for an amendment to the Community Charter to grant municipalities the option of setting differing property tax rates for land and improvements, in order to encourage development and improved maintenance of derelict buildings and vacant land (2008-B18; 2007-B72).

The province has indicated in the past that while the variable tax rate system does not currently allow municipalities to set differing property tax rates for Land and Improvements, there are other mechanisms available through the Community Charter and Regulations. Section 216 of the Community Charter, Local Service Taxes, allows costs to be recovered through taxes imposed on land, on improvements, or on both.

Municipalities may also use tools such as the revitalization tax exemption provisions found in section 226 of the Community Charter, or assessment averaging and phasing as described in the Assessment Averaging and Phasing Regulation, B.C. Reg. 370/2003, to encourage property owners to make significant improvements to their property.

Conference decision: _____

B25 UNIVERSITY PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

Port Alberni

WHEREAS section 27(2)(w) of the *University Act* grants the Board of Governors of a university the following powers:

- (w) to pay to a municipality incorporated under an Act a grant in a year not exceeding the lesser of
- (i) the amount that would be payable as general municipal taxes in the year on property of the university within the municipality if the property were not exempt from these taxes, and
- (ii) the amount specified by the minister or calculated in the manner specified by the minister;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have identified considerable loss of tax revenue due to the low amounts calculated under *University Act* section 27(2)(w)(ii), but local governments have noted no provincial action in response to UBCM resolution 2008-B104, which requested the Province to amend the *University Act* by replacing section 27(2)(w) with the following:

To pay to a municipality incorporated by or under an act a grant in a year equal to general municipal taxes in the year on property of the university within the municipality if the property were not exempt from these taxes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to address the issue of university grants-in-lieu of taxes by amending section 27(2)(w) of the *University Act* to specify that a university must pay to a municipality a grant equal to general municipal taxes.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that, as mentioned in the resolution, UBCM members endorsed resolution B104 in 2008, which requested the Province to amend the University Act so that a university would pay a grant in a year equal to general municipal taxes in the year on property of the university within the municipality. This resolution is making a similar request by seeking an amendment to specify that a university must pay to a municipality a grant equal to general municipal taxes.

Conference decision: _____

B26 LIQUOR TAX ALLOCATION

Fort St. John

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

AND WHEREAS dealing with the effects of alcohol abuse places an undue strain on a local government tax base:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to allocate 5% of the existing revenue received from the sale of liquor sold through rural agency stores, licensed retail stores and government liquor stores and that these funds be directed to the local government in which the outlet is located and be used to support local drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs for youth and adults.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2004-B111 as amended, which called on the provincial government to direct 5% of the existing tax revenue received from the sale of liquor sold through rural agency stores, licensed retail stores and government liquor stores to the local government in which the outlet is located, with the funds to be utilized to fund homeless and homeless-at-risk shelters and detox facilities.

The provincial government did not respond directly to the resolution's request for specific allocation of a portion of the liquor tax to fund homeless and homeless-at-risk shelters and detox facilities. Instead, the Province expressed favour for a multi-pronged and comprehensive approach to address homelessness, mental health and addictions and highlighted its Safer Communities Initiative, an \$84-million federal-provincial-local partnership to find solutions to these problems.

The Committee would point out that local government has historically resisted being directly involved in the delivery of social services, and has argued in the past that social services were a provincial responsibility which should be funded through provincial tax dollars.

Conference decision: _____

FINANCE

B27 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING

Nanaimo City

WHEREAS public libraries enhance the lives of all British Columbians and are an essential resource in all the communities they serve, especially in times of economic hardship;

AND WHEREAS reduced provincial funding impacts the ability of libraries to adequately provide services, materials, and maintain facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the British Columbia Library Trustees Association to lobby the provincial government to restore grants for public libraries to not less than 2009 levels;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount of grants be adjusted annually thereafter to not less than changes in the Consumer Price Index for British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed
Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ***request that the provincial government restore funding for BC libraries and reading centres to the levels that were achieved as part of the strategic plan prior to 2009.***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting the provincial government to provide funding for public libraries (2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B56, 2006-B55, 2002-B13, 2000-B28, 1999-B13, 1996-B82).

Most recently, members endorsed resolution 2010-B46, which called on the provincial government to maintain existing funding levels in 2010 for BC public libraries and reading centres, and further, to restore funding for BC libraries and reading centres to the levels that had been achieved as part of the strategic plan prior to 2009.

In response to 2010-B46, the Province pointed out that funding for the public library sector was maintained at nearly \$14 million for 2010. The provincial government indicated a preference for “strategic partnerships, leveraging existing capacities for greater shared benefits” and a focus on “collaborative literacy and technology equity initiatives aimed at improving services, reducing costs and increasing access.”

An amendment is proposed to match existing UBCM policy on funding for public libraries.

See also resolution C15.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS municipalities provide critical services such as policing, fire protection, roads, water, sewer, garbage and recycling, parks and recreation services and are facing increased infrastructure deficits that cannot be funded solely through property taxes;

AND WHEREAS all residents of the province contribute to the profit of the British Columbia Lottery Corporation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to establish an equitable formula without affecting casino revenue currently allocated, to share the profits from British Columbia Lottery Corporation with all BC local governments.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered resolution 2008-B119 and referred the resolution to the UBCM Executive. Resolution 2008-B119 requested that the provincial government establish an equitable formula to share the profits from casino revenues with all BC local governments, without affecting casino revenue currently allocated. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution.

In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that it used almost 100% of net gaming revenue“ to support the delivery of social and other programs to all citizens of British Columbia,” and that almost one out of every four dollars of gaming revenue was returned directly to communities.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the “Rural British Columbia Project Discussion Paper Series”, under an initiative called “Reversing the Tide”, has identified a number of best practices that, if put in place, would spur economic revitalization in the rural BC economy;

AND WHEREAS reinvesting a percentage of the natural resource dollars back into the regions from which they are extracted has proven to be a positive step in rural economic revitalization in other parts of the world:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop a program that would provide additional financial and capacity building resources for rural BC communities, as well as create a “Rural Dividend” that would return to rural BC communities a fair share of the revenue created by rural-based resource industry activity in their respective regions.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop a program that would provide additional financial and capacity building resources **to communities by returning a fair share**

of the revenue created by resource industry activity in their respective regions.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have sought opportunities for new revenue sources (Financing Local Government Study 1998) and the Communities and Resources Committee recommended in its 1998 policy paper that “a portion of the stumpage revenue must remain in the harvesting area (revenue should start flowing back to the producing communities).”

More recently, UBCM members have supported and requested that the Province share resource revenues with local governments (2009-B30, 2004 Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, 2003-B30).

The Committee has offered an amendment to reflect the broader policy position of resource revenue sharing that has been adopted by the membership.

See also resolution B30.

Conference decision: _____

B30 REVENUE SHARING FROM MINING ROYALTIES

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS mineral industry activity involves non renewable resources and creates demand on local government infrastructure and services such as community water systems, roads and emergency and protective services;

AND WHEREAS property taxation alone is often inaccessible and insufficient for affected communities within a region to provide needed services and infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial and federal governments to provide revenue sharing from natural resources for local governments affected by resource extractions in their regions.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions and policy papers that have sought a sharing of resource revenues with local governments recognizing that communities should be compensated for the natural resources that are extracted from their regions.

The Communities and Resources Committee recommended in its 1998 policy paper that “a portion of the stumpage revenue must remain in the harvesting area (revenue should start flowing back to the producing communities).”

In 2004, members endorsed the 2004 Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, which specifically sought a sharing of resource revenues with local governments (forest stumpage, mining royalties) and prior to that a 2003 resolution, B30, made a similar request.

See also resolution B29.

Conference decision: _____

B31 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

Lillooet

WHEREAS small communities under 2,500 population which are dependent on residential taxation are struggling to fund infrastructure improvements;

AND WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments have not committed to providing future funding for infrastructure upgrades:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the federal and provincial governments to continue to fund Towns for Tomorrow, Local Motion and federal/provincial infrastructure programs.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking the federal and provincial governments to fund various infrastructure programs (2000-B12, 2004-A7, 2009-B129).

Conference decision: _____

B32 UNIVERSAL SOIL REMOVAL FEE

Taylor

WHEREAS municipalities are permitted to implement soil removal fees to compensate for the fact that current assessment methodology limits the ability for municipalities to appropriately tax gravel operations;

AND WHEREAS gravel operators within municipal boundaries take the position that the imposition of a soil removal fee on their operations affects their ability to compete with gravel operators outside of municipal boundaries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to establish a universal soil removal fee that can be applied across the province, with the funds generated within a municipality accruing to the municipality and the funds generated in the regional district accruing to the regional district.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have considered a number of resolutions over the years related to soil removal fees and bylaws. In 2008 members endorsed resolution B135 which called for an increase in fees for soil removal.

The Committee is aware that presently municipalities may impose soil removal fees as a volume-based levy on production, but the courts have ruled that these fees must be related to direct costs of the aggregate operation to

the municipality. The only cost recognized to date is the maintenance of roads damaged by gravel truck traffic. However, because soil removal fees must be assigned towards maintenance of roads damaged by gravel truck traffic, and because regional districts do not conduct road maintenance, regional districts are not authorized to implement soil removal bylaws. Regional districts would not be able to assign the direct costs of an aggregate operation to road maintenance. This resolution is seeking to provide parity between municipalities and regional districts.

In 2001 a report from a provincial Aggregate Advisory Panel recommended that a new fee be established to replace the fees collected through soil removal bylaws that would fund the aggregate resource management planning process by the Province and regional district to allow them to identify areas where aggregate extraction may be approved in the future. The Report's recommendations have not been acted upon.

Conference decision: _____

B33 REQUEST TO AMEND SECTION 941 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT Coquitlam

WHEREAS local municipalities have a significant amount of parkland in established neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities have insufficient capital funding to upgrade and/or maintain current parkland;

AND WHEREAS re-densification is taking place in older neighbourhoods, where new parks are not required;

AND WHEREAS the legislation requires that 5% parkland acquisition fees are to be used only to acquire new parkland;

AND WHEREAS municipalities should be given the option to utilize the 5% parkland acquisition fees to upgrade and/or maintain current parkland:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia amend Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* to allow greater flexibility to municipalities with respect to how the 5% parkland acquisition fees are to be spent.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed previous resolutions requesting that local governments be granted the option to use funds collected in lieu of parkland dedication for improvement or development of existing parkland (2009-B23; 2008-B23, 2006-B116, 1994-B78, 1993-B19).

The provincial government indicated that it consulted with stakeholders through the DFRC (Development Finance Review Committee), a standing committee that includes representation from the UBCM. Representatives of the development industry indicated that they do not support such a legislative change, and that they would strongly oppose it. The costs of maintaining existing parks are not related to the costs of servicing new development.

Local governments already have a number of other financial tools available to them to fund park improvements, including Development Cost Charges, which can be used for such purposes as the installation of fencing,

landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, restrooms, changing rooms, playground and playing equipment. The provincial Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide recommends that a local government consider clear guidelines when using DCC's for parkland acquisition and improvement.

Conference decision: _____

B34 INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the continual downloading of costs and responsibilities from provincial and federal governments to local governments is neither fair nor properly planned;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have the tax base or capacity to maintain what were once the responsibilities of provincial and federal governments;

AND WHEREAS Canada faces a significant infrastructure deficit that requires the adequate attention of all levels of government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments for a response to infrastructure needs that is based on a fair assessment of the financial and logistical capacity of all levels of government.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work with local governments on a systematic analysis of infrastructure needs, with the goal being practical and sustainable revenues that enable all orders of government to address those needs (2010-B75, 2010-B77, 2009-A1, 2009-B25, 2005-SR1, 2003-A1, 2001-B22, 2000-A16, 2000-B12, 1998-B24, 1997-A2, 1996-A6, 1992-B20).

Conference decision: _____

B35 DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES FOR SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

North Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* (Sections 932–937) allows local governments to collect development cost charges from developers, for local government parks, water, sewage, drainage and highways but not for solid waste infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the costs to expand local government solid waste infrastructure capacity or upgrade facilities to accommodate population growth are substantial and can be assessed;

AND WHEREAS there is precedence for this type of funding, specifically, there are several jurisdictions in the United States of America that allow local governments to use a form of development cost charges to help fund solid waste management infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the *Local Government Act* to authorize collection of development cost charges by local governments for solid waste infrastructure.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to broaden the purposes for which DCCs can be collected -focusing on capital projects directly related to community growth and development (2005-B95; 2003-B19; 2001-B18; 2000-B79; 1998-B17).

Currently, DCCs may be used to help offset costs associated with provision, construction, alteration or expansion of: waterworks; sewer trunks, treatment plants and related infrastructure; drainage works; highway facilities, other than off-street parking facilities; and providing and improving park land.

The suggestion that DCCs be used to fund more services has been reviewed by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which provides technical advice to the provincial government and includes representatives from local government, the Province, the development community, building and real estate industries and the planning profession. The Province has indicated in the past that the DFRC views DCCs as appropriate only where new development requires key infrastructure (sewer, water, drainage, roads and parks) for the development to proceed. DCCs are based on the principle of "user pay" – that costs should be paid by those who use and benefit from the infrastructure.

Conference decision: _____

ASSESSMENT

B36 FARM ASSESSMENT REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION

Coldstream

WHEREAS certain agricultural activities are undergoing extensive economic hardship;

AND WHEREAS the 2009 Farm Assessment Review Panel (FARP) conducted numerous public consultation sessions where concerns were raised that the present list of Primary Agricultural Products(PAP) was too restrictive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC provincial government be encouraged to implement the recommendations made in their 2009 FARP Report as it relates to the review and modernization of the Primary Agricultural Production Schedule products;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Primary Agricultural Products list be modernized and expanded to include a wider scope of activities and value-added products such as food processing and other such examples as referenced in the 2009 FARP Report;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there is a strong consensus indicating the need to review the list of products that constitute the PAP Schedule in the Farm Class Regulation and the need to recognize and include value-added products, more equine activities, new innovative agricultural products and activities.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B97, which requested changes to the farm assessment policy criteria for primary agricultural products.

In its response to the resolution the provincial government noted that submissions to the 2009 Farm Assessment Review Panel (the Panel) asked that primary agricultural production (PAP) include “value-added products/activities” and “agricultural services” and that “a review be done to the list of PAPs that count toward the income threshold”.

The Province indicated that a review of the PAP list was out of scope for the Panel. However, the Panel recommended that a review of the PAP Schedule should take place within three years, as “a priority issue to be dealt with to ensure that policy is being applied as intended and that some value-added products and activities are included”. At the time, the Province suggested that the (then) Ministries of Agriculture and Land and Community and Rural Development would be involved in this review.

Conference decision: _____

B37 BROWNFIELD SITES

Lumby

WHEREAS there are numerous brownfield /contaminated sites within the Province of BC that have reductions in their assessed values and have an operating business on the site;

AND WHEREAS these sites benefit from the communities in which they are located and or have a perceived unfair advantage over other businesses in the neighbourhood due to the reduced property taxes they pay:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Assessment Authority ensure any site with an operating business have its assessment values consistent with other similar properties.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Assessment Authority ensure any site with an operating business have its assessment values consistent with other similar properties **regardless of actual or perceived contamination.**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions concerning the assessment of contaminated property (2005-B21; 1996-ER5). The issue of the assessment of containment sites has been part of ongoing discussions with the provincial government regarding the development of brownfield sites. UBCM has identified this issue in a number of policy papers that have been endorsed by local government.

Local governments have been in discussion with the Province on the need to develop a provincial “brownfields” strategy to deal with vacant contaminated sites for some time. Discussions in the past have centred on the need for industry and government to clean up “brownfield” sites and to develop policies that might allow this land to be used until the site is cleaned up. A large number of these sites are abandoned filling stations, in which the cost of remediation far exceeds the value of the land. In addition, the Ministry of Environment generally gets involved in the clean up of a contaminated site where new development is proposed on the site and it has been

very reluctant to order the clean up of a site unless there is a significant danger to the environment.

On February 25, 2008, the Province announced the development of a provincial Brownfields Renewal Strategy which will: strengthen public policy for environmental liability and risk; apply strategic public investments to encourage the redevelopment of idle sites; and build capacity and awareness of redevelopment tools and opportunities to enhance information about brownfields. The B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy (BRS), is a multi-ministry initiative designed to address the barriers to brownfield and contaminated site redevelopment in the province. In support of implementation of the BRS, the Ministry of Environment is leading several initiatives including (i) reviewing options for increasing flexibility in the transfer of liability between vendors and purchasers of contaminated sites, and (ii) streamlining of the province's contaminated sites regulatory framework to facilitate site clean up and redevelopment.

An amendment to the enactment clause is proposed to ensure that it covers all requests for a reduction in property assessment by a business relating to contamination.

See also resolution C16.

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

B38 RECYCLING DEPOSIT & REFUND SYSTEM EXPANSION

Greenwood

WHEREAS the recycling of tires, batteries and other items benefits the environment, economy and society;

AND WHEREAS the Return-It beverage refund-deposit system achieves the highest return rate for recyclable materials in the province, by providing a direct incentive to users to recycle items and materials:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to mandate the expansion of deposit and refund systems currently used for beverage containers to other recyclables.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling for the expansion of the deposit and refund system to include other recyclables. In particular, the membership has endorsed resolutions to include tetra-paks and milk cartons in the deposit and refund system (2005-B115; 2010-B27).

Conference decision: _____

B39 PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INADEQUACIES

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS BC product stewardship programs are funded through the collection of eco-fees paid by consumers at the time of product purchase;

AND WHEREAS inadequacies exist in the product stewardship programs for small or rural communities where eco-fees are paid by the consumer but there are no collection depots available thereby increasing the likelihood of inappropriate disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the opportunities for accessibility by consumers in small or rural communities to collection depots.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolution Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically calling for an increase in the opportunities for accessibility by consumers in small or rural communities to collection depots.

However, the membership endorsed resolution 2009-B115, which called on the provincial government to undertake a complete review of all existing BC stewardship programs to ensure that all communities in British Columbia were receiving the full benefit of existing stewardship programs before the government developed programs for new stewardship products. This resolution arose from local government concern that smaller communities and regional districts were not being properly serviced by the various product stewards, and as a result, were bearing the additional costs of product collection and disposal.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government expressed openness to local government input during the development of and consultation on stewardship plans to ensure appropriate levels of service. To provide input regarding existing stewardship plans, the Province suggested that local governments should communicate directly with stewardship agencies, either individually or as a collective through the BC Product Stewardship Council.

Conference decision: _____

B40 GLASS SPONGE REEF PROTECTION

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS ancient and fragile glass sponge reefs previously thought to be extinct exist off British Columbia's coast and are at risk from disturbances caused by trawling, trapping and anchoring;

AND WHEREAS Fisheries & Oceans Canada has designated the Hecate Strait/Queen Charlotte Sound glass sponge reefs as an Area of Interest within the Pacific North Coast:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge Fisheries & Oceans Canada to also designate the glass sponge reefs in the Southern Strait of Georgia (specifically McCall Bank, Howe Sound, Fraser Ridge, Active Pass, Nanaimo, Coulee Bank and Parksville) as "areas of interest" for protection.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B171, which called on the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to implement permanent legislated protection to protect the glass

sponge reefs along the coast of BC.

Conference decision: _____

B41 ENDANGERED SPECIES & ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION ACT

North Saanich

WHEREAS the rich biodiversity of British Columbia, which is of critical importance to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being, is in danger from the more than 1,900 species that are at risk of extinction or extirpation in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there is little legislation in British Columbia to protect the vast majorities of species and ecosystems that are at risk of extinction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to enact an effective Species & Ecosystem Protection Act to protect British Columbia's biodiversity.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to enact a Species and Ecosystem Protection Act (2010-B35, 2008-B87). The Province is also currently developing a framework for enhancing the protection of species at risk on local government and private lands in BC. The paper includes recommendations on how the provincial government can work in partnership with local governments to achieve shared goals.

Conference decision: _____

B42 CONTROL OF CANADA GEESE

Metchosin

WHEREAS the Canada Goose was introduced and habituated to the Capital Region in the early 1950s by the BC Fish & Wildlife Service to provide stock for hunting purposes;

AND WHEREAS recent population counts of Canada Geese now fluctuate between 3000 to 5000 in the Capital Region and these geese inflict significant damage to farms crops in Metchosin and on the Saanich Peninsula:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the provincial and federal governments to manage and control burgeoning populations of Canada geese which, left uncontrolled, present major and significant human health and safety, food production, environmental, recreational, water quality and other impacts; and that UBCM support continued provincial support for the multi-phased approach adopted by the Peninsula Agriculture Commission.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2002-B53, which called on the federal government to make effective mechanisms available to assist municipalities in dealing with the over-population problems with Canada Geese. The membership has also consistently endorsed resolutions calling for an increase in the numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management (2010-B25; 2003-B32; 1996-B27; 1992-B35).

Conference decision: _____

B43 GROUND WATER REGULATION & AGRICULTURAL WATER RESERVE

Lake Country

WHEREAS the intent of British Columbia's new Water Sustainability Act is to respond to current and future pressures on water and better manage a critical resource;

AND WHEREAS groundwater extraction is not currently regulated resulting in decline and reduced stream flow in critical areas;

AND WHEREAS creating agricultural water reserves will potentially improve the long-term security of water supply for ALR lands leading to increased agricultural production and food security:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that support for the principles of creating a groundwater regulation mechanism and agricultural water reserve system be conveyed to the provincial government.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to create groundwater protection legislation (2008-B78; 2003-B22; 2001-B28; 2000-B22).

Conference decision: _____

B44 REGULATION OF SALE OF PLANTS & SEEDS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the continuing spread of invasive plant species across BC and Canada is significantly impacting much of our agricultural and environmental resources;

AND WHEREAS local governments are allocating resources to the control and eradication of invasive plant species at a substantial financial cost; however, invasive plants and seeds continue to be sold in nurseries, catalogues and via the Internet:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to develop a strategy to prohibit the sale of invasive plant species and their seeds.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B71, which called for federal and provincial government assistance in preventing the sales of invasive plant species and their seeds.

The provincial government, in response to the resolution, highlighted a partnership initiative with the Invasive Plant Council of BC to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to prevent the sale and trade of invasive plants. The Province also noted that existing provincial legislation enables the provincial government, communities and local governments to regulate and enforce control of certain existing noxious weeds and other invasive plants.

The federal government in response to the resolution indicated that the CFIA was in the process of developing a policy to address plant groups of concern to Canada -including invasive plants. At the same time, the CFIA had begun development of a Canadian invasive plant framework, including establishment of a national invasive plant program. The federal government said that it would consult with local government on the development of the invasive plant framework.

Conference decision: _____

LAND USE

B45 ENFORCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Lake Country

WHEREAS development permit violations are seen as being against the *Local Government Act* and not local government bylaws;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have the authority to penalize property owners through ticketing or prosecution in provincial court for these development permit violations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make changes to the *Local Government Act* to permit local governments to issue tickets and initiate prosecution through municipal ticketing processes to enforce the prohibitions in s. 920(1) and the requirement s. 928 that land be developed strictly in accordance with the permit.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2003-B89, which requested that legislative changes be made to the Local Government Act to provide local governments the ability to levy fines and/or other enforcement tools, for use when development permit requirements associated with environmental protection have been violated.

Local governments can require security for the performance of conditions respecting landscaping; the correction of unsafe conditions resulting from the contravention of a permit condition; and the prevention of damage to the natural environment resulting from such a contravention once a development permit has been negotiated. The Local Government Act authorizes the local government, in those circumstances, to undertake works, construct other activities to resolve the problem and apply the security to the costs. However, the sponsor indicates that a penalty clause, including a fine, included in the development permit agreement would be preferable to follow up

such cases, especially where there is uncertainty as to whether the security would cover the specific infraction. As well the sponsor has noted that going to court is extremely expensive and can often take years before any action can be taken.

Moreover, in the event that works are undertaken on a property where a development permit is required but has not been obtained prior to work, local government has little recourse other than bylaw enforcement. This resolution is seeking more useful tools of enforcement for development permit contraventions such as fines or municipal ticketing.

Conference decision: _____

B46 AGGREGATE EXTRACTION

Central Okanagan RD

WHEREAS aggregates are an important resource for economic development;

AND WHEREAS aggregate extraction, processing and transportation can cause significant social and environmental impacts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government cooperate with local governments, the extraction industry, and local citizens in developing and implementing regional plans that identify suitable and unsuitable sites for extraction;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province provide financial support for completing regional plans and authority for local governments to implement them.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that concerns around resource extraction (i.e. pits and quarries) have been longstanding issues for many local governments. In 1995 UBCM members endorsed resolution B65 which called on the Province to adopt legislation directing that the Province adhere to local government planning bylaws when considering the authorization of extraction of sand and gravel. That position was reinforced when members endorsed resolution 2000-B25, which requested that “relevant legislation be amended to provide for clear authority for local governments to regulate the location and operation of quarry and gravel operations as “land uses” within local bylaws which are open to public consultation and not subject to Ministerial approval.”

The Province established an Aggregate Review Panel to specifically review the issue of aggregate extraction and UBCM had an opportunity to provide input into the Panel’s consultation process. The Aggregate Review Panel reported out in 2001, and in the same year, UBCM members endorsed resolution 2001-B86, which specifically asked the Province to enact new legislation to implement the recommendations in the “Report of the Aggregate Advisory Panel, March, 2001”. The recommendations in the report are similar to the requests contained within this resolution.

Conference decision: _____

B47 REGULATION & PROTECTION OF USE OF WATERWAYS

North Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the safe, responsible and environmentally sensitive use of our inland waterways for recreational and other purposes is a high priority with many federal and provincial agencies having

specific interests and roles in the regulation and protection of these valuable resources;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government immediately take a leadership role and initiate an Inland Waterways Task Force, with stakeholder representation including, but not limited to:

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

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

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution two years ago, 2009-B142. The Province responded to the resolution as follows:

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

UBCM has not heard any further information from the Province in response.

Conference decision: _____

B48 AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

Metchosin

WHEREAS the BC Agricultural Land Commission has performed a singularly important role in preserving for agriculture the Province's limited agricultural land base;

AND WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission has experienced budget and resource cutbacks for several years such that the BC Auditor General has reported that the Agricultural Land Commission no longer has the resources required to fulfil its legislative mandate, and professional organizations such as the BC Association of Agrologists have expressed increasing concern about the ability of the

Agricultural Land Commission to do its job of preserving BC agricultural land for agriculture:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM express its concern about the ability of the Agricultural Land Commission to achieve its mandate, and that resources to the Agricultural Land Commission be increased such that it is able to effectively carry out its mandate of preserving agricultural land for agriculture.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members endorsed resolution 1997-B49, which requested the provincial government to provide the necessary staff and financial resources to enforce the Agricultural Land Commission Act and that the Commission take a more active role in enforcing land use regulations within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The Committee notes that in August 2010, UBCM appeared before the Agricultural Land Commission Review Panel and made a presentation reinforcing a number of policy positions of UBCM members including:

- endorsed policy by the membership in 2008, 2009 support targeted reviews with local government input;*
- broad overall support for retaining the ALR and ensuring that it captures agricultural land;*
- need to balance any changes to the ALR with the commitments of local governments under the Climate Action Charter; and*
- acknowledged that there is a lack of resources currently to support the ALR.*

See also resolution C19.

Conference decision: _____

B49 PROVINCIAL PARKS

Skeena-Queen Charlotte RD

WHEREAS provincial parks, their facilities and services provide recreation opportunities for all British Columbians and tourists travelling through our province, but the Province has failed to fund these parks, facilities and services adequately, resulting in widespread deferred maintenance, safety issues and limited accessibility throughout the BC Parks system;

AND WHEREAS the Province has invited local governments to assume a 'shared stewardship' role for provincial parks in general and through funding programs such as the Community Legacy Program, but many local governments across the province do not have the resources necessary to participate in the financing or operation of provincial parks, facilities or services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to recognise provincial parks and related facilities and services as the sole responsibility of the Province and cease all direct and indirect attempts to downplay these services, or any aspects of these services, to local government.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed
Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, **year-round where appropriate**, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to recognise provincial parks and related facilities and services as the sole responsibility of the Province and cease all direct and indirect attempts to download these services, or any aspects of these services, to local government.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members endorsed resolution B23 in 2004, which specifically asked the provincial government to provide appropriate budgets for the continued funding and sustained operation of provincial park day use areas, as they contribute to tourism and road safety at no cost to local government. Members have also endorsed a number of other resolutions related to provincial funding and support for provincial park maintenance (2002-B86, 2004-B22, 2006-LR1).

An amendment is proposed to account for a related resolution from the District of Sechelt, calling on the Province to provide additional funding for the year-round maintenance of BC Parks sites. The Resolutions Committee recognizes that some, though not all, BC Parks sites operate year-round.

See also resolution C18.

Conference decision: _____

**B50 FORESTRY PRACTICES ON PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST Cowichan Valley RD
LANDS**

WHEREAS numerous large parcels of private managed forest land exist on Vancouver Island as a result of the E&N land grants dating back to 1884;

AND WHEREAS private managed forest land regulations are inferior to Crown land forest regulations with respect to protecting key environmental, watershed and community interests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to revise the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and appurtenant regulations to improve forestry practices on private managed forestlands to a standard equivalent or better than Crown forest land regulations, thereby better protecting community interests.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B34, which called on the Province to “enact legislation requiring private managed forest lands to be regulated and managed to the same standards as crown managed forest lands”.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government highlighted the Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation that came into effect in 2008, which increased protection for water quality and fish habitat, including constraints on timber harvesting in riparian areas. The Province indicated that its approach to watershed protection and forest management by private land owners was a “web of regulation” including other legislation such as the Drinking Water Protection Act, Water Act, Fish Protection Act and the federal Fisheries Act.

The Committee would also note that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for environmental and riparian area protection on private forest lands (2010-B26, 2009-B128, 2006-B102, 2005-B27, 1994-B82, 1991-B16, 1991-B23, 1989-A18).

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B51 FUNDING FOR VISITOR CENTRES

North Saanich

WHEREAS many local visitor centres in British Columbia are in need of a higher level of funding to maintain current levels of services to attract more visitors, which provides economic opportunities for local communities;

AND WHEREAS there is an inadequate level of provincial funding provided to visitor centres and local governments are unable to address this financial shortfall:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to increase the level of funding for the improvement and operation of effective visitor centres.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-A7, which requested that UBCM to “urge the provincial government to provide increased funding for community Visitor Information Centres, via Tourism BC, from \$1.15 million per year to at least \$3 million per year, in accordance with the recommendation of the November 2004 review of VICs undertaken by the BC Chamber of Commerce.” (2005-A7) Again in 2006 members endorsed B37, which requested UBCM to “lobby the provincial government to restore funding, directly to local communities, for the development and operation of effective and productive visitor centres.”

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the success of agriculture depends on an investment in infrastructure, education and expertise by the provincial government through their Ministry of Agriculture and British Columbia is spending a mere 3.3% of Gross Domestic Product for supporting the agricultural industry, while the average in Canada is 16.4%:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase financial support for agriculture consistent with the national average.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B89, which asked the provincial government to increase financial support for agriculture consistent with the national average and cease approving any further Agricultural Land Reserve exclusions. In that same year members endorsed resolution B50, which requested that "the provincial government take seriously the responsibility to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands that is essential to help BC grow, by implementing a consistent, sufficient, and reliable budget mandatory to support and hire the necessary staff and resources within the agricultural areas of British Columbia."

Prior to that, members endorsed resolution 2008-B47, which requested the Province to increase its funding of agricultural initiatives to help increase the productivity and efficiency of diverse agricultural sectors; and also endorsed resolution 2000-B101, requesting support for farmers and the agricultural sector.

In response to resolution 2009-B89 the Province pointed out that "agriculture in BC is very different from agriculture in other provinces" with "a high proportion of agriculture ... in supply managed sectors" that do not usually receive direct government funding, and that a variety of factors influence government support and program payments.

In response to resolution 2009-B50, the provincial government stressed the importance of adapting to change while maintaining "stability in the delivery of programs and services" as key concerns when putting together its agriculture budget. The Province highlighted the BC agricultural and agri-food sector's success at leveraging federal dollar expenditures "at a 3 to 1 ratio which is the highest leveraging ratio in Canada. Saskatchewan has the second highest leveraging ratio of 2.4 to 1, followed by Manitoba at 2.3 to 1."

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS food security is becoming a critical issue, and agriculture producers in British Columbia have faced numerous financial challenges including Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), drought, loss of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses, and the loss of rangeland through forest fires, making it non-profitable to produce food locally;

AND WHEREAS other western provinces in Canada have developed and implemented comprehensive agriculture policies to assist local food producers financially in light of the challenges they face:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to develop a

comprehensive agriculture policy similar to those in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta which includes fair compensation to our food producers and that the federal and provincial governments work with food producers to assist them in accessing existing federal and provincial government programs designed to support food producers.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province support farmers (2000-B101); increase funding for agricultural initiatives (2008-B47, 2009-B50, 2009-B89); and provide resources to enable all local governments to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning (2009-B132).

Conference decision: _____

B54 CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia is committed to ensuring that 90 percent of British Columbia's electricity generation comes from clean or renewable resources in purchasing new energy from Clean Renewable Energy Projects (CREPs);

AND WHEREAS the local region has an opportunity to derive long-term benefits from Clean Renewable Energy Projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to include local governments as an equity partner to ensure that the local communities continue to share in the longer-term benefits of Clean Renewable Energy Projects in the Province of British Columbia.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members endorsed the 2003 UBCM Energy Policy Paper that supported both the pursuit of alternative energy sources and community-based energy policies and programs that promote local energy sustainability.

As well similar resolutions have been endorsed with respect to local governments playing a more active role in energy generation. In 2006 members endorsed B124 that requested that the "the provincial government to direct BC Hydro and other power producers to negotiate agreements with local governments that would allow for the utilization by the local government of self-generated power through the BC Hydro distribution grid." Another resolution was also endorsed in 2006 making this request "... local governments be given the opportunity to participate in the creation of new green, renewable energy projects;" and ... "request that the BC provincial government establish legislation that makes it mandatory for BC Hydro to purchase power created by BC local government-supported, green, renewable power projects."

Conference decision: _____

**B55 BARRIERS TO SMALL SCALE FOOD PRODUCTION &
DISTRIBUTION**

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS foods grown/produced and distributed locally are much healthier and have a more positive impact on the environment;

AND WHEREAS it is fully understood that food safety is imperative; however, some of the provincial health regulations in place would be better-suited to large-scale commercial producers only, as they are not necessary or in some cases even possible for local small-scale producers, which impedes the growth of local food production and distribution rather than encouraging this positive industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to encourage, support and enable small-scale food producers to provide foods locally without any unnecessary barriers, provided that food safety is not compromised;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be encouraged to provide a public education component to recognize and support the distribution of local foods.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting local food production and distribution.

Most recently, members endorsed resolution 2010-B47, which called on the Province 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. Members also endorsed resolution 2009-B132, which asked the Province to provide resources to enable all local governments to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning. In 2007 members endorsed resolution B175, requesting the Province to more visibly promote and label agricultural products grown, caught or raised in BC through initiatives such as the Buy BC program.

The Committee also notes that members have consistently supported the processing of meat locally, in response to the meat inspection regulation (2001-LR8, 2002-B60, 2005-B139, 2008-A2, 2010-B39).

See also resolution B56.

Conference decision: _____

**B56 SUPPORT OF THE BC GROWN & PROCESSED FOOD
SECTOR**

Greater Vancouver RD

WHEREAS the agricultural and food sector is an important employer and vital component of the BC economy;

AND WHEREAS the agricultural and food sectors in other jurisdictions, that compete with farmers, ranchers and processors in BC, benefit from government investment in programs that promote and market locally grown and processed foods as well as support for agricultural extension services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province to honour the commitment in the BC Agriculture Plan, “Growing a Healthy Future for BC Families”, to invest \$2 million annually in an industry-led marketing program that will increase public awareness and branding of BC grown and processed food; and in addition increase support for agricultural extension services by \$500,000 annually as promised in the same plan.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently supported the promotion of both local BC agricultural products (i.e. tree fruits) as well as the promotion of BC products, generally (2007-B175, 2002-B98, 2010-B100).

The BC Agricultural Plan also includes a “buy local” initiative to promote BC agricultural and food products at the provincial and local levels. Actions under this initiative would include:

- *\$1 million/year to promote local agricultural products and develop a BC brand;*
- *\$1 million/year to implement a “Food Miles” project to reduce GHG emissions associated with food purchases; and*
- *expansion and delivery of the “Eat BC!” program.*

See also resolutions C20 and C21, as well as related resolution B55.

Conference decision: _____

B57 FOREST TENURE REVIEW

Nelson

WHEREAS BC communities rely on local forests to support their economic, social and environmental well-being, but there is widespread and growing public concern about the current and future health of BC forests and the adequacy of the future timber supply;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory environment and mix of tenure arrangements does not allow for adequate community participation in decisions that affect local forests, especially in community watersheds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive review of the forest tenure system, aimed at developing a blueprint for reform that will:

- *guarantee long-term environmental sustainability for our forests;*
- *allow for more community control in decisions about forest management; and*
- *ensure more of the benefits from developing forest resources stay in local communities.*

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee notes that members endorsed a resolution calling for a tenure review process (1996-B84) in response to industry restructuring and changes in provincial regulations.

As well members have endorsed a number of resolutions supporting the expansion of community forests and seeking to ensure that the size of the licence is large enough to make the licence economically viable for the community. For example members endorsed resolution B33 in 2005 which requested that the Province:

- Revise the current Community Forest regulations and policies to facilitate achievement of the stated goals of the Community Forest Agreement Program; and*
- Allocate sufficient timber volume to address issues of economies of scale and viability for existing and new agreements.*

As well the membership has endorsed other resolutions that have more generally supported the expansion of the community forest program to provide communities with greater opportunities to control the forest resource within their area (1992-B34; 1998-B19).

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

B58 INSUFFICIENT FUNDING OF HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Central Kootenay RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has now created capital projects priority criteria that grants up to twenty bonus points to regional hospital boards that are prepared to fund up to 90% of capital projects costs;

AND WHEREAS such policies will create a two-tier medical facilities situation in British Columbia between those regional hospital boards that can afford to raise more capital via higher property taxes and those boards that cannot:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM register a strong protest with the provincial government, especially the Minister of Health, with regard to ongoing attempts by the provincial government to download its capital funding responsibilities, via insufficient funding of Health Authorities that burden property taxpayers, when they already pay for this capital funding via income taxes.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution intended to serve as a strong protest to the provincial government with regard to ongoing attempts to download health capital funding responsibilities to local governments. However, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide adequate funding to Regional Health Authorities and to commit to their 60% share of health care capital project funding (2008-B129; 2007-B184; 2005-B42; 2004-B28; 2002-A2).

Capital cost sharing for health infrastructure is a long-standing issue for the membership. UBCM is currently working with the provincial government, health authorities and local government representatives on implementing the recommendations in the 2008 Regional Hospital District Cost Sharing Review. Though

the downloading of capital funding responsibilities is not a part of the Review, the Review does address other issues between local governments and health authorities with respect to capital cost sharing, such as funding predictability, long term planning and communication.

Conference decision: _____

B59 RESTORE FUNDING TO HOSPITALS

Sechelt

WHEREAS provincial funding to properly equip and operate hospitals in British Columbia has been inadequate for a number of years;

AND WHEREAS this lack of funding causes unfair inequities from community to community, and leaves some hospital's without equipment and others with high levels of resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to properly fund construction, resourcing, equipping and staffing of hospitals in this province.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide adequate funding to regional health authorities for health care capital projects and equipment (2005-B42; 2004-B27; 2004-B28; 2002-A2; 2000-B95).

UBCM members have also endorsed resolutions requesting that the federal government continue to provide equipment grants to the provinces for the purpose of purchasing major equipment (2007-B184; 2005-B130).

Conference decision: _____

B60 RURAL HEALTH CARE

Tumbler Ridge

WHEREAS the state of healthcare in small communities is being continually eroded with services being reduced and eliminated;

AND WHEREAS attracting doctors and medical professionals to practice in rural areas of BC continues to be an ongoing challenge in rural areas of the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that Northern Health work with universities and communities to encourage graduates of the medical programs to practice and stay in rural areas of British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions addressing health care needs in small communities, including:

- ensuring that doctors and other medical services are adequately provided to all residents in every community of British Columbia (2010-B43)
- ensuring there is accessible, timely and necessary health care services in BC (2002-B92)
- requiring resources and permission for local physicians to perform minor operating procedures in remote rural hospitals (2006-B154)
- increasing funding for universities and other medical training facilities to train a greater number of graduates, in order to address a shortage of medical personnel available to attend to the health care needs of BC residents (2008-B49)
- removing obstacles for foreign trained doctors and health professionals who are willing to work in BC (2009-B148; 2000-A4)
- requiring that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anaesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112)
- directing 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 (2010-B45)
- restoration of funding to the BC Ambulance Service so that citizens could expect a timely response from qualified personnel throughout the province (2007-B50)

Conference decision: _____

B61 MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS IMPACTS

Cache Creek

WHEREAS many rural communities are suffering from diminished resources to adequately support citizens with mental health issues;

AND WHEREAS properly caring for those patients results in local police, ambulance or related healthcare providers spending time to transport those patients to receive care, which often takes hours away from the community and leaves those communities vulnerable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to restore adequate support services for citizens with mental health illness in all communities, in order to relieve the stress on those agencies that now have shouldered the additional burden.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B42, which requested 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.

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

In response to resolution 2010-B42, the provincial government indicated that it 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”. The Province highlighted the success and learning

provided by HIP and ACT community teams working around the province.

Conference decision: _____

B62 AUTISM PROGRAMS & FUNDING

Sidney

WHEREAS autism is a life-long development disability which affects brain development and has been found throughout the world in families of all ethnic and social backgrounds;

AND WHEREAS intensive early intervention for young children with autism has been demonstrated as being extremely effective in helping them learn to communicate appropriately and to be included meaningfully in community events;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government in September 2009 cut its early intensive intervention program which only covered a minority of young children with autism;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be encouraged to:

- Reinstatement and fully fund early intensive therapy autism programs for all identified children whose parents request it;
- Increase funding for universal early screening and identification of infants and toddlers who are at risk for autism, and initiate very early intervention programs that teach parents to interact with and facilitate their child's development as soon as they are diagnosed;
- Increase educational funds that are targeted at supporting teachers to educate students with autism and other developmental disabilities, using the principles of Universal Design for Learning, positive behaviour support, and other evidence based educational strategies; and
- Increase funding for post-secondary vocational supports aimed at creating customized, community-based employment opportunities for all individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1998-LR5, which requested that the provincial government:

- 1) *Recognise both the problem of autistic disorders and the potential for improvement in the diagnosis and treatment of those with Autistic Spectrum Disorders;*
- 2) *Take immediate steps to guarantee access to all families with young children with autistic disorders to treatment programs that are consistent, complete, adequately funded and delivered by qualified professionals;*
- 3) *Take immediate steps to ensure that services, programs, training and the delivery of treatment be co-ordinated across ministerial and other jurisdictional lines, including the Ministries of Children and Families, Health, Education, as well as the Medical Services Plan and At-Home Program.*

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing population of seniors is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures on the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors' care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has previously endorsed several similar resolutions including requests for:

- *adequate funding for residential care beds and facilities (2009-B52; 2004-B127; 2005-B45; 2000-B98; 1988-B5)*
- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2009-B52; 2007-B191; 2006-B155; 2003-B132; 2000-A3; 2004-B129; 2005-B48)*
- *restoration of long-term care facilities throughout the province, sufficient to meet the needs of citizens in their communities (2006-B159).*

The UBCM membership also endorsed a policy paper at the 2008 Convention on home support. The paper provided members with an overview of home support issues, including the roles and responsibilities of various levels of government, policies and their recent changes, challenges, and recommendations.

See also resolutions C24, C25 and C26.

Conference decision: _____

B64 INTRODUCTION OF UNIFORM PROVINCIAL SMOKING STANDARDS

Burnaby

WHEREAS tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke remains the single most preventable cause of disease and death in Canada, contributing to the deaths of approximately 6,000 British Columbians each year;

AND WHEREAS research indicates that reducing the places where people can smoke through legislation and regulation makes it more likely that they will not take up smoking, or that they will quit:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend to the provincial government that a review of existing non-smoking bylaws be conducted with the purpose of considering amendments to the

Tobacco Control Act and Regulation to introduce further uniform standards province-wide.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed
Amendment***

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend to the provincial government that a review of existing non-smoking bylaws be conducted with the purpose of considering amendments to the Tobacco Control Act and Regulation to **increase the distance that smokers must be from windows, doors and air intakes from 3m to 7.5m.***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not specifically considered a resolution requesting the review of existing non-smoking bylaws with the purpose of considering amendments to the Tobacco Control Act and Regulation to introduce further uniform standards province-wide.

However, the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B151, which requested that the Province make a regulation under the amended Tobacco Sales Act to specify that smokers must be at least 7.5m (25 feet) from windows, doors and air intakes, in accordance with the current, research-based, Canada Green Building Council, LEED standard.

The Tobacco Control Regulation came into effect in 2008 and includes a buffer zone of 3 metres around most doorways, opening windows, or air intakes of places like shopping malls and workplaces, where no smoking is allowed. While the Province-wide standard is 3 metres, a local government may enact a bylaw that increases this distance based on the needs of their individual community.

As this resolution is requesting further uniform standards, an amendment is proposed to bring the resolution inline with existing policy.

See also resolution C22.

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B65 PROVINCIAL CHILDCARE FUNDING

Fernie

WHEREAS the province of British Columbia has the highest level of child poverty in the country;

AND WHEREAS affordable quality childcare plays a central role in the economic and emotional health of families and children:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government significantly increase funding to childcare as part of a concerted effort to reduce child poverty and strengthen the economy of British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that federal and provincial governments provide adequate funding to support early childhood development and childcare (2007-B54; 2006-B169; 2005-B156; 2004-B137; 2001-B98; 1992-B73). UBCM members have also endorsed resolutions that support the creation of poverty reduction plans (2010-B51; 2009-SR2).

Conference decision: _____

B66 PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN EARLY CARE & LEARNING

Vancouver

WHEREAS although access to early child care and learning is used globally as a key measure of the economic and social health of society, the current supply of child care in British Columbia only serves about 14% of children age 0 to 12, on the low end in Canada which in turn is lower than any other OECD country, and directly related to a lack of adequate investment by the provincial and federal government in early care and learning;

AND WHEREAS the 29% of children arriving to kindergarten in BC are developmentally vulnerable – the majority of which now come from the middle class – and are estimated by UBC’s Human Early Learning project, in their report 15 by 15, A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC (Funded by the BC Business Council) to have negative and long term economic consequences estimated to be in the range of 20 per cent of foregone GDP growth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that other orders of government make early care and learning a top priority by:

- Creating strong legislative frameworks;
- Significant new public investments to support the legislative frameworks;
- Consolidating Early Care and Learning into the provincial Ministry of Education; and
- Establishing an accountability framework that includes developmentally appropriate play-based learning in the early years and ensures positive outcomes for children.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions prioritizing early care and learning, including:

- resolution 2010-B56, which requested that early childhood development remain a provincial priority for funding;
- resolution 2004-B137, which requested that the federal and provincial governments ensure that all children have equal opportunities for early learning and care, including child care; and that the provincial government provide funding for quality, affordable, accessible early learning and child care facilities and programs;
- resolution 2001-B98, which called for the federal, provincial and territorial governments to sign an agreement for Early Child Development (ECD) services ensuring every family has access to pre-and post-natal care, early learning and child care services, and parenting supports; and

- *resolution 1992-B78, which called for the federal government to work co-operatively with provincial and local governments to develop a quality, affordable and accessible national child care programme which would provide for federal cost-sharing of capital, operating and administrative costs associated with child care.*

Conference decision: _____

B67 PROVINCIAL HOUSING TRUST FUNDS

North Saanich

WHEREAS leadership, sustained funding, and strong partnerships are required to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing across British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS a provincial housing trust fund, similar to the Capital Regional District's Regional Housing Trust Fund model, is needed to create a stable base of financial resources for the Province to provide subsidized housing in partnership with the private sector and other orders of government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to create Regional Housing Trust Funds from Property Transfer Tax revenues to provide subsidized, supportive and affordable housing for communities where affordable housing is not accessible for those with low incomes such as seniors, single parent families and people with disabilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funds levied for this purpose be kept within the regions they are levied from and disbursement be contingent on financial or in-kind local contributions.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed similar resolutions that would redistribute a portion of the Property Transfer Tax to local governments for affordable housing (2008-A3; 2004-A8).

UBCM members have also supported several broader resolutions, which advocate for senior government action to fund, provide and facilitate affordable housing in our communities (2007-B24; 2004-A8; 2002-B64; 2000-B31; 1999-A22; 1994-B85; 1991-B56; 1990-A20).

Conference decision: _____

B68 UTILITY RATE REVIEW

Penticton

WHEREAS the current economic crisis has caused financial hardship for many taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS many local governments are making every effort to reduce expenditure and ease the tax burden on citizens by keeping increases at a minimum;

AND WHEREAS utilities are a significant cost item for residential owners and businesses;

AND WHEREAS Fortis has recently announced rate increases in excess of 11% per annum:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to review utility rate

increases considered by the BCUC with a view to limiting the financial impact on consumers.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2004-B87, which objected to BC Hydro's proposed increase in electricity rates (7% proposed for 2004, and 9% proposed for 2005).

The Committee notes that several resolutions have been endorsed by the membership in support of postage stamp, cost-based rates for electricity (1996-B7; 2001, 2002 and 2003 UBCM energy policy positions). The UBCM supported the position of the Commercial Electricity Customers Joint Action intervention into the BCUC hearings against a rate increase in 2004 based on standing policy and members' expressed objections.

The Committee notes that the Minister of Energy has established a 3-person panel to review proposed BC Hydro rate increases as well as the corporation's capital plan.

Conference decision: _____

B69 RETURN TO HERITAGE FUNDING

Kelowna

WHEREAS heritage generally throughout Canada is suffering due to the economic downturn, the loss of provincial government support in 2008 with the withdrawal of provincial funding for the Heritage Branch (Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment), Heritage BC, as well as community-based organizations throughout the province, means that community heritage resources are at risk for deterioration and loss;

AND WHEREAS heritage is an important asset for economic development in British Columbia as a draw for cultural tourism, one of the fastest growing segments of the tourism industry and the loss of heritage resources and the opportunity for people to experience the unique identity of communities in BC could further negatively impact on the local and provincial economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government adopt Heritage BC's "Call to Renew British Columbia's Heritage" initiative by:

- Adopting the Provincial Heritage Strategy, completed in 2009 but never implemented;
- Restoring the budget for the Heritage Branch, Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment;
- Resolving the heritage properties question, which includes issues related to provincially-owned heritage properties;
- Restoring community support through governmental initiatives including programming and gaming funds;
- Reinvesting in the Heritage Legacy Fund in order to support long-range heritage conservation work throughout the province.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fund heritage preservation and the activities of heritage organizations throughout the province (2007-B59, 2004-B32, 2004-B31, 1994-B39, 1988-B24, 1987-B22).

See also resolutions C34, C35, C36 and C37.

Conference decision: _____

B70 RESTORE GAMING GRANTS

Kelowna

WHEREAS non-profit organizations provide valuable services to citizens residing in municipalities throughout BC and most of these organizations rely on funding from all 3 levels of government;

AND WHEREAS most of these organizations have lost significant operating funds due to cuts and changes to the Community Gaming Grant program resulting in additional funding demands at the local government level:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that non-restricted funding from the Province's general revenues be restored immediately to non-profit organizations at least at the level (adjusted for inflation) provided in 2008-2009;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the eligibility criteria for Community Gaming Grants be reviewed and revised so that funding to non-profit organizations will be accessible at, and restored to, 2008-2009 levels.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B115, which called on the provincial government to "continue its commitment to build strong communities by funding non-profit organizations through the Government Gaming Grant Program".

In response to the resolution, the provincial government indicated that 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". The Province further clarified that due to economic and fiscal pressures, 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", though the Province suggested that it might in the future review the program and its target areas.

Conference decision: _____

B71 AMENDMENT TO THE LIBRARY ACT TO ALLOW FOR REMUNERATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Columbia Shuswap RD

WHEREAS the *Library Act* prohibits the payment of a per diem to library board members for attendance at library board meetings;

AND WHEREAS this results in local taxpayers being responsible for remuneration to elected representatives attending meetings that may not benefit those taxpayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC amend the *Library Act* to allow for remuneration of a per diem to library board members for attendance at library board and library board committee meetings.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2004-B97, which called on the provincial government to amend the Library Act to allow libraries to pay library board members a meeting stipend over and above their travel expenses.

In response to the resolution the provincial government expressed willingness to consider the request as part of a planned legislative review of the Library Act. Begun in 2008, the legislative review process has not yet concluded.

Conference decision: _____

B72 HIGH SPEED INTERNET/CELL PHONE COVERAGE

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS access to high speed internet and cell phone coverage has been an ongoing promise to residents of Canada from various levels of government;

AND WHEREAS many rural areas in Canada still do not have access to these services, which deters people from moving to these areas, adversely impacting economic development and business opportunities in rural BC and rural Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly encourage the provincial and federal governments to move quickly toward ensuring the availability of high speed internet and cell phone service to every Canadian community.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of high speed internet and cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2006-B54, 2005-B5, 2004-B9, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).

Conference decision: _____

B73 EDUCATION CURRICULUM ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS it is desirable to increase the level of interest and participation in local government by young people in the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government significantly increase and improve the educational curriculum related to local government.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B55, which requested that the provincial government add "Local Government Studies" to the grades 8 to 12 school curriculum.

In response to the resolution, the Province noted that the existing Social Studies curriculum "includes civics, [and] aims to develop thoughtful and responsible citizens who understand and exercise their roles, rights and responsibilities in society". The Province also highlighted education kits that have been developed by Elections BC "to introduce youth to the importance of active participation in the provincial electoral process" while supporting the prescribed learning outcomes of the provincial Social Studies curriculum.

The Committee also notes that the provincial Ministry of Education collaborates in organizing the annual Local Government Awareness Week in BC with UBCM and other local government associations.

See also resolution C39.

Conference decision: _____

B74 RESTORE FUNDING TO WOMEN'S CENTRES

Kelowna

WHEREAS women's resource centres play a vital role in communities through a range of services provided in support of women and children residing in municipalities throughout BC;

AND WHEREAS through cuts to community social services in 2004, women's resource centres have lost provincial funding used to support their operations and services thereby making it more difficult to receive other funding;

AND WHEREAS the lack of core funding has resulted in the closure of women's resource centres across BC, greatly impacting women, families and municipalities throughout BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province reinstate operational funding to all women's resource centres in BC.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2006-B53 and 2003-LR17, both of which called on the provincial government to reinstate core funding to women's resource centres in BC.

In response to the 2006 resolution, the Province stated that it had changed the focus of its funding to "services that are most critical to women living with, or at risk of, violence and abuse". Specific services included transition houses, counselling programs, outreach services and violence prevention initiatives. The Province

also highlighted its Community Coordination for Women's Safety project, which brought together a variety of service agencies "to ensure an effective, coordinated continuum of services [was] available to women".

Conference decision: _____

SECTION B - PART 2 and PART 3

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

This section contains resolutions that:

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

The resolutions have been classified as:

- Part 2: those issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government.
- Part 3: those resolutions on matters of interest to local communities that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

The process for introducing these resolutions for discussion will be:

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

**"I MOVE THAT ALL PART 2 AND PART 3 - B
RESOLUTIONS BE CONSIDERED FOR DEBATE."**

- any amendments for resolutions that delegates DO NOT wish to consider can be made by any voting delegate.
- once it is determined which resolutions will be considered individually discussion will begin in the order the resolutions are printed.
- sponsors do not have to individually introduce their resolutions for consideration but are invited to speak to them at the appropriate time.

SECTION B - PART 2-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After consideration of Section B1 resolutions, a spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

"SHALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR SECTION B - PART 2-a RESOLUTIONS BE ADOPTED?"

If the motion is approved by delegates, all Section B - Part 2-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

"I MOVE THAT RESOLUTION B(x) BE REMOVED FROM THE BLOCK AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FOR DEBATE."

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

If the motion were approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion was decided.

SECTION B2-a

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B75 HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION COSTS

North Saanich
Sidney

WHEREAS the *Police Act* makes municipalities responsible for the investigation of homicides in British Columbia based on the jurisdiction in which a victim's body is discovered;

AND WHEREAS the increasing average cost for investigating a homicide could have a major impact to local tax payers in most small and mid-sized communities;

AND WHEREAS equal treatment of homicide investigations should not be impaired by the ability of any given municipality to pay for the investigation costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to amend the *Police Act* such that the costs of homicide investigations are borne by the Province and not by the municipal tax payers.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Police Act be amended to have the Province bear the costs of homicide investigations.

The Committee understands, however, that a resolution concerning the need to address the costs of homicide investigations was discussed at the 2010 AVICC annual meeting (RCMP Investigation Cost Sharing) but the resolution proposed was not endorsed by the AVICC membership.

The issue of local governments having to pay additional money for the investigation of a complex homicide investigation is a new issue. In the past if a major murder investigation was required the Province picked up the costs. In the past few years, with increased complexity of drug and gang crime and the need for specialized homicide investigative units the Province has adopted a general policy whereby the municipality in which the homicide occurred is expected to pick up the costs of the investigation. A major concern is that the municipality has no control over the cost of the investigation, some of which may relate to drug or gang links that in the end may have nothing to do with the homicide, and it has no way of planning for these costs.

Conference decision: _____

B76 REDUCTION OF SHERIFFS' ESCORT FOR PRISONERS

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the BC Sheriff Service has reduced the number of provincial prisoner escorts from northeastern communities from twice a week to once a week, due to manpower resource issues in Northeast BC;

AND WHEREAS this service reduction has resulted in provincial prisoners staying in local RCMP detachments for up to one week, thereby increasing the operating cost for these detachments, which

do not receive full reimbursement of the expenses incurred to house these prisoners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC reinstate the sheriff provincial prisoner escort service in BC to previous levels to alleviate the increased housing expense that the RCMP detachments are incurring.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province reinstate BC Sheriff Service staffing levels for the escort of provincial prisoners. The BC Sheriff Service fulfils various responsibilities including escorting prisoners to and from court houses; providing security within courtrooms; and transporting prisoners to corrections facilities. When sheriffs are not available, the local RCMP is forced to take over some of those responsibilities and this removes them from the irregular policing duties, for which municipalities pay.

The Province had expressed intent to cut 52 auxiliary sheriff positions; however, the Province has subsequently reviewed the issue and restored funding for the auxiliary positions. It is not clear, however, whether the Province's intent is solely to ensure that there are sheriffs available for courtroom security, or whether the Province intends to increase the number of sheriffs available for other duties such as escorting provincial prisoners to and from court, and transporting prisoners to corrections facilities.

Conference decision: _____

B77 PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION REGARDING METAL THEFT

Langley Township

WHEREAS local governments consider it necessary to regulate the business of buying and selling used and second-hand goods and scrap metal;

AND WHEREAS local governments and police recognize the need for provincial legislation regarding metal theft, including a daily electronic recording and reporting information system, such as the Xtract system used in the City of Vancouver:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate on behalf of members to the provincial government to create a provincial regulation governing pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government create a uniform bylaw to regulate pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers.

UBCM members have endorsed a number of resolutions related to this issue. In 2007 members endorsed three resolutions on this topic:

- SR1, which requested an amendment to the Community Charter to enable local government to regulate pawnshops and second hand dealers;
- B92, which requested that the Province establish legislation regulating scrap metal recycling; and
- LR10, which requested that local government be given the power to require scrap dealers to provide information to police.

In 2006, the UBCM membership endorsed resolution B5, which requested that the Province amend Section 59 of the Community Charter to more clearly articulate local government's authority to impose requirements on businesses selling goods that might endanger health or public safety. The ability to impose requirements on scrap metal dealers would be one example of the expected range of this authority.

This resolution is different in that it proposes working with the provincial government to establish legislation to deal specifically with the pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers.

See also resolutions B7 and C2.

Conference decision: _____

B78 NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

Richmond

WHEREAS the health, safety, security and prosperity of Canadian citizens and public safety responders (including police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, and other responders) depends upon effective communications between public safety agencies;

AND WHEREAS Industry Canada public consultations on the use of the 700 MHz band by commercial mobile services (in anticipation of the August 30, 2011 transition from analogue television to digital that will free up spectrum for potential use by public safety) provides the opportunity to state public safety spectrum needs;

AND WHEREAS dedicated spectrum will be a key enabler of the Government of Canada's Communications Interoperability Strategy for Canada's vision of a national public safety communications system based on common user requirements and open standards and a system of systems approach:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada recognize the importance of the 700MHz spectrum and set aside dedicated public safety broadband, and that the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia commit the necessary resources to provide vision and leadership as required to build a robust system that meets public safety's mission critical requirements to accomplish communications interoperability between public safety agencies across Canada and across borders.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse and Refer to FCM***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the 700 MHz band be set aside and dedicated to public safety uses.

Conference decision: _____

B79 FUNDING FOR COASTAL FLOOD PROTECTION

Delta

WHEREAS coastal flood protection works are deficient in many areas along BC's coastline;

AND WHEREAS climate change is increasing the risk of flooding in many coastal communities due to long term sea level rise and increasing storm intensity;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has identified climate change adaptation as a key priority in the coming decades:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government work towards developing a funding program to assist local governments with climate change adaptation for coastal communities as it relates to coastal flood protection.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting provincial funding to assist coastal communities in addressing long term sea level rise and increasing storm intensity as a result of climate change.

The impact of global warming on coastal communities is a relatively new issue and the costs of mitigating these changes are just starting to be identified. A recent report by the provincial government has suggested that coastal communities will need to increase the height of their dikes and upgrade seawalls to address rising sea levels. In addition, it has been proposed that improvements to foreshore protection, and land use planning and flood policy levels will need to be made to address future environmental changes. These measures will require major financial expenditures to mitigate the exposure of coastal communities to global warming and will need provincial assistance to develop and fund adaptation strategies.

Conference decision: _____

B80 WILDLAND INTERFACE HAZARDS ON CROWN LAND

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and its regulations govern the activities of forest and range licensees in BC;

AND WHEREAS it has been identified that 685,000 hectares in British Columbia are considered at high risk of an interface fire;

AND WHEREAS some funding is available through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan program to mitigate risk from wildfire in communities and surrounding Crown lands;

AND WHEREAS local governments, in particular, regional districts which have large geographical areas and highly dispersed residences are unable to contribute their portion of funding (dollars or in-kind), in order to access program funding, nor do they have the capacity or legislative authority to manage Crown land interface areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government, through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, to utilize its existing capacity within BC Timber Sales to have pine beetle infestation areas harvested in those interface areas wherein licensees have determined that they will not be harvesting in order to abate wildland interface hazards on Crown land.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically requested the actions identified by the sponsor to address wildland interface hazards. However, UBCM members have endorsed a number of resolutions proposing ways to address the fire hazard in the interface.

In 2008 members endorsed resolution B59, which requested the Province to “initiate a major emphasis and to target a significant portion of provincial funding to have Forestry Protection and Initial Attack Fire Suppression Crews deployed to undertake major wildland forest fuel modification projects on Crown Lands located adjacent to or in close proximity of developed rural and urban areas throughout British Columbia.”

As well in 2005 members endorsed resolution B125, which asked the Province to fully implement the following Filmon Review recommendations:

- *“The Ministry of Forests should consider amending Annual Allowable Cut determinations in fire-prone ecosystems to encourage hazard reduction treatments by tenure holders in marginal and uneconomic tree stand areas within the wildland-urban interface.*
- *The province should investigate alternatives to stumpage as an incentive to encourage the harvest of high risk, low value fuel types.*
- *Industry should undertake research into the use of small diameter trees in non-traditional forest products markets such as energy and bio-fuel.”*

It is the Committee’s understanding that the sponsor is requesting the provincial government to use Ministry fire crews to undertake fuel management work in pine beetle infected areas within the interface, on Crown land, and where a threat from wildfires is apparent.

The Committee’s research has not identified any restrictions within BC Timber Sales or the Wildfire Management Branch that would prevent fire crews from performing fuel management in these areas. However, it is important to note that a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and a Fuel Management Prescription would be required to be in place for the Crown land in question, and only the removal of non-merchantable timber for fuel management objectives, within the 2 km interface, would be permitted.

Conference decision: _____

TRANSPORTATION

B81 WINTER TIRES MANDATORY FOR RENTAL VEHICLES

Fort St. John

WHEREAS winters in northern BC are subject to icy road conditions and snowfall accumulation;

AND WHEREAS many visitors to communities in northern BC rent vehicles for transportation;

AND WHEREAS these rental vehicles traditionally have all season tires rather than winter tires:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to make it mandatory that winter rated tires be installed on rental vehicles during the winter months in those areas of BC that experience snow and ice conditions.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting mandatory installation of winter tires on rental vehicles during the winter months in those areas of the province that experience snow and ice conditions.

Conference decision: _____

B82 RAIL CROSSING UPGRADE COSTS

Taylor

WHEREAS rail lines previously under BC Rail control are now controlled by CN Rail, and thus now come under Transport Canada jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS federal regulations do not specify a cost sharing formula that fairly distributes the financial responsibility for safety upgrades ordered by Transport Canada;

AND WHEREAS CN Rail management takes the position that 100% of crossing upgrade costs should be borne by the road authority (local government):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government, as owners of the rail lines utilized by CN Rail, to prevent the downloading of rail line crossing upgrade costs to local governments.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically requesting that CN Rail share the costs of rail line crossing upgrades. However, the UBCM membership has supported the need for the federal and provincial government to provide financial assistance in

the upgrading of railway crossings, as a general policy.

Conference decision: _____

B83 HIGHWAYS – LIABILITY

Logan Lake

WHEREAS the Province is solely responsible for the planning, construction, maintenance and signing of all provincial highways;

AND WHEREAS municipalities currently can be enjoined in a legal action concerning a provincial highway through a third party notice;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and the Municipal Insurance Association of BC can spend significant amounts of money to be removed from the legal action:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province on behalf of BC local governments to amend the appropriate legislation so that municipalities cannot be enjoined as third parties for legal claims on provincial highways.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province on behalf of BC local governments to amend the **Negligence Act** so that municipalities cannot be enjoined as third parties for legal claims on provincial highways.*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution on the inclusion of local government in third party legal claims on provincial highways. An amendment is proposed to clarify the legislation that would need to be amended to address the issue identified.

The issue arose as the result of a connector road from a local government linking up to a provincial highway. The legal issue focused on whether or not the local government had any responsibility for the signage around the intersection and might in some way be held liable for an accident that occurred at the site.

Conference decision: _____

B84 INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERAS ALONG HIGHWAYS

Delta

WHEREAS intersection safety cameras have the potential to significantly reduce the frequency and severity of crashes at highway intersections regardless of pavement markings;

AND WHEREAS current Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) policies do not allow for the installation of intersection safety cameras on approaches without marked crosswalks, such as the intersection of Highway 17 and Ladner Trunk Road in Delta:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province and ICBC to interpret and apply the current legislation to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that over the years the UBCM membership has considered a number of resolutions related to highway safety, but none of these has addressed the issue of installing intersection safety cameras at crash prone locations along highways.

Conference decision: _____

TAXATION

B85 NORTHERN LIVING DEDUCTION

Port Clements

WHEREAS the residents of Haida Gwaii have been granted a Northern Living Residents Deduction in prescribed intermediate zone "B", but prior to the change by the Canadian government to create a line across Canada prescribing different zones, Haida Gwaii residents were recipients of the full Northern Tax Deduction;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian government provides additional isolation pay to government employees who are stationed on Haida Gwaii, yet is unable to change the area to prescribed zone "A" to reflect this awareness:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to work with the Canadian government to reinstate the Northern Residents Deduction on Haida Gwaii to prescribed northern zone "A";

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian government re-evaluate all northern communities, their level of isolation and their access to necessary services to ensure that there is consistency and fairness across Canada.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse and Refer to FCM**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government reinstate the full Northern Residents Deduction to Haida Gwaii residents by changing the area to prescribed zone "A"; nor have members considered a resolution calling on the federal government to re-evaluate all northern communities, their level of isolation and their access to necessary services, in the context of the Northern Residents Deduction.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the Province, through leases, is the landlord for many properties within local government boundaries;

AND WHEREAS improvements on leased land enjoy municipal services and are subject to municipal taxation, but Section 257(6) of the *Community Charter* requires a local government to cancel the outstanding taxes on a defaulted lease:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to amend Section 257(6) of the *Community Charter* so that local governments can collect the outstanding taxes owing;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should a Crown lessee default upon its local taxes, the Province will compensate the local government for this loss of revenue.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province pay delinquent property taxes for crown lease tenures.

Municipalities assess and collect property tax improvements located on foreshore leases, but in the event that those taxes are not paid, there is no legal instrument by which a municipality may recover the taxes owed. Section 257 of the Community Charter exempts properties located on crown leases from the tax sale process. Instead, the Charter requires that a municipality notify the province of delinquent taxes and leave it to the crown to cancel the lease. Any improvements within the lease revert to the crown and the taxes owed to the municipality are cancelled along with the lease.

See also resolution C10.

Conference decision: _____

FINANCE

WHEREAS the 2010 federal government amendments to the *Excise Tax Act* have impacted employers such that they will be required to remit Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) on the “deemed supply” (service) they provide to pension plans;

AND WHEREAS the expansion of scope pertaining to how the government views similar services involving municipal staff time in the future is a concern for the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM engage in discussions with the Province of British Columbia to have this service exempted from the Harmonized Sales Tax.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government to rescind the 2010 amendments to the Excise Tax Act with respect to the deemed supply provisions for pension plans.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to request that the provincial government provide an HST exemption for the “deemed supply” (service) that local governments as employers provide to pension plans.

The federal government amended the Excise Tax Act (ETA) in 2010 to make “deemed supply” of pension administration taxable. This is an example where the federal government makes a service taxable under the Excise Tax Act and it also becomes provincially taxable and subject to the combined HST.

The Resolutions Committee notes that these amendments to the Excise Tax Act affect all local governments in the province, as each local government is an employer that participates in the Municipal Pension Plan. The Municipal Pension Plan, together with the three other BC public sector pension plans, has made representation to the federal Ministers of Finance and National Revenue to request they reconsider this legislation. In their letters the Boards of these pension plans said:

“... we believe that the new ETA requirements as set out in the GST/HST Notice #257 Draft GST/HST technical information bulletin, “The GST/HST Rebate for Pension Entities”, will have the opposite effect for employers with pension plans. While we have several concerns with the significant administrative burden these amendments impose on both pension plans and plan employers, our paramount concern is the provision for the new deemed supplies by employers.

The changes deem the employer to have made a taxable supply not only of the expenses incurred directly for pension plan activities, but also of indirect expenses that support the pension entity’s activities. This creates a new tax cost for employers that did not previously exist and the need for detailed tracking, allocation and valuation of costs to support the amount of tax determined to be resupplied. Early feedback from employers is that these provisions create an administrative burden for them.”

While engaging in discussions with the BC government would be useful, the BC government cannot exempt a tax imposed by federal legislation.

Because the provincial government does not have the authority to provide the exemption requested, an amendment is proposed to the resolution to have UBCM request the federal government to rescind the 2010 amendments to the Excise Tax Act with respect to the deemed supply provisions for pension plans.

Conference decision: _____

B88 SCHOOL SITE ACQUISITION CHARGE

West Kelowna

WHEREAS a School Site Acquisition Charge under the *Local Government Act* “is imposed under subsection (1) for the purpose of providing funds to assist boards of education to pay the capital costs of meeting eligible school site requirements” in growing school districts;

AND WHEREAS Boards of Education provide education facilities to aboriginal and non-aboriginal residents residing on First Nation lands yet land developments on First Nation lands are not subject

to the School Site Acquisition Charge therefore creating an unequal playing field:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the Ministry of Education to establish a fair and equitable provincial system to collect funding for School Site Acquisition Charges or equivalent charges from new developments on First Nation lands should local Boards of Education impose this charge on neighbouring municipalities.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a provincial system to collect funding for school site acquisition charges (or their equivalent) from new developments on First Nation lands.

At present, the Province does not have the ability to collect school site acquisition charges on developments that occur on federal reserve lands.

Conference decision:

ENVIRONMENT

B89 ILLEGAL DUMPING

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS illegal waste disposal is detrimental to the environment and our communities;

AND WHEREAS local governments are being called on to expend greater resources in order to monitor and clean up illegal dump sites:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be requested to make additional financial and human resources available to assist with enforcement, monitoring and clean up of illegal dump sites on Crown land.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolution Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically calling on the Province to make additional financial and human resources available to assist with the enforcement, monitoring and clean up of illegal dump sites on Crown land. However, members endorsed resolution 1998-LR2, which called for increased maximum fines for contamination of streams from dumping.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the Islands Trust currently offers a Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program which provides property tax relief of up to 65% for owners who wish to enter into a conservation covenant to protect important natural features of their property;

AND WHEREAS regional districts may wish to support and encourage property owners to preserve natural areas for the benefit of future generations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development be requested to grant local governments the legislative authority to implement natural area protection tax exemption programs.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development be requested to grant local governments the authority to implement natural area protection tax exemption programs.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to grant regional districts the legislative authority to implement natural area protection tax exemption programs.

An amendment is proposed because the authority to legislate is not required for local governments to implement natural area protection tax exemption programs.

Conference decision: _____

B91 DEVELOPMENT OF A NATURE & CLIMATE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Tofino

WHEREAS the Province-led Biodiversity BC has declared that without immediate action, BC's globally significant biodiversity and the ecological services on which we all depend, are vulnerable to rapid deterioration due to the challenges posed by expanding human settlement and development, especially in light of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the 179 local governments to date that have signed-on to the BC Climate Action Charter, recognize both the urgent need to implement effective measures to reduce GHG emissions and anticipate and prepare for climate change impacts, and that protecting the environment can be done in ways that promote economic prosperity, e.g., forest conservation carbon credits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM recommend that the Province of British Columbia develop a science-based nature and climate conservation strategy, that would concurrently accomplish:

- allowing more species to survive and adapt to a changing climate;
- protecting the natural carbon stores in our primary and intact forests and other ecosystems;
- protecting water and other vital ecosystem services that support both human well-being and a conservation-based economy; and

- supporting sustainable natural resource management that is based on prioritizing the needs of the ecosystems.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a science based nature and climate conservation strategy. However, the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to enact a Species and Ecosystem Protection Act that would meet some of the goals of the nature and climate conservation strategy (2010-B35, 2008-B87). The Province has also been developing a Forest Carbon Offset Protocol to guide the design, development, quantification and verification of BC forest carbon offsets from a broad range of forest activities on private and public land in BC.

Conference decision: _____

B92 AUTHORITY TO CONTROL WEEDS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* authorizes regional districts to “require the owners or occupiers of real property, or their agents, to clear the property of brush, trees, noxious weeds or other growths”; however, “noxious weeds” is not defined in this legislative context;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* authorizes municipal councils to exercise their authority over “trees, weeds, or other growths that council considers should be removed, cut down or trimmed”, which appears to give municipalities broader authority to control weeds than regional districts are afforded under the *Local Government Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to change its legislation to ensure that regional districts have the same authority as municipalities to control any plant species that the regional district board considers undesirable.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for a change in provincial legislation that would grant regional districts the authority to control any plant species that the regional district board considered undesirable.

The Committee notes that the issue at hand is the definition of “noxious weeds.” While municipalities can deal with both noxious and non-noxious weeds under the Community Charter, the Local Government Act appears to grant regional districts the authority to deal only with “noxious” weeds. The enactment clause calls for a change to legislation that would ensure that regional districts and municipalities have the same ability to deal with both noxious and non-noxious weeds.

Conference decision: _____

**B93 BALANCING AGRICULTURE & AQUATIC SPECIES AT RISK
CONSERVATION**

Fraser Valley RD

WHEREAS agriculture production in the Fraser Valley is vital to the local economy and to the province's food supply;

AND WHEREAS there has been a significant level of concern expressed by the farming community, local government, and landowners in the Fraser Valley about the potential for local *Species at Risk Act* recovery planning to significantly reduce the amount of land base available for agricultural production in this region and to further challenge farmers' abilities to clean and maintain drainage ditches on their property – concerns which have not been adequately addressed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada during recent public consultation processes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the federal government to conduct meaningful and respectful consultation with local government and the agricultural community on current and subsequent *Species at Risk Act* recovery planning that will not only address the concerns but will also contribute to finding a more balanced approach towards conservation that meets the needs of both the community and species-at-risk.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse and Refer to FCM***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to consult with local government and the agricultural community on current and subsequent Species at Risk Act recovery planning.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has called for the development of a strong Species and Ecosystems Protection Act (2010-B35; 2008-B87) as well as for the granting of property tax exemptions to landowners who conserve areas containing species at risk (2004-B80).

Conference decision: _____

B94 MAINTENANCE OF ENGINEERED DITCHES

Kent

WHEREAS in many communities a network of drainage ditches has been constructed in order to channel water, establish and maintain the productivity of agricultural land and to protect urban areas from flooding;

AND WHEREAS these engineered ditches, to be effective, need to be cleaned on a regular basis, and staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Environment have exercised unreasonable control over the timing and method of cleaning the ditches:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government (through the Ministry of Agriculture) confirm that the maintenance of engineered ditches be recognized as an acceptable farm practice under the *Right to Farm Act*.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for recognition of the maintenance of engineered ditches as an acceptable farm practice under the Right to Farm Act. However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse a related resolution, which called for unrestricted maintenance of drainage ditches (2006-B131).

Conference decision: _____

B95 AMEND THE BC MINES ACT

Fraser Valley RD

WHEREAS the British Columbia *Mines Act* does not provide the capability to adequately address impacts from mining activities, including gravel operations, on community health, ground and surface water, road safety, agriculture, properties and property rights, wildlife habitat, and the well-being of our communities overall;

AND WHEREAS the *Mines Act* is critically outdated, does not support sustainability objectives, and overrides more current environmental standards in the *Water Act*, local bylaws, and other Acts and laws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia amend the BC *Mines Act* with input from members of the public and First Nations similar to methods used to amend BC's *Water Act* and to update it to be compatible with sustainable protective environmental law and other acts.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for an amendment to the BC Mines Act, with input from members of the public and First Nations similar to methods used to amend BC's Water Act, and to update it to be compatible with sustainable protective environmental law and other acts. However, the Committee notes that the membership has previously endorsed several resolutions calling for greater consideration of the environmental impacts of mining, public consultation on mining projects, as well as environmental protection from mining activities (2009-B43; 2008-B42; 2006-B38).

Conference decision: _____

B96 BC WATER ACT MODERNIZATION

Vernon

WHEREAS many water management and access priorities have changed since the first enactment of the *Water Act*, including the introduction of groundwater regulation, development of priority user access and inclusion of local governments in water access permitting and enforcement;

AND WHEREAS local government has not previously been involved in the management of water resources in British Columbia and local government involvement in the development of the Water Sustainability Act is of paramount importance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that input and involvement of local government, through the UBCM, be active and ongoing as the Water Sustainability Act is developed and new water management roles are created.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for active and ongoing local government input and involvement, through UBCM, as the Water Sustainability Act is developed and new management roles are created.

Conference decision: _____

B97 PROTECTION OF LAKES & RIVERS

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS the health of British Columbia lakes and rivers is deteriorating due to increasing pollution, recreational use, development, and insufficient regulatory enforcement by senior levels of government;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have adequate regulatory powers or the funding capacity to sufficiently protect local lakes and rivers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia restore funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers, or provide the regulatory authority and financial means to local governments to properly protect and manage lakes and rivers at the local level.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia restore funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers, or provide the **enabling** regulatory authority and financial means to local governments to properly protect and manage lakes and rivers at the local level, **should they so wish**.*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to restore funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers, or provide the regulatory authority and financial means to local governments to properly protect and manage lakes and rivers at the local level.

The Committee proposes an amendment to the enactment clause in order to prevent any downloading of responsibility from the Province to local governments for the protection and management of lakes and rivers. The proposed amendment asks for enabling regulatory authority, which would provide local governments with the option to assume responsibility for the protection and management of lakes and rivers if they so desired.

Conference decision: _____

B98 RENEWABLE ENERGY REQUIREMENT

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS all levels of government have a moral and economic imperative to enable solutions that help prevent dangerous climate change, and in BC the provincial government and local governments have made specific commitments to do so, such as: the provincial government's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets of 33% below 2007 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2007 levels by 2050 (*Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act*); the local government greenhouse gas reduction targets set in their Official Community Plans and Regional Growth Strategies (as required in the *Local Government (Green Communities) Statutes Amendment Act*); and the Province's goal of net zero homes and buildings by 2020;

AND WHEREAS greenhouse gas emissions from buildings make up 11.4% of total provincial emissions(based on the 2008 provincial inventory), and local governments have limited jurisdiction to require the energy efficiency or renewable energy improvements to buildings needed to meet the above commitments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and member local governments work with the provincial government to develop an amendment to the provincial building code to implement the option for a local government to impose a 10% minimum renewable energy requirement for new residential and commercial buildings within its jurisdiction.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM and member local governments work to with the provincial government to develop an amendment to the provincial building code to implement the option for a local government to impose a 10% minimum renewable energy requirement for new residential and commercial buildings within its jurisdiction. However, members endorsed resolution 2010-B86, which called for the modernization of the BC Building Code to maximize reductions in greenhouse gas emissions – specifically through increased incentives and regulations for residential and commercial building retrofits.

Conference decision: _____

B99 CONTAMINATED SITES

Prince Rupert

WHEREAS the BC *Environmental Management Act* currently burdens local governments by the triggering of a contaminated site remediation process when a zoning, subdivision, development, development variance, or demolition permit is applied for;

AND WHEREAS the environmental remediation process is so onerous and costly that it can actually block attempts to develop the subject property in regions where property values are modest:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to increase financial assistance to local governments to offset these real negative economic impacts and initiate research to find sustainable solutions to the ongoing detrimental affects to rural economies that the contaminated sites provincial legislation is causing.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically calling on the provincial government to increase financial assistance to local governments to mitigate the impacts of contaminated sites legislation.

However, the membership did endorse resolution 2007-B70, which calls on the Province to amend the current legislation in order to require the owners of vacant properties that have been contaminated to remediate these properties within five years of their becoming vacant. The membership also endorsed resolution 2001-B29, which calls for an amendment to Part 4 of the Environmental Management Act to require that, upon application by a local government, the Ministry of Environment order remediation of contaminated sites.

In addition, in 2008 the Province announced development of a provincial Brownfields Renewal Strategy which would: strengthen public policy for environmental liability and risk; apply strategic public investments to encourage the redevelopment of idle sites; and build capacity and awareness of redevelopment tools and opportunities to enhance information about brownfields. UBCM advised the Province on the need for the brownfields strategy, and since 2008 has been actively working on the creation of the strategy through participation on the BC Brownfields Renewal Strategy Steering Committee. The Province is currently developing a framework for the redevelopment of former service stations as part of the Strategy.

Conference decision: _____

LAND USE

B100 CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

WHEREAS local government has expressed its duty to be consulted by elected and appointed representatives of the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia, in more than 100 resolutions from the Union of BC Municipalities since 1983;

AND WHEREAS the duties and obligations of local government are expressed by the Government of British Columbia in the *Community Charter* SBC 2003 Part 1 and Part 9 Division 1, which does not identify local government as a “stakeholder”, but rather, a duly appointed order of government;

AND WHEREAS the Coastal Community Network, an independent non-government organization comprised of local governments and First Nations collaborating and operating within the Pacific Coast Watershed, expects to be included as a correspondent of all federal and provincial spatial planning processes and policy development as a clearing house of information:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Coastal Community Network:

- a) develop a mechanism(s) that ensures meaningful consultation with Canada and British Columbia with respect to all sustainability policies and processes affecting life in the Pacific Coast Watershed; and
- b) establish an appropriate platform for community-to-community relations between the urban/

rural local governments and First Nations at an appropriate regional level across the Pacific Coast Watershed.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed many resolutions over the years seeking consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on a variety of matters including fisheries regulations, quotas, salmon enhancement programs and funding, new legislation, specific fisheries allocations and more broadly on coastal resource management. As the resolution notes, unlike our status as an order of government with the provincial government, local governments in BC do not enjoy a similar status with their federal counterparts.

Over the years, UBCM and the Coastal Community Network have co-existed. UBCM recognizes that the Coastal Community Network is an organization comprising local government and First Nation representatives that has served to represent communities on a variety of coastal resource management issues.

Conference decision: _____

B101 URBAN FARMS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS there is a growing demand for locally produced food, and increasing support for urban agriculture within cities and towns;

AND WHEREAS urban agricultural activities are well suited to meet, in part, the growing demand for local food;

AND WHEREAS urban agriculture represents a land use well suited to underutilized public land;

AND WHEREAS numerous local governments across British Columbia have or are currently developing 'food-related' planning policies, food charters, OCP amendments related to urban agriculture and food related policies in support of food secure communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments within the province of British Columbia undertake an inventory of public land (inclusive of parks, boulevards, rights-of way) including identification of current zoning and applicable bylaws and/or covenants, with the intention of creating local government agricultural land banks for all forms of urban agriculture activities in support of local food security initiatives that may include, but are not limited to: urban farms, community gardens, or edible boulevards;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments review procurement and business licensing policies to enhance the viability of urban agriculture.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM **encourage** local governments within the province of British Columbia **to** undertake an inventory of public land (inclusive of parks, boulevards, rights-of way) including identification of current zoning and applicable bylaws and/or covenants, with the intention of creating local government agricultural land banks for all forms of urban agriculture activities in support of local food security initiatives that may include, but are not limited to: urban farms, community gardens, or edible boulevards;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM **encourage** local governments **to** review procurement and business licensing policies to enhance the viability of urban agriculture.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that local governments in BC undertake an inventory of public land with the intention of creating a local government agricultural land bank.

However, members have supported several resolutions regarding food security, community gardens and urban agriculture including:

- Create programs to promote and develop local food production on farmland and in greenhouses (2010-B47, 2008-A2)
- Provide funding for community farm markets (2010-B96)
- Develop strategies and policies to ensure that BC is self-sufficient in food production by 2020 (2010-B119)
- Develop a 'Buy Local' program to promote the sale of local, sustainably produced foods (2010-B100, 2007-B175, 2002-B98)
- Allow local and/or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations to allow meat processed in this manner to be sold locally to the public (2010-B49, 2008-A2)
- Change school curriculums to include local food production, food security and school gardens (2009-B144)
- Provide resources to enable all local governments to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning (2009-B132)
- Increase funding and support for farmers and the agricultural sector (2009-B89, 2009-B50, 2008-B47, 2000-B101)

An amendment is proposed to acknowledge that UBCM does not have the authority to mandate its members to review their procurement and business licensing policies or create local government agricultural land banks.

With regards to the second enactment clause, the sponsor has indicated that business licensing policies, such as road side and gate sales, should be reviewed to assess whether or not the policies are a deterrent to the sale of local produce.

Conference decision: _____

B102 AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission was established to ensure the preservation of agricultural land and to preserve and enable farm businesses throughout the province of British Columbia; however, increasingly, land with agricultural designation in the lower mainland is removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), while land in the central and northern areas of the province is being added to the ALR to achieve a net balance on the total hectares of land within the ALR;

AND WHEREAS there is a definite disparity in the agricultural productivity value between land in the lower mainland and land in the northern and central areas of the province, resulting in an actual overall loss of productive capacity of the agricultural land being protected as such:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop and implement an Agricultural Land Value Index, which will assign a specific agricultural land value to properties in the Agricultural Land Reserve that reflects the actual farming capability of the land rather than just a general ALR designation.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution calling for the provincial government to develop an Agricultural Land Value Index which would assign a specific agricultural land value to each indexed agricultural property, in order to reflect the property's actual farming capability.

However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolutions 2010-B38 and 2008-B43, both of which called on the provincial government to "review (with consultation from local government) [...] the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries to ensure they accurately capture agricultural land". Prior to this, members endorsed resolution 1991-B28, which called for a complete review of the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in order to more clearly delineate the farm land to be preserved within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

The Province has responded that the Agricultural Land Commission, through its regulatory role in the Official Community Plan process, seeks to ensure that community growth pressures are realistic and can be accommodated without affecting the ALR. As appropriate, land within the ALR that may be unsuitable for agriculture could be considered as appropriate for exclusion to help accommodate growth. However, the Province points out that there may be communities where development and growth will be constrained in order to serve the compelling provincial interest to protect food lands.

The Province has also acknowledged that in specific areas, notably the Kootenays and northern BC, ALR boundary reviews may be warranted which are unrelated to settlement pressures. Concerns have been expressed to the Province that non arable lands lie within the ALR in these regions. However, the Province has indicated that the significant resources required for such reviews are not currently available within the Agricultural Land Commission's operating budget.

Regardless of resource limitations, the Province's position is 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.

Conference decision: _____

B103 FIRST NATIONS URBAN RESERVES

Hudson's Hope

WHEREAS Treaty 8 First Nations have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the federal government which acknowledges that Treaty 8 Nations are owed more land and those First Nations are now seeking land that is either in or around municipalities;

AND WHEREAS local governments do not have the in-house expertise or financial capacity to effectively review the implications of urban reserve agreements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the federal government to consult with impacted municipalities and to either conduct those negotiations or provide municipalities with the financial resources to obtain the necessary expertise to undertake those negotiations on the establishing of urban reserves.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions and policy papers requesting that local governments be adequately consulted when federal and provincial governments are negotiating treaties and other non-treaty agreements with First Nations (2007-B60, 2009-B143, 2003-B91). As well, members have endorsed resolutions requesting that the provincial and federal governments provide funding to local governments (through TACs) to support local governments to undertake research and prepare positions with respect to treaty negotiations (1995-A14).

Members endorsed resolution 2006-B88, which requested that “should any existing provincial or federal lands for which municipalities receive grants-in-lieu become part of any negotiated First Nations Agreement, senior governments should consider treaty adjustment funding and/or compensation for local government.”

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B104 SUPPORT FOR BRIDGES PROGRAM

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS BC’s forest dependent communities wish to recover from the forest industry’s downturn of recent years, and the small scale forest operators including community forests, First Nations tenures, woodlot licensees and small private woodland owners are integral to that recovery;

AND WHEREAS the BRIDGES project is an innovative web-based tool to connect British Columbia-based buyers and sellers that is supported by a consortium of partners including: BC Community Forest Association, Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, all three interior Beetle Action Coalitions, Community Futures, Northern Development Initiative Trust, Western Economic Diversification and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be strongly urged to continue to support the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the BRIDGES project for the success and expansion of the small scale forestry industry in BC’s forest dependent communities with the same vigour that it has created Forest Innovation Investment to support BC’s major forest companies with their foreign export marketing.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee notes that the membership has not specifically taken a position on the BRIDGES project but members have endorsed resolutions over the years that have sought to support those small scale forestry operations within communities.

In 2005 members endorsed B32 which requested that “UBCM petition the Ministry of Forests and Range to require that British Columbia Timber Sales ensure that local, small-scale mills and value-added forestry businesses have access, at open market value, to an adequate supply of wood to ensure the sustainability of their operations and, thus, of the local economy.” The BRIDGES project appears to be one means by which local small scale operators can access buyer and seller information.

Conference decision: _____

B105 REINVESTING IN FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Grand Forks

WHEREAS BC communities rely on forests to support their economic, social and environmental well-being;

AND WHEREAS there is widespread and growing public concern about the current and future health of BC’s forests;

AND WHEREAS over the past decade the provincial government has made deep cuts to the public agencies engaged in protecting, managing and enhancing BC’s forests, seriously eroding their capacity to effectively manage our publicly-owned forest resources and provide adequate public oversight in the woods:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to reinvest in forest stewardship, including:

- immediately increasing funding for forest inventories;
- restoring the Ministry of Forests research branch, and enhancing funding for forest research;
- increasing funding to mitigate the risk of forest fires in BC communities;
- making a significant, long term investment in expanded reforestation of public forest lands; and
- increasing funding and restoring staff levels in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Resource Operations to pre-2001 levels.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee notes that some but not all of the requests requested by the sponsor have been previously endorsed. The Committee notes that in 1992, B33 was endorsed which requested the provincial government to designate the forests of British Columbia and the wood products derived as a strategic resource:

- *to develop an economic development strategy for the province to ensure the priority of wood fibre production and manufacture both in the short and long terms;*
- *to accelerate enhanced silviculture programs in the province and provide policy for land use cultivation and harvesting based on farming the forest;*

- to terminate raw log exports and require forest product companies to process wood in a manner that achieves optimal returns for our forest resources;
- to implement education programs about the resource as to its economic values for all British Columbians whether or not directly involved with the forest resource;
- to ensure that forest licences are awarded based on technical merits;
- to accelerate the process of timber resource inventory in support of establishing sustainable annual allowable cuts.

As well members have endorsed resolutions with respect to addressing beetle infestation and overall forest health (2003-A12).

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

B106 ELIMINATION OF MSP PREMIUMS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS the Premier of British Columbia has announced a policy of putting families first and seniors are crucial members of our families;

AND WHEREAS seniors in BC are the only ones in Canada who pay provincial medical insurance premiums:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to eliminate medical insurance premiums for seniors in BC and to bear any associated costs.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the elimination of MSP premiums for BC seniors.

In BC premiums are payable for Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage. The 2011 monthly premiums are single (\$60.50); couple (\$109); and family (\$121). These rates apply to seniors. There is a premium assistance program available that provides premium reductions of 20% to 100% based on individual or combined couple's net incomes. Those with incomes under \$22,000 per year receive 100% premium assistance and those over \$30,000 pay the full premiums.

See also resolutions C31 and C32, and related resolution B158.

Conference decision: _____

B107 WATER REGULATIONS

Tahsis

WHEREAS the federal and provincial governments require full compliance with the BC *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Regulations and health authorities consistently monitor British Columbia municipalities to ensure safe standards are being met;

AND WHEREAS no government grants or loan programs exist that are large enough to assist municipalities or small private water systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and Regulations to exempt small municipalities with a population of less than 5,000, that are in good standing, and show no danger to the citizens in those same municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed
Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for an amendment to the Drinking Water Protection Act to exempt small municipalities.

However, the Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2007-B123, which called on the Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems. Members have also called on the Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B95). The membership also endorsed Resolution 2009-B51, which called on the provincial government to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across the Province of British Columbia and develop a funding strategy for their implementation.

An amendment to the resolution is proposed since the UBCM Small Water Systems Working Group is still reviewing and examining the definition of small water systems in the context of the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulations.

Conference decision: _____

B108 INCLUSIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SCHOOL CURRICULUM NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS physical literacy is crucial to the inception of positive lifelong activity patterns and healthy lifestyles in children; however the social well-being of children may be affected if they are not able to access all school programs and facilities;

AND WHEREAS the Let's Play Program in association with the Rick Hansen Foundation is an example of a success story of integrating seamless access into school programs for all students regardless of physical ability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to implement a provincial adaptation to curricula that will encourage:

- 1) inclusive physical activities in all grades, particularly in physical education;
- 2) adaptation of wording in provincial curricula that will reflect seamless inclusion for all students;
- 3) promotion of input and awareness in the development of resources and services (or programs) that will enhance inclusive physical activity; and
- 4) adaptation and enhancement of post secondary education to teach and reflect inclusive physical activity through sport and recreation, healthy living, education and other related programs.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to implement a provincial adaptation to curricula that will encourage:

- 1) inclusive physical activities in all grades, particularly in physical education;
- 2) adaptation of wording in provincial curricula that will reflect seamless inclusion for all students; and
- 3) promotion of input and awareness in the development of resources and services (or programs) that will enhance inclusive physical activity;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM encourage BC post-secondary institutions to adapt and enhance their curricula where relevant to teach and reflect inclusive physical activity through sport and recreation, healthy living, education and other related programs.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend provincial curricula to promote inclusive physical activities in all grades; incorporate wording in support of seamless inclusion for all students; develop resources, services or programs to enhance inclusive physical activity; and adapt and enhance post secondary education to teach and reflect inclusive physical activity through sport and recreation, healthy living, education and other related programs.

However, more generally, members have consistently endorsed resolutions in support of healthy and barrier-free communities throughout the province (2010-B70, 2010-B114, 2010-B149, 2009-B145, 2009-B167, 2008-B157, 2007-B152, 2006-B126, 2006-B132, 2006-B152, 2001-B105, 1996-B95, 1993-B69, 1992-B56).

The Committee would point out that the Province does not determine the curricula for post secondary education in BC, and proposes an amendment to reflect this.

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B109 CANADA POST SERVICE CUTS

Logan Lake

WHEREAS Canada Post plans on cutting thousands of jobs in hundreds of communities across the country by modernizing and reviewing its operations and privatizing philatelic and call centres;

AND WHEREAS Canada Post is also cutting services by eliminating rural mail box delivery, closing post offices, removing street letter boxes and other means;

AND WHEREAS the government's Canadian Postal Service Charter does not adequately protect the public interest or the public nature of our post office, especially when Canada Post is considering cuts to public postal service or privatizing part of its operations (e.g. post offices, call centre, etc.):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government to:

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

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse and Refer to FCM*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2006-B57, which called on the federal government to require Canada Post to "consult with local governments and the communities they represent when considering the closure of mail processing plants and community Canada Post facilities and take steps to maintain, expand and improve the public postal network". Members also endorsed resolution 1992-B77, which called for the "immediate halt and revers[al] of what appears to be a planned and eventual closure of all government post offices as these closures deal a direct economic blow to all citizens in rural Canada and to the economic welfare of Canada as a whole".

In response to resolution 2006-B57, the federal government recognized that "rural post offices play an important role in communities across Canada" and committed to maintaining a moratorium on rural post office closures.

Conference decision: _____

B110 PUBLIC TELEPHONE ACCESS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS many rural communities in British Columbia do not have cell phone coverage;

AND WHEREAS there is no obligation on telephone service providers to offer public access to telephones in communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Canadian Radio-television & Telecommunications Commission to prohibit public telephone providers from removing public telephone booths in communities.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse and Refer to FCM*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the CRTC to prohibit public telephone providers from removing public telephone booths in communities.

Conference decision: _____

B111 LONG FORM OF THE CANADA CENSUS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS the long form of the Canada Census has provided and continues to provide invaluable information to communities across Canada about their socio-economic, demographic, ethnic and other characteristics;

AND WHEREAS this information is crucial to the planning and development of resilient and successful communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government to reinstate the mandatory long form census for future census undertakings.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse and Refer to FCM*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to reinstate the mandatory long form census for future census undertakings.

However, on July 28, 2010, UBCM wrote to the federal government to express opposition to the decision to discontinue the mandatory long-form questionnaire in favour of a voluntary National Household Survey for the 2011 census and in future years. UBCM requested that the mandatory long-form questionnaire be reinstated.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has also formally communicated local government concerns on this matter to Minister Clement.

Conference decision: _____

B112 EXCLUSION OF WATER SERVICES FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Kent

WHEREAS Canada's public water services (supply, distribution and treatment systems) are community assets that local governments oversee and manage in the best interest of the public;

AND WHEREAS the inclusion of water services in the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) would undermine the public control and accountability of these vital assets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Government of British Columbia to remove water services from any commitments under the proposed Canada-EU CETA and that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on the Government of Canada to remove water services from its negotiations on CETA with the European Union.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse and Refer to FCM*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions on trade agreements (Agreement on Internal Trade, WTO, NAFTA, TILMA) and issues related to consultation with local governments as well as their potential implications for local governments (1996-ER4; 1999-B94; 2000-A14; 2001-A11; 2001-LR5; 2002-A3; 2005-SR5; 2007-A3, 2008-B56).

In 2010 members endorsed resolution B108 related to the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) which requested:

- *“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 local government functions and powers of the procurement regime that the European Union is seeking;*
- *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 the CETA.”*

See also resolution B152.

Conference decision: _____

B113 FEDERAL LIBRARY FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

Cowichan Valley RD

WHEREAS public libraries serve to enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning, and literacy;

AND WHEREAS the federal government does not make contributions to local library services that are utilized by persons living on federal lands which are not taxed to support library services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the federal government to provide a grant in lieu of taxes on federal lands to libraries, in recognition of use by persons living on federal lands located within the library service area.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Endorse and Refer to FCM***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to provide a grant in lieu of taxes to libraries, in recognition of library use by persons living on federal lands located within the library service area.

However, the Committee notes that members endorsed a related resolution, 2000-B110, which requested that the federal government provide a per capita financial contribution to public libraries for the provision of library services to First Nations populations.

Conference decision: _____

B114 SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**Clinton**

WHEREAS local government revenues are oversubscribed due to a continued reliance on property taxation and off loading from other governments;

AND WHEREAS small local governments are challenged to recruit, retain and compensate senior staff in the current environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to support local government efforts to engage in succession planning that will lead to better recruitment, retention and compensation for qualified senior staff.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to support small local government efforts towards succession planning for better recruitment, retention and compensation of qualified senior staff.

Conference decision: _____

B115 IMPROVEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**Prince George**

WHEREAS the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information in the custody of local government by elected officials is a breach of the duty to respect confidentiality provisions of the *Community Charter*; the Oath of Office; provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; and undermines the public trust in the elected body;

AND WHEREAS existing legislation provides inadequate provision to sanction elected officials who breach their duty to respect confidentiality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM, the Local Government Leadership Academy and the Province of British Columbia explore ways to strengthen policies, practices, and legislation so as to foster best practices and enable stronger accountability measures among local government elected officials, up to and including, larger fines and /or disqualification from office for those who are found to be in breach of legislation.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM, the Local Government Leadership Academy and the provincial government to explore ways to strengthen policies, practices, and legislation so as to foster best practices and enable stronger accountability measures among local government elected officials.

Conference decision: _____

SECTION B2-b

TRANSPORTATION

B116 SAFE CYCLING ROUTES ALONG HIGHWAY CORRIDORS

Delta

WHEREAS highway corridors such as the South Fraser Perimeter Road provide important linkages for both commuter and recreational cyclists;

AND WHEREAS in many communities the current cycling infrastructure provided along these corridors consists of shoulders without physical separation, which is considered unsafe and discouraging to cyclists:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to provide parallel routes, physical separation, and safe facilities for cyclists along highway corridors.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several similar resolutions that would improve cycling safety and infrastructure, including:

- *provincial assistance with the development of bicycle and walkway projects within a municipal system (1991-B54);*
- *the establishment of highway shoulders when highway upgrading projects are undertaken near communities to promote walking and cycling (2006-B140, 2007-B14, 2007-B99);*
- *funding for commuter highways for non-greenhouse gas emitting transportation (2006-B110);*
- *funding for sweeping of road shoulders and cycle lanes in order to remove gravel and debris and thus create safer cycling (2008-B108);*
- *funding for improvements to major roads that intersect the provincial highway system, including improvements related to capacity increases as well as pedestrian and cycling facilities associated with those roadways (2009-B83);*
- *ensure safety is paramount through the development of cyclist and driver education programs (2010-B17); and*
- *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 (2010-B17).*

While the membership has previously endorsed several related resolutions, the issue of a physical separation for cyclists along highway corridors has not been considered. Therefore, the Resolutions Committee is offering no recommendation.

Conference decision: _____

ELECTIONS

B117 REDUCE VOTING AGE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

North Vancouver City

WHEREAS it is desirable to increase the level of interest and participation in local government by young people in the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government reduce the voting age to 17 years of age for local government and school board elections.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Not Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2006-B75, which called on the provincial government to decrease the civic election voting age to 16. The resolution referenced "a significant level of voter apathy [...] at all levels of Canadian elections" and suggested that "earlier voting behaviour might increase the electorate's lifetime involvement and interest in our democratic process".

It should be noted that lowering the local government voting age to 17 would create inconsistency in relation to the current provincial and federal minimum voting age, which is 18 years.

Conference decision: _____

TAXATION

B118 TAX CREDITS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Parksville

WHEREAS volunteer emergency responders, representing a significant cost savings to government, are essential to providing adequate emergency coverage in smaller communities throughout Canada and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find willing individuals to volunteer their time in critical emergency response areas such as ambulance attending, fire fighting, road rescue and search and rescue;

AND WHEREAS UBCM, since 1998, has consistently endorsed and lobbied the provincial and federal governments to explore various tax benefits as a mechanism to recognize the contribution of volunteer firefighters;

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM once again lobby the provincial and federal governments to amend the *Income Tax Act* to provide unpaid volunteer emergency responders with a meaningful tax exemption as sign of recognition and appreciation for the voluntary service and government cost savings they provide.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Action Required**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed similar resolutions in past years. In 2006-B22 members requested a maximum \$5,000 tax exemption and in 2005-B15 the members requested that emergency services volunteers giving a base amount of training time "be granted a standard, \$3,000 tax exemption as a sign of recognition and appreciation for the voluntary service and government cost savings they provide." Resolution 2004-B61 requested an amendment to the Income Tax Act to provide a \$3,000 deduction on taxable income for volunteers performing a minimum of 100 hours service per year as emergency services volunteers.

The federal government has indicated in its new budget introduced on June 7, 2011 that it will be introducing a \$3,000 Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit amount for volunteer firefighters who perform at least 200 hours of volunteer firefighting service in their communities.

See also resolution B163.

Conference decision: _____

B119 REPEAL SECTIONS 420-427 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT **Grand Forks**

WHEREAS administration of Sections 420 to 427 of the *Local Government Act* is onerous and costly to local governments;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the Surveyor of Taxes Forfeiture Cycle are clear, concise and do not provide for the involvement of third parties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to repeal Sections 420 to 427 of the *Local Government Act* and replace it with provisions similar to those of the Surveyor of Taxes Forfeiture Cycle, and that those provisions ensure that any unredeemed properties revert to the municipality.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2005-B17 and 1989-A3, which called for amendments to the Local Government Act to change the forfeiture requirements for delinquent properties.

The sponsor of this resolution proposes to eliminate the requirement for municipalities to conduct an annual tax sale auction and replace it with a process that approximates the forfeiture process in Section 39 of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act.

The process for collecting delinquent property taxes is different for municipalities (as specified in the Local Government Act) than it is for unincorporated areas (as specified in the Taxation (Rural Area) Act).

Municipalities are required to conduct a tax sale auction to offer the property for sale to the general public. The introduction of a third party into the tax sale process can add an unnecessary layer of complexity into an already difficult process. In comparison, the process followed for properties governed by the Taxation (Rural Area) Act uses a much simpler forfeiture process to achieve the same goal, i.e. to compel the payment of property taxes.

Local governments over the years have been concerned with a number of different issues related to the forfeiture process, such as the interest rates charged, the notification requirements and other provisions regarding overdue taxes.

The Province has attempted to deal with this issue in the past. In 1998 it surveyed municipal tax collectors in order to obtain information on the effectiveness of tax sale and their comments on the process. The results showed that very few properties typically go to tax sale and that the process is highly successful in bringing in uncollected taxes and averting transfer of title to a third-party purchaser.

In March 2001, the Province issued a Discussion Paper on the tax collection and tax sale process. It presented a number of options for modifying the current system, including adopting a forfeiture model. Responses to the options presented were mixed, with no consensus that forfeiture should replace the current system.

The Province then examined the possibility of making small changes to the existing process to address some of the perceived shortcomings. Upon further review, the Province concluded that these changes would not provide sufficient improvement to the system and might have unintended consequences.

Conference decision: _____

B120 INTEREST RATE ON ARREARS & DELINQUENT TAXES

Salmo

WHEREAS the Lieutenant Governor establishes interest rates on taxes in arrears or delinquent by adding three percent to the prime lending rate;

AND WHEREAS local governments may be owed outstanding taxes which cause a hardship to operate within a budget:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Lieutenant Governor to increase the interest rate on arrears and delinquent taxes to an interest rate comparable to consumer debt.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered resolution 2005-B91, which requested an increase in the interest rate on arrears and delinquent taxes, and referred the resolution to the UBCM Executive. The UBCM Executive then pursued the issue during discussions with the (then) Ministry of Community Services on new tax sale legislation.

A change such as increasing the interest rate on arrears and delinquent taxes might be successful in addressing the problem of habitual late payers, but at a cost of increased hardship for others. The Province in the past has recognized that there is a need for legislative reform in the area of tax sales and provisions regarding overdue taxes.

Conference decision: _____

B121 TOURIST ACCOMMODATION TAX RELIEF**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS property assessments for tourist resorts continue to rise, making the viability of operating such businesses very limited;

AND WHEREAS in 1996, the Province of British Columbia introduced the *Tourist Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act* to provide an exemption of up to \$150,000 of assessed value in order to provide some relief for owners of tourism accommodation;

AND WHEREAS the exemption limit has remained unchanged over the fifteen years since the introduction of the Act despite increasing assessments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to increase the exemption limit in the *Tourist Accommodation (Assessment Relief) Act* for Class 6 properties to enable owners of these properties to survive the economic downturn that British Columbia continues to face.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1988-A14, which called on the provincial government to pursue its aim of reducing taxation for tourist accommodation facilities by way of offsetting provincial grants to municipalities, rather than by reducing assessments, or increasing property tax deductions, for tourist accommodation facilities. The resolution suggested that reduction of assessments, or increased property tax deductions, would reduce local government property tax revenues overall and would in practice require a reduction in local government services or for local taxpayers to finance the reduction of taxation for tourist accommodation facilities.

The Committee also notes that UBCM members considered but did not endorse resolution 2010-B127, which requested the Province to provide interim tax relief for small resort owners, wherein resorts would be taxed proportionally to the time they are in operation (6 months per year max.) or 50% of the current tax.

Conference decision: _____

B122 BUSINESS CLASS EXEMPTION**Vernon**

WHEREAS the statutory property exemption for business Class 6 assessments is \$10,000, regardless of the property value;

AND WHEREAS the business Class 6 exemption has remained unchanged since implementation in 1984 despite increasing assessments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the business class exemption for Class 6 assessments and consider an increase to \$50,000 for the statutory property exemption, in order to provide small businesses in the province of British Columbia a fair exemption for their increased assessed property value.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse a similar resolution requesting that the property tax exemption for small business be increased (2009-B95). However, members endorsed resolutions 2007-B121 and 2008-B26, both calling on the provincial government to review the business class exemption for Class 6 assessments and consider an increase in the statutory property exemption.

Similar resolutions in 2000 and 2001 requesting that the Province increase the business class assessment exemption from \$10,000 to \$20,000 were not endorsed. At that time in its comments the Resolutions Committee noted that an increase in the assessment exemption is potentially just a redistribution of the tax burden among businesses. If the local government maintains its business class tax allocation, then the result is just to reallocate the tax burden to other businesses.

It should be noted that a municipality concerned with high assessment of business property could address this problem by lowering the local tax rate. To implement a province-wide increase in the property exemption for business would reduce the assessment for everyone, regardless of whether or not this a local issue. It would appear to reduce local discretion and limit local governments' ability to deal with a local issue in the most effective manner.

In its response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial Ministry of Community Development suggested that amendments enacted to Section 226 of the Community Charter enable municipalities to provide revitalization tax exemptions for any revitalization objectives, including economic revitalization. Using these provisions, a municipality could strategically target support towards the kinds of economic activities and investment seen to be in the best interests of the community.

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

B123 LEED GOLD HOSPITAL CAPITAL PROJECTS **Kitimat-Stikine RD**

WHEREAS the provincial LEED Gold standard has been instituted province wide for construction of public infrastructure and is applicable to construction of new medical facilities, including hospitals and residential care facilities;

AND WHEREAS the LEED Gold standard is designed to make these facilities more energy and cost effective and can add an additional 3% to 10% to the capital cost of these facilities;

AND WHEREAS the regional hospital boards and their local tax payers contribute 40% towards the capital cost of new facilities but gain no direct benefit from the LEED Gold standard as its results contribute only to operating costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to mitigate the increased cost to the regional health board contribution of the capital cost of these new facilities by reducing regional hospital districts' share of construction costs by basing the split on the base line cost before cost of instituting LEED Gold standards on a project by project basis.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks the provincial government to mitigate the increased cost for LEED Gold hospital capital projects.

UBCM has been working with regional hospital districts, health authorities and the Province on capital cost sharing issues as part of the 2008 RHD Cost Sharing Review. At the 2011 Convention, UBCM will present a session on the implementation of this review.

Conference decision: _____

LEGISLATIVE

B124 REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC NOTICE

Kelowna

WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter*, local governments are required to provide the public with notice of certain issues it is considering and requires applicable notices to be published in a newspaper;

AND WHEREAS each British Columbia community has unique resources, needs and desires and the public is increasingly requesting to be supplied information in a variety of ways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* to permit local governments to determine, by bylaw, requirements for public notice for their communities.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and Community Charter to permit a local government to determine, by bylaw, the requirements for public notice for its community.

The Committee understands that the membership of the Southern Interior Local Government Association at its annual conference in 2011 considered a resolution with similar wording and did not endorse the resolution.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2007-B62, which requested that the provincial government amend the Community Charter to permit a local government to advertise in a "recognized local online news service" to satisfy the notice provisions of the Charter.

Conference decision: _____

B125 BREACH OF OATH OF OFFICE BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Prince George

WHEREAS a person elected or appointed to office on a council is disqualified from holding that office if that person does not make the oath of office required in accordance with Section 120 of the

Community Charter (Oath or Affirmation of Office);

AND WHEREAS the legal remedies for sanction of elected officials who breach the required oath of office are insufficient:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to amend Section 110 of the *Community Charter* (Circumstances in which a person is disqualified from office on council), to include “the breach of the required oath of office established by Section 120 of the *Community Charter* (Oath or Affirmation of Office).”

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend section 110 of the Community Charter to include, as a reason for disqualification from office on council, “the breach of the required oath of office established by section 120 of the Community Charter”.

However, the Committee notes that UBCM members endorsed a related resolution, 2007-B63, which called on the Province to amend the prescribed oath or affirmation of office in the Community Charter and Vancouver Charter, in order to make it clear that the oath includes the “duty to respect confidentiality” contained in section 117 of the Community Charter.

In response to 2007-B63, the Province pointed out that section 120(2) of the Community Charter authorizes a council to establish, by bylaw, an oath or affirmation of office that is different from the oath contained in Local Government Elections Regulation 380/93. The Province suggested that in this way a local government could “include words in their oath or solemn affirmation that relate to the duty of a council member to respect confidentiality”.

The Committee also notes that members endorsed related resolution 2007-B64, which requested that the provincial government develop explanatory materials and guidelines to complement Section 117 of the Community Charter and parallel section(s) of the Vancouver Charter, to provide elected officials with a better understanding of the duty to respect confidentiality. The resolution further requested that additional penalties be considered for deliberate breach of confidentiality, including potential disqualification from office.

In response to 2007-B64 the provincial government committed to developing explanatory materials and guidelines for local government officials on the duty to respect confidentiality. The provincial government also committed to working with the Local Government Leadership Academy to include information in its curriculum about the duty to respect confidentiality. However, the provincial government suggested that a full review of the confidentiality issue, including consideration of the importance of “whistle-blowers” in some situations, would be necessary before considering any legislative amendments.

See also resolution B1.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the unauthorized disclosure of personal information in the custody of the local government by elected officials, in contravention of Section 30.4 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Unauthorized disclosure prohibited), undermines the public trust in the elected body and exposes the local government to unacceptable and avoidable risk;

AND WHEREAS the maximum \$2000 fine for the unauthorized disclosure of personal information provided by Section 74.1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Offences and penalties) is insufficient to act as a deterrent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to amend Section 74.1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Offences and penalties) to provide for increased maximum fines imposed on individuals, including elected officials, who are found guilty of breaching Section 30.4 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Unauthorized disclosure prohibited).

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend section 74.1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to provide for increased maximum fines imposed on individuals who are found guilty of breaching section 30.4 of the Act (Unauthorized disclosure prohibited).

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

WHEREAS all new and remedial development in riparian and marine environments, including emergency response measures and work to repair, develop or maintain essential infrastructure, must be referred to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for approval;

AND WHEREAS response time from DFO to referrals varies widely and often leads to unacceptable project delays resulting in local governments' inability to respond to urgent public safety issues and/or economic hardship to governments and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DFO adopt a policy committing the department to provide a response to referrals within 30 days of receipt of any development referral from a local government or first nation government;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any referral which goes unanswered after 30 days of receipt be deemed to be approved.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Department of Fisheries & Oceans to adopt a policy committing the department to provide a response to referrals within 30 days of receipt of any development referral from a local government or first nation government.

Conference decision: _____

B128 RIPARIAN AREA REGULATION VARIANCE PROTOCOL UPDATE

Vernon

WHEREAS the proposed Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) Variance Protocol affects the establishment of setback distances from riparian ecosystems which differ between properties and are applied in isolation from municipal zoning and other local government powers;

AND WHEREAS the proposed protocol has been implemented without formal amendment of the RAR or clarification of its relationship to the Local Government Act local government powers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed RAR Variance Protocol be nullified and cease to be implemented prior to ministerial endorsement and amendment of the RAR;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that stakeholder consultation on future proposed alterations to the RAR be required before changes to fundamental components of the regulation are made which impact local government powers.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the proposed RAR Variance Protocol be nullified and cease to be implemented prior to ministerial endorsement and amendment of the RAR.

In terms of the first enactment clause, the Committee notes that the legal foundation of the draft Variance Protocol has been, and is currently, being contested in court. Specifically, Yanke v. Salmon Arm has ruled that DFO has no jurisdiction in relation to development that a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) has certified will not cause harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat, and that proposals that are certified as non-HADD under subsection 4(2) do not require approval from MOE or DFO. The Province of British Columbia is appealing the Yanke v. Salmon Arm ruling, and the Court of Appeals has yet to render a decision. It may be advisable to withhold calling for the Protocol to be nullified prior to the Court decision, as the legal status of the framework will inform whether the Protocol gets implemented as well as UBCM's comments on the Protocol.

In terms of the second enactment clause, the Committee notes that the membership considered and endorsed a similar resolution that called for local government consultation on the Riparian Areas Regulation. Specifically, resolution 2004-B75 called for "assurance of open involvement of local governments in the development of the compliance, enforcement and implementation strategies" for the Riparian Areas Regulation.

The Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive so that the Environment Committee may monitor the matter while awaiting the Court decision. Once the Court decision is released, then the UBCM Executive would consider the resolution in light of the Court decision and provide policy direction on the issue.

Conference decision: _____

B129 CONTROL OF WATERSHEDS

Ladysmith

WHEREAS many local governments draw surface water for their water systems, and such sources are vulnerable to degradation and pollution caused by a variety of industrial and recreational activities;

AND WHEREAS watersheds are not recognized in legislation, leaving local governments without adequate tools to enact measures for the protection of watersheds;

AND WHEREAS many local governments get their drinking water from sources on privately owned land;

AND WHEREAS the provincial health authorities are increasing the requirements for the provision of clean water from local government water systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to develop a funding program that facilitates local government acquisition of both the watershed and adjacent land for those local governments with water systems on privately owned land;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all activities in watersheds used for drinking water be subject to final approval and control by affected local governments and the Ministry of Environment (MOE), and that MOE be legislatively required to ensure that the quality and quantity of water in watersheds meet provincial health requirements.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for:

- a provincial funding program to facilitate local government acquisition of both the watershed and adjacent land for those local governments with water systems on privately owned land;*
- all activities in watersheds used for drinking water to be subject to final approval and control by affected local governments and the Ministry of Environment (MOE); and*
- a legislative requirement that MOE ensure that the quality and quantity of water in watersheds meet provincial health requirements.*

Members did endorse a related resolution, 2009-B136, which called for the provincial government to develop, implement and fund a strategy whereby consultation with potentially affected local governments would begin in advance of there being a change in ownership of land (from public to private) within a community watershed. The Resolutions Committee also notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions related to protection of community watersheds, including pesticide spraying, logging activities, and requests for greater

local authority over what activities take place within a watershed (1989-A18; 1990-A17; 1998-B65; 2004-B84; 2004-OF).

Conference decision: _____

B130 EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS effective regulation and management of our province's finite water resources is vital to our ecology, environment and economic future;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia no longer has a dedicated appointee whose primary function is to work with the wide variety of stakeholders who have a keen interest in the effective management of our water resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia, and namely the Premier, appoint a member of the legislature to the Minister of State level or higher, with the responsibility of working with stakeholders to manage our water resources effectively, responsibly and efficiently.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to appoint a Minister of State or cabinet minister to be responsible for the management of water resources in British Columbia.

However, the membership endorsed Resolution 1999-A17, which requested in part that the provincial government in consultation with local government "establish a lead agency to ensure that drinking water sources are protected when policy decisions are made." In response to the resolution the provincial government indicated that "the office of the Provincial Health Officer and the regional health authorities serve the role of lead agency for drinking-water interests, and that the Province will explore how to assist local health authorities to more effectively participate inland use planning processes."

Conference decision: _____

B131 CARBON NEUTRAL OBLIGATIONS

Cranbrook

WHEREAS municipalities who are signatories to the British Columbia Climate Action Charter have made a non binding commitment (Section 9) to "being carbon neutral in respect of their operations by 2012";

AND WHEREAS the only practical means to achieve a carbon neutral status, following all reasonable actions to reduce carbon emissions, is to purchase carbon off-sets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM provide clear direction on the following:

- The source, form, rationalized cost and understandable description of legitimate "carbon off-sets".
- The allocation and anticipated expenditure of revenues generated by local municipalities purchasing qualified carbon off-sets and paid to an organization sanctioned by the BC

- government such as the Pacific Carbon Trust (a Crown Corporation).
- The options or opportunities to establish local or regional “trusts” (or other means), administered locally, to hold and then direct carbon off-set revenues to local or regional qualified carbon off-set projects.
- The rationale for NOT crediting local municipalities, who own and/or operate lands and/or facilities which would otherwise be considered carbon “sinks”, with a reasonable estimation of “carbon” sequestered by the operation and credited against “carbon” released by municipal operations, therefore reducing the NET carbon emissions.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to provide clear direction on the definition of a legitimate carbon offset, the estimated costs of purchasing offsets, and the options for creating local or regional trusts for local offset projects.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed similar resolutions. The membership endorsed resolution 2010-B32, which called on the Province to expand the scope and criteria for eligibility of land-based projects to qualify for immediate carbon credits. The resolution also proposed the establishment of a model reserve fund in which local governments might deposit monies that would otherwise be spent on carbon offsets, with the aim of using these funds to undertake effective projects in their communities to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions (2010-B32). Similarly, members endorsed resolution 2009-B110, which called on the Province to allow local governments to administer and invest in local environmental programs with their own carbon off-set funds.

The Committee notes that UBCM has been working closely with the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat to create a Local Government GHG Reduction Framework that would enable local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability and meet their commitment to become carbon neutral. The framework includes an option for local governments to select from a list of measurable GHG reduction projects, established by the Green Communities Committee, which could be undertaken in their communities to counterbalance their remaining corporate emissions.

Because the work of UBCM, the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat on developing a Local Government GHG Reduction Framework is still underway, the recommendation is to refer this resolution to the UBCM Executive to ensure that the resolution is considered as work on the GHG Reduction Framework continues.

Conference decision: _____

B132 CLIMATE ACTION CHARTER

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the Climate Action Charter of British Columbia was initiated by the Province through Bill 27 and has been instituted province wide;

AND WHEREAS in order to meet the Province’s carbon neutral goals the Province has mandated a system of carbon offset purchases by government funded authorities such as the provincial health authorities;

AND WHEREAS these authorities are spending tax money to purchase carbon offsets;

AND WHEREAS our communities could be better served using this money in the services that they were originally intended for;

AND WHEREAS the health authorities are not eligible to apply for capital upgrade grants from the Pacific Carbon Trust:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to suspend the requirements for carbon offset payments by health authorities indefinitely and look for alternative methods of achieving carbon neutrality that do not impact service delivery by these health authorities.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2009-B82, which called on the Province to exempt health authorities from paying the carbon tax.

The Committee notes that the provincial carbon-neutral public sector initiative applies to all provincial public operations, including core government (ministry) operations, school districts, health authorities, post-secondary institutions and Crown agencies. All public sector organizations are required to purchase offsets to become carbon neutral.

Conference decision: _____

B133 CARBON OFFSETS

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS as per the provincial government's "Becoming Carbon Neutral" guidebook, local governments will be offered three options to balance their carbon footprint in order to achieve carbon neutrality, commencing in 2013;

AND WHEREAS the two options which do not involve purchasing carbon credits are restricted to funding community emission reduction projects that are outside the scope of the local government's corporate emissions boundary, which would seem contrary to the intent of the program, which is to reduce government's carbon footprint:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to allow balancing or offsetting local government emissions through local community emission reduction projects within the scope of the local government's corporate emissions boundary in order to retain taxpayer dollars in the communities from which they have originated, while encouraging the reduction of government's carbon footprint.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolution Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the ability to invest in corporate emission reduction projects as a means of offsetting corporate

emissions in order to achieve carbon neutrality.

The Committee notes that the proposed approach would constitute “double counting” under the “Becoming Carbon Neutral” guide and framework, and therefore would not be considered as “offsetting” a local government’s corporate emissions. In the context of the guide and framework, the proposed approach would be seen as an overall reduction of corporate emissions by a local government, which is a step that must take place prior to offsetting or balancing any remaining corporate emissions.

The Committee is also aware that UBCM has been working closely with the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development and the Climate Action Secretariat through the Green Communities Committee to create a carbon neutral framework that would enable local governments to reduce their corporate carbon liability and meet their commitment to become carbon neutral. The framework includes an option for local governments to select from a list of measurable GHG reduction projects outside of the corporate boundary, which could be undertaken in their communities to counterbalance their remaining corporate emissions.

Conference decision: _____

B134 ECOSYSTEM BASED OFFSETS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS local government signatories to the BC Climate Action Charter may wish to invest in valid ecosystem based offset projects within their respective jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS baseline scenarios for ecosystem based offset projects can reasonably be derived from current zoning and established regulations that govern land uses, development patterns, the acquisition and dedication of park land and conservation areas, or other aspects of land development, including:

- i. zoning and land use regulations, as established by bylaw;
- ii. statutory requirements for the provision of park land and conservation areas through the subdivision of land, as stipulated by Section 941 of the *Local Government Act*; or
- iii. other relevant regulations or statutes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC recognize that any land provided to the local government as park land or conservation areas through rezoning, subdivision or other land development process that:

- i. is in excess of that which is required by current regulations; and
- ii. meets the definition of forest land as provided in the BC Forest Offset Protocol (including instances in which multiple parcels are bundled together to meet minimum area thresholds)

is additional to the baseline scenario, and constitutes a valid avoided conversion project with a verifiable quantity of carbon that can be counted against a corporate emissions inventory;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the local government is a regional district, that regional district can allocate monies raised for the purpose of purchasing offsets toward the maintenance of the additional parkland provided, rather than raising the necessary maintenance monies through a parks maintenance tax requisition, or other commonly used fees and charges.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for “ecosystem based” projects to be recognized as valid offset projects, or for offset monies raised through such projects to be dedicated to parkland maintenance.

The Committee notes that under the “Becoming Carbon Neutral” guidebook and framework, such projects would not meet the eligibility criteria for a valid offset project. Specifically, they would not meet the “beyond business as usual” criteria in which projects must exceed legislative or regulatory requirements.

Conference decision: _____

B135 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FEES

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS over the last thirty years, global trade has greatly increased between British Columbia and the rest of the world, resulting in the increased introduction of invasive species into British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the invasion of these species seriously threatens both our ecosystems and our economy;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has recognized the real threats posed by the importation of alien insects, plants, seeds and animals and has responded by forming the Invasive Plant Council of BC; however, the funds required to address invasive species are insufficient to deal with the escalating problem;

AND WHEREAS the costs to address this situation currently rest entirely on the British Columbia taxpayer, and the revenue produced is insufficient to meet the need and would require a substantial tax increase and/or allotment share of general revenue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to develop a new revenue source through the implementation of environmental protection fees on all incoming freight, and that those revenues be utilized throughout the province by the Invasive Plant Council of BC and regional districts for the purpose of preventing, mitigating and eradicating invasive species;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cargo certified as weed-free by the BC Cattlemen’s Association, or other recognized agency, will be exempt from the levy.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to place environmental protection fees on all incoming freight, with the revenues from these fees provided to the Invasive Plant Council of BC to fund prevention, mitigation and eradication of invasive species.

However, members endorsed resolution 2005-B25, which called on the Province to commit the necessary resources to fund education programs on invasive species as well as to take action on new invasive plant species. The membership also endorsed resolution 2010-B29, which called on the Province to dedicate resources to government agencies for control of invasive species as well as to institute a grants program to assist local

organizations in invasive species control.

Conference decision: _____

B136 IMPORTANCE OF MECHANICAL INSULATION

Burnaby

WHEREAS the proper application of mechanical insulation, including the materials used, thickness, and installation techniques, has been shown to improve energy efficiency, reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, and provide other benefits for both new and retrofitted buildings;

AND WHEREAS given possible building code changes in the near future, it is a timely opportunity to advocate to the provincial government to consider including additional information and requirements regarding mechanical insulation in any code updates:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that any future updates or amendments to the BC Building Code include specific, up-to-date requirements on mechanical insulation, including the reproduction of any specifications, such as thickness tables, that may be referenced from other sources, and also include reference to mechanical insulation best practice standards.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered any resolutions calling for any future updates or amendments to the BC Building Code include specific, up-to-date requirements on mechanical insulation.

For information purposes, mechanical insulation is defined as thermal insulation and acoustic insulation installed on piping or mechanical systems (e.g. boilers, HVACs, ducts) that it is designed to reduce energy costs, noise, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as contribute to process and condensation control.

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B137 CITIZEN COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE RCMP IN BC

Kelowna

WHEREAS Canadians should have the confidence in their national police force and the RCMP strongly supports transparency and accountability in order to maintain and strengthen public confidence and trust;

AND WHEREAS half of the national contingent of RCMP officers are located in British Columbia with local governments throughout British Columbia, as partners in policing, impacted when their citizens have a serious complaint against the RCMP:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province create an independent British Columbia Police Civilian Investigative Committee with a mandate to review citizen complaints of a serious nature against the police in the Province of BC.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Action Required**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province establish an independent Police Civilian Oversight Committee to review public complaints against the RCMP in BC. However, the need for independent oversight of public complaints against the RCMP was identified by UBCM as an issue for consideration as part of the RCMP Contract negotiations.

The Province has passed legislation (Bill 17 – Police (Independent Investigations) Amendment Act) to establish an independent police investigations office. The Independent Police Investigations Office will:

- be led by a civilian who has never served as a police officer;*
- conduct criminal investigations into police-related incidents involving death or serious harm, and will be able to do investigations involving other serious incidents;*
- be able to investigate members of all BC police agencies including independent municipal departments and the RCMP;*
- have its power entrenched in legislation; and*
- report to the Attorney General.*

The creation of an Independent Police Investigation Office follows on the recommendations of the Braidwood Commission that the province develop a civilian-based investigative agency to help restore public confidence in the police, after the Robert Dziekanski tragedy at the Vancouver Airport. The legislation addresses the majority of the key recommendations in the Braidwood Commission and the key concerns that have been raised by local government.

Conference decision: _____

**B138 RE-INSTATEMENT OF STRATEGIC WILDFIRE
PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS in the fall of 2010 the Union of BC Municipalities which administers the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI), announced that effective December 1, 2010 no further applications would be accepted due to lack of funding;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for the management of wildfires under the *Wildfire Act* and has mandated the responsibility of wildfire control to local governments within its boundaries or jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the lack of funding for the SWPI has the potential to negatively impact unincorporated communities and municipalities that have limited financial resources and are unable to undertake wildfire mitigation work:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments re-instate the funding for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative or similar program to continue to assist communities with interface wildfire mitigation.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Action Required**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B68, calling on the Province to continue to provide funding for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program.

The Province in responding to the resolution indicated that it was currently reviewing the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program.

The Committee understands that on April 7, 2011, the Province announced \$25 million in new funding for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative.

Conference decision: _____

B139 FUEL MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM

Thompson-Nicola RD

WHEREAS the maximum contribution for the 2011 Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, Fuel Management Prescription Program (the "Program") funded by the provincial government has been reduced from 100% to 75% of eligible activity costs, and the Program application deadlines have changed from no application deadlines each year to two application deadlines in 2011 and three application deadlines in 2012;

AND WHEREAS the reduction to eligibility activity costs may prevent local governments from applying to this Program unless they increase taxation levels or can contribute their 25% share of the costs through the Program's restricted definition of in-kind costs, and the application deadlines may be compromised due to early and severe fire seasons such as those experienced by the province in the past:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to restore the Program application process with ongoing submissions rather than fixed deadlines;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to restore the contribution of the cost of eligible activities for the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, Fuel Management Prescription Program to 100%, and to expand the definition of in-kind costs to include activities undertaken by community groups assisting local governments with the Program.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Refer to UBCM Executive***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government revert to the previous application process for the Fuel Management Prescription Program; nor have members considered a resolution calling on the Province to restore the contribution of the cost of eligible activities for the program to 100%, and to expand the definition of in-kind costs to include activities undertaken by community groups assisting local governments.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B68, which called on the Province to continue funding the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Program (including the Fuel Management Prescription Program).

The Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative is managed through the Provincial Fuel Management Working Group – including the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, First Nations Emergency Services Society and Union of BC Municipalities. Since the close of the 2004-2010 program in December of 2010, the working group has been reviewing the successes and challenges of the original program in order to strengthen the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the program. The revisions that were made to the 2011 program were based on the lessons that were learned and the desire of the working group to create a sustainable fuel management program.

The first application deadline under the 2011 program is July 22, 2011. After the deadline and review of eligible applications, the working group will be reviewing the successes and challenges of the new program. As this will be an ongoing process over the summer months, the Committee would recommend that the resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive so the working group can complete their review of the first intake of the 2011 program and provide feedback to each of the key agencies involved prior to the second application deadline in October 2011.

Conference decision: _____

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

B140 REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS section 848 of the *Local Government Act* (LGA) excludes electoral areas considered an “affected local government” so that the elected officials from these electoral areas cannot accept a regional growth strategy (RGS);

AND WHEREAS the elected officials of an electoral area are not deemed to be a local government within the definition of “affected local government” as per section 848 of the LGA but could, with a successful legislative amendment, be included in the definition;

AND WHEREAS the above amendments affect section 857(3)(a) of the LGA and therefore this section also needs to be amended to include electoral area directors as the listed entities that may vote on the adoption of a RGS:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that section 848 of the *Local Government Act* be amended to include, as the last portion of the definition, the following text: “...and all elected officials of electoral areas within the area of jurisdiction for which a regional growth strategy is prepared”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that section 857(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act* be amended to include the following text (bold and underlined):

“(3) For the purposes of this section, before third reading of the bylaw to adopt a regional growth strategy, the board must submit the regional growth strategy to:

(a) the council of each municipality **and the electoral areas committee, if any**, all or part of which are covered by the regional growth strategy, ...”

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Not Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting amendments to section 848 of the Local Government Act to grant an electoral area director the authority to approve or not approve a regional growth strategy that is being developed for the region.

Under the Local Government Act, a regional growth strategy must be accepted by each local government affected. This means that the council of each municipality covered by the strategy and the board of each regional district affected must agree to the regional growth strategy. The regional growth strategy is discussed at the regional district board table and as part of this discussion each board member may outline his or her concerns with the growth strategy.

The Committee would note that, while there may be some problems with the consultation process related to regional growth strategies, the proposed amendment to the Local Government Act would appear to deal with more than just improving the consultation process. If the consultation process around regional growth strategies needs to change, then this issue should be dealt with directly. Local governments have found different ways of dealing with this issue where it is seen to be a problem.

The Committee would note that the suggested amendment would appear to grant “local government status” to each electoral area in approving regional growth strategies. In addition, it would give an electoral area director a veto over the potential regional growth strategy for a region.

The proposed change would require a much broader discussion around the future role of regional districts. Currently electoral area directors are elected as members of a regional district board, in the same way as a councillor is elected to a municipal council. The regional district is intended to be the local government entity that responds to growth management issues pertaining to electoral areas. The proposed change would increase the complexity and the cost of developing a regional growth strategy.

Conference decision: _____

FINANCE

B141 GRANT PROGRAMS FOR REGIONAL DISTRICTS

Kootenay Boundary RD

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have introduced many grant programs such as Towns for Tomorrow;

AND WHEREAS the most recent version of the Towns for Tomorrow Program limited Regional Districts to one application only:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to recognize the unique nature of regional districts and to allow regional boards to endorse and submit up to one application per electoral area for Towns for Tomorrow.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Action Required**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution

calling on the provincial government to allow regional district boards to submit up to one Towns for Tomorrow Program application per electoral area.

With respect to the Towns for Tomorrow program, in 2009 members endorsed resolution B92 which requested the provincial government “to revise its funding formula for Towns for Tomorrow grants to provide 80% funding for projects where the local share of costs will be financed by a regional district service area that has a population of fewer than 5,000.”

Whereas the sponsor of this resolution is seeking the ability to submit up to one application per electoral area within a regional district, the 2009 resolution sought a greater contribution by the Province where the area had fewer than 5,000 residents.

The Committee would note that on June 10, 2011, the Province announced the final round of grants under the Towns for Tomorrow program:

“The Province has approved 47 new Towns for Tomorrow projects. With this final round of grants, the program has now funded 201 infrastructure projects in communities throughout British Columbia.”

The Committee has put forward the recommendation “No Action Required” as the funding program has been completed.

Conference decision: _____

B142 TRAVEL EXPENSE FOR PARTICIPATING IN UBCM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Elkford

WHEREAS the local government officers and employees are asked to sit on various committees formed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, with the local governments covering all travel expenses to participate in committee meetings;

AND WHEREAS travel expenses for elected officials to participate in the committees are the responsibility of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM be requested to provide reimbursement for travel expenses for the local government officers and employees participating in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities committee meetings.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting UBCM to provide reimbursement for travel expenses for local government officers and employees participating in UBCM committee meetings. Presently, UBCM’s policy is to provide reimbursement to elected officials who are appointed to committees or working groups related to UBCM business. This includes UBCM Executive board members as well as those elected officials who may be asked to serve on UBCM’s behalf. UBCM does not presently include local government staff within its expense policy.

Due to the policy work undertaken by the UBCM, it is often beneficial to have local government staff represented on committees and working groups as they provide a specific community perspective. While it is recognized that

there are cost implications for doing this, there is also a benefit to the community in question, as they are able to have direct input on how best to establish policy and make it work, not only for their community, but others as well.

In addition, it should be noted that UBCM makes extensive and strategic use of communications technology in order to reduce the costs associated with operating and participating on committees and working groups. Common practice is to provide committee members and working group members (including local government staff) with the option to attend meetings remotely via conference call or videoconference.

The Committee would note that if UBCM were to implement a system for reimbursing travel expenses for those local government staff participating on UBCM committees, UBCM would likely have to increase membership dues to cover these additional expenses. Presently, UBCM has approximately a dozen committees comprising close to 20 local government staff from throughout the province that meet anywhere from 1 to 4 times per year. Based on this scenario, or snap shot in time, we would estimate that the costs would be \$10,000-\$20,000 or equivalent to a 1-2% increase in dues (1% dues increase = \$10,000). As noted, these appointments vary from year to year, as does the frequency of meetings so it is difficult to quantify what the financial implications would be to UBCM, and it is likely that these costs would ebb and flow depending on a number of factors.

Conference decision: _____

B143 BLUE COMMUNITY

Burnaby

WHEREAS public health depends on equitable access to clean water supplies;

AND WHEREAS the public ownership and operation of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems has improved access and quality, and public operation has been shown to be cost-effective, efficient, transparent, accountable and responsive to changing technology, priorities, and community needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal government, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and/or other avenues, to fulfil its responsibility to invest in the renewal and replacement of aging local government infrastructure, including that related to drinking water and wastewater, in a manner that ensures continued public ownership.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for federal funding for the renewal and replacement of aging local government infrastructure, including that related to drinking water and wastewater (2010-B82, 2010-77, 2010-B71).

However, the Committee would point out that most major infrastructure grant programs are not restricted to solely public ownership of infrastructure. Rather, most major infrastructure grant programs can accommodate P3 infrastructure projects, but do not require a P3 approach, which leaves local governments the choice of whether or not to partner with the private sector.

For the reference of the membership, a “blue community” is one that adopts a water commons framework by taking the following three actions:

- *Recognizing water as a human right.*
- *Promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and wastewater services.*
- *Banning the sale of bottled water in public facilities and at municipal events.*

A water commons framework treats water as belonging to no one, and the responsibility of all. The Blue Communities Project is a joint initiative of the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B144 ANIMAL ABUSE

Victoria

WHEREAS there have been many incidents of animal abuse in the news lately, and, the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) receives no government funding to conduct animal cruelty investigations and lacks sufficient resources to enforce the provisions of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, resulting in increased demands on local government to take action in response to animal welfare complaints;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to demonstrate its commitment to the welfare of animals in the province by providing appropriate funding to allow the BC SPCA to effectively prevent and respond to incidents of animal abuse.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that calls for the Province to provide appropriate funding for the BC SPCA to effectively prevent and respond to incidents of animal abuse.

Conference decision: _____

B145 ANIMAL WELFARE IN BC COMMUNITIES

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS there is an immediate concern regarding abused, abandoned and neglected animals, as well as public health and safety, in rural British Columbia communities;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) is responsible, under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, for taking custody of abandoned animals and taking any action necessary to relieve distressed or critically distressed animals;

AND WHEREAS the BC SPCA has the authority to establish and operate public shelters for stray and seized animals;

AND WHEREAS the BC SPCA has the authority under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* to appoint an officer, employee, or any other person who has been appointed as a special provincial constable under the *Police Act* as an authorized agent under the Act;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of SPCA branches in rural BC communities resulting in public health and safety issues and a lack of animal welfare enforcement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province for funding to support the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the purpose establishing additional public shelters or appointing authorized agents for all rural communities to ensure public health, safety and welfare of animals.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to provide funding to support the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) for the purpose of establishing additional public shelters or appointing authorized agents for all rural communities to ensure public health, safety and welfare of animals.

Conference decision: _____

B146 UBCM RESOLUTIONS SESSION PARTICIPATION

Peace River RD

WHEREAS the Union of British Columbia Municipalities hosts an annual convention which includes the introduction and debate of items and issues of importance to local government in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM Convention provides an opportunity to local government elected officials to have consultation meetings with provincial government ministries and support organizations, which creates scheduling conflicts between attending UBCM resolution debate sessions and the provincial government meetings:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the provincial government to discontinue scheduling ministry and support organization meetings during the scheduled UBCM resolutions sessions.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Action Required**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to discontinue scheduling ministry and support organization meetings during the scheduled UBCM resolutions sessions.

The Committee notes that an informal agreement between UBCM and provincial staff is already in place. Under this agreement, provincial staff avoid scheduling meetings between provincial staff and local governments during the first resolutions session at Convention – the time when the UBCM membership considers the Section A (priority) resolutions.

With regard to meetings involving cabinet ministers, however, UBCM has no influence on scheduling, since each cabinet minister schedules his or her meetings individually through direct communication with local

governments.

Conference decision: _____

B147 UBCM NAME CHANGE

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities was incorporated under the *Union of British Columbia Municipalities Act* to represent the various municipalities of the province;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities represents and serves all municipalities and regional districts of the province of BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities apply to the Legislative Counsel for revision to the *Union of British Columbia Municipalities Act* to replace all references to “municipal government” with “local government”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM change its name to the Union of British Columbia Local Governments to reflect its membership in its entirety.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2004-B91, which proposed that the Union of BC Municipalities change its name to the Union of British Columbia Local Governments.

The Committee also notes that members considered resolution 2003-B45 and referred the resolution to the UBCM Executive. The resolution “encouraged” the UBCM to change its name to the Union of BC Local Governments, and upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse resolution 2003-B45.

With regard to resolution 2003-B45, the Executive commented that since the UBCM name was established in 1905 and formalized in an Act of Incorporation enacted by the provincial government in 1959, any change to this name would require a change to the corresponding statute by the Legislative Assembly. The first step would be submission of an official name change request to the Legislative Assembly of BC, followed by changes to UBCM bylaws. A resolution requesting such a name change would thus need to direct the UBCM Executive to prepare the necessary amendments to UBCM bylaws; this direction would take the form of an extraordinary resolution to be considered at a future Convention.

See also resolution C38.

Conference decision: _____

B148 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD TRANSPARENCY

Port Moody

WHEREAS Section 69 of the *School Act* allows the exclusion of members of the public from school board meetings for any reason the board deems appropriate which limits the public’s access to school board decisions and records that might otherwise be available under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and which might be required to be considered publicly by a local government under Section 90 of the *Community Charter*;

AND WHEREAS the inconsistent rules applying to school boards and local governments cause confusion about what should be dealt with publicly when school boards and municipal councils hold joint meetings on issues and/or exchange decisions of their respective governing bodies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education be urged to amend the closed meeting provisions of the *School Act* to align with the more open and transparent closed meeting provisions of the *Community Charter* governing local governments.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***Refer to UBCM Executive***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 2007, UBCM members endorsed resolution B68, which requested that the provincial government better harmonize the legislation governing school boards and local governments by amending Section 69 of the School Act so that it would be in accordance with Sections 89-97 of the Community Charter. In its response the Ministry of Education advised that no amendments to the School Act were being considered.

According to Section 69 of the School Act, meetings of the school board are open to the public unless, in the opinion of the board, the public interest requires that persons other than trustees be excluded from the meeting. Sections 89-97 of the Community Charter set out specific instances in which the public may/must be excluded from meetings of council, as well as detailing requirements for public notice and public access to municipal records. Under s. 881 of the Local Government Act, local governments are required to consult school boards if they adopt or amend an official community plan which includes a school district and must seek input from the school board to determine the needs for school facilities, sites and services.

UBCM currently has an MOU with the BC School Trustees Association that encourages councils and school boards to work together in a mutually respectful way and to cooperate in the development and distribution of information and harmonize projects or initiatives to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. The Committee is hesitant to recommend a province-wide remedy to address what might be a local issue, especially in light of the fact that boards of education, like local governments, are elected and accountable to their constituents. The Committee therefore recommends that the resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive to allow the matter to be brought forward as part of the discussions that occur at the BCSTA-UBCM MOU working group table.

Conference decision: _____

SECTION B - PART 3-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After consideration of Section B2-b resolutions, a spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

"SHALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE FOR SECTION B - PART 3-a RESOLUTIONS BE ADOPTED?"

If the motion is approved by delegates, all Section B - Part 3-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

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

"I MOVE THAT RESOLUTION B(x) BE REMOVED FROM THE BLOCK AND BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY FOR DEBATE."

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

If the motion were approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion was decided.

SECTION B3-a

COMMUNITY SAFETY

B149 TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Telkwa

WHEREAS the new Asia Pacific Gateway has, and will contribute to, increased freight transportation along the Highway 16 corridor, including hazardous materials;

AND WHEREAS the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* regulates the transportation of hazardous materials including the emergency response support capabilities of shippers, carriers, and/or consignees:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM conduct a review to determine whether the emergency response capabilities are appropriate for the quantities and class of hazardous materials now being transported along the new Asia Pacific Gateway corridor.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that **UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments** conduct a review to determine whether the emergency response capabilities are appropriate for the quantities and class of hazardous materials now being transported along the new Asia Pacific Gateway corridor;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the review finds the emergency response capabilities are not adequate that the federal and provincial governments provide the technical and financial resources required to meet the need.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that a review be undertaken of the emergency response capabilities for hazardous materials along the new Asia Pacific Gateway corridor.

An amendment is proposed as the federal and provincial governments have legislative/regulatory responsibility for the transportation of hazardous materials and for setting the emergency response standards that are required. The federal and provincial governments have the technical expertise and financial resources to undertake a review to determine whether the emergency response capabilities are appropriate, whereas the NCLGA and UBCM do not have the expertise or resources.

Conference decision: _____

B150 SENIORS' TESTING UNDER DRIVEABLE PROGRAM

Sechelt

WHEREAS under the DriveABLE program, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles requires that at 80years of age, senior citizens may be required to be tested to confirm their fitness to drive;

AND WHEREAS due to the urban locations of DriveABLE testing facilities in British Columbia,

seniors in rural areas are required to travel substantial distances in order to be tested, resulting in considerable physical duress and financial burden:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be requested to provide additional testing facilities or implement other options that would allow testing to be done in the community where the senior resides.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting additional testing facilities or the implementation of other options that would allow testing under the DriveABLE program to be conducted in the community where the senior resides.

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

B151 BEE IMPORTATION

North Saanich

WHEREAS local honey bee populations on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands are in danger of contracting diseases and pests from mainland North America that significantly affect the health of honeybees, and which are not currently present on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands;

AND WHEREAS the Province recently lifted a 22 year long quarantine that prohibited the importation of honey bees from mainland North America to Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to protect the health of island bee populations by restoring the former quarantine that has managed the importation of honey bees and prohibited the importation of used equipment and combs to Canada Food Inspection Agency standards from mainland North America to Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Gulf Islands.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to protect the health of bee populations by restoring the former quarantine that had prohibited the importation of honey bees from mainland North America to Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.

Conference decision: _____

WHEREAS the information provided by the Policy Proposal on British Columbia's new Water Sustainability Act concerning the trading of water rights is very general in nature;

AND WHEREAS it is not substantiated how water rights trading might serve to improve water efficiencies;

AND WHEREAS water availability may fluctuate from year to year and from basin to basin:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM express its strong reservations to the provincial government that the use of trading water rights as an economic instrument will have the desired benefits and may indeed have serious unanticipated consequences to water management and agriculture in the province.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution expressing reservations around the use of trading water rights as an economic instrument in water management.

However, the membership endorsed resolution 1999-LR2, which requested that the provincial government enact legislation permanently banning the bulk export of fresh water resources; and that the provincial government cooperate with the federal government to negotiate a federal-provincial accord on fresh water policy to protect this resource for the future.

In response to the resolution the provincial government emphasized its commitment to protecting water from bulk removals, referencing the 1995 Water Protection Act, which prohibits the large-scale transfer of water between the province's nine major watersheds and prohibits the removal of water from the province, with limited exceptions.

The Province also highlighted its work on the Canada-wide draft Accord for the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removal from Drainage Basins. At the time nine jurisdictions (Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, NWT, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, PEI Ontario and Yukon) had endorsed the Accord and five (BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec) reserved their position pending further consideration. The Province suggested that the voluntary nature and broad definitions of the draft Accord did not provide adequate protection for Canada's water.

See also resolutions C33 and B112.

Conference decision: _____

B153 MARINE CONSERVATION STRATEGY – VANCOUVER ISLAND SHELF

Tahsis

WHEREAS Mozino Point in the Tahsis Narrows in Nootka Sound, British Columbia is an area that speaks to the conservation, management and research of both coral and sponge colonies including species of Gorgonian Corals, Sharp and Round Lipped Boot Sponges, and Cloud Sponges which provide important marine species habitat that can be viewed within the recreational limit of diving;

AND WHEREAS Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Region agreed in the 2010 Conservation Strategy Study of Pacific Region Cold-Water Coral and Sponge that there is a need to “protect regional biodiversity and maintain key ecosystem dynamics”;

AND WHEREAS Parks Canada establishes national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the UBCM supports the establishment of a conservation strategy within the national marine conservation area reserve (NMCAR) in the Vancouver Island Shelf marine region encompassing Mozi Point in the Tahsis Narrows, Nootka Sound urging quick action to proceed in the conservation of this marine area while respecting First Nations interest in the area.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the establishment of a conservation strategy within the NMCAR in the Vancouver Island Shelf marine region.

However, members endorsed resolution 2010-B79, which called for the establishment of a large, ecologically zoned NMCAR in the southern Strait of Georgia, from the southern end of Haro Strait up to and including Gabriola Passage. The membership also endorsed resolution 2004-B113, which sought to have a specific coastal area designated as a protected area as part of a joint federal/provincial approach to marine conservation under the Canada-British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the Oceans Strategy for the Pacific Region.

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B154 FUNDING FOR REGIONAL AREA GEOLOGISTS

Smithers

WHEREAS local governments are aware of the critical importance of the mining industry to strengthen and diversify the economy of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the province of BC holds valuable geological resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC continue to ensure funding for all regional area geologists.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting

that the Province ensure funding for all regional area geologists.

Conference decision: _____

HEALTH

B155 HST EXEMPTION

Houston

WHEREAS the provincial government has adopted the ActNow BC program and policies to promote healthier lifestyles for all residents of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has incorporated healthy living information on its website under the ActNow BC program for families, schools, seniors, community, and work environments stating that every move is a good move:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government for an exemption from the Harmonized Sales Tax for admissions to health and wellness facilities such as but not limited to health clubs, pools, gyms and ice arenas, as well as on the purchase of physical fitness equipment pursuant to the provincial government's promotion for healthy living styles.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting an HST exemption for admissions to health and wellness facilities.

However, the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting other tax exemptions including:

- *2009-B6: requested a PST exemption for search and rescue equipment and supplies for volunteer search and rescue organizations within the province*
- *2009-B81: requested a carbon tax exemption for the agricultural sector*
- *2008-SR2: requested a carbon tax exemption for residents who cannot make choices about their fuel consumption due to distance, climate and resource based livelihoods*
- *2007-B22: requested a PST exemption fire protection equipment*

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B156 CASINO DEVELOPMENT

Vancouver

WHEREAS:

- the proposed expansion of Edgewater Casino on the North East Shore of False Creek in Downtown Vancouver would be the largest casino in British Columbia;
- recent news has revealed a concerning link between casinos and organized crime and money laundering;

- citizens across BC are concerned about increasing organized crime activity and the accompanying increases in enforcement costs;
- recent reports also show record subsidies paid to casinos while non-profits, charities, and arts organizations are being funded at levels lower than during the 1990s;
- the fact the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation are being directed by the same ministry represents a serious potential conflict in gaming priorities and raises serious concerns about how gaming will be regulated and promoted in BC; and
- public confidence in the lottery public system needs to be restored:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government:

- A. separate the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch and the British Columbia Lottery Corporation into different ministries;
- B. conduct a review of public gaming in the province of British Columbia in order to restore public confidence in the integrity of the gaming system;
- C. in response to a request from the BC Association of Charitable Gaming, instruct the Auditor General to investigate and review the BC government's obligations to charities for gaming revenues; and
- D. affirm both the inherent and contractual rights and interests of charities and non-profits to gaming proceeds.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee would point out that this resolution incorporates a number of requests within a single enactment clause. The first request is to separate the BCLC and the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch into separate ministries. Presently both are housed within the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General. The UBCM membership has not considered a resolution on this matter previously, but can understand the sponsor's concerns about the promoter of gaming activity (BCLC) being located within the same ministry as the policy and enforcement branch.

The Committee notes, however, that members have endorsed a number of resolutions requesting that the Province:

- *continue its commitment to fund non-profit organizations (2010-B115);*
- *restore Community Gaming Grant funding for emergency training for BC municipalities (2010-B62); and*
- *revise the Terms and Conditions for Charitable Gaming and Access to Gaming Revenue to allow capital projects as an eligible use for gaming proceeds, and to allow organizations that receive gaming proceeds to use those funds in partnership projects with local government and on property or in facilities owned or controlled by local government (2001-B57).*

Conference decision: _____

SECTION B3-b

HEALTH

B157 AGE RESTRICTIONS ON INDOOR TANNING

Esquimalt

WHEREAS using indoor tanning devices is particularly damaging for youth and increases their risk of melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer);

AND WHEREAS the Medical Health Officers' Council of BC calls upon the Province of British Columbia to use its regulatory powers to restrict use of indoor tanning beds by persons under the age of 18:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to introduce legislation to ban indoor tanning for youth under the age of 18.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution to introduce provincial legislation to ban indoor tanning for youth under the age of 18.

While local governments have the ability to enact bylaws to address the issue in their community, there is no provincial legislation to ban indoor tanning for persons under 18 year of age.

See also resolution C23.

Conference decision: _____

B158 ELIMINATION OF MSP PREMIUMS FOR SENIORS

Vancouver

WHEREAS

- British Columbia is the only province in Canada where seniors must pay Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums;
- Many seniors in British Columbia are struggling to pay their bills for daily needs; and
- Many retirees of the Municipal Pension Plan are former employees of local and regional governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to eliminate the MSP premiums for medical insurance in the province of British Columbia to conform with the situation for seniors in all other provinces;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia that, upon the elimination of MSP premiums, they contribute the present percentage of employers' contributions previously used for MSP premiums to assist in the payment of group health benefits.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the elimination of MSP premiums for BC seniors; nor have members considered a resolution proposing that employers' contributions to the Municipal Pension Plan used to subsidize the MSP premiums of Municipal Pension Plan retirees, be used instead to purchase group health benefits for Municipal Pension Plan retirees.

There are two directions proposed in this resolution and the second recommendation is dependent on the provincial government accepting the first proposal. The Resolutions Committee supports the first enactment clause, which requests that the Province eliminate MSP premiums for seniors in BC.

However, the second enactment clause proposes that the employer savings that would be realized in the first enactment clause be allocated to assist in the payment of group health benefits. The Committee recommends that this proposal be referred to the UBCM Executive for further study.

See also resolution B106.

Conference decision: _____

B159 FOR-PROFIT CLINICS

Victoria

WHEREAS everyone must have the right to high quality, responsive and appropriate health care which is publicly funded, publicly accountable and publicly controlled, regardless of an individual's income, ability, age, cultural heritage, sex, sexual orientation or geographical location;

AND WHEREAS for-profit clinics represent an increasing and serious threat to British Columbians' health and the financial stability of the health care system;

AND WHEREAS the number of private, for-profit surgical and MRI / CT facilities in BC has more than doubled in the past five years, with a growing number of for-profit facilities operating in breach of the *Canada Health Act's* criteria requiring universality and accessibility by charging patients privately for medically necessary and MSP insured hospital or physician services;

AND WHEREAS there is clear evidence that such clinics cost more than public facilities, increase wait times by draining scarce health human resources from the public system, and compromise patient safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia:

- Establish a moratorium on any further expansion of private, for-profit surgical and MRI/CT clinics;
- Require an end to public funding of for-profit clinics, including the contracting-out of day surgeries and the provision of Health Authority contracts to for-profit clinics;
- Require full accountability and transparency on the part of for-profit clinics by ensuring that they submit to all oversight and regulatory mechanisms currently applied to public facilities operating under the *BC Hospital Act*; and
- Expand public capacity by requiring the development of publicly funded and administered

outpatient facilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM continue to research and monitor the threat to universal public health care posed by the operations of private, for-profit surgical and MRI/CT facilities in its member communities.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2010-B155, which called on the Province to:

- *Establish a moratorium on any further expansion of private, for-profit surgical and MRI/CT clinics*
- *Require an end to public funding of for-profit clinics, including the contracting-out of day surgeries and the provision of health authority contracts to for-profit clinics*
- *Require full accountability and transparency on the part of for-profit clinics by ensuring that they submit to all oversight and regulatory mechanisms currently applied to public facilities operating under the BC Hospitals Act*
- *Expand public capacity by requiring the development of publicly funded and administered outpatient facilities.*

The resolution also requested that UBCM research and monitor the operations of private, for-profit surgical and MRI/CT facilities in its members' communities.

This resolution was first scheduled to be considered at the 2009 Convention but due to time constraints, was not considered and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. The Executive decided to refer the resolution to the 2010 Convention, because they were not comfortable making a decision on behalf of the membership with no prior UBCM policy on such a high-profile, controversial issue.

Though the resolution was not endorsed in 2010, UBCM members did endorse a related resolution, 2002-B89, requesting that the provincial government honour the five principles of Medicare, which are: universal coverage, comprehensive, accessible services, portable from province to province and publicly administered.

Conference decision: _____

B160 FOOD SAFETY AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Alert Bay

WHEREAS the Village of Alert Bay has a long tradition of tournaments and festivals which have traditionally included street vendors selling locally prepared food;

AND WHEREAS there has never been a case of food borne illness associated with the consumption of the food from these street vendors;

AND WHEREAS the Vancouver Island Health Authority is taking enforcement action against street vendors and sellers and providers of homemade food at community events:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Vancouver Island Health Authority develop reasonable policies that will allow the sale and provision of foods prepared in non-commercial kitchens and which are not cost prohibitive or otherwise prohibitively onerous to the average citizen.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) develop reasonable policies that will allow the sale and provision of foods prepared in non-commercial kitchens.

UBCM reviewed the Food Premise Regulation in 2008 and found that the following were exempt from the regulation:

- *Potlucks and community dinners – Section 2(c) states that “premises in which food is prepared or served by voluntary caterers for functions or gatherings limited to members of their own organization and invited guests” are exempt. Ministry of Health staff confirmed that food or meals served by an organization are generally considered a “private” event and are not affected by the regulation;*
- *Sale of whole fresh fruits and vegetables and pre-packaged, non-hazardous food – Section 2(e) (i) and (ii) exempt these items from the regulation.*

Also, in April 2010, the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Food Protection Services released the document, Guideline for Sale of Foods at Temporary Food Markets, in collaboration with the Health Authorities (including VIHA) and the Province, which included a sample application form for the sale of food at temporary food markets is included in this document.

Each Health Authority has created their own the application form and established their requirements for sale of foods at temporary food markets.

Conference decision: _____

TRANSPORTATION

B161 ALASKA HWY 97 NORTH – FOUR-LANING

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the Alaska Highway / Highway 97 North is the main route to the resource rich northeast part of BC which has experienced increased vehicle traffic due to the provincial government's year-round drilling incentive program;

AND WHEREAS 300,000 vehicles use this highway annually, and a large percentage of this traffic is tractor-trailer units hauling long heavy loads and recreational vehicles, both of which are slow moving and difficult for regular sized vehicles to pass in a safe manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to implement a comprehensive and phased program to four-lane the Alaska Highway / Highway 97 North to provide safe vehicular travel in this region of the province.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that a phased highways program be implemented to four lane the Alaska Highway/Highway 97 North.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the federal and provincial governments provide funding to upgrade various highway systems throughout the province (2001-B20; 1998-B1; 1998-B54).

See also resolution B162.

Conference decision:

B162 HIGHWAY 16 THREE-LANING

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway 16 is the only east-west highway connecting communities in northern BC and has insufficient passing lanes along most of its length;

AND WHEREAS Highway 16 is critical for the economic development of the region and province, especially in providing access to the Asia-Pacific:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial and federal governments to implement a comprehensive and phased program for “three-laning” the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway 16 within BC.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the federal and provincial governments provide funding to upgrade various highway systems throughout the province (2001-B20; 1998-B1; 1998-B54).

See also resolution B161.

Conference decision: _____

TAXATION

B163 VOLUNTEER DUES INCOME TAX CREDIT

Quesnel

WHEREAS communities are becoming increasingly reliant upon the need for volunteers who so freely contribute of their time, talent and expense in health care, education, emergency protection to persons and property, environment, recreation, arts and youth and other basic needed community services;

AND WHEREAS volunteers are required to pay annual membership dues or fees to the many organizations and service clubs that are the very foundations for volunteer community service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage senior levels of government to recognize the value of community service volunteers by providing for an income tax credit for all or part of membership dues or fees paid by those volunteers to bona fide organizations and service clubs that deliver needed community services.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members considered but did not endorse resolution 1998-B102, which asked UBCM and FCM to explore various tax benefits as a mechanism to recognize the contribution of volunteers. The complexity of identifying which volunteers qualified and administering such a scheme would likely incur a huge bureaucracy.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2004-B61, which called on the federal government to amend the Income Tax Act to provide a deduction on taxable income for volunteers performing a minimum of 100 hours service in the taxation year as ambulance attendants, firefighters or persons assisting in search and rescue operations, or other emergency situations. However, members have not considered a resolution which requested a tax credit for membership dues paid by volunteers to organizations or service clubs that deliver general services in the community.

In its response to 2004-B61, the federal government noted that the first \$1,000 in honoraria paid to emergency services volunteers is excluded from income tax. The federal government expressed concerns with regard to the fairness of the request, specifically:

- 1) the measure would, in effect, allow emergency service volunteers to receive the equivalent of over two months' pay at BC minimum wage (at the time) without having to pay any federal or provincial income tax; and*
- 2) how to justify providing such assistance only for emergency service volunteers when so many other kinds of volunteers provide valuable public services.*

The federal government has indicated in its new budget introduced on June 7, 2011 that it will be introducing a \$3,000 Volunteer Firefighters Tax Credit amount for volunteer firefighters who perform at least 200 hours of volunteer firefighting service in their communities.

See also resolution B118.

Conference decision: _____

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

B164 CANADA FIRST SHIPPING & TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Stewart

WHEREAS the State of Alaska is seeking access to the North American electrical grid through a connection to the Northwest Transmission line near Bob Quinn Lake, BC with an accompanying service road to the Alaska Border to service such a connection;

AND WHEREAS such a service road would enable access to Wrangell, Alaska leading to the potential

development of new bulk cargo shipping facilities in Wrangell at the expense of developing and established port communities in British Columbia, denying these BC communities the economic and social benefits of increased economic activity in the northwest corridor;

AND WHEREAS the many mining and similar projects in Northwestern BC benefit from the taxation and investment policies of British Columbia and Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support a “Canada First” policy for the shipping of bulk cargo and similar goods through Canadian ports rather than through Alaska and that the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to adopt and implement such a policy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any connection to the Northwest Transmission line from the State of Alaska does not include the development of a service road or a new transportation corridor.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to adopt a “Canada First” policy for the shipping of bulk cargo and similar goods through Canadian ports rather than through Alaska; nor have members considered a resolution opposing the development of a service road or new transportation corridor related to connecting the Northwest Transmission Line to the State of Alaska.

However, the UBCM membership has endorsed a policy position supporting extensions of power infrastructure to northern and remote communities. In the 2002 Energy Policy Digest, the membership supported low-cost service extensions to provide electrical power to all areas of the province.

As well in 2004, members endorsed B25 which requested that the Minister of Energy “commit to writing a comprehensive plan for extension of the electrical grid into the northwest region that considers long-term community and resource development needs.” Then again in 2008, B45 which “urged the continuance of the proposed environmental programs and projects, with a focus on the Northwest Transmission Line, namely the Terrace to Bob Quinn portion of the 287 kV line.”

Conference decision: _____

B165 ANNUAL HALIBUT QUOTA

Capital RD

WHEREAS the recreational and sport fishing industry is an essential economic driver for many communities along the coast of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the federal government changed the quota system in 2003 requiring the recreation fishing industry to rely on a fixed percentage of the annual catch;

AND WHEREAS the allocation between recreational and commercial sectors in the Canadian halibut fishery during years of low abundance will destroy the economic viability of coastal communities and deny Canadian citizens access to the common property resource of halibut;

AND WHEREAS a base guaranteed limit is a more fair and equitable approach that would allow the recreation and commercial fishing industries to survive during years of low annual quotas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government purchase or lease the required commercial halibut quota to establish a permanent annual guaranteed base limit and season for recreational fishermen of 1 halibut per day 2 in their possession, February 1 to December 31 of each year.

NOT ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a resolution requesting that 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." (2010-B97)

However, this resolution is seeking a specific annual quota on halibut and it is not clear what the implications of this will be for either the sport or commercial sector or the overall sustainability of the halibut, so the Committee has offered no recommendation.

See also resolution B166.

Conference decision: _____

**B166 ALLOCATION OF PACIFIC HALIBUT TO SPORT FISHING
SECTOR**

Kitimat

WHEREAS the current federal allocation of the sustainable pacific halibut resource is insufficient to provide reasonable catch and possession limits for the recreational and commercial sport fishery;

AND WHEREAS an increase in daily catch and possession limits would be of great benefit in attracting sport fishing tourists to coastal communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support an increase in the allocation of the sustainable pacific halibut resource to the sport fishing sector and requests that the federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans increase the catch limits to two per day and four in possession.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not specifically considered a resolution related to halibut allocation but in 2010, members did endorse resolution B97, which requested 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.

In its response to 2010-B97, the Province expressed support for the sustainability of both commercial and recreational fisheries in tidal waters and highlighted a number of its activities related to ensuring fisheries sustainability and maximizing the economic and social benefits.

The Committee has offered no recommendation as it is not clear what the implications will be to the sport fishing sector if the catch limits are increased to two per day and four in possession.

See also resolution B165.

Conference decision: _____

B167 PUBLIC COMMISSION ON FORESTS

Grand Forks

WHEREAS BC communities rely on their forests both as a primary economic driver, and for their ecological and social importance;

AND WHEREAS today there are a number of critical problems in BC's forests which need to be addressed and resolved, including:

- evidence of declining forest health and expanding understocked forests;
- tens of thousands of forest industry job losses, dozens of mill closures, and serious economic hardship in resource communities across BC;
- widespread frustration among local governments about the lack of local involvement in decision making on the allocation and management of forest resources;
- after a decade of deep cutbacks, serious doubts about the ability of provincial agencies to effectively manage our forest resources and provide adequate public oversight in the woods; and
- the continuing failure to generate maximum value for British Columbians from our forests, as evidenced by the ongoing over-reliance on commodity production, rapidly increasing raw log exports to Asia, and limited growth in the value-added wood products sector;

AND WHEREAS it has been more than two decades since the last significant independent inquiry into the state of BC's forests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call for the Government of BC to establish a public commission of inquiry into BC's forest sector, in order to:

- offer a considered, independent assessment of the state of BC's forests and the effectiveness of our current laws and practices;
- provide a much-needed opportunity for significant public input into forest policy in BC; and
- make recommendations for changes that will ensure both the good stewardship of our forests and a vibrant, sustainable forest industry for coming generations.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Committee notes that in 1990, UBCM members endorsed B41 which called for "a full-scale Royal Commission into forestry, similar to the Sloan and Pearce Commission, in order to accommodate the interests of the people of British Columbia in the 1990s and beyond."

UBCM members have endorsed a number of resolutions over the years with respect to the concerns raised by the sponsor in the second whereas clause such as forest industry restructuring, job losses, lack of local control of the forest resource, forest health as a result of pine beetles and changes in forest policy and regulations.

While the Province has conducted its own State of the Forests reports this resolution is seeking a public commission of inquiry that would be much more extensive. The Committee has offered no recommendation, as members would welcome direction from the membership as to whether or not a Commission is the route to go to address the present challenges facing the forest sector.

Conference decision: _____

ENVIRONMENT

B168 FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

Williams Lake

WHEREAS British Columbia and Canada have differing legislative responsibilities and utilize separate environmental assessment processes to support their respective roles in approving major resource developments;

AND WHEREAS the use of separate environmental assessment processes results in a fragmented and disconnected evaluation of impacts and places an excessive burden on development proponents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage British Columbia and Canada to amalgamate their environmental impact assessment processes for major resource developments.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2010-A1, which called on the provincial and federal governments to harmonize their environmental assessment review processes into one integrated process.

The Committee notes that prior to 2010 UBCM had long-standing policy supporting the harmonization of federal and provincial environmental assessment processes. The federal and provincial governments had an agreement to facilitate the harmonization of the assessment review process. However, a recent court decision has indicated that the federal government cannot transfer its legal responsibility for undertaking environmental assessments.

Conference decision: _____

B169 INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULB BAN

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the Government of Canada announced in 2007 that it would introduce national standards by 2012 for lighting efficiency that would phase out incandescent light bulbs, and the Province of British Columbia has passed a law that prohibits retailers from ordering 75 and 100 watt incandescent bulbs once their current stock runs out and then must sell only compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs; with both initiatives intended to achieve environmental benefits;

AND WHEREAS questions from communities seeking direction for environmentally and health-safe methods of disposal of used and broken compact fluorescent light bulbs have not been adequately

answered;

AND WHEREAS questions relative to the safety, efficiency and sustainability of compact fluorescent light bulbs compared to alternatives such as LED (light emitting diode) light bulbs have not been adequately answered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby both the provincial and federal governments to rescind their ban on the sale of incandescent light bulbs until a viable alternative is readily available, proper and convenient return facilities are available in every community and sufficient product testing and education of the public has taken place.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the postponement of the planned ban on the sale of incandescent light bulbs until questions around the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of compact fluorescent light bulbs have been addressed.

See also resolution B170.

Conference decision: _____

B170 COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Sechelt

WHEREAS due to their energy efficiency, the federal and provincial governments have adopted legislation promoting the residential use of compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs over incandescent light bulbs;

AND WHEREAS due to the highly toxic mercury element contained in CFL bulbs, specific procedures must be followed by consumers in the care, handling and disposal of CFL bulbs;

AND WHEREAS the health and environmental implications of residential use of CFL bulbs remains unresolved:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments be requested to suspend implementation of CFL bulb legislation until the health and environmental issues are resolved.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request for the provincial and federal governments to suspend implementation of CFL bulb legislation until the health and environmental issues are resolved.

However, the membership has acknowledged the presence of hazardous materials in CFL bulbs by endorsing resolutions requesting that the Province develop and implement a product stewardship program to handle the

safe disposal/recycling of CFL bulbs (2007-B25, 2004-B15).

See also resolution B169.

Conference decision: _____

B171 TRAPPING REGULATIONS

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS regional districts do not have the authority to regulate trapping;

AND WHEREAS the use of leg hold traps within urban interface areas pose an unacceptable risk for injuries to humans and pets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations be encouraged to develop and promote educational programs on alternatives to trapping wildlife and the importance of signage, particularly within urban interface areas in order to protect humans and pets from unnecessary injury.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop and promote educational programs on alternatives to trapping wildlife and the importance of signage.

Conference decision: _____

B172 CARBON TAXING OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

Tahsis

WHEREAS some twenty-five million tonnes of coal is mined in British Columbia and this amount is expected to increase to thirty-three million tonnes by 2012;

AND WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has instituted the BC Carbon Tax to help reduce the impact of carbon dioxide on the planet's climate, however the coal industry is exempt from this important Carbon Tax:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM encourage the provincial government to amend the regulations in order to apply the BC Carbon Tax to the coal industry.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to apply the carbon tax to the coal industry.

The Committee notes that the carbon tax applies to the use and combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and

natural gas, based on their carbon content and contribution to global warming. The carbon tax covers 70% of BC's total greenhouse gas emissions, nearly all of BC's emissions associated with the burning or combustion of fossil fuels.

However, the Committee understands that some industrial process emissions (non-combustion) are exempt from the carbon tax, such as landfill emissions and fugitive emissions from the production of oil and gas. The BC government chose to exclude these sources of emissions, indicating that they would be subject to a "cap and trade system" to cap industrial emissions and reduce them over time. The Province has indicated that it continues to work on the development of a cap and trade system to target industrial emissions.

Conference decision: _____

SELECTED ISSUES

B173 TUITION FEES

Logan Lake

WHEREAS education in the Province of British Columbia should be a right not a privilege;

AND WHEREAS student debt in British Columbia is the highest in Canada outside of the Maritimes with students receiving 70% (the lowest amount in Canada), less non-repayable financial aid:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to reduce tuition fees to affordable levels, establish a BC student grants program, restore the per-student college and university funding to ensure quality education and eliminate the interest on student loans.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reduce tuition fees, establish a BC student grants program, restore per-student college and university funding, and eliminate interest on student loans.

Conference decision: _____

B174 BC HYDRO WIRELESS SMART METERS

Colwood

WHEREAS significant and serious health, privacy and other concerns have been identified regarding the installation of wireless smart meters in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro is proceeding with its program to install wireless smart meters in British Columbia although it recognizes there is active discussion and ongoing research into the possible health and environmental effects related to radio frequency signals and it is aware the World Health Organization has called for further investigation on this matter in its press release issued on May 31, 2011:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a moratorium be placed on the mandatory installation of wireless smart meters until the major issues and problems identified regarding wireless smart meters are independently assessed and acceptable alternatives can be made available at no added cost to the

consumer.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution on smart meters.

Conference decision: _____

B175 PROVINCIAL INCOME ASSISTANCE RATES

Kelowna

WHEREAS the October 2010 CMHC Rental Market Report for Kelowna indicates average rents far exceed the shelter allowance portion of BC Assistance, and the cost of living, particularly shelter, in this province has continually increased without corresponding adjustments to the levels of assistance;

AND WHEREAS thousands of low-income households in our city are paying far in excess of 30%, the majority in excess of 50%, of their gross income before tax on shelter including adults with disabilities who may have greater expenses than seniors in order to address the needs of their disability, including access to special needs housing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial Ministry of Social Development be asked to increase current assistance rates and implement a program to adjust those rates annually based on the BC Average Annual Consumer Price Index;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial Ministry of Social Development also be asked to increase assistance for adults with disabilities to the same level of assistance available to seniors.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered resolution 2006-B171 and referred it to the UBCM Executive. Resolution 2006-B171 called on the provincial government to increase assistance rates and implement a program to adjust those rates annually based on the Consumer Price Index; and also requested that the Province increase assistance for adults with disabilities to the same level of assistance available to seniors.

At the 2006 UBCM Convention the Premier announced the Province's intent to raise the shelter rate portion of income assistance. After consideration of both resolution 2006-B171 and the Premier's announcement at Convention, the UBCM Executive decided that the UBCM President should write to the Province expressing support for increases to assistance that met the basic needs of individuals and families. In response to the UBCM President's letter, the provincial government thanked UBCM for supporting the increase to shelter rates.

Though the UBCM membership has not directly endorsed a resolution calling for increased assistance rates adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index; nor have members endorsed an increase in assistance for adults with disabilities, the membership has endorsed several related resolutions requesting:

- *that the Province create a poverty reduction plan that provides adequate and accessible income support for the non-employed, improve the earnings and working conditions of those in the low-wage workforce (2010-B51); and*
- *that the provincial and federal governments fund, provide and facilitate affordable housing in communities (2008-A3; 2007-B24; 2006-B81; 2004-B2; 2004-B30; 2003-LR21; 2002-A21; 2002-B64; 2000-B31; 1999-A22; 1995-B63; 1994-B85; 1993-A2; 1991-A13; 1991-B56; 1990-A20).*

Conference decision: _____

B176 CUTS TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM

Vancouver

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced its intention to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the Family Reunification Program to 11,000 in 2011 from 16,000 last year;

AND WHEREAS there are already more than 100,000 waiting on the list for approval, meaning their wait times could double from six years to nearly 13 years according to immigration experts;

AND WHEREAS family reunification has been one of the most important goals of thousands of residents who have settled in our province;

AND WHEREAS access to family reunification has been one of the commitments the Government of Canada has made to hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have made their lives here in the expectation that ultimately they would be reunited in Canada with loved ones:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM appeal to the federal government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to reverse this decision and maintain family reunification approvals at least at the current levels.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: ***No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to reverse the decision to cut the number of immigrants admitted to Canada under the Family Reunification Program and maintain family reunification approvals at least at the current levels.

Conference decision: _____

SECTION C

Part I of Section C contains those resolutions that are referred to policy papers and/or special sessions at Convention:

Please Note: No resolutions are referred to policy papers or special sessions at Convention in 2011.

Part II of Section C contains those resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the resolutions book:

C1 - C39

Part III of Section C contains those resolutions that are referred to the Area Associations due to being of regional nature:

C40 - C41

SECTION C2

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO OTHER RESOLUTIONS IN THE RESOLUTIONS BOOK

C1 POLICE BASED VICTIM SERVICES FUNDING

Williams Lake

WHEREAS police based victim services programs are funded by the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General on a per capita basis for individual RCMP detachments;

AND WHEREAS a per capita funding formula does not accurately reflect the demand for victim services, resulting in the potential for inadequate funding for some detachments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support the establishment of a police based victim services funding formula that is based on a detachment's level and severity of crime and criminal justice caseload.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B14.

C2 METAL THEFT

West Kelowna

WHEREAS the theft of copper wire costs the municipal taxpayers of British Columbia thousands of dollars each year to repair and can create a danger to public safety through the loss of electricity, lighting and communications;

AND WHEREAS local governments can enact bylaws within their own jurisdiction governing the sale of scrap metal however without provincial coordination, the bylaws have a diminished effect to reduce theft:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to enact provincial legislation requiring scrap metal dealers to maintain a registry of sellers and the goods purchased, and require a waiting period before the metal can be altered or sold.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B77.

C3 WIRE & METAL THEFT

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS wire and metal theft causes significant safety and economic issues for citizens of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS consistent regulation and enforcement by local governments of the scrap metal industry is required to discourage such thefts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon its membership to adopt the model bylaw prepared by the Lower Mainland Task Force.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B7.

C4 MEDICAL GROW OPS

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS medicinal marijuana grow ops are sanctioned by Canadian law under the Marihuana Medical Use Regulations and Health Canada issues licenses for the cultivation and processing of marihuana for medical purposes and the locations of these authorized grow ops are often kept secret from authorities for privacy reasons;

AND WHEREAS legalized medical grow ops can be used to hide criminal activities and are causing an increasing problem for local governments and police who are trying to combat illegal grow operations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge Health Canada to take measures to reform the Marihuana Medical Use Regulations program to:

- a) notify local governments when a medical grow op license has been issued within their jurisdiction;
- b) notify the local police force when a medical grow op license has been issued in their region; and
- c) provide adequate inspections, enforcement and controls to monitor medical grow ops.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution SR1.

C5 MEDICINAL MARIJUANA GROWING LICENSE REGULATIONS

Vernon

WHEREAS under s. 24 and 34 of the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, Health Canada licenses medical marijuana growing sites in British Columbia communities and has no obligation to notify local authorities with information regarding site location and ownership or inspection of such sites;

AND WHEREAS police and fire services have identified community safety issues regarding medical marijuana grow sites such as increased participation by organized crime groups; home invasions because of the potential profits with the illicit sale of marijuana; health issues for children living in houses where marijuana is grown; increased residential fires; use of dangerous chemicals; chemical dumping in sewer systems; and electrical injury to growers and their families:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be requested to take immediate steps to institute processes to notify appropriate enforcement agencies and governing bodies within those communities where a license to grow marijuana has been issued as well as processes to verify compliance with local building code and inspection requirements prior to the issuing of the licenses.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution SR1.

C6 MEDICINAL MARIHUANA GROWING LICENSE REGULATIONS Spallumcheen

WHEREAS under s. 24 and 34 of the Medical Marihuana Access Regulations, Health Canada licenses medical marihuana growing sites in British Columbia communities and has no obligation to notify local authorities with information regarding site location and ownership or inspection of such sites;

AND WHEREAS police and fire services have identified community safety issues regarding medical marihuana grow sites, such as increased participation by organized crime groups; home invasions because of the potential profits with the illicit sale of marihuana; health issues for children living in houses where marihuana is grown; increased residential fires; use of dangerous chemicals; chemical dumping in sewer systems; and electrical injury to growers and their families:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government be requested to take immediate steps to institute processes to notify appropriate enforcement agencies and governing bodies within those communities where a license to grow marihuana has been issued as well as processes to verify compliance with local building code and inspection requirements prior to the issuing of the licenses.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution SR1.

C7 REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR KEEPING OF PRISONERS Sechelt

WHEREAS the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has a fixed budget available to pay for federal and provincial prisoners housed in local government lockups;

AND WHEREAS the current reimbursement per prisoner fluctuates in accordance with the number of prisoners kept each quarter and does not reflect the true operating cost to the local government for keeping these prisoners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province to reimburse local governments the actual costs of housing federal and provincial prisoners that are held in local government owned RCMP detachment buildings.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B8.

C8 ONLINE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTING

Coquitlam

WHEREAS Coquitlam in 2008 experienced a below average voter turnout of 21.5% -the provincial average is 35%;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to engage a greater number of voters to maintain a healthy democracy;
AND WHEREAS our citizens are using the internet for banking, purchases, selling, networking and information;

AND WHEREAS our citizens are busy, many too busy to vote in the traditional manner;

AND WHEREAS 57% of non-voters cited time pressures that prevented them from getting out to vote;

AND WHEREAS many local governments in other provinces, and more largely the Province of Ontario (44 municipalities), have been using online voting in their elections for some time;

AND WHEREAS the BC Liberal Party allowed online and telephone voting in their election to choose anew Premier;

AND WHEREAS both the Cities of Vancouver and Surrey have spoken out in support of online voting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government look into the possibility of online voting with the intention of utilizing it for the 2014 local government elections.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A2.

C9 COASTAL FERRY SYSTEM

Alert Bay

WHEREAS ferry fares on minor routes will cost 17% more this summer than last summer, which is a direct deterrent to tourism and economic development in island coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS the government portion of ferry funding has fallen, even as ferry fares have climbed dramatically due to user-pay policies;

AND WHEREAS the user-pay system which is applied to small communities on the 'marine highway' is not consistent with government's approach to other essential transportation infrastructure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the provincial government to treat the coastal ferry system as equivalent to the provincial highway system and to support the minor routes to the same degree that provincial highways and other transportation infrastructure is supported by government taxes, grants and subsidies.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A3.

C10 DELINQUENT TAX ON CROWN LAND

Alert Bay

WHEREAS the primary source of revenue for BC municipalities is property tax revenue and service fees;

AND WHEREAS most unpaid fees can be added to property taxes for the purpose of collection;

AND WHEREAS delinquent taxes owed by fee simple properties are collected by tax sale;

AND WHEREAS delinquent taxes owed by crown lease properties cannot be collected by tax sale and are instead cancelled by the Province in the event of non-payment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC undertake to pay all delinquent property taxes owed by properties which are under crown lease tenures.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B86.

C11 BC HYDRO FAIR COMPENSATION

**Nanaimo RD
Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS crown corporations are expected to pay their fair share of property taxes by providing a grant-in-lieu;

AND WHEREAS private utilities pay property taxes to municipalities and regional districts on property including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines, and private utilities and BC Hydro provide municipalities a 1% tax on gross sales revenues within their jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to explore the taxation of BC Hydro and implement a fair and equitable method of compensation to all local governments for the provision of local and regional services.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B23.

C12 BC HYDRO FAIR COMPENSATION

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

WHEREAS Crown Corporations are expected to pay their fair share of property taxes by providing a grant-in-lieu;

AND WHEREAS private utilities pay property taxes to municipalities and regional districts on property including right-of-way for distribution and transmission lines, and private utilities and BC

Hydro provide municipalities a 1% tax on gross sales revenues within their jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to explore the taxation of BC Hydro and implement a fair and equitable method of compensation to all local governments for the provision of local and regional services.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B23.

C13 BC HYDRO FAIR COMPENSATION

**Kitimat-Stikine RD
Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS crown corporations are expected to pay their fair share of property taxes by providing a grant-in-lieu;

AND WHEREAS private utilities pay property taxes to municipalities and regional districts on property including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines, and private utilities and BC Hydro provide municipalities a 1% tax on gross sales revenues within their jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to explore the taxation of BC Hydro and implement a fair and equitable method of compensation to all local governments.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B23.

C14 TAXATION OF BC HYDRO

Comox Valley RD

WHEREAS crown corporations are expected to pay their fair share of property taxes by providing a grant-in-lieu;

AND WHEREAS private utilities pay property taxes to municipalities and regional districts on property including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines, and private utilities and BC Hydro provide municipalities a 1 percent tax on gross sales revenues within their jurisdictions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to explore the taxation of BC Hydro and implement a fair and equitable method of compensation to all local governments for the provision of local and regional services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B23.

C15 FUNDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES**North Saanich**

WHEREAS local governments are continuously facing the need for higher tax levies to support British Columbia's public library system to provide libraries with the resources needed to adequately provide services and maintain and upgrade facilities;

AND WHEREAS systemic reductions in funding from the Province to British Columbia's public library system has been significantly reducing the ratio of provincial grant to municipal tax levy contributions since 1985:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to restore public library funding so that the ratio of provincial grants to municipal tax levies is restored to the ratio that existed in 1985.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B27.

C16 ASSESSMENT & TAXATION OF CONTAMINATED LAND**Kimberley**

WHEREAS when determining the actual value of property for taxation, Section 19(3)(h) of the *Assessment Act* states that the assessor may give consideration to any other circumstances affecting the value of the land and improvements, which includes the physical condition of property and the extent to which it is contaminated;

AND WHEREAS by causing or allowing the contamination of their own property, some industrial taxpayers obtain a substantial reduction in their tax burden while creating inequality among industrial taxpayers and reducing the overall level of taxation available to municipal governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to adopt appropriate legislation to require the assessor, when determining the actual value of property for an assessment roll, to disregard evidence of existing contamination caused or contributed to by industrial processes carried out by the owner on the property or on an adjacent or associated industrial property of the owner.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B37.

C17 PACIFIC AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS**Strathcona RD**

WHEREAS the federal government has developed Pacific Aquaculture Regulations under the Fisheries Act which have established a new regulatory regime with respect to commercial aquaculture operations on the British Columbia coast;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that operational compliance standards under the regulations include provisions to mitigate the potential for negative impacts on adjacent land uses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Fisheries & Oceans Canada be requested to expand the current license templates for marine finfish, shellfish and freshwater aquaculture to include specific operational compliance standards that serve to mitigate the potential for negative impact of aquaculture operations on adjacent land uses;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fisheries & Oceans Canada be requested to defer approval of new aquaculture operations pending written confirmation from local governments that such operations are in compliance with local government regulations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fisheries & Oceans Canada be requested to convene a meeting of British Columbia coastal communities, regional districts, local governments and First Nations to provide more clarity on the Pacific Aquaculture Regulations.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A6.

C18 MAINTENANCE FUNDING FOR BC PARKS

Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS many provincial parks are utilized by the public year-round despite being maintained during peak summer months only, resulting in environmental concerns related to unmaintained toilets, waste disposal and unaddressed vandalism;

AND WHEREAS insufficient resources are dedicated to ensure required maintenance is undertaken outside of the peak summer months:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be requested to direct additional funding toward the year-round maintenance of BC Parks sites.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B49.

**C19 INCREASE FUNDING & RESOURCES FOR THE AGRICULTURAL
LAND COMMISSION**

Kelowna

WHEREAS the success of agriculture depends on an investment in infrastructure, education and expertise by the provincial government through their Ministry of Agriculture and British Columbia is spending a mere 3.3 % of Gross Domestic Product for supporting the agricultural industry, while the average in Canada is 16.4%;

AND WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is a provincial land use zone in favour of agriculture administered by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to preserve BC's limited agricultural land base and to provide land use certainty to encourage agricultural businesses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government increase financial support and provide additional resources to the Agricultural Land Commission for increased services in support of agricultural businesses.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B48.

C20 BUY LOCAL BC TREE FRUIT

North Okanagan RD

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 UBCM request that the provincial government endorse and implement a “Buy Local” program to promote the sale of local, sustainably produced foods in support of the British Columbia tree fruit industry.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B56.

C21 BUY LOCAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PROGRAM

North Okanagan RD

WHEREAS the British Columbia agricultural products industry is under extreme hardship;

AND WHEREAS the farmers compete with other provinces and jurisdictions that provide a much higher level of support to their agricultural sectors (in BC, the total of provincial and federal support for agriculture combined is 8% versus 33% for Saskatchewan and the Canadian average of 17%):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government endorse and implement a “Buy Local” program to promote the sale of local, sustainably produced foods in support of the British Columbia local agricultural products industry.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B56.

C22 SMOKING REGULATIONS

Port Moody

WHEREAS Fraser Health and other BC regional health authorities recommend that municipalities enforce smoke-free zones of 7.5 meters around entrances, windows and openings of public buildings and patios while the BC Ministry of Health, which regional health authorities report to, requires that smoke-free zones of 3 meters be created in accordance with the BC *Tobacco Control Act*, Ministry print materials and sample signs offered to merchants;

AND WHEREAS this inconsistency between the size of smoke-free zone set by regional and provincial health authorities results in conflicting local and provincial legislation, contradictory signage on buildings and confusing rules for merchants, smokers, non-smokers and municipal bylaw enforcement officers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that regional health authorities and the Ministry of Health agree on and establish a single standard smoke-free zone around entrances, windows and openings of public buildings.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B64.

C23 UNDERAGE INDOOR TANNING

Kamloops

WHEREAS youth who use indoor tanning beds significantly increase their risk of skin cancer, including melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer);

AND WHEREAS the Medical Health Officers' Council of BC calls upon the Province of British Columbia to use its regulatory powers to restrict use of indoor tanning beds by persons under the age of 17:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to introduce legislation to ban indoor tanning for youth under the age of 18.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B157.

C24 COMMUNITY BASED SENIOR CARE

Victoria

WHEREAS access to community based care for BC's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling costs pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors' care, and number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B63.

C25 COMMUNITY-BASED SENIORS' CARE

Nanaimo City

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors' care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBCM Centre for Health Services & Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B63.

C26 ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED SENIORS' CARE

Maple Ridge

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors' care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre of Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance BC's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B63.

C27 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR ENHANCED SENIORS' PROGRAMS

Burnaby

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellbeing of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health prevention programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A4.

C28 SENIORS' OUTREACH & HEALTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS Nanaimo City

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellbeing of seniors exists at the local government level through neighbourhood houses, seniors' centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health prevention programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and to support better coordination among existing services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A4.

C29 FUNDING FOR ENHANCED SENIORS' OUTREACH & HEALTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS Maple Ridge

WHEREAS a significant capacity for maintaining the health and wellness of seniors exists at the municipal level through neighbourhood homes, seniors' centres and community centres;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, information services on locally available social and health programs for seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs); implement measures to control cost pressures in a broader health care system; and support better coordination among existing services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A4.

C30 ENHANCED SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY-BASED SENIORS' CARE White Rock

WHEREAS access to community-based care for BC's growing seniors' population is vital to keeping seniors healthy in their own homes and communities, and controlling cost pressures in the broader health care system;

AND WHEREAS BC's Ombudsperson is nearing completion of an investigation into systemic issues in seniors' care, and a number of independent reports and studies (including from the BC Medical Association and the UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research) document problems in timely access to appropriate care and inadequate coordination of services;

AND WHEREAS limited funding for these services means they cannot meet the need for outreach programming to isolated seniors, social programming to keep seniors active and connected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to significantly enhance British Columbia's system of community-based seniors' care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors' centres and community centres;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health prevention programs (including information services, social networking, and age-appropriate exercise programs) and support better coordination among existing services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution A4.

C31 ELIMINATION OF MSP PREMIUMS Kimberley

WHEREAS all seniors living in British Columbia must pay Medical Service Plan (MSP) premiums and with the elimination of MSP premiums, BC seniors would have more money for healthy living;

AND WHEREAS many retirees of the Municipal Pension Plan are former employees of local and regional governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support the elimination of MSP premiums for medical insurance in the Province of BC for all seniors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM support the retirees of the Municipal Pension Plan by agreeing to the elimination of MSP premiums for all British Columbia seniors (65 years and older).

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B106.

C32 ELIMINATION OF MSP PREMIUMS FOR SENIORS**100 Mile House**

WHEREAS all BC seniors must pay Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums, and if MSP premiums were eliminated BC seniors would have more money for healthy living:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to eliminate Medical Services Plan (MSP) premiums for all BC seniors.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B106.

C33 COMMODIFICATION OF WATER**Lillooet**

WHEREAS water demands are increasing in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the United States and other nations wish to have water declared as a commodity under free trade agreements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal and provincial governments to refuse to discuss any free trade negotiations to commodify water.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B152.

C34 BC HERITAGE PROGRAM FUNDING**Terrace Kitimat-Stikine RD**

WHEREAS funding to Heritage BC has steadily declined;

AND WHEREAS heritage resources are an intrinsic component of BC culture; and are essential for cultural and economic development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to renew its commitment to heritage conservation in the following manner:

- Adopt the Provincial Heritage Strategy;
- Restore the Heritage Branch budget;
- Restore community support for both local governments and community heritage organizations such as Heritage BC;
- Invest a further \$10 million in the Heritage Legacy Fund; and
- Resolve the Heritage Properties question.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B69.

C35 RENEWED SUPPORT FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HERITAGE PROGRAM

Burnaby

WHEREAS all local governments in British Columbia benefit from the funding and expertise of Heritage BC, and other heritage focused organizations and initiatives, to protect unique heritage resources and support community projects;

AND WHEREAS heritage conservation is vital to maintain a sense of place distinctive to each community that is a positive investment in the local economy and a stimulus to tourism:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to restore the Heritage Branch budget, and to implement Heritage BC's call for renewal of provincial heritage programs.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B69.

C36 HERITAGE FUNDING

Victoria

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has a responsibility to support and conserve the heritage resources of the province, and funding cuts to the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Trade & Investment, Heritage BC and local governments across the province have resulted in a state of crisis for heritage conservation;

AND WHEREAS financial investments in heritage conservation can stimulate urban revitalization, employment, tourism and community pride:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to renew its commitment to heritage conservation in the following manner:

- Invest a further \$10 million in the Heritage Legacy Fund;
- Restore community support for both local government and community heritage organizations such as Heritage BC;
- Adopt the draft Provincial Heritage Strategy;
- Restore the budget of the Heritage Branch; and
- Resolve the Heritage Properties question.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B69.

C37 RENEWING SUPPORT OF HERITAGE PROGRAMS

Esquimalt

WHEREAS the Province of BC has a responsibility to support and conserve the heritage resources of the province yet drastic cuts to BC's Heritage Branch have seriously undermined its capacity to deliver on these responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS local governments lack the capacity to bear the responsibility for heritage conservation and protection in their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to renew its commitment to heritage conservation through the five recommendations identified in Heritage BC's report, "A Call to Renew British Columbia's Heritage Program":

- adopt a provincial heritage strategy;
- restore the Heritage Branch budget;
- resolve the heritage properties question;
- restore community support; and
- invest in the Heritage Legacy Fund.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B69.

C38 UBCM NAME CHANGE

AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities, the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, the Southern Interior Local Government Association, the North Central Local Government Association and the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments have all changed their names to reflect local governments working together:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to change the name of UBCM to the Union of British Columbia Local Governments.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B147.

C39 LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS effective engagement of youth in local, provincial and federal governance structures and systems is critical to successful and effective democracy;

AND WHEREAS the BC school curriculum does not include local government as a required component unlike other jurisdictions such as the Province of Alberta:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to include education regarding BC's system of local government within the mandatory curriculum for grade 6 or 7 education.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Refer to resolution B73.

SECTION C3

RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO AREA ASSOCIATIONS

C40 FEMALE REMAND FACILITIES

Kamloops

WHEREAS there are no remand facilities for women within the interior of British Columbia;
AND WHEREAS when women from the interior require remand, they are held in local jail cells not meant for long-term incarceration or transferred to the Lower Mainland and housed in the Alouette Correctional Centre;

AND WHEREAS these women are removed from families and support systems in their own communities reducing the opportunities to rebuild their lives in a safe, supportive atmosphere which impacts their risk of reoffending:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide a remand centre for women in the interior of British Columbia.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Refer Back to Area Association*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government provide a female remand centre in the interior of the province.

The Committee recommends that this resolution be referred back to the Southern Interior Local Government Association because the resolution focuses solely on remand facilities for women within the interior of the province. The focus on the interior of BC renders the request regional in nature.

C41 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Coastal Community Network to provide a one stop resource management assessment and referral delivery authority co-chaired by elected leaders drawn from local governments and First Nations at an appropriate regional level across the Pacific Coast Watershed.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Refer Back to Area Association*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution formally requesting UBCM to work with the Coastal Community Network (CCN) to provide a one stop resource management assessment and referral delivery authority. The Committee notes that the CCN has represented the interests of local governments and First Nations within the Pacific Coast watershed that have chosen to be members of the Network. The CCN has co-existed with UBCM for many years. Therefore the intent of this resolution is not clear.

While UBCM is supportive of the work that the CCN has done on specific policy matters affecting coastal communities, the Committee does not understand what is being proposed in this resolution. It would appear that all “resource management” issues would now be considered by both UBCM and CCN. Does this add another level of consultation with UBCM members, on top of the consultation that presently occurs as part of UBCM’s existing advocacy work? Or rather is a new structure or governance process proposed -and if so, what are the implications for UBCM’s existing committee structure, which is presently responsible for addressing specific resource management issues?

The Committee would welcome further information from the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities (AVICC) and from the sponsor as to how this new “authority” would work and for these reasons recommends that this resolution be referred back to AVICC, the area association.