Resolutions to be Considered at the 2016 UBCM Convention

Victoria Conference Centre
Victoria, BC

The resolutions sessions are presently scheduled for:

**Wednesday, September 28**
10:25 am
Principal Policy Session
Section A resolutions
Section B resolutions as time allows

**Thursday, September 29**
8:55 am
Policy Session continues
Section B resolutions

**Friday, September 30**
8:35 am
Policy Session continues
Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline
Section B resolutions as time allows

All times are subject to change—please check the Convention Program to confirm start times.
Report of the 2016 Resolutions Committee

All resolutions received by the June 30 deadline have been printed in the Resolutions Book and are indexed by both resolution number and sponsor.

Key Issues
Members submitted 177 resolutions by the deadline, a slightly higher number of resolutions than in 2015, but still lower than UBCM was receiving several years ago. Lower numbers of resolutions submitted indicate a focusing of local government interest on selected important issues.

This year, many resolutions were submitted to the five Area Associations prior to being submitted to UBCM—reflecting a trend of increased engagement in the different regions of the province, as compared to earlier in the decade. The Resolutions Committee salutes members for submitting resolutions to their Area Associations for consideration at annual spring conferences, and reminds members that Area Association endorsement lends weight to a resolution when it is later considered at UBCM.

In 2016, members are proposing a broad variety of resolutions that reflect local government contexts and concerns, and respond to provincial and federal initiatives and legislation. Members’ concerns include the downloading of DNA analysis costs onto local governments; development of a national regulatory regime for marijuana; taxation of short-term rental accommodations; and homelessness and affordable housing.

Advance Preparation
The Resolutions Committee is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate. Resolution sponsors should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide information that might assist or clarify the debate. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate all of the member-submitted resolutions for 2016.

Order of Debate
As in years past, Section A resolutions feature priority issues and will be debated first at Convention. The intent is to highlight key areas of concern around the province.

The majority of the three Convention morning sessions are dedicated to resolutions and policy debate. Nevertheless, completing debate remains a challenge. Because of the number of high-profile issues to be debated, there will be a lot of work to do during Convention policy sessions.

If time constraints prevent all resolutions from being considered, policies enable the Chair to seek member permission to introduce the Section B3 resolutions as a block. If time still proves short, policies ensure that resolutions not considered by the Convention will be submitted to the Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action. Please refer to the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions for more information on these policies.

Resolutions received after the deadline are handled as late resolutions, in accordance with the Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling Resolutions. These are printed in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, which is distributed to delegates on-site with the Convention registration package.

2016 UBCM Resolutions Committee
Director Wendy Booth, Chair
Chair Art Kaehn, Vice-Chair
Chair Jim Abram
Mayor Gerry Taft
Chair Alison Sayers
# Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Subsection</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Handling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the UBCM Act.</td>
<td>Considered individually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR</td>
<td></td>
<td>UBCM Executive resolutions on priority issues.</td>
<td>Considered individually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Member-submitted resolutions on priority issues.</td>
<td>Considered individually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| B1      |            | • Resolutions that support established UBCM policy.  
          |            | • Recommendation: Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. | Considered as a block. |
| B2      | a          | • New issues, or issues considered previously but not endorsed.  
          |            | • Within local government jurisdiction, or affecting local government.  
          |            | • Recommendation: Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. | Considered as a block. |
|         | b          | • New issues, or issues considered previously but not endorsed.  
          |            | • Within local government jurisdiction, or affecting local government.  
          |            | • Recommendation: Not Endorse  
          |            | No Recommendation  
          |            | No Action Required  
          |            | Referral | Considered individually. |
| B3      | a          | • New issues, or issues considered previously but not endorsed.  
          |            | • Outside local government jurisdiction.  
          |            | • Recommendation: Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. | Considered as a block. |
|         | b          | • New issues, or issues considered previously but not endorsed.  
          |            | • Outside local government jurisdiction.  
          |            | • Recommendation: Not Endorse  
          |            | No Recommendation  
          |            | No Action Required  
          |            | Referral | Considered individually. |
| C       |            | Resolutions referred to similar resolutions in the Resolutions Book; to policy papers, reports, or special sessions at Convention; or to Area Associations. | Not admitted for debate. |
Classification in the Resolutions Book

Outlined below are the subject area classifications used in the Resolutions Book. The policies for grouping resolutions into Section A, B1, B2, B3 or C are outlined in Section 18 of the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions, which begin on the following page.

Legislative
Resolutions that focus on the Community Charter, the Local Government Act, or other legislation that sets out local government jurisdictions and authorities.

Community Safety
Resolutions focused on legal matters; provision of court services; police services and associated costs; as well as the general administration of justice, protective and emergency services.

Elections
Resolutions that request changes in the election process, dates, voting, or procedures outlined in the Local Government Act or related statutes.

Transportation
Resolutions that request changes to issues related to transportation—e.g. trucking, highways, roads, off road vehicles, bicycles.

Taxation
Resolutions focused on charges and taxes levied by local governments, revenue from which supports their operations.

Finance
Resolutions of broad financial impact to local government. These may include federal grants-in-lieu, federal sales tax, fuel tax, infrastructure funding, or provincial funding (e.g. health care, tourism).

Assessment
Resolutions that relate to property assessment, market value, and changes to the current assessment system. The Assessment Act, BC Assessment, or assessment appeal boards may be referenced.

Environment
Resolutions on environmental issues of direct interest to local government, that impact local government operations. Examples include product stewardship, recycling, solid waste management, water and air quality, and streamside protection.

Land Use
Resolutions regarding planning issues such as housing, parkland, development cost charges, siting, Agricultural Land Reserve, Crown lands, and matters falling under Part 26 of the Local Government Act.

Community Economic Development
Resolutions regarding regional sustainability and economic development opportunities for local governments, including concerns of resource-focused communities.

Regional Districts
Resolutions that raise issues or propose changes to the statutory authorities and jurisdictions of regional districts.

Health
Resolutions that relate to health policy and health services – e.g. capital projects, access and level of service, home support, ambulance service, hospitals, internationally trained doctors.

Selected Issues
Resolutions of a general nature that are not easily classified in the above sections, or that are of interest to local governments but might not affect them directly.
Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions

General Rules

1. Sessions will begin and end promptly at the scheduled hours.

2. Delegates will use the floor microphones when speaking.

3. All Mayors, Councillors and elected Directors of member municipalities and regional districts attending the Annual Convention of the Union shall be delegates entitled to participate in debates and to vote on any matter before the Convention. Officials of member municipalities and regional districts may attend a Convention as guest delegates and shall not be entitled to the privilege of the floor unless authorized by the Convention and in any case shall not be entitled to vote [Bylaw s. 11]. Guest speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive. [Bylaw s. 14(e)]

4. At all business sessions of the Convention, fifty delegates shall constitute a quorum. [Bylaw s. 12(h)]

Voting Rules

5. Only elected representatives from member municipalities and regional districts are entitled to vote. [Bylaw s. 11]

6. 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. [Bylaw s. 13(a)]

7. Where voting is by ballot, scrutineers shall be appointed by the Chair to distribute the ballot, collect the same, and to count and report the vote. [Bylaw s. 13(b)]

8. In all cases, where the votes of delegates then present, including the vote of the Chair, are equal for and against a question, the question shall be negatived, and it shall be the duty of the Chair to so declare. [Bylaw s. 13(c)]

9. No vote by proxy shall be recognized or allowed. [Bylaw s. 13(d)]

10. When voting by show of hands all delegates shall hold their voting card. In the case of a ballot, the voting card must be presented and initialled by the scrutineers before a ballot is issued.

Rules of Procedure

11. The fundamental principles of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Union so far as they may be applicable without coming in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws. [Bylaw s. 22(a)]

12. The Chair shall enforce order and strict observance of the Bylaws. Subject to an appeal to the meeting sustained by a majority vote of delegates present, the Chair shall have the right to decide all questions of order and the Chair’s rulings in this regard shall be final. [Bylaw s. 22(b)]

13. A delegate wishing to move, second or speak to a motion shall arise and address the Chair and shall wait until he or she is recognized before speaking. The delegate must announce his or her name, municipal or regional office and municipality or regional district or other qualifications each time he or she rises to speak. [Bylaw s. 22(c)]

14. Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. The introducer of a motion is permitted three minutes. [Bylaw s. 22(d)]

15. No delegate may speak more than once on any one question unless and until all other delegates desiring to speak have been heard. [Bylaw s. 22(e)]

16. Any amendment and any motion to withdraw any resolution from consideration of the meeting or to refer the same to the Resolutions Committee, or to any other committee, and any motion affecting the resolution must be moved and seconded from the Convention Floor. [Bylaw s. 23(e)]

17. Should discussion continue on any resolution for an undue length of time without reasonable agreement being reached, the resolution may be cleared from the floor by a favourable vote to refer the resolution to the Resolutions Committee for further consideration and report. [Bylaw s. 23(f)]
Handling of Resolutions: Step-by-step Rules

Precedence of Resolutions

18. A special resolution of the UBCM passed in 1982 authorizes the Executive to separate resolutions into three sections and sets out the order in which resolutions will be considered:

SECTION A: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed “A” and are printed in the first section of the Resolutions Book. Section A will feature new issues of interest to all members. Section A may also highlight issues from the Area Associations.

SECTION B: These resolutions 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.

The UBCM Executive has set the following criteria:

Section B shall be divided into three parts:

Part 1 – Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

These resolutions include:

- previously considered and endorsed resolutions; or
- resolutions in keeping with the UBCM policy, including previously approved policy papers or other documents.

Part 2 and Part 3 – Resolutions Proposing New Policy

These resolutions include:

- resolutions on topics not previously considered; or
- 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 Parts 2 and 3 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.

Part 2 resolutions will be grouped as follows:

a. resolutions recommended to be endorsed or endorsed with proposed amendment, sorted by subject
b. all other resolutions, sorted by subject.

Part 3 resolutions will be grouped as follows:

a. resolutions recommended to be endorsed or endorsed with proposed amendment, sorted by subject
b. all other resolutions, sorted by subject.

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

SECTION C: Those resolutions which have been:

- consolidated or grouped and referred to a similar resolution in Section A or B;
- referred to a Special Resolution to be put forward at Convention;
- incorporated into a policy paper to be presented during Convention; or
- referred to a special session at Convention.

These are prefixed “C” and are printed in the third section of the Resolutions Book and cross-referenced for delegates’ information. Sponsors will be notified of the action taken regarding the resolution with which their resolution was consolidated.

For Resolutions Printed in Section A of the Resolutions Book

19. The Chair will cause the title of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

20. The resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(b)]

21. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(c)]

22. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from the sponsoring local government to introduce the resolution.

23. The sponsor is permitted three minutes to introduce the resolution.

24. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

25. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure” (s. 11-17).

Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. [Bylaw s. 22(d)]
Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the “Voting Rules” (s. 5-10).

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

**For Resolutions Printed in Section B of the Resolutions Book**

26. After Section A resolutions have been considered, Section B resolutions may be entered for discussion with the approval of the Convention. [1982 Special Resolution]

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

They will be divided into three sections: Part 1 – Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy and Parts 2 and 3 – Resolutions Proposing New Policy.

27. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B – Part 1 resolutions as a block.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have a Section B – Part 1 resolution entered for individual discussion shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – “Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?” – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 14(c)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the block and it will be considered immediately following the Section B – Part 1 block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Section B – Part 1 block as amended.

v) After the Section B – Part 1 block has been considered, those resolutions removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

28. After Section B – Part 1 resolutions have been considered, the Chair will introduce a motion to enter all Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions for consideration in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

If a delegate wishes to have a Section B – Part 2 or Part 3 resolution removed from discussion he or she shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to withdraw the resolution.

29. If the motion to enter all Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions for consideration passes, the Chair will cause the title and “enactment” clause of each resolution to be read by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee and consideration will proceed as set out for Section A resolutions (s. 20-25).

In the course of consideration of Section B – Part 2 and 3 resolutions, the Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for Section B – Part 2-a resolutions as a block; and will later introduce a similar motion for Section B – Part 3-a resolutions.

Consideration of the B2-a and B3-a blocks will proceed as set out for Section B – Part 1 resolutions (s. 27).

30. In the event of time constraints, the Chair may introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B – Part 3 resolutions (resolutions not within the jurisdiction of local government) as a block. This motion can be amended if there is a resolution in the block that a voting delegate wishes to withdraw for individual consideration, following the procedures as for s. 27. If the motion, or motion as amended, is carried, those resolutions withdrawn from the block will be debated individually after the motion on the block is considered. If the motion on the main block is approved, the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee to endorse or not endorse will hold.

Resolutions on which the Resolutions Committee has made no recommendation or has referred, will be referred to the Executive for consideration.

**For Resolutions Received After the Deadline**

31. Resolutions submitted following the expiry of the regular deadline shall be considered “late” and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that a copy of the resolution shall be provided to the UBCM by the Friday noon preceding the date of the Annual Conference.

32. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be available for discussion after Section A resolutions have been considered but not before the time printed in the Convention Program for consideration of such resolutions.

33. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be examined by the Resolutions Committee and shall be separated into the following categories:

(a) Emergency Resolutions recommended to be placed before the Convention for Plenary discussion.

(b) Resolutions recommended to be referred to the Executive for appropriate action (note that the Resolutions Committee’s recommendation for action will be printed in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline).

(c) Resolutions not recommended to be admitted for Plenary discussion or to be referred to the Executive.

34. Resolutions received after the deadline are classified as “Emergency” and therefore appropriate for Plenary discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since
the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions. Resolutions received after the deadline are appropriate to be referred to the Executive if the topic is such that it has arisen since the regular submission of resolutions and, in the opinion of the Resolutions Committee, the topic is noncontroversial and in keeping with UBCM policy.

Resolutions received after the deadline are not appropriate for Plenary discussion or referral if they concern a topic that had arisen or was known before the regular deadline for resolutions.

35. The Chair shall put forward a motion that contains the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee on entering Resolutions Received after the Deadline for discussion which, if duly seconded, will be dealt with as follows: The Chair shall put the question – “Shall the report of the Resolutions Committee and the recommendations therein be adopted?” – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote.

36. Only Emergency Resolutions shall be dealt with and they shall be dealt with in the order presented in the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

37. Copies of the Resolutions Committee Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline shall be produced by UBCM with sufficient copies for distribution to the Convention and the sponsor may be billed for the cost of printing.

38. The Chair will cause the title and “enactment” clause of the Emergency Resolution to be read by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee.

39. The Emergency Resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and the procedures for handling Section A resolutions will apply (s. 20-25).

40. Any delegate may, during a Convention, put forward any motion which, if duly seconded, shall be dealt with as follows: The Chair shall put the question – “Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for discussion?” – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention.

41. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive may submit any matters not requiring Extraordinary Resolution to any Convention for consideration or action at any time. [Bylaw s. 14(d)]

For Extraordinary Resolutions

42. All resolutions originating at a Convention workshop or seminar (including the regional district seminars) that is not held as a regular Plenary session shall be referred to the Executive unless handled pursuant to s. 40 or 41.

43. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION: Any amendments to the Bylaws may only be made pursuant to Extraordinary Resolution duly adopted by the Union. [Bylaw s. 19]

44. EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS: Notice of Extraordinary Resolutions intended to be submitted for consideration shall be given in writing to the Executive Director not later than seventy-five (75) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual Convention, and shall be included in the printed material sent to member municipalities and regional districts by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. A favourable three-fifths majority vote at an Annual Convention of the delegates then present shall be necessary to adopt an Extraordinary Resolution. [Bylaw s. 20]
# Table of Contents

## Section A

### Community Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Downloading of DNA Analysis Costs</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Marijuana Regulations</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Marijuana Sales and Distribution Tax Sharing for Local Governments</td>
<td>Duncan</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Taxation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Tax on Short Term Accommodation</td>
<td>Sun Peaks</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Section B1

### Legislative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Establishing Local Public Notice Policies</td>
<td>Cowichan Valley RD</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2</td>
<td>No Forced Amalgamations</td>
<td>Metchosin</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Reversal of Recent Amendments to RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program</td>
<td>View Royal</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook</td>
<td>Bulkley-Nechako RD</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B5</td>
<td>Fire Underwriters Survey Equipment Requirements</td>
<td>New Denver</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B6</td>
<td>Wildfire Management</td>
<td>NCLGA Executive</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B7</td>
<td>Flexibility in Establishing Fees and Penalties</td>
<td>Williams Lake</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B8</td>
<td>Restorative Justice</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B9</td>
<td>Priority for Construction of Bicycle Lanes</td>
<td>Sunshine Coast RD</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B10</td>
<td>Highway Line Paint</td>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B11</td>
<td>CN Railway Crossings</td>
<td>Port Edward</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B12</td>
<td>Reinstate BC Ferry Service — Port Hardy to Bella Coola</td>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Taxation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B13</td>
<td>Vacant Land Taxation</td>
<td>Penticton</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B14</td>
<td>Local Government Infrastructure PST Exemption</td>
<td>West Kelowna</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B15</td>
<td>Payment by Universities for Services Provided by Municipalities</td>
<td>Oak Bay</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B16</td>
<td>Fire Wage Arbitration</td>
<td>Penticton</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B17</td>
<td>Sustained Funding for First Responder Agencies</td>
<td>Columbia Shuswap RD</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B18</td>
<td>Build Canada Grant Funding Program</td>
<td>Harrison Hot Springs</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B19</td>
<td>Local Improvement Charge for Municipally-financed Green Energy Technologies</td>
<td>Powell River City</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Environment

B20 Federal Government Cooperation for Oil Spill Response in BC Alberni-Clayoquot RD 102
B21 Assessment and Mitigation of Marine Shipping Risks and Impacts in the Salish Sea Islands Trust 103
B22 Abandoned or Derelict Vessels Programs Saanich 103
B23 Carbon Reduction Targets Squamish 104
B24 Limit or Ban Burning on Forest Lands in Community Airsheds Port Alberni 104
B25 Watershed Protection Peachland 105
B26 Protection of Water Grand Forks 106
B27 Landfill Guidelines Bulkley-Nechako RD 106
B28 Ban on Single Use Shopping Bags Cowichan Valley RD 107
B29 Used Oil and Oil Container Recovery Kootenay Boundary RD 107
B30 British Columbia Conservation Service Capacity Princeton 107

Land Use

B31 Site C Dam Project North Saanich 108
B32 Strengthen Local Input NCLGA Executive 109
B33 Consultation with Local Governments for Industrial Projects Cariboo RD 109
B34 Respect for Local Government Victoria 110
B35 Establishment of Group Homes in Rural Communities Fraser-Fort George RD 110

Community Economic Development

B36 Community Economic Development Investment Fund Columbia Shuswap RD 111
B37 Business Façade Improvement Grant Programme Lake Cowichan 111
B38 BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification Program Columbia Shuswap RD 112
B39 Meat to Table Clearwater 112
B40 Community Based Agricultural Extension Program Fraser-Fort George RD 113
B41 Obtaining Land from Province Below Market Value Stewart 113
B42 Lumber Product Diversity and High Value Added Kootenay Boundary RD 114

Health

B43 Diagnosis of Work Related Mental Health Injuries Among First Responders Coquitlam 115
B44 Strengthening the Primary Care Home Network Delta 116

Selected Issues

B45 Renewed Call for a National Housing Strategy Burnaby 116
B46 Home Renovation Tax Credits Saanich 117
B47 Poverty Reduction Strategy for BC Powell River City 117
Vancouver
Prince Rupert
Summerland
Surrey
Langley Township
Prince George

B48 Two Tiered Rate System Okanagan-Similkameen RD 118
B49 Child Care Delivery Regulation and Funding East Kootenay RD 118
Section B2-a

Community Safety
B56  *Emergency Program Act*  Bulkley-Nechako RD  126

Transportation
B57  Pedestrian and Cycling Pathways Along Rural Road Rights-of-way  Cowichan Valley RD  126

Environment
B58  Climate Change Recommendations  Sunshine Coast RD  127
B59  Non-migratory Resident Canada Geese  Central Saanich  127
B60  Protection of Water Bodies from Invasive Mussels  Okanagan-Similkameen RD  128

Community Economic Development
B61  Allowable Annual Cut  Grand Forks  129

Selected Issues
B62  Legislation and Action for a Barrier-free BC  Victoria  130
B63  Review of “Down-loaded” Building Codes  Saanich  131
B64  Fossil Protection Legislation  Tumbler Ridge  131
Pease River RD

Section B2-b

Elections
B65  Time Available for Mail Ballot Process  Victoria  133

Transportation
B66  Streamlining Truck Permits  Langley City  133
B67  Regulation of Off-road Vehicles  Tumbler Ridge  134
Peace River RD
B68  Train Idling  Squamish  135
B69  Accessible Taxi Services  Williams Lake  135

Legislative
B70  Integrity Commissioner for Local Government  Kelowna  136
B71  Extended Absence from Regional District Board  Powell River RD  136

Finance
B72  Shelf Ready Design Documents  Sicamous  137
B73  Gas Tax Funding Holdbacks  Barriere  138

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book  79
B74  Gas Tax Fire Equipment  
Thompson-Nicola RD  
139
B75  Equitable and Gradual Police Funding Model  
Oliver  
139
B76  Social Procurement  
Cumberland  
140
B77  Empowering Local Governments to Pursue Socially Responsible Investing  
Victoria  
141

Taxation

B78  Municipal Tax Collection and Tax Sale  
Grand Forks  
141
B79  Provincial Home Owner Grant Program  
Burnaby  
142

Community Safety

B80  Investigative Standards for the Independent Investigations Office  
Delta  
143
B81  RCMP Funding  
Courtenay  
143
B82  Analysis of Rural Policing Requirements  
Terrace  
144
B83  RCMP-based Victim Services  
Smithers  
145
B84  Bylaw Notice Enforcement Maximum Penalty  
North Vancouver City  
145
B85  Increasing Maximum Fine Amount  
West Vancouver  
146
B86  Pet Owners’ Liability Act  
Fort St. John  
146
B87  Provincial Dangerous Dogs Registry  
Pitt Meadows  
147
B88  Dangerous Dogs  
Esquimalt  
148

Land Use

B89  Strategic Forest Resource Management  
NCLGA Executive  
149
B90  Mines Act Permit Notification  
Lake Country  
150
B91  Effect of Treaties on Crown Tenure and License Holders  
Cariboo RD  
150
B92  Processing of Section 107 Road Dedications  
Burnaby  
151
B93  Boundary Adjustments in the Agricultural Land Reserve  
Chilliwack  
151
B94  Removal or Demolition of Vacant and Derelict Buildings  
Maple Ridge  
152

Selected Issues

B95  Allocation of Provincial Funding Grants for Regional and Municipal Libraries  
Keremeos  
153
B96  Community Charter and Local Government Act Index  
Chetwynd  
153
B97  Gender Neutral Language  
Maple Ridge  
154
B98  Transgender Rights  
Victoria  
154
B99  Parental Rights for Elected Officials  
Oak Bay  
155

B100  Auditor General for Local Government  
Kamloops  
155
B101  Non-treaty First Nations Participation in UBCM  
Port Hardy  
156
B102  Support for Prioritizing Resolutions  
AKBLG Executive  
157
B103  Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events  
Kitimat-Stikine RD  
158

Assessment

B104  Taxation of Brownfields  
Terrace  
159
B105  Varied Tax Rate for the Residential Class  
Langley City  
159

Community Economic Development

B106  Funding for Agricultural Rainwater Harvesting Systems  
Alberni-Cayoquot RD  
160
### Regional Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B107</td>
<td>Water and Sewage Disposal Services in Electoral Areas</td>
<td>Peace River RD</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B108</td>
<td>Review of Professional Reliance Model</td>
<td>Cowichan Valley RD</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B109</td>
<td>Aquifer and Water Source Protection</td>
<td>Spallumcheen</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B110</td>
<td>Protection of Active Riverbeds</td>
<td>Keremeos</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B111</td>
<td>Rainwater as a Potable Water Source</td>
<td>Nanaimo RD</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B112</td>
<td>Disposal of Yard Waste</td>
<td>Peachland</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B113</td>
<td>Safe Soils Program</td>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B114</td>
<td>Regional Hospital Districts</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section B3-a

#### Community Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B115</td>
<td>BC Child Protection Services</td>
<td>Colwood</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B116</td>
<td>Payday Loans Regulation</td>
<td>Maple Ridge</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B117</td>
<td>Passenger Rail Service Between North Vancouver and Prince George</td>
<td>Squamish</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B118</td>
<td>BC-wide Youth Cycling Education Framework</td>
<td>North Vancouver City</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selected Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B119</td>
<td>Income Assistance</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B120</td>
<td>Income Assistance Rates Increase</td>
<td>Mackenzie</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B121</td>
<td>Standardize Provincial Approach to Tenant Assistance</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section B3-b

#### Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B122</td>
<td>National Pharmacare Program</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B123</td>
<td>Rural Pharmacies</td>
<td>Hudson’s Hope</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B124</td>
<td>Recognition and Regulation of Physician Assistants</td>
<td>Central Coast RD</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B125</td>
<td>Saving Lives Through Organ Donation</td>
<td>Kamloops</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B126</td>
<td>Eliminate Fees for Prostate-Specific Antigen Testing and Designate Prostate Cancer Awareness Month</td>
<td>Powell River City</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B127</td>
<td>West Coast Herring Recovery Plan</td>
<td>Powell River City</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B128</td>
<td>Unredeemed Container Deposits</td>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B129</td>
<td>Cigarette Butt Deposit Return Program</td>
<td>North Vancouver City</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Selected Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B130</td>
<td>Reinstatement of PST Exemption for Electric Bicycles</td>
<td>North Vancouver City</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B131</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>Qualicum Beach</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B132</td>
<td>School Bus Transportation Funding</td>
<td>Peace River RD</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B133</td>
<td>Access to Services for Youth Transitioning Out of Care</td>
<td>Maple Ridge</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B134</td>
<td>Bus Passes</td>
<td>Lake Country</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B135</td>
<td>Affordable Homes and Property Transfer Tax</td>
<td>Capital RD</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B136</td>
<td>Foreign Investors in Real Estate</td>
<td>West Vancouver</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B137</td>
<td>Tenant Evictions Through Renovations</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B138</td>
<td>Designate National Aboriginal Day as a Statutory Holiday</td>
<td>Metchosin</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B139</td>
<td>BC Family Day</td>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B140</td>
<td>Discontinuance of Annual Time Change</td>
<td>Fraser-Fort George RD</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B141</td>
<td>Highways Maintenance</td>
<td>Fernie</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Taxation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B142</td>
<td>Tax Exemption for Emergency Preparedness Kits</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Community Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B143</td>
<td>Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Removal</td>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B144</td>
<td>Reflective Products for Non-professional Road Users</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B145</td>
<td>Extending the Civil Resolution Tribunal to Tenancy</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section C2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>DNA Analysis Costs</td>
<td>Penticton</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>DNA Downloading</td>
<td>Squamish</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Mandatory Certification and Licensing of Asbestos and Hazardous Material Removal Contractors</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Short-term Residential Rental Accommodations</td>
<td>Radium Hot Springs</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>Tax Fairness for Online Accommodation Booking Platforms</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>Collection of Provincial Sales Tax and Municipal and Regional District Tax on Short-term Accommodation</td>
<td>Revelstoke</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>Federal Marijuana Tax Fund</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>Marijuana Revenues</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>Non-migratory Resident Canada Geese</td>
<td>Metchosin</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Watershed Protection Outside of Community Jurisdiction</td>
<td>Chase</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C11</td>
<td>Timber Sales</td>
<td>North Okanagan RD</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12</td>
<td>Restoration of BC Agricultural Extension Services</td>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C13</td>
<td>Diagnosis of Work-related Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Among First Responders</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14</td>
<td>Eliminate Fees for Prostate-specific Antigen Testing</td>
<td>Colwood</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C15</td>
<td>Prostate-specific Antigen Testing</td>
<td>Langley Township</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section C3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C23  Executive Leadership Committee on Flood Mitigation</td>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C24  Island Corridor Foundation Federal Funding</td>
<td>Port Alberni</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C25  Support for the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance</td>
<td>Kitimat-Stikine RD</td>
<td>195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C26  Electoral Area Grant Opportunities</td>
<td>Capital RD</td>
<td>195</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C27  Protection of Old-growth Forests</td>
<td>Metchosin</td>
<td>196</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C28  Post-secondary Collaboration in Northern BC</td>
<td>Fort St. James</td>
<td>197</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C29  Island Corridor Foundation</td>
<td>Burns Lake</td>
<td>197</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sponsor Index of Resolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AKBLG Executive</th>
<th>B102</th>
<th>Keremeos</th>
<th>B95, B110</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberni-Clayoquot RD</td>
<td>B20, B106</td>
<td>Kitimat-Stikine RD</td>
<td>B103, C25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barriere</td>
<td>B73</td>
<td>Kootenay Boundary RD</td>
<td>B29, B42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulkley-Nechako RD</td>
<td>B4, B27, B56</td>
<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>B54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnaby</td>
<td>B45, B79, B92, B121, B143, C18</td>
<td>Lake Country</td>
<td>B90, B134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burns Lake</td>
<td>C28</td>
<td>Lake Cowichan</td>
<td>B37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital RD</td>
<td>B135, C26</td>
<td>Langford</td>
<td>C29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cariboo RD</td>
<td>B33, B91</td>
<td>Langley City</td>
<td>B66, B105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast RD</td>
<td>B124</td>
<td>Langley Township</td>
<td>B47, B125, C15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Saanich</td>
<td>B59</td>
<td>Mackenzie</td>
<td>B120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase</td>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Maple Ridge</td>
<td>B94, B97, B116, B133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chetwynd</td>
<td>B96</td>
<td>Metchosin</td>
<td>B2, B138, C9, C27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilliwack</td>
<td>B93</td>
<td>Nanaimo RD</td>
<td>B111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearwater</td>
<td>B39</td>
<td>NCLGA Executive</td>
<td>B6, B32, B89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Shuswap RD</td>
<td>B17, B36, B38</td>
<td>Nelson</td>
<td>A2, B114, B119, B145, C8, C16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colwood</td>
<td>B113, B115, C14</td>
<td>New Denver</td>
<td>B5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coquitlam</td>
<td>B43</td>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>B137, B142, B144, C13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtenay</td>
<td>B81</td>
<td>North Okanagan RD</td>
<td>C11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowichan Valley RD</td>
<td>B1, B28, B57, B108</td>
<td>North Saanich</td>
<td>B31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>B76</td>
<td>North Vancouver City</td>
<td>B84, B118, B129, B130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawson Creek</td>
<td>B53</td>
<td>Oak Bay</td>
<td>B15, B99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>B44, B80</td>
<td>Okanagan-Similkameen RD</td>
<td>B48, B60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duncan</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>B75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Kootenay RD</td>
<td>B49</td>
<td>Peace River RD</td>
<td>B64, B67, B107, B132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esquimalt</td>
<td>B88, B99</td>
<td>Peachland</td>
<td>B25, B112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fernie</td>
<td>B141</td>
<td>Penticton</td>
<td>B13, B16, C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort St. James</td>
<td>C28</td>
<td>Pitt Meadows</td>
<td>B87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort St. John</td>
<td>B86</td>
<td>Port Alberni</td>
<td>B24, C24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser-Fort George RD</td>
<td>B35, B40, B140</td>
<td>Port Coquitlam</td>
<td>B143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Forks</td>
<td>B26, B61, B78</td>
<td>Port Edward</td>
<td>B11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison Hot Springs</td>
<td>B18</td>
<td>Port Hardy</td>
<td>B101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlands</td>
<td>B113, B128</td>
<td>Port McNeill</td>
<td>C19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson’s Hope</td>
<td>B123</td>
<td>Powell River City</td>
<td>B19, B47, B126, B127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands Trust</td>
<td>B21</td>
<td>Powell River RD</td>
<td>B71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamloops</td>
<td>B100, B125</td>
<td>Prince George</td>
<td>A1, B47, B55, C7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelowna</td>
<td>B70</td>
<td>Prince Rupert</td>
<td>B47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>C23</td>
<td>Princeton</td>
<td>B30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Pages</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Qualicum Beach</td>
<td>B131</td>
<td>Sunshine Coast RD</td>
<td>B9, B58, C20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quesnel</td>
<td>A1, B10, B12, B139, C12, C22</td>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>B47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radium Hot Springs</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Terrace</td>
<td>B82, B104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelstoke</td>
<td>C6</td>
<td>Thompson-Nicola RD</td>
<td>B74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond</td>
<td>C16</td>
<td>Tumbler Ridge</td>
<td>B64, B67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rossland</td>
<td>C16</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>B47, C3, C5, C21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saanich</td>
<td>B22, B46, B63</td>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>B8, B51, C17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sicamous</td>
<td>B72</td>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>B34, B62, B65, B77, B98, B122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smithers</td>
<td>B83</td>
<td>View Royal</td>
<td>B3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spallumcheen</td>
<td>B109</td>
<td>West Kelowna</td>
<td>B14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamish</td>
<td>B23, B68, B117, C2</td>
<td>West Vancouver</td>
<td>B85, B136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart</td>
<td>B41</td>
<td>Whistler</td>
<td>B50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summerland</td>
<td>B47, B52</td>
<td>Williams Lake</td>
<td>B7, B69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Peaks</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Section A Resolutions

Section A resolutions pertain to new policy matters not previously discussed by the membership, 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 Downloading of DNA Analysis Costs

Whereas the Province of BC has decided, without meaningfully consulting local governments, to transfer a substantial portion of provincial costs under the federal-provincial Agreement Respecting Biological Casework Analysis 2014-2024 (BCAA) to municipalities with populations greater than 5000;

And whereas the cost of DNA analysis services in BC is projected to increase 127% between 2014/15 and 2019/20, with $2.9 million in unexpected costs being shifted onto municipalities in 2016/17 alone, creating significant additional pressure on municipal finances and flying in the face of the “one taxpayer” principle commonly invoked by the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to reverse the decision to download DNA costing to British Columbian municipalities and call on the federal government to amend the Agreement Respecting Biological Casework Analysis.

*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 urging the provincial government not to download the costs of DNA analysis onto local governments, and instead to work with the federal government to amend the Agreement Respecting Biological Casework Analysis.

Although there are no previous resolutions on this topic, UBCM has actively advocated against provincial downloading of DNA analysis costs onto local governments. These advocacy efforts include letters to the provincial and federal governments; meetings with the provincial Minister of Public Safety; and highlighting DNA analysis costs as a top priority during the UBCM Executive’s April 2016 Advocacy Days meetings with provincial cabinet ministers, and government and opposition MLAs. UBCM is also aware that the Local Government Contract Management Committee discussed DNA analysis costs at its December 2015 meeting.

See also resolutions C1 and C2.

**Conference decision:**

### A2 Marijuana Regulations

Whereas the Government of Canada has publicly declared its intention to legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana with creation of a federal/provincial/territorial task force with input from experts in public health, substance abuse and law enforcement to design a new system of marijuana sales and distribution with appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes applied;

And whereas the Government of Canada Standing Policy Committee has committed to working with the provinces and local governments of Canada on a coordinated regulatory approach to marijuana, respecting provincial health jurisdiction and particular regional concerns and practices:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government include UBCM in the process of legalization of marijuana as a representative for local government, and call on pertinent parties to include local government consultation and ensure adequate time to align and integrate regional and local regulations and practices with new federal laws.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  

Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments directly involve local government, through UBCM and FCM, in the process of establishing a regulatory approach to marijuana in Canada, while ensuring that all orders of government are granted adequate time to align and integrate regional and local regulations and practices with new federal laws.

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 and coordinate with provincial and local governments regarding decriminalization and regulation of marijuana, in order to provide provincial and local governments “adequate time to align and integrate regional and local regulations and practices with new federal laws when they are enacted.”

The Committee does note that members endorsed resolution 2015-B98, which asserted that local governments held the authority to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries. Members also endorsed resolution 2012-A5, requesting the decriminalization of marijuana and research into regulation and taxation of marijuana.

The Committee is aware that the federal government recently expressed intent to introduce legislation in spring 2017 to legalize and regulate marijuana. Led by former Toronto Police Chief, Liberal MP Bill Blair, the federal task force intends to conduct research and liaise with stakeholders, including local governments.

The Committee would observe that the Statement of General Policies endorsed by the UBCM membership asserts in part:

2.1: As the basis for relations between orders of government, local government must be recognized as a full and equal partner in the system of Canadian government.

2.4: Governments should be committed to consultation and coordination of their actions to serve the public.

2.7: Other orders of government should give adequate notice and should consult on legislation or other changes that would affect local government.

Based on the tenets found in the Statement of General Policies, the Resolutions Committee proposes an amendment to clarify the role that local government would play in development of a national regulatory regime for marijuana.

See also resolution A3.

Conference decision:

Finance

A3 Marijuana Sales and Distribution Tax Sharing for Local Governments

Whereas the federal government plans to establish a federal/provincial/territorial task force to seek input from experts in public health, substance abuse, and law enforcement to design a new system of strict marijuana sales and distribution with federal and provincial excise taxes applied;

And whereas regulation and enforcement for medicinal marijuana retail dispensaries will likely fall to the local governments once the law changes, thus creating additional burdens on local government resources;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government to request that a portion of any future federal or provincial tax collected through marijuana sales and distribution be shared with local governments, and that the concept of tax sharing with local governments be forwarded to the task force looking into the new system of marijuana sales and distribution, for consideration.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 federal government to share with local governments a portion of future federal or provincial tax revenue collected through marijuana sales and distribution.

This resolution proposes to dedicate to local governments a portion of a proposed future federal or provincial tax. The Resolutions Committee would observe that expansion of local government revenue tools is a foundational concept endorsed by UBCM members as part of the Strong Fiscal Futures blueprint for strengthening the BC local government finance system. Tax sharing, in which a portion of a new or existing tax is dedicated for local government use, is one way to expand the revenue tools available to local government, while addressing the weakness of property tax in both responding to economic growth and in fairly distributing responsibility for the cost of local government services.

The Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2015-B98, which asserted that local governments held the authority to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries. Members also endorsed resolution 2012-A5, requesting the decriminalization of marijuana and research into regulation and taxation of marijuana.

See also resolutions A2, C7 and C8.

Conference decision:

Taxation

A4 Tax on Short Term Accommodation Sun Peaks

Whereas taxation on Internet sales of short-term accommodation and other shared services has not been addressed by provincial and federal governments and in the absence of Internet sales regulations, those involved often conclude that no taxes are due;

And whereas, historically, short term accommodation providers pay commercial property taxes, commercial utility fees as well as provincial sales and federal goods and services taxes, costs that may represent 25% to 30% of the room costs;

And whereas the local marketing and promotion of tourism are significantly funded by the additional 2% or 3% accommodation tax through the Municipal Regional District Taxation regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Small Business and the Ministry of Finance examine these issues and work with UBCM to establish regulations for short term accommodation that address taxation fairness and compliance to permit an equitable competitive environment between all short term accommodation providers.

Not presented to 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 requesting the provincial government to work with UBCM to establish regulations for short term accommodation sales that address taxation and compliance.

See also resolutions C4, C5 and C6.

Conference decision:
Section B Resolutions

Section 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
- Resolutions in keeping with other major previously approved policy papers or 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; or
- Topics of national significance and recommended, as appropriate, for consideration by FCM.

The Resolutions Committee has discretion in grouping resolutions from Parts 2 and 3 as:

- Part 2: issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government; or
- Part 3: resolutions on matters that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

Section B resolutions that have not been debated by the Convention will be submitted to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action. Note that the recommendation for each resolution is printed in the Resolutions Book.
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 Section B—Part 1 resolutions be adopted?**

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B—Part 1 resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such 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 to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.
Section B1

Legislative

B1 Establishing Local Public Notice Policies Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas newspaper closures in communities throughout British Columbia are affecting local governments' ability to publish mandatory public notification advertisements in local newspapers especially in regional districts which already have unique geographical challenges due to local newspaper circulation areas not aligning with regional district boundaries;

And whereas the Municipalities Act of the Province of Saskatchewan enables local governments to choose their own manner of providing public notice that suits their communities;

Therefore be it resolved that both the Local Government Act and Community Charter be amended to replace the mandatory requirement to advertise in newspapers with the requirement for local governments to adopt a public notice policy based on local criteria that would enable local governments to choose their own manner of providing public notice tailored to best serve their communities.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B88, which called on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to “allow statutorily required public notices to be published using a variety of media channels [...] as long as reasonably equivalent or better reach than that of solely using printed newspapers can be demonstrated.”

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government referenced section 94(7) of the Community Charter, which “provides the option for a local government to broaden the types of media used to publish a notice—that is, a local government must still publish the notice in a newspaper, but may in addition, publish the notice in another way ... .” The Province also noted that Community Charter section 94(4) provides that in communities without a local newspaper, “a community could set alternative means to satisfy the statutory requirement to publish a notice.”

The provincial government indicated that it would not at this time consider legislative amendments regarding public notices.

Conference decision:

B2 No Forced Amalgamations Metchosin

Whereas local governments in Canada have traditionally been viewed as "creatures of the Province" and do not enjoy separate distinct legislative status, but rather are subject to the wishes and will of provincial authority;

And whereas in British Columbia, local governments enjoy the highest level of autonomy among Canada's local governments and the nation’s most equitable relationship with provincial authority, as laid out in the Community Charter;

And whereas the practice of the current provincial government has been to recognize and respect the local autonomy of local governments over matters of local jurisdiction including on matters of local government amalgamation;

And whereas more specifically, Section 279 of the Community Charter titled "No Forced Amalgamations", legally ensures and reinforces that municipal autonomy is the highest value in the relationship with the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM seek confirmation from the provincial government and all provincial political parties within the British Columbia legislature with respect to their position on maintaining and respecting Section 279 of the Community Charter.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that resolution 2002-C59 in part expressed support for provisions to be included in the Community Charter to prevent forced amalgamations of local governments. The resolution was referred to a UBCM policy paper on the Community Charter, published the same year. Members endorsed the Community Charter policy paper.

Conference decision:

**Community Safety**

**B3** Reversal of Recent Amendments to RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program

Whereas in January 2016 amendments to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program came into effect, including the immediate elimination of ride-alongs with RCMP members in police cars and firearms familiarization training, as well as the review of duties that could eliminate auxiliary constable participation in special events and crowd/traffic control;

And whereas public safety is a critical objective of BC local governments, RCMP detachments and municipal police departments with auxiliary constables serving an important role in assisting and complementing an already overburdened police force in the provision of public safety programs and in the delivery of basic police services;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be requested to exert pressure on both the Government of Canada and the RCMP’s “E” Division for the immediate reinstatement of the Auxiliary Constable Program in British Columbia to its pre-January 2016 role complete with the ride-along and firearms familiarization training programs as well as continued participation in special events and crowd or traffic control.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

While members have not previously considered a resolution reacting specifically to January 2016 amendments to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program, the Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting continued funding and a robust role for RCMP Auxiliary Constables, including special events, crowd or traffic control, and firearms training (2003-B47, 2000-B5, 1999-A12, 1999-A13, 1998-B39, 1998-ER, 1997-B28).

Conference decision:

**B4** BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook

Whereas the Office of the Fire Commissioner of BC developed and issued the “British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook, 2014” for implementation by British Columbia fire departments;

And whereas local governments are responsible for training, evaluation, and records of training management for firefighters, inclusive of rural fire departments within regional district jurisdiction;

And whereas local governments have limited resources to ensure that adequate training, evaluation, and records management are consistent for rural fire departments:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Office of the Fire Commissioner of BC to implement Fire Training and Evaluation Teams to provide ongoing training opportunities, evaluation and records management training for all fire departments in 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 endorsed resolution 2009-B63, which called on the provincial government to provide greater training, information management, and technical support to fire departments. The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolution 2015-B3, which requested provincial funding for rural and small volunteer fire departments to cover the costs of meeting the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook Regulations.

Conference decision:

B5 Fire Underwriters Survey Equipment Requirements New Denver

Whereas Fire Underwriters Survey criteria requires a triple combination pumper to be the first line pumper;

And whereas two mini- or midi-pumpers equal or surpass the capacity of one triple combination pumper and are much more versatile in a rural setting;

And whereas equipment which is appropriate to an area has the potential to lessen insurance claims:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and its membership support and assist in opening a meaningful dialogue with the Fire Underwriters Survey and the insurance industry to allow local government flexibility of equipment to meet specified criteria.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services, including those in small and rural communities (2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).

Conference decision:

B6 Wildfire Management NCLGA Executive

Whereas wildfire trends show an increasing threat to public safety, infrastructure, and the value of natural resources;

And whereas local governments have a strong interest in the management of wildfire at the community and broader landscape levels, and are often on the front lines in matters of public safety, protecting infrastructure and dealing with residents:

Therefore be it resolved the Government of British Columbia adopt policies and practices that proactively involve local governments in fire management planning, and in effective communication at all stages of wildfire management activity.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse
UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


Conference decision:

B7 Flexibility in Establishing Fees and Penalties Williams Lake

Whereas local governments are faced with difficulties regulating and deterring repeat noise and nuisance offenders;

And whereas repeat offenders result in a drain on local government staff and RCMP resources;

And whereas Section 194 of the Community Charter restricts local governments’ ability to effectively discourage prolific offenders by limiting fees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the Community Charter to allow local governments the power and flexibility to successfully establish and collect fees and penalties.

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 a similar resolution from the same sponsor in 2015 (B89).

In response to the resolution, the provincial government suggested that “a municipal bylaw may establish a penalty of up to $10,000 that a person convicted of an offence must pay to the municipality,” and indicated that several municipalities had “created bylaws that include a penalty that both single and repeat nuisance offenders must pay.”

Upon request from the Committee seeking clarification regarding how Section 194 of the Community Charter specifically restricts local governments from setting or collecting fees, the sponsor noted that Section 194 of the Community Charter only allows a local government to establish a fee for an amount equal to providing a service (e.g. a fee equal to the cost of all resources utilized to handle a noise complaint). The sponsor suggests that this restriction does not act as a deterrent to offenders.

Conference decision:

B8 Restorative Justice Vernon

Whereas the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has commissioned two reports, “A Criminal Justice System for the 21st Century” and “Getting Serious About Crime Reduction: Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction”, that make recommendations about restorative justice;

And whereas the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides approximately $11 million to victim assistance programs and approximately $150 thousand to restorative justice services and programs that have been in operation in British Columbia without provincial or federal operational funding since March 1998;

And whereas restorative justice is now identified in the changes to the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights: “Every victim has the right, on request, to information about ... (b) the services and programs available to them as a victim, including restorative justice programs ... “.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provide operational funds for restorative justice services and programs to bring parity with victim assistance programs so that restorative justice services and programs can meet the rights and needs of victims of crime as defined in the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights.
Not presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


In response to the 2014 resolution, the provincial government highlighted ongoing initiatives to identify and promote best practices in restorative justice programs.

Conference decision:

Transportation

B9 Priority for Construction of Bicycle Lanes Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the provision of safe cycling infrastructure is a costly but critical component of improving transportation options;

And whereas the construction of bicycle lanes on provincial highways within regional districts would alleviate safety concerns for cyclists, support growth in bicycle tourism and promote alternative transportation options that would reduce local greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government review the “BC on the Move Transportation Plan” to prioritize the construction of new bicycle lanes within regional districts limited by a single highway and where bicycle usage is a prominent form of transportation and economic driver for tourism.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B63, which called on the Province to “invest in cycling infrastructure in order to accelerate the availability and broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational, and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas.”

See also resolution B57.

Conference decision:

B10 Highway Line Paint Quesnel

Whereas the premature deterioration of low-durability road marking paint, particularly as it affects highway centre-line and shoulder marker lines, places the safety of British Columbia drivers and passengers at significant risk;

And whereas the annual program to re-paint highway markings must be significantly accelerated to make our roads and highways safer sooner:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be requested to improve the durability and reflectivity standards of road marking paint so it will endure effectively through the entire winter driving season to improve road safety, particularly for BC’s northern and interior drivers and passengers;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia accelerate the annual road and highway marking re-painting program, with improved durable and reflective paint to make BC’s roads and highways safer sooner.

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 in general supported improvements to highway safety, endorsing resolution 2014-B53, which called on the Province to review the effectiveness of the products used for line markings on highways.

**Conference decision:**

**B11 CN Railway Crossings**

Port Edward

Whereas the federal government has released new, mandatory standards for all railroad crossings; And whereas economic conditions foresee an increase in railway traffic going through communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the federal government to provide funding opportunities that will allow communities to upgrade the crossings to meet their new, required standards.

*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 2015-B56, which called on the federal government to provide full funding for rail crossing upgrades, and extend the assessment and implementation deadlines of the new Grade Crossing Regulations.

The Committee understands that the 2015 and 2016 resolutions respond specifically to new Grade Crossing Regulations that took effect in 2015. When consulted on these new regulations, FCM—on behalf of local government—stressed to the federal government the importance of ensuring that timelines and technical requirements for improvements to existing crossings would be fair and reasonable. FCM continues to engage Transport Canada to ensure that they provide municipalities with detailed guidance on implementation issues including:

- information sharing;
- options for maintaining sightlines;
- obstruction of grade crossings; and
- the Canadian Transportation Agency’s role in dispute resolution and cost apportionment.

Regarding the costs of upgrades to rail crossings, the provincial government has observed that historically, after federal grants, the costs of safety projects at existing railway crossings have been borne 62.5% by road authorities (local government) and 37.5% by railway companies. The Province has encouraged local governments to make known to the Canadian Transportation Agency their concerns respecting cost sharing of rail crossing upgrades.

**Conference decision:**

**B12 Reinstate BC Ferry Service — Port Hardy to Bella Coola**

Quesnel

Whereas the discontinued ferry route known as the Discovery Coast Route or Route 40 that connected Port Hardy to Bella Coola and other small communities has negatively affected First Nations, tourism operators, associations, communities and destination marketing organizations;

And whereas First Nations and rural partners are working to enhance transportation opportunities to the Interior of British Columbia for the betterment of all concerned;

And whereas the Mid-Coast BC Ferry Working Group has brought forward "A Vision for First Nations and Rural Communities on BC's Central Coast and North Vancouver Island" to the Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training, the Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Coralee Oakes, MLA for Cariboo North and Donna Barnett, MLA for Cariboo Chilcotin;

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support the recommendations from the Mid-Coast BC Ferry Working Group and urge the Province of British Columbia to support the new vision of the Coastal First Nations communities for a two-ferry solution for economic development and job creation.

*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 the 2014 policy paper, “Socioeconomic Impact Analysis of BC Ferries,” which requested that the provincial government take the following actions:

- reverse its November 2013 decision, and restore service levels and ferry fares to 2013 levels.
- take a ‘pause’ or ‘time out’ to consider the results of the socioeconomic impact assessment and commit to undertaking further socioeconomic impact analysis that will build on these findings.
- recognize the coastal ferry system as an extension of the highway system and administer and fund it accordingly.
- work cooperatively with coastal communities and other interested parties on the development and implementation of a long-term strategy for the coastal ferry system, based on solid socioeconomic impact analysis, that will ensure the sustainability of coastal communities and the ferry service.

**Conference decision:**

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**Taxation**

**B13 Vacant Land Taxation**  
*Penticton*

Whereas vacant lands detract from the vibrancy of communities;

And whereas vacant lands contribute less property tax and utility billing revenues, no employment or other value to their community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate on behalf of all local governments for an amendment to the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation 438/81 to include prescribed classes for vacant land and vacant contaminated land that allows for a higher tax rate and/or flat taxes.

*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 1997-A13, which requested that the provincial government enact legislative amendments to permit municipalities to levy a parcel tax on vacant land, in lieu of sewer and water user fees.

The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolution 2007-B72, seeking legislative amendments to authorize municipalities to set different property tax rates for land and improvements, in order to encourage the development and improved maintenance of derelict buildings and vacant land.

**Conference decision:**

**B14 Local Government Infrastructure PST Exemption**  
*West Kelowna*

Whereas local governments within the Province of British Columbia are responsible for essential infrastructure in areas such as water, sewer and storm sewer mains as well as roads;
And whereas these critical infrastructures, which were constructed years ago using a dollar which had a greater purchasing power, are subject to provincial health and safety regulations which require local governments to upgrade or replace the infrastructure despite limited funds and grant opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Finance to provide a provincial sales tax exemption on the upgrade or replacement of local government infrastructure projects.

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 exempt local governments from the provincial sales tax in general (2006-B21, 2005-B12, 2004-B68); as well as for specific costs such as equipment for fire fighting, life-saving, search and rescue, or power generation (2013-B16, 2009-B6, 2007-B22, 2005-B14, 2003-B14, 2003-LR3, 2001-B23).

Conference decision:

B15 Payment by Universities for Services Provided by Municipalities

Whereas section 27(2)(w) of the University Act empowers the University Board of Governors to pay to a municipality a grant in a year not exceeding the lesser of 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 or the amount specified by the minister or calculated in the manner specified by the minister;

And whereas the payments to communities on behalf of universities has declined sharply over the last decade:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the University Act to require that the university grants-in-lieu-of-taxes formula better reflect forgone municipal taxes and that rates paid by universities be in keeping with payment-in-lieu-of-taxes paid by the Government of Canada for federal properties.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2011-B25 and 2008-B104, both of which called on the Province to amend the University Act to specify that a university must pay to a municipality a grant equal to general municipal taxes.

Conference decision:

B16 Fire Wage Arbitration

Whereas recent firefighter wage arbitrations have awarded wage parity with lower mainland local governments regardless of local circumstances of the subject local government;

And whereas the Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act requires an arbitrator to have regard for the need to maintain internal consistency and equity amongst employees and the terms and conditions of employment for other groups of employees who are employed by the employer:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training to exercise statutory authority to specify that arbitrators are to give consideration to local conditions.

**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 that emphasize the importance of considering factors other than wage parity, when working towards collective bargaining agreements for fire and police services (2014-B13, 2013-B24, 2011-B3, 2005-B150).

In response to the 2014 resolution, the Province stated that the purpose of the Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act is to provide union and employer access to binding interest arbitration and resolution of collective bargaining disputes, while avoiding strikes, lockouts or other interruptions to the delivery of service. The Province also noted that “the majority of municipalities and fire fighter union locals have reached voluntary settlements without resorting to arbitration under the Act.”

**Conference decision:**

**B17 Sustained Funding for First Responder Agencies**

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas first responders are essential in providing emergency medical services;

And whereas an assured source of funding is currently not provided to first responder agencies throughout the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to immediately provide budget funds that provide a sustainable, continued source of funding to first responder agencies throughout the province.

**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 resolution 2009-B14, calling on the provincial government to provide full funding for local government first responder programs.

In response to the resolution the provincial government emphasized the voluntary nature of the first responder program—that local governments choose whether their fire departments will offer first response services.

The Resolutions Committee would observe that the question of sustainable, stable funding for first responder programs has long been raised by UBCM members, who have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding for all aspects of first responder programs (2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2011-B6, 2010-B2, 2010-B9, 2009-B14, 2004-B26, 2001-B4, 1999-B7, 1995-B74, 1994-B16).

**Conference decision:**

**B18 Build Canada Grant Funding Program**

Harrison Hot Springs

Whereas the federal government’s Build Canada Grant Funding Program generally shares the costs of all approved infrastructure projects equally between the Province and local jurisdictions on a one-third cost share;

And whereas for nationally and provincially significant projects, where projects provide a greater national and provincial benefit, and where communities are disproportionately and directly impacted by such projects, the burden of one-third of the cost is inequitable and too high for the local jurisdiction:

Therefore be it resolved that the federal government provide funding for major infrastructure projects at a minimum of 50% of the project cost;
And be it further resolved that the provincial government provide funding for major infrastructure projects at a minimum of 40% of the project cost.

*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 seeking increased flexibility within grant or funding programs regarding matching funds from local governments, and a lessening of the project cost share borne by local governments (2015-B22, 2014-B19, 2012-B13, 2009-B29, 2004-A7, 2000-B12).

In response to resolution 2014-B19 the provincial government acknowledged local governments’ concerns about infrastructure needs and financing mechanisms.

The Resolutions Committee is aware that the Government of Canada’s 2016 Budget identified a 50% federal share for future local government funding programs coming from Canada’s New Infrastructure Plan, valued at $60 Billion dollars over the next 10 years. During the April 2016 UBCM Advocacy Days, the UBCM Executive advocated that the Province maintain a minimum 33% share in these programs, which would if followed result in a maximum 17% share for BC local governments.

**Conference decision:**

**B19  Local Improvement Charge for Municipally-financed Green Energy Technologies  Powell River City**

Whereas in May 2016, the Halifax Regional Municipality approved a three-year extension of the Solar City program which provides the opportunity for property owners to save money and reduce their environmental impact by offering property owners a municipal service to procure and install three solar energy technology options for solar photovoltaic, solar hot air and solar hot water;

And whereas the Halifax Regional Municipality is recovering 100 per cent of the program costs through a local improvement charge, as authorized by provincial legislation;

And whereas municipal local improvement charges in British Columbia cannot currently include the provision of cost recovery for municipal services on private property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to approve enabling legislation to allow the cost recovery of municipally-financed green energy technologies on private properties through municipal local improvement charges.

*Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  *Endorse*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B64, which requested the provincial government to:

- amend legislation to enable local governments to use local improvement charges for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on residential and commercial private properties; and
- work with local governments and energy utilities to develop standards and guidelines for municipally-run residential and commercial energy retrofit financing programs.
In response to the resolution the provincial government stated that it was not considering legislative amendments “to enable the use of current or additional financing mechanisms for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on private property.” Instead, the Province encouraged local governments and energy utilities to work together to develop financing mechanisms for such energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.

Conference decision:

Environment

B20 Federal Government Cooperation for Oil Spill Response in BC

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has declared that Canada should become a world leader in marine spill prevention, preparedness and response and has stated its concern about the current level of marine protection and potential spill response available on Canada’s West Coast;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is acting on the development and implementation of such protection and response but requires cooperation and support from the federal government in order to implement most of the recommendations it has identified to strengthen Canadian capacity for marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response on Canada’s West Coast;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM support the Province of British Columbia’s position with respect to the need for world-class marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and call on the federal government to support and co-operate with BC to the fullest extent, committing sufficient resources, to achieve the highest level of spill prevention, preparedness and response capacity on Canada’s West Coast.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 to call on the federal government to support and co-operate with BC on spill prevention, preparedness, and response capacity.

The Committee understands that UBCM represents local government on the Advisory Committee for the proposed provincial Land Based Spills Preparedness and Response Strategy, and has undertaken ongoing advocacy regarding the issue, based on several key tenets:

• any oversight organization must be provincially led, industry funded;

• establishment of a BC-based contingency fund that is 100% industry funded—including a full cost recovery mechanism to reimburse local governments who engage in spill cleanup; and

• any application for expansion of oil pipelines or tanker traffic should undergo the highest degree of environmental assessment, including meaningful public consultation with local governments and First Nations.


See also resolution B21.

Conference decision:
B21  Assessment and Mitigation of Marine Shipping Risks and Impacts in the Salish Sea

Whereas numerous projects are proposed that would increase marine traffic and anchorage use in the confined waterways of the Salish Sea;

And whereas the Salish Sea is among the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, and presents challenging conditions for oil spill response:

Therefore be it resolved that Transport Canada assess the cumulative risks and impacts associated with projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea and develop an innovative 20-year mitigation plan.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 federal government assess projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea and the potential cumulative risks and impacts of such increases, and develop a mitigation plan.

The Committee notes, however, that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about potential negative impacts of increased marine traffic in the Salish Sea and other BC coastal waters—especially increased tanker traffic (2012-A8, 2011-LR6, 2010-B139, 2008-B143, 2003-B23). In addition, UBCM is participating in engagement sessions organized by Transport Canada on an Area Response Planning Initiative aimed at enhancing Canada’s marine safety system. The southern portion of BC, covering a portion of the Salish Sea, has been identified as one of four pilot areas for this initiative.

See also resolution B20.

Conference decision:

B22  Abandoned or Derelict Vessels Programs

Whereas the November 2012 Transport Canada Study recommends the establishment of an inter-jurisdictional working group that would address and provide recommendations on issues related to abandoned and derelict vessels, including potential sources of funding to remove abandoned and derelict vessels;

And whereas the incidents of vessels left abandoned or derelict by owners through neglect or lack of financial resources to dispose of the vessel cause municipalities serious concerns for public safety and the potential harm to the environment and have significant financial impact to taxpayers for removal and cleanup:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM urge the federal and provincial governments to proceed with recommendations of the 2012 Transport Canada Study to establish an “Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program” funded through reasonable fees sourced from vessel purchases, registration, insurance and moorage, and that such funds be available for disposition costs;

And be it further resolved that the federal and provincial governments further establish an “End of Life” Vessel Disposal Program that is sustainable and protects the environment, including appropriate facilities and coordination with local landfills and private sector for proper disposal methods.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book 103
UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


Conference decision:

**B23 Carbon Reduction Targets**  
Squamish

Whereas the provincial and federal governments are currently contemplating new carbon reduction targets;  
And whereas local governments both large and small will play a significant role in achieving those targets;  
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM request that the Province of BC and the federal government create a funding mechanism to grant funding to local governments to update carbon emission reduction plans and implementation;  
And be it further resolved that the funding mechanism be in place to coincide with the governments’ implementation of carbon emission reduction plans.

**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 endorsed resolution 2014-B26, which in part requested federal and provincial funding for local governments to continue to implement climate action plans and projects. Members have not, however, considered a resolution that requested provincial and federal funding for local governments to update carbon emission reduction plans.

In response to resolution 2014-B26 the provincial government highlighted its existing Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program, which supports BC local governments’ climate action projects. The Province also referenced the federal Gas Tax Fund and New Building Canada Fund, pointing out that “under both programs, projects are encouraged to consider the impacts of climate change and seek innovative solutions and promote sustainable development.”

Conference decision:

**B24 Limit or Ban Burning on Forest Lands in Community Airsheds**  
Port Alberni

Whereas data from the BC Ministries of Environment and Health indicate that seasonal air quality concerns from outdoor wood burning combined with common air ‘inversion’ events greatly impact the health of residents, and noting that municipalities and regional districts have taken strong measures to limit or ban outdoor burning by residents;  
And whereas the BC Wildfire Act and Environmental Management Act permit the burning of woody debris (“slash”) from forestry operations on private and Crown land within community air-sheds that often contribute to poor seasonal air quality;

Therefore be it resolved that the BC Ministry of Environment bring forward new regulations to further limit or ban the burning of wood debris piles on private and crown forest lands within community air-sheds in order to ensure communities and industry are synchronized in working toward the same goal of a safe and healthy environment for all;

And be it further resolved that the Province encourage industry to chip wood debris for biofuel or sell it for heating homes in energy efficient woodstoves.

**Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  
Endorse
UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1990-B39, which called on the provincial government to require “all clearing debris less than four inches in diameter or less than merchantable timber be disposed of or dealt with in manners other than incineration.”

The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions proposing that wood waste from forestry operations be used for co-generation (1998-B12, 1996-B10, 1993-B47, 1992-B106).

Conference decision:

**B25 Watershed Protection**

Peachland

Whereas it has long been recognized that water is a public trust, and the protection and control of local water resources requires adequate tools to enable local authorities to enact measures for protection of watersheds;

And whereas the modernization of the Water Act has not yet progressed to a point where regulations are in place to enable local authorities to enact such measures necessary in order to adequately protect their watersheds:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment expedite the necessary steps to create regulations that will establish an increased local role in key decision making in matters affecting the health and protection of watersheds, including the right for local watershed authorities to be the agencies responsible for approvals and controls of activities in watersheds.

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 in 2015, from the same sponsor. Resolution 2015-B32 called on the Province to mandate through regulation “an increased local role in key decision making in matters affecting the health and protection of watersheds, including the right for local watershed authorities to be the agencies responsible for approvals and controls of activities in watersheds.”

The Committee understands that the new Water Sustainability Act and regulations came into force as of February 29, 2016.

Members endorsed resolution 2014-B88, which in part requested that the provincial government ensure that the new Water Sustainability Act:

- increases the local role in key decisions affecting the health of watersheds; and
- establishes a meaningful role for local government, First Nations, and local watershed authorities regarding approvals and control.

In response to the 2014 resolution the Province indicated that provisions of the new Act would “enable plans to be developed and implemented to prevent or address conflicts between water use and ecosystem health,” and that new governance tools would be developed to support this. Overall, the provincial government suggested that the new Act would “allow for greater participation in decision processes.”


See also resolutions B32, B89 and B109.
Conference decision:

**B26 Protection of Water**

Grand Forks

Whereas the privatization of water resources and infrastructure is becoming commonplace worldwide;

And whereas privatization can lead to decreased access for the public, increased prices and decreased product and service quality:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments take steps to protect the aquifers, surface water, public water and waste water infrastructure of BC from purchase by private corporate interests.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** Endorse

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**


Conference decision:

**B27 Landfill Guidelines**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the BC Ministry of Environment intends to finalize the “Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste” guidance document after January 31, 2016;

And whereas the inclusion of the new standards in Landfill Operational Certificates will require local governments to meet the new standards associated with landfilling in BC, which will result in increased costs for landfill development, operation and closure and limit the ability for local governments to move forward with additional waste reduction initiatives;

And whereas in many areas of the Province of BC, government regulated extended producer responsibility programs are not providing reasonable service levels which is resulting in more landfilled waste and greater costs to local governments;

And whereas local governments have a responsibility to their taxpayers to be fiscally responsible recognizing the challenging times for all taxpayers of BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia provide funding assistance to local governments in developing and implementing sustainable waste reduction initiatives and further that the Province of British Columbia ensure that regulated extended producer responsibility programs are paying 100% of the costs associated with their collection programs and are providing reasonable service levels to all of BC.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** Endorse

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**


The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to ensure that extended producer responsibility programs pay for the full costs of collection and provide reasonable service levels across the province (2013-SR1, 2012-B28, 2012-B125, 2011-B39, 2010-B33, 2010-B34).
Conference decision:

B28  Ban on Single Use Shopping Bags  Cowichan Valley RD
Whereas the use of thin film plastic shopping bags continues to impose a variety of negative impacts on our natural and human environments;
And whereas bans have been proven in many countries to be the single most effective method of controlling the volume of plastic bags entering the waste stream and our environment:
Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government enact legislation to prohibit the distribution of thin film plastic shopping bags by businesses.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B88, which called on the provincial government to ban thin film plastic grocery bags.

Conference decision:

B29  Used Oil and Oil Container Recovery  Kootenay Boundary RD
Whereas the BC Used Oil Management Association is required, under the provisions of the BC Recycling Regulation to provide programs to collect used motor oil, used oil filters and used oil bottles from the citizens of British Columbia:
Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC take steps to compel the BC Used Oil Management Association to provide access to used motor oil, used oil filters and used oil bottles collection services in all communities where new oil is sold.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-A6, which called on the Province to amend the Recycling Regulation to require stewardship plans to “ensure that in any community where a regulated product or material is retailed to a residential consumer that collection services for these same products be made available.”

In response to the resolution the provincial government acknowledged that “the issue of rural service delivery for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs dates back several years and is one that the Ministry of Environment is very conscious of.” The Province cited the current service delivery requirements in the Recycling Regulation, including: a 75 percent recovery rate; the producer paying the costs of collecting and managing the products; and stewardship agencies fulfilling the performance measures within their approved stewardship plans.

Conference decision:

B30  British Columbia Conservation Service Capacity  Princeton
Whereas the provincial government is responsible for managing wildlife through its Conservation Service, and the British Columbia Conservation Service has not been able to adequately address wildlife- human conflict;
And whereas underfunding is having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;
And whereas reduction in offices has reduced the number of conservation officers in the field, while expecting them to adequately monitor and enforce activities throughout large management units;

And whereas the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management (resolutions 2015-B26; 2013-B27; 2012-B22; 2012-B72; 2010-B25; 2003-B32; 1996-B27; 1996-B64; 1992-B35);

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing wildlife-human conflicts.

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 a similar resolution in 2015 from the same sponsor.

Members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management (2015-B26; 2013-B27; 2012-B21; 2012-B72; 2010-B25; 2003-B32; 1996-B27; 1996-B64; 1992-B35).

In response to resolution 2012-B21, which specifically requested increased provincial funding and staffing of the BC Conservation Service, the provincial government indicated that it would “maintain its current level of service delivery through officers working in the larger geographic area, as well as collaborative initiatives with other law enforcement agencies.”

Conference decision:

Land Use

B31 Site C Dam Project North Saanich

 Whereas the proposed 60 meter high dam project at Site C on the Peace River will flood over approximately 12,000 hectares of high quality agricultural land between Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope in creating an 83 kilometer long reservoir, while pre-empting the Agricultural Land Reserve status of the land;

And whereas the flooding will devastate a major portion of ungulate winter range, will impact migratory bird flyways, and will destroy a major heritage site and countless First Nations' burial grounds and hunting, gathering, and trapping areas on their recognized traditional territories:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC Government call on BC Hydro and its contractors to immediately suspend all work until the project can be reviewed by the BC Utilities Commission and proceed through a public hearing and consultation process.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B71, which asked the Province to refer the proposed Site C hydroelectric dam project to the BC Utilities Commission for review and consultation.

The Committee is also aware that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting a full and robust role for the BC Utilities Commission in the oversight of all power projects undertaken in BC (2014-B108, 2010-B102, 2007-B146, 2006-A4, 2003-B96).
Conference decision:

**B32 Strengthen Local Input**

Whereas many forest policy and management decisions do not include a formal role for local government;

And whereas it is the forest dependent communities in closest proximity to the resources that have the strongest interest in how local resources are managed:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia adopt policies to ensure that communities and local governments have a direct, legally defined, and effective role in all major decisions about management and utilization of local forest resources.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** *Endorse*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**


The Committee would note that the request put forward in this resolution is consistent with the feedback from members in response to the forest survey results and March 2016 report by UBCM entitled “Forest Policy Decision-Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement.”

See also resolutions B25, B42, B61, B89, C10 and C11.

Conference decision:

**B33 Consultation with Local Governments for Industrial Projects**

Whereas provincial legislation requires consultation with potentially affected First Nations as part of the permitting process for resource extraction and other industrial projects;

And whereas there is no such requirement for adjacent communities and local governments to be consulted:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to implement regulatory requirements for local communities (rural or municipal) and local governments to be consulted in the permitting process, at the same level as First Nations, in all aspects of potential impact, including but not limited to:

a) Discharges into the environment, including water and air
b) Noise impacts
c) Social and economic impacts
d) Emergency preparedness and response plans
e) Communication plans
f) Reclamation and closure plans.

*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 government to require consultation with local governments as part of land use decisions, including decisions

Conference decision:

**B34 Respect for Local Government**

Whereas the BC Supreme Court upheld local government land use authority with respect to the disposal of contaminated soils in the case of Cowichan Valley (Regional District) v. Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd., 2016 BCSC 489;

And whereas the risk remains that local government land use regulations relating to disposal of contaminated soils may be overridden by provincial Order-in-Council:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to respect local government land use authority and provide for thorough and appropriate consideration of local government input and land use regulations in the contaminated soils permitting process.

_Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities_

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  
Endorse

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee would acknowledge the decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice B.C. MacKenzie regarding Cowichan Valley (Regional District) v. Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd., 2016 BCSC 489.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B120, which called on the Province to enact legislation and develop enforcement tools around the deposit of contaminated soils, to provide a formal mechanism for local government comment, and prevent the deposit of contaminated soils in locations that would negatively impact aquifers or water courses.

In response to the 2012 resolution, the provincial government acknowledged that it holds concurrent authority with local government regarding contaminated soils. The Province indicated that it was undertaking a review of existing provisions for movement and deposit of contaminated soils, and would be consulting with local governments as part of the review process.

Conference decision:

**B35 Establishment of Group Homes in Rural Communities**

Whereas community care facilities are typically established in rural communities with little or no consultation with local governments;

And whereas providing the opportunity for local government input on zoning and location would be beneficial in determining suitability and neighbourhood integration:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Provincial Government to direct appropriate ministries to consult with local governments, as a matter of policy, regarding plans to establish all community care facilities under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act in rural communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to consider legislation that would require rezoning or other local regulatory approval process for the establishment of a community care facility, such as a group home, in a rural 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 endorsed resolution 2013-B36, which called on the provincial government to consult with local governments to ensure that new or relocating provincially-funded support facilities comply with zoning and other local government bylaws.

Members have also endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province, under the Community Care Facilities Act, not licence or permit facilities to operate in contravention of local zoning bylaws; and that the Province abide by all local regulatory bylaws, including the BC Building Code, when developing or altering any of its property within the boundaries of a local government (1996-B12, 1992-B6, 1986-A19).

Conference decision:

### Community Economic Development

#### B36 Community Economic Development Investment Fund

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas it is recognized that there is a pressing need to stimulate rural economic development in British Columbia;

And whereas mechanisms that allow rural regions to capture and reinvest some portion of regional economic activity has been identified as a best practice in rural economic revitalization;

And whereas the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions has proven to be an effective and efficient means to generate investment capital to support small business expansion and creation in rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Finance for British Columbia initiate a CEDIF program for BC that would offer British Columbians a tax credit of 35% or more for investing in locally owned and operated corporations, cooperatives and other community economic development initiatives.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


Notably, members endorsed resolution 2013-B39, which in part recommended the establishment of a rural BC venture capital program. In the same year, UBCM members endorsed a Local Government Finance policy paper, which introduced the Strong Fiscal Futures model and recommended in part that the Province work with local governments to sustain economic growth by establishing an Infrastructure Development and Community Building Bank. Members reiterated their support for the Strong Fiscal Futures model when they endorsed resolution 2014-B59.

Conference decision:

#### B37 Business Façade Improvement Grant Programme

Lake Cowichan

Whereas the smaller local governments are looking at ways and means of encouraging the revitalization of their downtowns through incentives that would encourage small businesses to undertake much needed improvements to building facades, signage and siding;

And whereas the Province had previously instituted a grant programme that provided financial assistance to businesses so they may undertake improvements through application to their respective local governments:
Therefore be it resolved that the Province be petitioned to re-implement the Business Improvement Grant Programme that will provide each local government an annual intake to a maximum of $20,000 so local businesses may participate in a programme that would see the rejuvenation of business areas with the end goal of enhancing community appearance and pride which are integral to economic activity and growth.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

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 reinstate a downtown revitalization grant program (2009-B22, 2007-B144, 2006-B36, 1998-B9, 1987-A8).

Conference decision:

B38  BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification Program
     Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas the Province of BC made the decision to discontinue the BC Hydro Remote Community Extension Program;

And whereas numerous remote and rural communities in British Columbia continue to remain off-grid without electrical power;

And whereas the lack of electrification:

• prevents investment in projects that would foster sustainable economic development creating employment opportunities that would assist families resulting in a stronger community; and
• precludes these remote and rural communities, represented by local governments, to add to, enhance, or adequately improve safe drinking water and sewage disposal systems in accordance with the Province’s legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that the minister responsible for BC Hydro take immediate steps to reinstate and adequately fund the BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification program to sustain the economic and social well-being of remote and rural communities throughout BC.

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 2002 Energy Policy Digest, which in part requested that the provincial government and BC Hydro ensure the continued availability of “low cost service extensions to provide electrical power to all areas of the province.”

Conference decision:

B39  Meat to Table
     Clearwater

Whereas there are not enough Class A government regulated beef slaughtering facilities available to meet the demands of the butchering needs for livestock farmers in the Southern Interior;

And whereas in order to increase local food security, the sustainability and capacity of the local livestock producers by allowing local farmers the ability to slaughter onsite and sell to local farmer’s markets within their regional district:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the province to change the policy on allowing unlimited Class E licenses and a minimum number of Class D licenses (market driven) for local livestock producers to operate in areas within the Southern Interior Local Government Management region.
Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the province to change the policy on allowing unlimited Class E licenses and a minimum number of Class D licenses (market driven) for local livestock producers.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B39, which requested that the provincial government tailor the Meat Inspection Regulations “to allow local, and/or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations without lowering health and safety standards, without the requirements for a meat inspector on site when slaughtering, and that any meat processed in such a manner will be allowed to be sold locally to the public.”

Members have in general advocated for measures in the Meat Inspection Regulation to support local, small-scale operators and producers, and facilitate farm gate sales (2009-B133, 2008-A2).

The Committee would suggest that the shortage of slaughtering facilities is an issue that affects communities in all parts of BC, and proposes an amendment to reflect this.

Conference decision:

B40 Community Based Agricultural Extension Program Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the agriculture industry in BC is an extremely important economic sector providing strong and independent jobs with good potential for growth but currently lacks agricultural extension services which has been cited as a significant barrier to new, young and existing farmers;

And whereas British Columbia has the oldest farmers on average in Canada (56 years) and the lowest percentage of farmers under 25 years of age, necessitating the need for training a new generation of farmers to address significant gaps in knowledge and training for those wanting to enter the agriculture sector and for existing farmers:

Therefore be it resolved that in support of the Province of British Columbia’s Jobs Strategy, UBCM call upon the Province to deliver a province-wide community based agricultural extension program to support knowledge enhancement for new, prospective and existing farmers.

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 2012-B34, which requested that the Province develop agricultural advisory services, mentorship programs and peer to peer networking programs to build capacity and promote knowledge sharing in the agricultural sector.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government referenced its Agriculture Youth Development Program; work with 4-H Canada on a Future Leaders program; the smartfarmbc.ca website; and the non-governmental organization Farm Start BC.

See also resolution C12.

Conference decision:

B41 Obtaining Land from Province Below Market Value Stewart

Whereas many communities in the northern part of British Columbia have suffered financial hardship due to the closure of mines and logging operations;
And whereas local governments need to diversify their economies and encourage businesses to locate within their communities;

And whereas the cost of obtaining land to assist in Economic Development is prohibitive for communities affected by the economic down turn:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to assist local governments with economic development by selling Crown land to the local government for substantially less than market value.

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 2003-B73, which asked the provincial government to amend its practice of making available to local governments, at market value, Crown land suitable for industrial development.

The resolution proposed that the Province sell Crown land to local governments at less than market value, and that in lowering the price point relative to market value, the Province consider factors such as the degree of investment by the local government in the land to date, as well as an analysis comparing benefits of the land being developed versus the land remaining undeveloped.

Conference decision:

**B42** Lumber Product Diversity and High Value Added

Whereas high value forest product producers represent a critical component of the local economy in the Kootenay Boundary Regional District and associated southern interior regions and whose future is seriously at risk because of unintended consequences associated with historical forest policy decisions combined with environmental outcomes resulting in dramatic reductions in provincial allowable annual cut from the Mountain Pine Beetle or other environmental constraints:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government take immediate action to encourage and incent the distribution of existing provincial timber supply to optimize the "Right Log To The Right Mill" ensuring maximum opportunity for economic growth and the creation of jobs.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-LR2, which raised similar questions about distribution of existing timber supply and called on the provincial government to “re-examine the appurtenance requirement in the Forest Act to help create local or regional economic benefits from the timber that is being logged in an area.”

In response to the resolution, the provincial government stated that it had no plans to restore appurtenance requirements.

By way of background, the Resolutions Committee would acknowledge that the UBCM membership endorsed a Forest Policy Paper in 2002.

The Forest Policy Paper in part expressed UBCM members’ concerns about the removal of the appurtenancy clause from the provincial government’s forest policy, fearing that it would result in “a further loss of control over where the wood is processed and in some cases, massive job loss.” The paper further asserted that “if the break is made between harvesting
and processing there has to be something provided to affected communities in exchange,” with affected communities consulted about the form and amount of compensation.

The paper proposed examples of ways to compensate affected communities, such as:

- requiring the license holder to forfeit a substantial percentage of the AAC to be turned into a community-based tenure;
- reimbursing the community for loss of economic benefits if the timber is taken out of the area and hauled to another community for processing. For example, a portion of the stumpage could be returned to the community affected, as one form of compensation; or
- requiring that timber go to the most appropriate BC mill and further that the timber must be processed in BC. See also resolutions B32, B61 and B89.

Conference decision:

Health

B43 Diagnosis of Work Related Mental Health Injuries Among First Responders Coquitlam

Whereas first responders are the front line at most tragic events in our cities and bear witness to events that can leave a lasting and negative impact on the individual psyche and that these negative impacts can manifest themselves in a number of mental health injuries;

And whereas these mental health injuries can result in issues of both absenteeism and presenteeism in the workforce thus having a direct impact on local governments and insurance providers:

Therefore be it resolved that a medical diagnosis of a mental health injury by a bona fide medical practitioner representing the patient, be presumed by WorkSafeBC as to have happened out of and during the course of employment, with the burden of proof to the contrary borne by WorkSafeBC;

And be it further resolved to award financial benefit and treatment immediately to a worker who has submitted a mental health injury claim, with the worker, their specialist and WorkSafeBC agreeing that if it is proven that the injury is not a result of duties of their employment, there will be a repayment for costs.

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 2015-B73, requesting that the provincial government amend the Workers Compensation Act to add a presumptive clause for mental health injuries to first responders.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government stated that it had no plans to amend the Workers Compensation Act to add a presumptive clause for mental health injuries to first responders. The Province highlighted 2012 amendments to the Workers Compensation Act that expanded coverage for work-related mental disorders, including PTSD. The Province also referenced a specialized unit within WorkSafeBC that focuses on mental disorder claims.

See also resolution C13.

Conference decision:
Whereas Divisions of Family Practice have been instrumental in recruiting and retaining family physicians at the community level through participation in the provincial “A GP for Me” initiative and other efforts in collaboration with regional and provincial partners, thus facilitating the attachment of thousands of patients across British Columbia;

And whereas the rapid rate of family physicians retiring across the province remains an ongoing challenge for thousands of British Columbians trying to access primary care and establish a longitudinal relationship with a family doctor;

And whereas research reveals a strong primary care network built around continuous doctor-patient relationships improves health outcomes for patients, reduces unnecessary hospital visits, and improves the overall patient-provider experience:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to allocate long-term fixed funding to Divisions of Family Practice to support their ongoing recruitment and retention of family physicians, along with collaboration between the Ministry of Health and British Columbia health authorities towards the goal of attaching every citizen to patient-centred and community base primary care homes.

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 supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).


Conference decision:

Selected Issues

B45 Renewed Call for a National Housing Strategy Burnaby

Whereas the lack of affordable housing and the incidence of homelessness is a growing and complex problem affecting all British Columbian and Canadian communities;

And whereas an incomplete continuum of housing options negatively impacts individual and family well-being, local economic growth and sustainable, complete community development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the federal government to expedite the development of a national housing strategy.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


The 2016 Federal Budget highlights the Government’s intention to develop a National Housing Strategy: “the Government will consult with provinces and territories, Indigenous and other communities, and key stakeholders in the coming year to develop a National Housing Strategy”. The Mandate Letter for the federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities also
indicates as a top priority the need to work with the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development to create a housing strategy "to re-establish the federal government's role in supporting affordable housing".

See also resolutions B63, B135 and C17.

Conference decision:

B46 Home Renovation Tax Credits

Whereas the Quebec government has recently announced a new tax credit to encourage home renovations, and the Official Community Plan of Saanich and of municipalities across British Columbia and Canada recognize the importance of home renovations, housing variety, affordability and adaptability in their communities’ quality of life, health, sustainability and economy;

And whereas housing renovations are recognized to help seniors stay at home, help the special needs of a family member or convert a house to an intergenerational home, and create skilled employment for young people, and the use of refundable tax credits for renovations is known to boost energy efficiency, local economies and reduce off-permit renovations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the governments of the Province of British Columbia and Canada to create new tax credit programs for consumers to help encourage home renovations that focus on energy efficiency, improved mobility and aging in place projects, that are over $1,000.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 2015 the sponsor brought forward a similar resolution, 2015-B119, calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish tax credit programs for general home renovations. Due to time constraints, the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. After study by the UBCM Community Economic Development Committee, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution with an amendment to specify that home renovation tax credit programs should include criteria for minimum project cost, and should focus on projects intended to improve energy efficiency, mobility and access, or the ability to age in place. The amendment reflects previous policy direction on this topic, endorsed by UBCM members.

Conference decision:

B47 Poverty Reduction Strategy for BC

Whereas the poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada yet BC is the last province in Canada to have a commitment to a poverty reduction plan;

And whereas many impacts of poverty are experienced at the local level, and local residents pay for poverty in increased health care costs, higher crime, higher demand for community, social and charitable services, lack of school readiness, reduced school success, and lower economic productivity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government in BC to follow the lead of all other provinces by adopting a comprehensive and accountable provincial poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in BC by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B44, which made similar requests for the provincial government to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy.

*In response, the provincial government emphasized its focus on growing the economy and creating jobs, and indicated that it aimed to provide “targeted supports for the individuals and families who need them.”*

*See also resolution C16.*

Conference decision:

**B48 Two Tiered Rate System**

| Okanagan-Similkameen RD |

Whereas FortisBC rate increases are causing significant hardship to people in areas where there is no access to natural gas, as they are seeing huge increases in power bills;

And whereas due to the challenge customers face with rising energy costs, heating and electricity have become a luxury for some British Columbia residents, especially in the Okanagan-Similkameen:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government and British Columbia Utilities Commission eliminate the two tiered rate structure of all power suppliers until a remedy can be found for users of electric heat who have no affordable alternative to their current inefficient home heating system.

*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 2015-B40, which asked the BC Utilities Commission to review BC Hydro’s residential electrical tariff structure, and in areas with no natural gas service, increase the amount of kilowatt hours that qualify for the lower rate.

Members also endorsed resolution 2013-B85, which asked the provincial government to review the impact of a tiered electricity rate structure on low-income British Columbians. The resolution further requested that if the rate structure review revealed a negative impact, the provincial government amend the tiered rate structure to “minimize the effect for those less fortunate and those who have limited options to reduce their electricity usage (i.e. no access to natural gas).”

*In response to resolution 2013-B85 the provincial government indicated that it was monitoring the impact of the tiered rate structure.*

More generally, the Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions supporting postage stamp, cost-based rates for electricity (1996-B7; 2001, 2002 and 2003 UBCM energy policy positions). In 2004, members endorsed resolution B87 which objected to BC Hydro’s proposed increase in electricity rates. Prior to that, resolution 1992-B99 requested that BC Hydro be encouraged to promote electric heating at equitable rates in homes that are adequately insulated, especially in areas where natural gas service is not available.

Conference decision:

**B49 Child Care Delivery Regulation and Funding**

| East Kootenay RD |

Whereas there is immediate need for more child care spaces and increased number of people working as early childhood educators in the East Kootenay and British Columbia;
And whereas the main barriers to the creation of new spaces and maintaining existing spaces is not within local government control but is related to provincial funding, licensing and health requirements, educational requirements, increasingly unaffordable childcare costs for parents, and unacceptably low rate of pay for most early childhood educators:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia, the provincial health authorities, and relevant post-secondary institutions work to solve the immediate and long term needs and gaps in child care delivery, regulation, fee structure and provincial funding:

And be it further resolved that UBCM and interested local governments be invited to collaborate and participate in developing solutions but that it is understood that child care is not a core mandate or service for local government and interest in participation in solutions is not an invitation for further downloading of responsibility or funding for child care from the Province.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

**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 respond to challenges and invest in high quality child care to make it affordable and accessible.*

*Members have requested:*

- national accreditation for early childhood educators, to ensure that their qualifications are transferable from one part of the country to another (2006-B168)
- provincial review of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and Child Care Licensing Regulations, and corresponding consultation with child care operators, to serve the needs of parents employed in shift work, as well as those with multi-age children (2010-B151)

*See also resolutions B50 and B51.*

**Conference decision:**

**B50 Universal Daycare Plan**

*Whistler*

Whereas the federal government has committed $500 million in childcare funding for the 2017 budget;

And whereas the BC government recognizes that BC childcare is in dire need of restructured spending and is implementing an Early Years Strategy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to commit to implementing a universal daycare plan that creates new and affordable licensed day care spaces for infant and toddler care, for the benefit of families with an annual income below $40,000 and to include all communities in BC.

*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 calling on the provincial government to respond to challenges and invest in high quality child care to make it affordable and accessible.*
Members have requested:

* national accreditation for early childhood educators, to ensure that their qualifications are transferable from one part of the country to another (2006-B168)
* provincial review of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and Child Care Licensing Regulations, and corresponding consultation with child care operators, to serve the needs of parents employed in shift work, as well as those with multi-age children (2010-B151)

See also resolutions B49 and B51.

Conference decision:

**B51 Accessible Affordable Childcare**

Whereas access to high quality affordable childcare is vital to the social wellbeing and economic prosperity of communities and provides a strong foundation for greater social sustainability in the future;

And whereas the availability of childcare spaces and the costs associated with such care continues to present a challenge to working families in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments make access to childcare a top priority and work together to develop and implement the new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework proposed by the federal government to deliver affordable, high quality flexible and inclusive child care.

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 calling on the provincial government to respond to challenges and invest in high quality child care to make it affordable and accessible.

Members have requested:

* national accreditation for early childhood educators, to ensure that their qualifications are transferable from one part of the country to another (2006-B168)
* provincial review of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act and Child Care Licensing Regulations, and corresponding consultation with child care operators, to serve the needs of parents employed in shift work, as well as those with multi-age children (2010-B151)

See also resolutions B49 and B50.

Conference decision:

**B52 Education Funding**

Whereas many municipalities in the Province of BC are facing school closures, amalgamation, or both;

And whereas such closures can have significant impact on the economic and social wellbeing of municipalities experiencing school closures:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Education and the Province be urged to investigate the adequacy of funding for education and actively engage in the public consultation process that is required before schools are closed in 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 question of education funding is not new. The UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2015-B50 and 2013-B50, both of which proposed that the provincial government review the funding formula for education.

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government stated that it reviews the education funding formula each year. The Committee is also aware that in June 2016, the provincial government announced a new Rural Education Enhancement Fund aimed at helping school districts keep schools open in rural communities.

The BC School Trustees Association responded to the 2013 resolution, confirming that “improvements to education funding overall, and to the formula by which funds are distributed, have been longstanding concerns.” BCSTA referenced its own 2011 Task Force that reviewed the education funding formula and submitted an extensive report to the Ministry of Education, and expressed interest in working with local governments to address shared concerns.


Conference decision:

B53 Accessible Building Code Dawson Creek

Whereas the goal of Province of BC’s report "Accessibility 2024" is to make BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by 2024;

Whereas changes to the provincial Building Code will be necessary to reach the goal of the most accessible province in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC update the Building Code to ensure that enhanced accessible and adaptive standards are entrenched in the BC Building Code to reflect the increasing needs of a demographic that requires such standards;

And be it further resolved that UBCM work with the Province to develop accessible community and visitable housing guidelines that local governments can incorporate into their Official Community Plans.

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 for Building Code amendments and other tools to require and encourage accessibility standards for new building construction (2012-B52, 2010-B52, 2010-B53, 2009-B167, 1999-B74, 1996-B30).

See also resolution B62.

Conference decision:

B54 Amend Eligibility for Community Gaming Grants Ladysmith

Whereas not-for-profit organizations make invaluable contributions to communities throughout British Columbia in the form of community and social services and community recreational infrastructure, and such organizations are not eligible to apply for gaming grants to support capital projects;

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book 121
And whereas British Columbia communities which do not host casinos and community gaming centres are unable to benefit from the sharing of revenues from such facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly urge the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch through the Minister of Finance to reinstate Community Gaming Grant funding for major capital projects initiated by not-for-profit organizations.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:         Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B70, which called on the provincial government to restore gaming grant funding levels and eligibility criteria to match the program as it operated in 2008-2009.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government noted that it had conducted a review of Community Gaming Grants, and would be implementing changes to the allocation of community gaming grants, including:

- Increasing gaming grant funding by $15 million in the government’s base budget, beginning in 2012 and going forward.
- Reinstating funding eligibility for environmental, animal welfare and adult arts and sports groups, with an immediate application intake to ensure those groups are funded this fiscal year.
- Increasing funding to groups that have experienced grant reductions during the past three years.
- Exploring options for implementing a multi-year funding program that will offer groups more certainty and streamline the application process.

See also resolution B55.

Conference decision:

B55    Gaming Funds Available to Non-profit Community Organizations

Whereas each year charitable groups and non-profit organizations in municipalities are challenged with finding enough funding to provide services and programs integral to the health of every community;

And whereas since the provincial government changed the Community Charitable Gaming Program from multiyear grants to a single year grant in 2010, the gaming program has demonstrated a shift towards inflexible policies, a reduction in gaming revenue, sectors removed and then reinstated after public pressure, with discretionary funding;

And whereas the reduction and elimination of this funding has impacted the ability of non-profit organizations to deliver services that contribute to the economic viability, sustainability and cultural fabric of our communities;

And whereas if community programming is viewed as a priority to the educational, cultural, recreational, environment, public safety and social wellbeing of every British Columbian, then Government of BC spending priorities need to include a gaming program with funding that is both sustainable and enhanced;

And whereas the Charitable Gaming Program cannot and should not exist without charities and communities being the priority behind the program as it would otherwise fail in its mandate and its historical promise:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to form a committee to provide for the restoration of the Community Charitable Gaming Grant program and grants to the funding levels of 2008/2009, re-implement a 3-year grant funding model for stability of programming and provide a proportional share of the gaming revenues to community organizations so that as revenues increase, gaming grant funding increases proportionately.

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 2011-B70, which called on the provincial government to restore gaming grant funding levels and eligibility criteria to match the program as it operated in 2008-2009.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government noted that it had conducted a review of Community Gaming Grants, and would be implementing changes to the allocation of community gaming grants, including:

- Increasing gaming grant funding by $15 million in the government’s base budget, beginning in 2012 and going forward.
- Reinstating funding eligibility for environmental, animal welfare and adult arts and sports groups, with an immediate application intake to ensure those groups are funded this fiscal year.
- Increasing funding to groups that have experienced grant reductions during the past three years.
- Exploring options for implementing a multi-year funding program that will offer groups more certainty and streamline the application process.

See also resolution B54.

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; or
- Involve topics of national significance and that are recommended, as appropriate, for consideration by FCM.

The resolutions have been classified as:

- Part 2: issues considered within the jurisdiction of local government; or
- Part 3: resolutions that are considered not within the jurisdiction of local government.

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:

*I move that all Section B—Part 2 and Part 3 resolutions be considered for debate.*

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 move each resolution individually, but they are invited to speak to their resolution at the appropriate time.
Section B—Part 2-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After the motion to enter all resolutions in Section B—Parts 2 and 3 for discussion, a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

_Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section B—Part 2-a be adopted?_

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B—Part 2-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such a motion. 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 to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.
Section B2-a

Community Safety

B56  Emergency Program Act  Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has established the *Emergency Program Act* which requires local governments to prepare for and provide emergency response to its residents;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is in the process of conducting a review of the *Emergency Program Act*;

And whereas local government, especially, regional districts with large geographic areas have very limited physical and financial resources to plan, assess threats to health, safety, property and the environment and to respond to and implement recovery initiatives for disaster and emergency events:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide trained provincial emergency response teams to lead, direct, and support local governments regarding emergency response and disaster events.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

*Therefore be it resolved that the Province work collaboratively with local governments to provide physical and human resources to support emergency response and disaster events.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to provide trained Provincial Emergency Response Teams to lead and support local government emergency and disaster response activities and programs.*

*The Committee is proposing an amendment that addresses the need for the Province and local governments to work collaboratively in the planning and preparation for emergencies in local jurisdictions. Based on local capacity, the Province would also commit physical and human resources to support emergency response and disaster events.*

*Conference decision:*

Transportation

B57  Pedestrian and Cycling Pathways Along Rural Road Rights-of-way  Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has formally recognized the importance of mobility alternatives in achieving transportation goals pertaining to reduced greenhouse-gas emissions and promotion of healthy lifestyles;

And whereas rural communities are experiencing growing populations that rely on road infrastructure not suited to mobility options:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to demonstrate the Province’s commitment to mobility alternatives in rural areas by introducing regional government authority in the planning and development of regional off-road transportation networks and infrastructure within Ministry road rights-of-way.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

**Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to demonstrate the Province’s commitment to walking and cycling infrastructure in rural areas by giving regional governments the option of participating in the planning and development of regional walking and cycling transport networks and infrastructure within Ministry road rights-of-way.**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B63, which called on the Province to “invest in cycling infrastructure in order to accelerate the availability and broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational, and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas.”

An amendment is proposed to provide flexibility by offering the option to participate in planning and development of walking and cycling transportation networks, without imposing a requirement upon regional governments to participate.

*See also resolution B9.*

Conference decision:

**Environment**

**B58 Climate Change Recommendations**

Whereas communities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and local governments are seeking ways to strengthen their resiliency;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to developing a Climate Leadership Plan that supports mutually beneficial climate actions:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be urged to implement all 32 policy action recommendations set out in the “Climate Leadership Team Recommendations to Government” report and work collaboratively with local governments in order to develop policies and programs to mitigate the impacts of climate change on BC communities.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** **Endorse**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**


Conference decision:

**B59 Non-migratory Resident Canada Geese**

Whereas non-migratory resident Canada Geese populations are large and increasing beyond acceptable limits in many local governments, farms, parks and local areas in British Columbia, and are the source of numerous social, economic, environmental, human health and safety impacts and problems;
And whereas the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* of 1918 was established at a time when all or nearly all Canada Geese were migratory between Canada and the USA and were in decline, and assigned the legal mandate for management to the federal government (Canadian Wildlife Service) in cooperation with the provinces (provincial wildlife agencies);

And whereas the Canadian Wildlife Service and the BC Wildlife Branch lack the capacity and mandate to manage non-migratory resident Canada Geese at the local government or local level:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Government of Canada to exempt non-migratory resident Canada Geese from the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* of 1918;

And be it further resolved that the management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese be assigned to local and local government authorities in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that funding be requested from the other orders of government to assist with the management regime at the local government level.

*Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  
*Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Government of Canada to exempt non-migratory resident Canada Geese from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918;*

*And be it further resolved that local government authorities in British Columbia be offered the option of choosing to undertake management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese in their communities;*

*And be it further resolved that other orders of government provide funding to assist local governments who choose to undertake management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese in their communities.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking solutions to control populations of geese, and that some proposals seek greater authority and involvement of local governments in managing the problem (2013-B107, 2011-B42, 2002-B53).

The Committee would hesitate to support a blanket request to download responsibility for control of geese onto all local governments in BC. With the fundamental principle of local choice in mind, the Committee would propose an amendment to provide the option for an interested local government to choose to take on the management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese in their community.

See also resolution C9.

Conference decision:

**B60 Protection of Water Bodies from Invasive Mussels**  
**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has acknowledged the risk posed by invasive mussels to BC water bodies with the establishment of the BC Invasive Mussel Defense Program and more active involvement with Pacific NorthWest Economic Region;

And whereas British Columbia has added Schedule 4 to the BC *Wildlife Act* Regulation, which provides that zebra and quagga mussels are banned alive and dead from possession, breeding, release, and transportation in British Columbia;

And whereas British Columbia has established a roving highway inspection station program at 30 locations to control entry of watercraft into British Columbia from the United States and Alberta;

And whereas, by their nature, this is unlikely to capture all invasive mussels:
Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia restrict all non-BC registered watercraft from entering into British Columbia, and any watercraft registered in British Columbia, that leave the province, or are purchased by BC residents from outside BC require a 30 day quarantine, Ministry approved inspection and/or decontamination prior to being allowed to launch in any British Columbia waterbody.

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 manage the risk of the spread of invasive species quagga and zebra mussels (2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2). Most recently, resolution 2015-B60 requested that the Province establish “permanent inspection stations at key points of entry, coordinated with the Pacific Northwest Regional Defence Strategy for invasive species, and also develop a provincial control and containment strategy for regions that become infested, funded by the Province.”

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government referenced its Invasive Mussel Defence program and also indicated that it was coordinating with neighbouring jurisdictions.

The sponsor has indicated that because quagga and zebra mussels are freshwater species, the request to apply restrictions to all watercraft entering into British Columbia would not apply to ocean-going craft.

Conference decision:

Community Economic Development

B61 Allowable Annual Cut

Whereas the forestry industry provides important employment throughout the province, and long term employment stability is essential, and requires a long term plan for timber harvesting in order to create stable employment;

And whereas the allowable annual cut may be too high over the long term, and at the current rate, forests are being logged too quickly:

Therefore be it resolved that the methodology by which allowable annual cut is determined and approved by the Chief Forester under the Forest Act, be re-evaluated so that stable, long term employment be assured and watershed and wildlife spaces be protected.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and 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 requesting overall provincial re-evaluation of “the methodology by which allowable annual cut is determined and approved by the Chief Forester under the Forest Act,” to support stable, long term employment and protection of watershed and wildlife spaces.

The Committee would note, however, that members have proposed adjustments to the allowable annual cut in certain instances:

- in areas where Mountain Pine Beetle infestation reduced available fibre supply and by extension the allowable annual cut, support and fund Type 4 silviculture strategies (including planting, spacing, pre-commercial thinning, fertilization, rehabilitation of dead pine stands uneconomical to harvest) by increasing funding for Land Base Investment and Forests for Tomorrow (2015-B38)
• amendment of allowable annual cut determinations in fire-prone ecosystems, as recommended in the Filmon Review, to encourage hazard reduction treatments by tenure holders in marginal and uneconomic tree stand areas within the wildland-urban interface (2005-B125)
• a mechanism to grant other operators or communities access to allowable annual cut that is not being used by the tenure holder, if there is an identified use for the wood (Forest Policy Paper, 2002)
• allocation of additional allowable annual cut to production facilities that guarantee to provide more manufacturing jobs than the traditional primary breakdown process (1998-B75)
• acceleration of the timber resource inventory process in support of establishing sustainable annual allowable cuts (1992-B33).

The Committee understands that in December 2015, the UBCM Community Economic Development Committee surveyed UBCM members about their experience with forestry decision making processes, and that many communities expressed concern about the size of the allowable annual cut; how the allowable annual cut is determined; and whether or not adjustments needed to be made to this calculation. The survey results have been conveyed to the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; the Minister’s Advisory Council on Forest and Range Practices; and forest industry associations.

See also resolutions B32, B42 and B89.

Conference decision:

**Selected Issues**

**B62 Legislation and Action for a Barrier-free BC**

Whereas British Columbians with disabilities encounter a variety of physical, sensory and technological barriers as well as ones related to communication, education, employment, attitudes and many others on a daily basis;

And whereas the Government of British Columbia launched a non-mandatory, non-legislated initiative entitled “Accessibility 2024” in 2014 with the goal of making BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by the year 2024;

And whereas both the Province of Ontario and the Province of Manitoba have enacted disability legislation with the Province of Nova Scotia working toward the introduction and enactment of disability legislation in 2016:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM believes it is important to achieve a barrier-free province for all persons with disabilities and calls upon BC’s Legislative Assembly to enact a strong and effective British Columbians with Disabilities Act.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 specifically that the provincial government enact a British Columbians with Disabilities Act.


If the Provincial Government were to proceed with legislation for a barrier free BC, UBCM would look forward to collaborating with the government to ensure that the new legislation would provide communities with adequate flexibility and control to reflect local circumstances, and to ensure that local governments are provided with adequate funding and other supports necessary to implement any new requirements.
See also resolution C22.

Conference decision:

**B63 Review of “Down-loaded” Building Codes**

Whereas after much debate about the accuracy and effectiveness of the code revision process, under recent changes to the BC Building Code, national building regulations now apply to smaller two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, while previously these regulations applied only to larger buildings;

And whereas the Victoria Residential Builders Association has expressed concern to local governments that applying additional new regulations to two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet will drive construction costs upwards, thereby triggering extinction of affordable housing for the average BC family;

And whereas the affordability of new housing, particularly work-force housing such as smaller two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, is a key component to local government economic vibrancy and sustainability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to engage a qualified, independent third party to undertake a cost-benefit review of the impacts on affordability, as well as on safety and energy efficiency, of applying future new national building regulations to two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** *Endorse*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2015-B121, which requested the provincial and federal governments to “undertake a review, by independent third parties, of the appropriateness of provisions of the National Building Code on two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, and the imposition of this on housing affordability.”

In its comments on the 2015 resolution, the Resolutions Committee expressed concern that the proposal to relax code requirements for a particular type of building did not address the potential impacts on health, safety and energy efficiency of the buildings. The Committee observed that the request seemed contrary to past member direction, which has been to pursue greater stringency in building regulation.

The Committee would acknowledge that the sponsor has responded to concerns regarding resolution 2015-B121, and that the 2016 resolution proposes a review of the impact of building code amendments on a range of factors including affordability, safety and energy efficiency.

See also resolutions B45 and B135.

Conference decision:

**B64 Fossil Protection Legislation**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not currently have legislation protecting the paleontological resources and fossil record of this province;

And whereas this lack of legislation has led to the unregulated export of these resources and records out of province;

And whereas the retention and preservation of these resources and records should be an important goal of the Province of British Columbia:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government of British Columbia to enact legislation that both protects and preserves the paleontological resources and fossil record of our province, and contains provision for the establishment of authorized fossil repositories in the province.

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 asking the provincial government to enact legislation to protect and preserve paleontology resources and fossil records in British Columbia. However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2009-B178, which called on the provincial government to establish a facility to preserve, protect, study and display British Columbian paleontology resources.

The Committee also notes that while there are no specific legislative fossil protection measures in BC, there is currently legislation governing fossils, such as the BC Land Act, Park Act, Ecological Reserve Act, Protected Areas of British Columbia Act, Wildlife Act and the Environmental and Land Use Act. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has also been leading the development of a Fossil Management Framework. The Framework aims to: clarify the rules governing the management and use of fossils; manage impacts on fossils from other activities; provide for the stewardship of significant fossil sites; raise internal and external awareness of the framework and the importance of fossils; build knowledge of the nature and extent of the resource in BC; and clarify the rights and obligations of the public, business, government and other stakeholders.

The Committee recognizes that the Framework and current legislative measures may lack the enforcement mechanisms required to address the sponsor’s concerns regarding fossil protection and preservation.

Conference decision:
Elections

B65  Time Available for Mail Ballot Process  Victoria
Whereas the British Columbia *Local Government Act* prescribes local government election processes, including the candidate nomination period and other election timelines;

And whereas local governments endeavour to ensure best practices and operational efficiencies are employed to encourage voter turnout;

And whereas the time period between the end of the nomination period and the beginning of the election period, through advance voting opportunities, is insufficient to enable voters who are absent from the jurisdiction during the voting period, to participate in voting through a mail ballot process:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia amend the *Local Government Act*, prior to the 2018 Local General Elections, to increase the time period between the end of the candidate nomination period and the beginning of the election period, to facilitate the administration of the mail ballot process and provide greater voting opportunities for citizens.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 provincial government amend the Local Government Act to increase the time period between the end of the nomination period and the beginning of the election period, in order to allow sufficient time for administration of the mail ballot process.*

Conference decision:

Transportation

B66  Streamlining Truck Permits  Langley City
Whereas the Province of British Columbia issues transport vehicle permits for over-height, over-weight and over-width vehicles, which include the requirement to obtain permits from local jurisdictions through which they will travel;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation does not enforce the requirement to obtain local jurisdiction permits, and many of the haulers do not obtain permits from the local jurisdictions, meaning local governments are not made aware of excessive weight, height and width vehicles on their roads and therefore cannot reasonably control such road use and cover costs for road maintenance associated with excessive loads:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia review its regulation covering transport vehicle permits and make changes such that obtaining local jurisdiction permits is enforced, that the hauling companies must communicate and receive local jurisdiction approval to drive on local roads and that they further make changes to streamline permit issuance and fee collection to enable haulers one point of contact to obtain permits to travel through multiple jurisdictions.

*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 for provincial regulatory amendments regarding transport vehicle permits, so that the Province enforces the requirement for freight carriers to obtain local government permits; requires carriers to obtain local government approval to drive on local government roads; and provides a single point of contact from which carriers may obtain permits to travel through multiple jurisdictions.

The Committee notes that the sponsor appears to be asking the Province to enforce a requirement that is already in place, a requirement for haulers to have local permits in place before allowing over-sized vehicles to travel through a community.

With respect to the second ‘ask’ within the resolution, streamlining permit issuance by establishing one point of contact for travelling through multiple jurisdictions, this request does appear similar to other schemes such as the mobile business licencing system which allows those doing business in a number of communities have the ability to get a permit to operate within multiple jurisdictions.

The Committee is offering no recommendation based on the absence of policy and to provide local governments with the ability to consider what the impacts of these two types of requests would be for their community.

Conference decision:

**B67 Regulation of Off-road Vehicles**

Whereas small, rural communities could derive economic benefit as service centres for the growing tourism and recreational sport of off-road vehicle touring, and by permitting the operation of golf carts between residential areas and golf courses;

And whereas the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* that came into effect in 2014 and subsequent regulatory amendments that came into effect November 1, 2015 legislates mandatory registration in British Columbia for off-road vehicles and that this legislation applies primarily to Crown lands, including resource roads:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend current legislation to permit local governments to regulate the operation of off-road vehicles and golf carts within local government boundaries, similar to the existing permitted operations for snowmobiles contained within the *Off-Road Vehicle Act*.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  *Not Endorse*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

As a matter of clarification, the Committee would observe that the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* does not permit local governments to regulate the operation of snowmobiles within local government boundaries.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B97, which requested provincial legislative amendments to authorize a local government to regulate the operation of off-road vehicles on municipal roads within that local government’s boundaries.

In response to the 2013 resolution, the provincial government pointed out that ORVs do not require driver licensing, nor do they meet the vehicle safety standards that apply to other motor vehicles that operate on public roadways, and because of this ORVs are not allowed on public roadways except under specific circumstances (farming, industrial, landscaping and maintenance, law enforcement).

The Committee would point out that the 2013 resolution is contrary to previous UBCM policy that consistently requested that the Province enact legislation and regulations with respect to off-road and all-terrain vehicles (2011- B20; 2009-A6; 2005-B10; 2002-B9; 1999-LR4, 1996-B16, 1993-B36).
The Committee would observe that the action requested in the 2016 resolution is directly contrary to the new Off-Road Vehicle Act now in place. Providing a local government with jurisdiction over ORV operation within its boundaries would in effect establish two separate systems for regulating ORVs: provincial and local. This could cause confusion amongst ORV riders about the rules for operators—in which situations would the provincial ORV regulations apply, versus the local regulations? In contrast, the newly implemented province-wide system of registration and licensing ensures there are consistent rules in place from one community to another, which makes it easier for ORV riders who wish to travel across communities and regions through BC’s trail system. Different rules in different communities would constitute a patchwork approach and generate confusion for ORV users.

Conference decision:

**B68 Train Idling**

Whereas diesel locomotive engines emit a variety of pollutants, particulates and greenhouse gases that negatively impact communities;

And whereas many local governments have adopted anti-idling policies and bylaws that benefit air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

And whereas in 2010 the Ministry of Transport published “The Development of Canadian Locomotives Emissions Regulations” that to date has not been acted upon:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM petition the federal government to modernize the Railway Safety Act and other relevant legislation to address excessive locomotive idling and also align with the government’s commitment to reduce climate pollution.

*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 that raised the specific issue of emissions from rail locomotives and called for federal legislative amendments to minimize locomotive idling.

The Committee would note that locomotive idling is not an issue that FCM is presently addressing. Much of FCM’s rail policy work over the past couple of years has been focused on securing amendments to legislation and regulations to improve rail safety in response to rail accidents (i.e. Lac-Mégantic, Calgary) and coordinating /providing local government feedback on the new grade crossing regulations.

Conference decision:

**B69 Accessible Taxi Services**

Whereas the provincial Passenger Transportation Act does not currently specify that special authorization licensees that have passenger directed vehicles require an accessible vehicle in their fleet;

And whereas the City of Williams Lake does not currently have a bylaw related to taxi service:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government amend the Passenger Transportation Act through the Special Authorization Licensing section government by the Passenger Transportation Board in BC to include at minimum one accessible vehicle in their fleet of vehicles when operating a taxi service company.

*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 requesting that the provincial government amend the Passenger Transportation Act to require a taxi service company to provide at minimum one accessible vehicle as part of its fleet.

The Committee would note that members endorsed a related resolution, 2010-B70, which called on the provincial and federal governments to enact legislation that would require Canadian public transportation providers to provide physical access for disabled passengers travelling in Canada. Members also endorsed resolution 2008-B157, asking the Province to increase funding for accessible transportation.

Conference decision:

**Legislative**

**B70 Integrity Commissioner for Local Government Kelowna**

Whereas the current legislative tools available to local government in British Columbia regarding matters of questionable conduct and breaches of code of conduct of elected officials result in expensive quasi-judicial processes eroding public confidence, strained internal relationships, and produce limited viable outcomes;

And whereas elected officials in local government do not have access to independent advice regarding conflict of interest or other matters related to Codes of Conduct, nor an effective process to objectively resolve contraventions, accusations or public complaints:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to enact enabling legislation that would empower local governments with the ability to appoint local independent Integrity Commissioners who would serve the public and elected officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the application and enforcement of Codes of Conduct.

Endorsed by 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 on the provincial government to empower local governments to appoint a local integrity commissioner to provide advice, education, investigation and enforcement of elected official codes of conduct.

The Resolutions Committee acknowledges that the issue of questionable conduct is an emerging policy area for local governments in BC and across the country. As the resolution suggests, the issue is multi-faceted and includes elements of education, advice, investigation and enforcement. Given the complexity of the issue, a thorough policy analysis should be undertaken before solutions are recommended.

Rather than adopt a policy position endorsing an Integrity Commissioner concept at this time, it is recommended that the resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive. In cooperation with the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and the Local Government Management Association of BC, additional policy work would be undertaken over the next 12 months and a full report and recommendation provided at the 2017 UBCM Convention.

Conference decision:

**B71 Extended Absence from Regional District Board Powell River RD**

Whereas subsection 2 of section 204 of the Local Government Act denies a board of a regional district the discretion to deal with an extended absence of a director due to illness or injury;

And whereas the residents of an affected electoral area have petitioned the board of the Powell River Regional District to provide relief at its discretion:
Therefore be it resolved that the Legislature of British Columbia be requested to amend subsection 2 of section 204 of the *Local Government Act* by deleting the reference to “illness or injury”, thus leaving the granting of leave to the discretion of the regional district board.

*Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** No Recommendation

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B104, which requested the provincial government to “provide clearer legislation that establishes respectful, reasonable and responsible guidance as to how Electoral Area Directors and regional districts are to manage extended absences by Electoral Area Directors due to illness or injury.”

In response to the resolution, the provincial government expressed interest in “working with those in the regional district system to improve board operations” and in hearing from regional districts “about specific challenges ... experienced while managing an extended absence” in order to better understand the issue and determine how to address it.

**Conference decision:**

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**Finance**

**B72 Shelf Ready Design Documents**

Whereas when small communities apply for grant funding related to larger projects detailed design documents are required;

And whereas the cost and resources of having these documents available and ready for a small community is difficult to achieve in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that shelf ready design documents from other small communities should be allowed to be used to form part of the grant application.

*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 requesting reuse of shelf-ready design documents from other small communities as part of grant applications.

The Committee would point out that detailed design is often considered an eligible cost under many grant programs. As an example, the Gas Tax Agreement states:

“... design documents, including preliminary, indicative and detailed, are valuable sources of information that support a capital funding application. Information regarding cost and scope are critical in supporting both the evaluation and approval process. Changes to cost and/or scope after an approval can have a negative impact on the eligibility and viability of a project.”

The Committee would observe, however, that while detailed design provides greater definition of both cost and scope, supporting the application evaluation process, it is not always an application requirement. Further, there is no restriction on utilizing existing preliminary or indicative design documents, provided that there has been sufficient rigour in the planning process to support the specific proposal or application. Utilizing existing information and solutions to issues faced by other communities can add value to a planning process and application in some instances.
However, the Committee understands that detailed design is specific to a particular project and local conditions. As indicated in the Gas Tax Agreement, and also true for other capital funding programs, both project cost and project scope are an integral component of application evaluation and project approval. Changes to either cost or scope after project approval can have a negative impact on project viability and implementation. For this reason, the Committee would counsel extreme caution with any project or application that uses detailed design from another project.

The Committee acknowledges that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop infrastructure funding programs which recognize the particular needs of small and rural communities (e.g. 2011-B31), as well as a range of specific reform towards that end, including:

- indexing grants provided to small communities, to better reflect the real conditions and pressures under which local governments operate (2013-B18, 2012-B132, 2006-B83);
- establishing separate funding programs available only to small/rural communities (2007-B7);
- reducing or eliminating the local contribution requirements for small/rural or fiscally challenged local governments (2012-B13); and
- streamlining application and/or reporting requirements (2007-A6).

These, along with an infrastructure survey of the membership, were inputs into UBCM’s submission to Infrastructure Canada on the Long-Term Infrastructure Plan, which recommended, in part:

- broadening the scope of eligible projects to include all local government infrastructure;
- streamlining program requirements to accommodate the broad range of local government capacity; and
- provision of a mix of allocated and application based funding under all programs.

Conference decision:

**B73 Gas Tax Funding Holdbacks**

Whereas UBCM currently holds back 15% of gas tax funded projects while the municipality can only hold back 10% of the tendered/contracted portion of those projects;

And whereas this may put some smaller municipalities in a financial situation that may compromise the success or initiation of an important infrastructure improvement:

Therefore be it resolved that the current policy on funding holdback amounts be amended as follows:

a) The current 15% holdback be changed to 10%

b) The holdback be released as substantial completion is reached in the various components/phases as identified in the funding contract budget.

Endorsed by 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 calling for changes to the disbursement of monies under the Federal Gas Tax Program, such that the funding holdback would be reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent, and the holdback would be released earlier in the project, once substantial completion targets had been reached.

Under conditional funding programs, a holdback is considered a component of best practice in the administration of contribution agreements, providing basic assurances that the terms of a specific contribution agreement are met prior to disbursing 100 per cent of the funding. The Committee understands that the 15 per cent holdback is consistent with current practice for conditional funding programs administered by the Province.
The Committee would also emphasize that under the particular program referenced by the sponsor, successful applicants—including the sponsor—receive 100 per cent funding for the project costs set out in the application. This means that, unlike other funding programs, successful applicants are not required to contribute a 1/3 share or other portion of total project costs. Therefore, the only out-of-pocket expense borne by a successful applicant would have been 5 per cent of the tendered/contracted portion of the project—and this would have been reimbursed fully upon project completion.

Conference decision:

B74 Gas Tax Fire Equipment Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas Federal Gas Tax funding is available to local governments for capital infrastructure and capacity building but with a limited set of eligible project criteria that does not include fire protection;

And whereas the costs of fire protection infrastructure and equipment for rural property owners is often prohibitive because there are fewer properties within small fire protection areas to share those costs;

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to lobby the federal government to amend the Federal Gas Tax Agreement by adding fire protection to the list of eligible project categories that will allow fire protection service areas to access and utilize gas tax funding to construct fire halls and purchase firefighting equipment for the protection of their communities.

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 federal government to amend the Federal Gas Tax Agreement to add fire protection as an eligible project category.

The Committee notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2010-B74, which called on the federal government and the Province to add funding components to infrastructure grant programs "to assist local governments with major facilities projects such as municipal halls, fire halls, public safety buildings and public works yards."

Conference decision:

B75 Equitable and Gradual Police Funding Model Oliver

Whereas the current model of police services for emergent municipalities (5,000 population threshold) creates a sharp increase in costs to taxpayers that go from paying a nominal amount towards front-line police services to paying 70% or more of policing costs;

And whereas unincorporated areas with populations over the 5,000 threshold pay only the provincial police tax which is perceived as inequitable by municipalities and their taxpayers:

Therefore be it resolved that the current model of funding police services for emergent municipalities be reviewed with consideration given to an incremental increase based on gradual population growth;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia review the structure of police services to consider a regional police service model in geographical areas where populations warrant an increased level of participation by both municipalities and unincorporated areas.

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 a review of the funding model for police services provided by the RCMP to “emergent municipalities”, specifically to provide an “incremental increase based on gradual population growth”. The UBCM membership has similarly not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to consider a regional police service model specific geographical areas.

Under the BC Police Act, municipalities must assume responsibility for policing services when their population, according to the Canada Census, reaches or surpasses 5,000 people. Municipalities under 5,000 people and unincorporated areas are required to pay the Police Tax, which acts as a means for the Province to recover up to 50% of the cost of providing enforcement services to these areas.

According to the 2013 BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, the Province intends to consult local governments and other stakeholders to ensure policing is “structured, governed and funded in a rational and equitable manner.”

See also resolutions B81 and B82.

Conference decision:

**B76 Social Procurement**

Whereas fostering the social wellbeing of the community is identified as a municipal purpose by the Community Charter and a regional district purpose by the Local Government Act;

And whereas the widespread adoption of social procurement practices by all local governments in BC will diversify the vendor pool and further leverage tax dollars to better align with community values:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advance the use of social procurement practices by local governments;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider the inclusion of social procurement into Part 6 (Financial Management) of the Community Charter and Part 11 (Regional District-Financial Management) of the Local Government Act.

**Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 encouraging local governments to implement social procurement practices; nor has the membership considered a proposal to amend the Community Charter and Local Government Act to include social procurement in the statutory requirements regarding local government financial management.

According to information provided by the sponsor, social public procurement can be described as follows:

“Social procurement leverages the public procurement process for goods and services, to advance positive economic, workforce, and social development outcomes. Social procurement blends financial and social considerations in public sector purchasing to deliver against two bottom lines:

1. A commitment to purchasing the best value services and products, in keeping with the MEAT criteria, the Most Economically Advantageous Tender; and

2. A commitment to leverage limited public resources to achieve strategic community outcomes.”
The Committee would observe that local governments already have the discretion and ability to include social procurement in their policies and practices if they so choose. This resolution, however, asks the Province to consider legislating a statutory requirement for local governments to undertake social procurement as part of their fiscal practices. If pursued, the statutory requirement would remove a local government’s ability to make its own choices and force all local governments province-wide to implement social procurement as a blanket policy. As a result, the Committee has recommended that the resolution not be endorsed.

Conference decision:

B77 Empowering Local Governments to Pursue Socially Responsible Investing

Whereas many local governments have committed to climate action and socially responsible investing;

And whereas a central strategy for climate change mitigation is to reduce emissions into the atmosphere relating to the consumption of fossil fuels, which includes divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting in renewable sources of energy, employment and revenue;

And whereas local governments are empowered in provincial legislation to invest through the Municipal Finance Authority, and the current investment portfolio offered by the Municipal Finance Authority does not include a fossil-fuel free investment option:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Municipal Finance Authority to create a fossil-fuel-free investment fund to provide local governments with an investment choice that aligns with priorities for climate action and social responsibility.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 asking the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) to create a fossil-fuel-free investment fund as an investment option for local governments.

The Committee would observe that the Municipal Finance Authority is an organization with its own membership and governance authority, and the capacity to consider this issue directly through the MFA’s own governance and policy processes, rather than through a third-party organization such as UBCM.

The Committee understands that recently, the Municipal Finance Authority considered a resolution proposing divestment from fossil fuel-related investments, and resolved to continue following their existing investment policies—i.e., not pursue divestment.

UBCM plays no role in the setting of policy or conduct of business at the Municipal Finance Authority. Because of this, the Resolutions Committee has offered no recommendation.

Conference decision:

Taxation

B78 Municipal Tax Collection and Tax Sale

Whereas in 1988, the Province surveyed municipal tax collectors to obtain information on the effectiveness of tax sale and comments on the process,

And whereas the tax sale process is both onerous and costly to municipalities:
Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be requested to conduct a survey of municipal tax collectors immediately to obtain current information on the effectiveness of tax sale and their comments on the process.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

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 provincial government conduct a survey of municipal tax collectors to obtain their feedback on the tax sale process.

The Committee would observe that while members have not asked for an overall review, they have from time to time sought solutions to specific challenges presented by the tax sale process, such as:

- funding to assist local governments in remediating brownfield sites acquired through tax sale (2014-B91)
- shorter statutory timelines for collection of property taxes in arrears, so that local governments may satisfy their budgetary requirements without having to borrow money to compensate for delinquent and arrears tax revenue that they may be owed (2012-B128)
- Escheat Act handling of properties in arrears that should revert to the Crown—specifically, enable local governments to transfer such properties to the Crown, while ensuring that the Crown compensates local governments for any unpaid taxes or other government levies on these properties (2006-B58)
- replacement of the tax sale with a process based on the forfeiture process in Section 39 of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act (2005-B17)
- local government authority, in the case of manifest error, to set aside a tax sale including proceedings before the tax sale and the entire tax sale procedure (2005-B86)
- reduction of the time period during which an owner may redeem a property sold at tax sale (2000-B76)

Conference decision:

**B79 Provincial Home Owner Grant Program**

Whereas homeowners outside of the Capital, Metro and Fraser Valley regions have been receiving an additional $200 annual Northern and Rural benefit over and above the basic $570 Home Owner Grant since 2011;

And whereas the funding for this additional benefit is provided from the provincial carbon tax, estimated at a cost of $83 million for 2016/17;

And whereas the provincial policy of ensuring that 95 per cent of the eligible homes in the province receive a Home Owner Grant, has now been abandoned, and only 92 per cent will receive a grant in 2016;

An whereas the unfair thresholds for loss of the Home Owner Grant will leave Burnaby with only 78 per cent of eligible homes receiving the Home Owner Grant:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Minister of Finance to undertake a provincial review of the Home Owner Grant Program to determine if a more equitable distribution of the grant across all regions of the province can be achieved.

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 previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to review the Home Owner Grant (HOG) Program and consider amending the HOG distribution formula, for the purpose of equalizing the full range of provincial tax reductions available to homeowners across all regions of the province.
It is the Resolutions Committee’s understanding that the HOG is meant to reduce the amount of property tax an owner pays on his or her principal residence. The Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit, however, is not related to the property taxation system. The provincial government has indicated that it implemented the Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit as one of several tax reduction mechanisms to ensure that the carbon tax remains revenue neutral.

The Committee would ask the sponsor to consider whether amendments to the Home Owner Grant Program—essentially, amendments to the property tax system—are the appropriate mechanism to address perceived inequities within the carbon tax system, which is a completely separate taxation system.

The Committee acknowledges that several past resolutions have addressed the topic of the home owner grant (HOG) specifically. Members endorsed resolution 2007-B111, which in part called on the provincial government to “ensure that Home Owner Grant regulations be made equitable and applied uniformly across the province”. In response, the Province confirmed that the “eligibility threshold is set, and adjusted when necessary, so that more than 95 percent of homeowners qualify for the full grant.” The Committee would clarify that the 2007 resolution pre-dates introduction of the Northern and Rural Homeowner Benefit, so the 2016 request for “equitable distribution” is functionally different from the 2007 request.

Conference decision:

Community Safety

B80 Investigative Standards for the Independent Investigations Office

Whereas the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) is a necessary and appropriate mechanism for investigating serious and fatal police contacts in order to maintain public trust and confidence in the role of police;

And whereas investigating serious and fatal police contacts is highly complex, requiring experienced investigators trained in investigative best practices, and equipped with a high-level understanding of police training and use-of-force tactics;

And whereas serious and fatal contacts with police must be investigated in a clear, transparent and efficient manner:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be called upon to:

(i) establish investigative standards for the IIO that are comparable with major case management and team commander standards, which are currently used in British Columbia when undertaking serious and complex police investigations; and

(ii) develop a system whereby IIO investigators are accredited through the Team Commander Committee, to ensure that training and practices within the IIO are comparable to BC policing 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 previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government set investigative standards for the Independent Investigations Office (IIO), including accreditation of IIO investigators through the Team Commander Committee.

Conference decision:

B81 RCMP Funding

Whereas the Comox Valley is served by an integrated detachment of the RCMP and all the jurisdictions in the Comox Valley receive the same level of service from the RCMP regardless of financial commitment or funding contribution;
And whereas the City of Courtenay funds the greatest number of RCMP members in the Comox Valley and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and responsibility of the RCMP funding model for British Columbia rests with the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to develop an equitable funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts including those served by integrated detachments.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 provincial government to revisit the funding model for police services provided by the RCMP, specifically to address concerns about the portion of the financial burden borne by larger local governments served by integrated RCMP detachments.

Under the BC Police Act, municipalities must assume responsibility for policing services when their population, according to the Canada Census, reaches or surpasses 5,000 people. Municipalities under 5,000 people and unincorporated areas are required to pay the Police Tax, which acts as one means for the Province to recover up to 50% of the cost of providing enforcement services to these areas.

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM’s position is that the provincial government increase the amount of policing resources provided to unincorporated areas and municipalities under 5,000. Given the recent download of DNA analysis services costs to local governments, UBCM and its members are looking to avoid a similar download when it comes to providing policing services to municipalities under 5,000 and unincorporated areas.

According to the 2013 BC Policing and Community Safety Plan, the Province intends to consult local governments and other stakeholders to ensure policing is “structured, governed and funded in a rational and equitable manner.”

*See also resolutions B75 and B82.*

**Conference decision:**

**B82 Analysis of Rural Policing Requirements Terrace**

Whereas municipalities and rural areas in Northern BC continue to experience intense growth due to the expansion of resource development;

And whereas there has been little to no increase for decades in Provincial policing resources to support to growing rural areas serviced out of combined post detachments located within municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to mandate the RCMP to conduct an analysis of all combined post detachments in the province to ensure that there is adequate resourcing for provincially funding RCMP members and administrative support staff.

*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 provincial government to commission an RCMP analysis of combined post detachments “to ensure that there is adequate resourcing for provincially funding RCMP members and administrative support staff.”
The Committee would observe, however, that the question of resourcing rural police services is not new. UBCM members endorsed resolutions 2013-B7 and 2012-B1, both of which called on the provincial government to “review its rural police resourcing models to ensure that adequate resources are available to properly police rural communities.”

See also resolutions B75 and B81.

Conference decision:

**B83 RCMP-based Victim Services**

Whereas the Provincial Police-Based Victim Services Program provides a valuable operational support service to police across the province;

And whereas the Province provides 50% of the program funding to each community, expecting the local governments to provide the other 50%;

And whereas this voluntary funding model has resulted in funding and service provision gaps and disparity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to create a mandatory funding formula for local governments, whose residents benefit from the RCMP-based Victim Services, to fund their portion.

*Endorsed by the North Central 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 establish a mandatory funding formula that would require local governments to contribute toward the costs of RCMP-based victim services programs in their communities.

The Committee acknowledges that the funding of victim services programs has been a long-standing concern of UBCM members; however, previous resolutions have focused on increasing the balance of program costs borne by the Province, or increasing provincial funding for the program overall (including but not limited to 2015-B4, 2014-B4, 2011-B14, 2010-B12, 2008-B4, 2006-B9, 2003-OF1, 2001-B12).

The Committee would observe that this resolution, if endorsed, invites the provincial government to impose a blanket requirement on local governments to contribute funding towards RCMP-based victim services. While some local governments may decide to allocate financial resources towards this RCMP-based program, the Committee would caution against making an assumption that all local governments in BC would wish to do so. The Committee would also note that the resolution is contrary to established UBCM policy, which calls for the Province to increase its contribution towards RCMP-based victim services. For these reasons, the Resolutions Committee has recommended that the resolution not be endorsed.

Conference decision:

**B84 Bylaw Notice Enforcement Maximum Penalty**

Whereas the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* (the Act) provides for a more efficient ticket and adjudication process that municipalities have successfully implemented through bylaw notice enforcement tickets to enforce a variety of bylaw violations;

And whereas tickets issued under the *Community Charter*, Part 8, Division 3 “Ticketing for Bylaw Offences” may be up to $1,000, yet tickets issued under the Act are restricted to only $500;

And whereas the $500 limit reduces the effective deterrence of bylaw notice enforcement tickets and requires municipalities to use the less efficient and more costly *Community Charter* process for tickets over $500:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Attorney General for the Province of British Columbia to increase the maximum allowable penalty provided in Section 6(3) of the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act from $500 to $1,000.

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 requesting that the provincial government “increase the maximum allowable penalty provided in Section 6(3) of the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act from $500 to $1,000.”

The Committee notes that, in 2003, the Province enacted the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act to provide a new means for resolving minor bylaw infractions. Prior to this legislation, the methods used to resolve bylaw infractions (oftentimes formal court proceedings) could be costly and time consuming, leaving some local governments to abandon enforcement. The new legislation created a simpler, more cost-effective model to deal with minor bylaw infractions (e.g. removing the necessity of hiring legal counsel or attendance of witnesses) by moving to a non-judicial adjudicator to hear bylaw ticket disputes.

This bylaw would enable local governments to utilize a higher ticket limit (equal to that which is set out in the Community Charter) while continuing to enforce bylaw infractions through the simpler, more cost-effective Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act.

See also resolution B85.

Conference decision:

B85 Increasing Maximum Fine Amount

Whereas the Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation 425/2003 (BC Reg. 425/2003) in section 2 – Maximum fine amount, limits the maximum fine amount in relation to tickets for bylaw offences to $1,000;

And whereas $1,000 is grossly inconsistent with inflation rates since 2003 and current property values, many serious bylaw offences are enforced by municipal tickets, and municipalities should have the ability to decide the maximum fine limits for tickets for bylaw offences within their jurisdictions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation 425/2003 to increase the maximum fine amount to $5,000 in relation to tickets for bylaw offences.

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 previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to increase the maximum fine amount under the Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation.

See also resolution B84.

Conference decision:

B86 Pet Owners’ Liability Act

Whereas there are pets who damage property and/or inflict injury to persons/other domestic animals and there is limited ability for these victims to seek financial retribution from the pet owner;
And whereas a person who wishes to own a pet should be assuming all of the responsibility associated with pet ownership, including liability:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia establish a Pet Owners' Liability Act that deals with aggressive pets.

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 provincial government to enact a Pet Owners’ Liability Act to address issues with aggressive pets.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed Resolution 2007-B91 that called on the Province to enact legislation to make owners of dogs legally responsible for damages resulting from unprovoked attacks by their dogs.

See also resolutions B87 and B88.

Conference decision:

B87 Provincial Dangerous Dogs Registry Pitt Meadows

Whereas local governments have no means of knowing if a dog either residing or visiting their local government has been previously deemed as a dangerous dog by another local government;

And whereas local governments would like to protect as much as possible both residents and other pets from exposure to dogs that have a history of dangerous behaviour:

Therefore be it resolved that based on the definition of a dangerous dog in the Community Charter, a dangerous dog registry is established and mandated across the province and all local government animal control agencies, municipal police and RCMP are required to register dogs they have deemed as dangerous;

And be it further resolved that all local governments are authorized to use this registry to seek compliance with this designation in their local government.

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 requesting that the provincial government establish a province-wide registry of dangerous dogs, mandating local government participation in the registry, so that local governments may use information from the registry for bylaw enforcement purposes.

The Committee notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2005-B76, which called for amendments to the Community Charter to grant municipalities greater authority and scope of authority to deal with dangerous dogs. Members also endorsed resolution 2012-B2, which requested that the Province provide more resources to expedite prosecution of local government bylaws, particularly relating to dangerous dogs.

The Committee would observe that this resolution asks the Province to institute a requirement for all local government animal control agencies, municipal police, and RCMP detachments to use the dangerous dog registry. If instituted, the requirement would remove a local government’s ability to make its own choices and force all local governments province-wide to contribute to such a registry as part of their protection and enforcement regimes. As a result, the Committee has offered no recommendation.
See also resolutions B86 and B88.

Conference decision:

**B88 Dangerous Dogs Esquimalt**

Whereas local governments protect the public from dangerous dogs and incur significant costs and uncertainty in court due to narrowly drafted provisions under s. 49 of the Community Charter;

And whereas case law interpretation from judges has expanded judicial discretion and oversight beyond the court’s statutory jurisdiction and at the full expense, continuing cost and liability to local government;

And whereas such interpretation of s. 49 undermines public safety to persons, dog owners and their victim dogs or domestic animals and adds increased and unnecessary costs and liability to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support adoption of the Hugo’s and Charley’s Law amendments to s. 49 of the Community Charter, to protect the public and their dogs from dangerous dogs.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** No Recommendation

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking clarity and better definition of local government authority regarding dangerous dogs (2012-B2, 2007-B91, 2005-B76).

The proposed “Hugo’s and Charley’s Law” amendments provide for the possibility of a Consent Order that would set terms and conditions for release of a dangerous dog, as an alternative to a court proceeding. In the event of a court proceeding, the amendments propose a mechanism for the successful party to recover a portion of court costs.

The Committee understands the proposed s. 49 amendments to include small changes to sub-sections 1, 10, and 11, as well as addition of new sub-sections numbered 12 to 17:

(1) In this section:

... “dangerous dog” means a dog that

(a) has killed or seriously injured a person,

(b) has killed or seriously injured a domestic animal, while in a public place or while on private property, other than property owned or occupied by the person responsible for the dog, or

(b.1) has killed a dog, or

(c) an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person.

...

(10) A dog that has been seized under this section may not be impounded and detained for more than 21 days unless court proceedings for a humane euthanization order are commenced within that time.

(11) If an animal control officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a dog is a dangerous dog, the officer may apply to the Provincial Court for an order that the dog be destroyed humanely euthanized in the manner specified in the order.

(12) Prior to trial and as an alternative to humane euthanization, the local government and dangerous dog owner may agree to enter into a Consent Order subsequently approved by a Provincial Court Judge that outlines terms and conditions for the release of the dangerous dog.
(13) Such Consent Order may include but not be limited to the following:

(a) a declaration that the dog is dangerous under this Act along with an accompanying photo and detailed description of the dog to be made public;

(b) a requirement that the owner and his or her dog to receive training, a behavioural assessment and pass a rehabilitation program;

(c) owner compliance with dangerous, aggressive or vicious dog provisions of the applicable local government animal control bylaw;

(d) a last chance clause where if the dangerous dog kills or seriously injures another person or domestic animal as determined by the local government, then such dangerous dog will be seized and humanely euthanized without further order of the court.

(14) If the matter proceeds to trial and upon conclusion of the hearing, a Provincial Court Judge must determine whether the dog is a dangerous dog under the Act, and if so, must order its humane euthanization.

(15) If the court finds a dog to be a dangerous dog, the court may also make the following orders against the owner:

(a) award out-of-pocket expenses to the victim(s) who testified at trial to a maximum of $5,000 with

Conference decision:

Land Use

B89 Strategic Forest Resource Management NCLGA Executive

Whereas managing forest resources is complex and dynamic, involving a multitude of resource values and interests on the same land base and creating the potential for conflict and unwanted cumulative impacts;

And whereas forestry and natural resource policy is spread over a number of Acts and regulations that apply to many different industries and activities, over vastly different landscapes, and are administered by a variety of different officials:

Therefore be it resolved the Government of British Columbia adopt an “umbrella” Natural Resources Act that ensures activities occur according to a common and transparent vision, principles and standards, with coordinated planning, decision making and independent oversight.

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 the provincial government enact “umbrella” legislation in order to coordinate planning, decision making and independent oversight of resource management activities, principles and standards across the province.


See also resolutions B25, B32, B42 and B61.

Conference decision:
Whereas approvals under the *Mines Act* have the potential to be highly impactful to communities making notification of all Mines Act applications to the public critical;

And whereas the *Mines Act* currently grants discretion to the Regional Manager to determine if newspaper notification is necessary;

And whereas some *Mines Act* applications are only advertised in regional newspapers, when local publications within the affected community are available:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to update *Mines Act* requirements such that newspaper notification be required for all applications for permits, extensions and Notice of Work Updates for gravel, mineral or coal extraction in a newspaper publication based within the affected community, should one exist;

And be it further resolved that should a newspaper publication not exist within the affected community, the notification must be in the newspaper publication based closest to the location for the permit.

*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 requesting that the Province amend the *Mines Act* specifically to require all applicants under the Act to publish official notice of application in a newspaper local to the affected community.

However, the Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions calling for improved communication and greater consultation with local governments with regard to mining applications, and for the Province to consider whether applications align with official community plans (2015-B34, 2014-B116, 2009-B43, 2006-B39).

**Conference decision:**

**B91 Effect of Treaties on Crown Tenure and License Holders**

Whereas the governments of British Columbia and Canada are in the process of negotiating treaties with First Nations in British Columbia;

And whereas these treaty negotiations are being conducted in closed meetings, which are not public, open and transparent;

And whereas Crown tenure and licence holders have not been consulted, nor have their interests been represented or properly considered:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the treaty negotiators and the governments of British Columbia and Canada to commit to:

a) Increased openness and transparency in all treaty negotiations;

b) Timely, meaningful consultation with all affected third parties;

c) Minimizing the impact of treaty negotiations and treaties on third party interests, including but not limited to water rights and all tenures on Crown land; and

d) Fully and fairly compensating third parties whose interests are impaired in any way at full market value.

*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 endorsed resolution 1995-A15, which called on the provincial government to institute deadlines for consultation periods with First Nations regarding activities on Crown lands; and award compensation to third parties in cases where third-party interests are compromised due to missed consultation deadlines.

The membership has also endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to establish a meaningful and effective process for the sharing of information between local governments, negotiators, and aboriginal communities (2002-B66), and ensure that there is meaningful consultation with affected local governments from the outset of any initiative to transfer provincial lands to First Nations (2007-B60).

Conference decision:

B92 Processing of Section 107 Road Dedications Burnaby

Whereas the acceptance and processing of Section 107 road dedications by the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia without the signature and approval of the local approving officer is contrary to the prevailing legislation;

And whereas this practice creates ongoing liability, maintenance and community plan concerns for local government operations, particularly when the section is used for the creation of municipal streets:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the provincial government to direct a change of practice on this point, via an updated, written Operating Agreement between the Province and the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia, or via other means as appropriate.

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 requesting that the provincial government work with the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) to improve the procedures for processing municipal street road dedications under Section 107 of the Land Title Act, so that the LTSA meets the statutory requirement to obtain the approval and signature of the local approving officer.

The sponsor has advised that discussions have occurred with the LTSA about this issue and the Authority has indicated that Section 107 contains specific language that allows them to accept alternative methods of filing besides having the local approving officer sign off. The sponsor has indicated it does not agree with the interpretation that has been provided by the LTSA noting that alternatives are only applicable when a ‘parcel’ is being ‘transferred’ and not where a portion of a parcel is being dedicated to create a road allowance.

The Committee is offering no recommendation based on the absence of member policy direction on this issue.

Conference decision:

B93 Boundary Adjustments in the Agricultural Land Reserve Chilliwack

Whereas the provincial Agricultural Land Commission allows an approving officer under the Land Title Act, the Local Government Act, or the Strata Property Act or a person who exercises the powers of an approving officer under any other Act to authorize or approve a plan of subdivision without the approval of the commission;

And whereas notwithstanding s. 18(b) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, parcels created through boundary adjustment to facilitate a residential use in accordance with the provisions as set out in s. 10(1)(c) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation may negatively impact the use of the land for agricultural purposes, increase potential for rural/urban conflict, increase speculation for other uses and contribute to less acceptable land prices for agriculture;

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book
And whereas reducing the minimum parcel size to reflect local residential zone lot size restrictions for parcels created through boundary adjustment to facilitate a residential use would minimize the impact on farmland in order to protect viable, high quality, productive agricultural lands for long term agricultural use:

Therefore be it resolved that s. 10(1)(c) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation be amended such that the minimum parcel sizes created through boundary adjustment be reduced from no parcel in the reserve of less than one (1) hectare to no parcel in the reserve of less than one-half (0.5) hectare or smaller.

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 asking the provincial government to amend the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to reduce the minimum allowable parcel size created through boundary adjustment to one-half (0.5) hectare, down from one (1) hectare.

Conference decision:

B94 Removal or Demolition of Vacant and Derelict Buildings

Whereas the appearance of run-down and poorly maintained vacant and derelict buildings can have negative effects of neighbouring homes and businesses, become occupied by squatters, and deter investment and redevelopment of neighbouring properties;

And whereas property owners often keep vacant and derelict homes and buildings, rather than remove or demolish them due to favourable bank or finance lending terms afforded due to their existence:

Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be asked to work with the appropriate orders of government, and regulatory authorities, to implement the appropriate legislative or Bank Act changes needed to address this issue.

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 seeking provincial or federal legislative amendments specifically to change the practices of the finance and lending sectors, so that land owners would be discouraged from allowing buildings on their property to become run down or derelict.

The Committee would observe that the issue of vacant or derelict buildings is not new, and members have endorsed resolutions proposing amendments to the Community Charter to provide local governments with tools to address the problem:

• amend the Community Charter to grant municipalities the option of setting differing property tax rates for land and improvements, to encourage development and improved maintenance of derelict buildings and vacant land (2012-B130, 2007-B72)
• amend the Community Charter to authorize municipalities to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements on owners or occupiers of property concerning the aesthetic condition of vacant buildings (2007-B71)

Conference decision:
Selected Issues

B95  Allocation of Provincial Funding Grants for Regional and Municipal Libraries

Whereas the allocation of provincial funding grants for regional and municipal libraries is based on a formula of half the converted value of land and improvements, and half the population of the service area;

And whereas in rural areas with low population and lower land values this formula results in insufficient funding and hardship to the residents who are more dependent on library services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish an adequate funding model for libraries in rural areas with a population of less than 5000.

_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 that requested the provincial government to amend the funding model and formula for public libraries that serve rural areas with population less than 5,000.


Conference decision:

B96  Community Charter and Local Government Act Index

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has adopted the Community Charter and Local Government Act;

And whereas there are 191 local governments in British Columbia who use these legislative tools routinely;

And whereas currently there exists no effective and user-friendly index:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to prepare and provide to local governments in British Columbia an effective and user-friendly index for the Community Charter and Local Government Act, and that this task be set as provincial priority for 2016/2017; or alternatively, that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities contract with CivicInfo BC to create a functional index for the Community Charter and Local Government Act.

_Endorsed by the North Central 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 calling on the provincial government or UBCM to produce an index to the Community Charter and Local Government Act. Historically, UBCM has not been involved in indexing provincial legislation.

The Committee understands that third-party, fee-for-service tools already provide the function requested in the resolution.

Conference decision:
B97  Gender Neutral Language  

Whereas the use of gender neutral language is professionally accurate and respectful, allowing local governments to conduct their business in a manner that is inclusive of all members of their communities;

And whereas the federal and provincial governments have already enacted policy to use gender neutral language such as the Federal Plan for Gender Equality:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to require the use of gender neutral language in local governments across British Columbia, bringing local governments in line with the provincial and federal standard of document and policy writing that recognizes the value of gender equality as recognized in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

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 requesting the provincial government to require BC local governments to use gender neutral language in conducting their operations.

The Committee does note, however, that members endorsed resolution 1990-B17, which asked the provincial government to change the title of municipal elected officials by replacing the gendered term “alderman” with the gender neutral term “councillor.” The provincial government implemented the change in title.

The Committee would observe that local governments already have the option to employ gender neutral language. This resolution, however, asks the Province to institute a requirement for all local governments to use gender neutral language throughout their operations. If instituted, the requirement would remove a local government’s ability to make its own choices in this area. As a result, the Committee has offered no recommendation.

Conference decision:

B98  Transgender Rights  

Whereas transgender and gender variant members of our communities face shocking rates of harassment, discrimination, and social exclusion which interfere with threaten their lives and reduce their ability to participate fully in civil life;

And whereas the wording of provincial human rights legislation is not always explicit about the protection afforded to transgender people on the basis of gender identity and gender expression;

And whereas the majority of Canadian provinces have made amendments to their human rights legislation to explicitly protect transgender and gender variant people;

And whereas the government of British Columbia has failed to introduce explicit protection for transgender and gender variant people on the basis of gender identity and gender expression, despite having suitable draft legislation before it since 2011;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the province of British Columbia, through the Premier and the Attorney General, to adopt explicit protection for transgender and gender variant British Columbians by including gender identity and gender expression in the BC Human Rights Code, and that UBCM urge other local governments in BC to develop and implement transgender inclusion policies in order that transgender and gender variant citizens can be better included in all our communities.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  No Recommendation
The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to adopt explicit protection for transgender and gender variant people by including gender identity and gender expression in the BC Human Rights Code; and in addition calling on local governments to develop and implement transgender inclusion policies in all communities.

The Committee understands that in July 2016, the provincial government expressed intent to amend the BC Human Rights Code to include “gender identity or expression” among the protected grounds covered by the code.

Conference decision:

B99 Parental Rights for Elected Officials

Whereas the BC Employment Standards Act guarantees the rights of parents to maternity and parental leave;

And whereas the Local Government Act and Community Charter fail to protect parental rights of local government elected officials, requiring council or regional district board approval of leave for elected officials who become parents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to guarantee maternity and parental leave for elected officials to be consistent with the Employment Standards Act provisions following the birth or adoption of a child;

And be it further resolved that the legislation be amended to permit the elected official to return to work on the same terms that were in place at the start of their leave, and that any changes in the elected official’s appointments to committees, boards or commissions will not be made as a result of the maternity or parental leave.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 asking the provincial government to harmonize the Local Government Act and Community Charter in order to guarantee parental leave for elected officials that is consistent with the Employment Standards Act.

Conference decision:

B100 Auditor General for Local Government

Whereas the membership of UBCM remains unsatisfied with the consultation with BC local governments surrounding the creation of the office of the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG);

And whereas the provincial government has made a strong commitment to the ongoing work of the office of the AGLG;

And whereas in the past year, the office of the AGLG has greatly improved its efforts to consult with BC local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM acknowledge the continuing existence of the office of the AGLG and agree to work with the office to help ensure AGLG audits and best practice guides (perspectives booklets) provide maximum value to BC local governments.

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 endorsed resolution 2015-B85, which called on the Province to “eliminate the Auditor General for Local Government due to the fact that the requirements of such an office are already met under existing local government legislation and regulations.”

In response to resolution 2015-B85, the provincial government stated that it is “committed to continuing the work of the Auditor General for Local Government” and indicated that it would not consider eliminating the AGLG.

Based on the policy direction set by the 2015 resolution, the Committee recommends that the 2016 resolution not be endorsed.

By way of background, the Committee would note that in 2011, UBCM members endorsed a policy paper regarding a proposed Municipal Auditor General. Through the policy paper, the UBCM membership expressed explicit disagreement with “the necessity to create an office of the Municipal Auditor General, due to the fact that requirements of such an office are already met under existing local government legislation and regulations,” but instructed the UBCM Executive to “engage with the Province, to work towards identification of gaps in the local government financial accountability system, and implement solutions to those gaps” in keeping with the principles set out in the policy paper.

Until superseded by the 2015 resolution on this topic, the direction set in the policy paper shaped UBCM’s advocacy and response as the provincial government then proceeded to establish the office of the Auditor General for Local Government.

Conference decision:

B101 Non-treaty First Nations Participation in UBCM Port Hardy

Whereas the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recognized and receives membership from treaty First Nation governments in BC;

And whereas non-treaty First Nation governments should be recognized the same as treaty First Nations, municipalities and regional districts when it comes to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that the membership of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities formally recognize the ability for all First Nation governments to join as delegates;

And be it further resolved that all First Nation governments be provided with an invitation to endorse the recommendation to participate in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to UBCM Executive

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the UBCM membership formally recognize the ability for all First Nation governments to join as delegates, and invite all First Nation governments to participate in UBCM.

To ensure that it understands the question of membership in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the Resolutions Committee would begin its analysis of this resolution by considering the UBCM membership criteria, the application process to become a UBCM member, and the context of the First Nation governments who are presently members of UBCM. Historically, the First Nation governments that have joined UBCM have done so after the ratification of a treaty or self-government agreement. However, the Committee would clarify that neither treaty status nor a self-government agreement is required for membership in UBCM. Pursuant to section 1(a) of the UBCM Bylaws, the criteria for a local government or First Nation government to qualify for UBCM membership are:

- elected representation;
- ability to tax; and
- ability to exercise regulatory power or provide local services.
The Committee would emphasize that treaty status, or reaching a self-government agreement, are not amongst the criteria used to determine whether a First Nation government might be eligible to join UBCM. First Nation members of UBCM have qualified to apply for membership as a result of meeting the three criteria referenced above: elected representation, tax authority, and regulatory or service delivery authority.

The Committee understands that under certain legislative mechanisms, outside and unrelated to the treaty process, First Nations may attain tax authority and regulatory or service delivery authority. In these cases, the governments of such First Nations may meet the membership criteria and become eligible to apply to join UBCM. Any First Nation government or local government that believes it meets the membership criteria is welcome to apply for UBCM membership.

At present, the criteria render ineligible for membership a number of local regulatory bodies, such as boards of education and parks boards; as well as service provision organizations such as improvement districts. The sponsor has indicated, however, that this resolution proposes to open up UBCM membership to any First Nation government in BC, regardless of whether the First Nation government meets the UBCM membership criteria.

The Resolutions Committee appreciates that this resolution, and the proposal to open membership to all First Nations in BC, is informed by the UBCM membership’s commitment to relationship building and reconciliation between local governments and First Nations. The Committee also recognizes that an open invitation for membership may have implications that reach beyond local government and First Nation reconciliation and relationships. For this reason, the Resolutions Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive. The Executive would conduct further research, including communication with indigenous governance organizations and with the UBCM membership, as well as consideration of the implications of a change or waiver of UBCM membership criteria. The Executive would provide a full report and recommendation at the 2017 UBCM Convention.

Conference decision:

B102 Support for Prioritizing Resolutions

Whereas the number of resolutions endorsed by the membership of the local government area associations and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) is very large and without ranking or prioritization and results in a large list of resolutions which can be in some cases ignored by the provincial government and is difficult for various executives to take actions on;

And whereas often the less important resolutions without clear recommendations for support receive the most debate and media attention while some of the most pressing and important resolutions are adopted as part of a block without any attention:

Therefore be it resolved that other British Columbia area associations and UBCM implement a prioritizing practice into their resolutions processes.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered a similar resolution, 2015-B101, which encouraged area associations and UBCM to “implement a prioritizing practice into their resolutions process.” The membership did not endorse resolution 2015-B101.

The Committee would observe that members have considered a number of resolutions related to the resolutions process and specifically prioritization of resolutions. A resolutions process review was initiated by resolution 2008-B137, which requested that each area association prioritize and submit their top 5 resolutions for debate at Convention; that the UBCM Executive bring forward a maximum of 25 member resolutions for debate at Convention; and that UBCM develop a tracking system for resolutions.
Since receiving resolution 2008-B137, the Committee would note that UBCM has:

- presented a policy paper to the UBCM membership at the 2009 Convention and a subsequent policy paper at the 2010 Convention;
- consulted with area associations, the UBCM membership, Convention delegates, past and current members of the UBCM Executive including Resolutions Committee members, and former and current staff;
- reviewed and amended the UBCM Bylaws, Conference Rules and Procedures, and Executive Policies; and
- amended the placement, grouping and handling of resolutions prior to and at Convention.

In 2010 members endorsed resolution ER1, resulting in amendments to the UBCM Bylaws that changed the resolutions process in response to the 2009-2010 review.

The most recent resolution related to the resolutions process was in 2014, when members endorsed resolution B85, requesting that UBCM “adopt a form of FCM’s policy for handling resolutions, as follows:

1. Resolutions that are in line with existing policy are dealt with and forwarded as they are received, with the sponsor notified.
2. Resolutions that need quick action are dealt with by staff and executive when received if they are non-contentious.
3. Resolutions that create new policy and/or resolutions that the sponsor specifically requests debate on are forwarded to the AGM.
4. Results of how each resolution is being dealt with reported out in The Compass.”

The Resolutions Committee considered resolution 2014-B85 at its first meeting in February 2015, but declined to make further changes to the handling of resolutions, citing the significant amendments already made in response to resolution 2010-ER1. The Committee favoured other measures, such as providing more extensive education and information to members about the existing resolutions process and UBCM’s reporting out methods.

Conference decision:

**B103 Code of Conduct for Conferences and Events**

Whereas Union of British Columbia Municipalities delegates and attendees are entitled to a safe and healthy conference experience;

And whereas many conferences provide a code of conduct upon registration to ensure the health and safety of all delegates and attendees;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM implement a code of conduct for conferences, all events connected with the conference including all receptions and traveling to and from;

And be it further resolved that UBCM provide a code of conduct that addresses safety, sexual harassment, and discrimination; provide a safe mechanism for reporting breaches in conduct; and include consequences for implications and/or suspected breaches including potentially expelling from the conference without refund.

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 requesting that UBCM implement a code of conduct for conferences, related events, and transportation, that would address safety, sexual harassment, and discrimination; provide a safe mechanism for reporting breaches in conduct; and include consequences for implications and/or suspected breaches including potentially expelling from the conference without refund.

Conference decision:
### Assessment

#### B104 Taxation of Brownfields

Whereas brownfields have a significant, negative environmental, economic, and social impacts on a community;

And whereas brownfields in northern and rural communities in particular often have a negative cash value where there is no economic incentive for the property owner to remediate the property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to create a new tax class for brownfield sites so that local governments can tax these sites accordingly.

*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 provincial government to create a new assessment class for brownfield sites, to enable local governments to set a specific multiplier for property tax on brownfields.

The Committee would observe that the question of brownfield sites is not new, but the resolutions put forward previously have focused on either expediting the remediation of contaminated properties (2013-B33, 2012-B26, 2011-B99, 2008-B33, 2007-B29, 2007-B70, 2001-B76, ); or fine-tuning the criteria applied by BC Assessment when assessing contaminated properties (2013-B26, 2011-B37, 2005-B21, 1996-ER5).

#### B105 Varied Tax Rate for the Residential Class

Whereas the Province of British Columbia through the BC Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 specifies that there is one assessment class for all types of residential properties and the Community Charter outlines that a municipal bylaw to establish the property value taxes each year under section 197(3) specifies there is a single rate for each property class;

And whereas the assessed value of the multifamily strata units are remaining constant and the single family residential properties are increasing at an accelerated rate causing a greater share of the property value taxes generated in the residential class to be borne by the single family residential properties:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia amend the BC Assessment Act and the Community Charter to allow the residential class to be split into two distinct residential classes so that a different rate may be applied to each type of residential property to more equitably share the tax burden between the single family residential properties and the multifamily residential strata properties.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  *Not Endorse*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently defeated resolutions seeking to split the residential assessment class in order to apply different tax rates to different types of residential property. Members considered but did not endorse resolutions 2003-B79, 2002-B41, 1995-B37 and 1988-A16 on this topic.

The Committee understands the rationale for the resolution, but would suggest that the potential impact is far-reaching and could trigger a proliferation of classes and sub-classes. Past resolutions have requested all manner of special treatment by creating new classes and sub-classes of property.
The Resolutions Committee would ask the sponsor to consider whether the municipality has other tools available to level the playing field between single family and strata developments, apart from this significant change to the assessment system for the province as a whole. Alternative finance mechanisms might include parcel taxes, user fees, or differential utility fees.

Conference decision:

Community Economic Development

B106 Funding for Agricultural Rainwater Harvesting Systems
Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas the cost of water conservation, sustainability, and drought management are currently high profile issues, and developing a policy framework and funding program to support rainwater harvesting systems is vital to supporting the agricultural industry and enhance vibrant local food systems across the province with safe, consistent and affordable access to water;

And whereas the establishment of a fund for the rebate portion for agricultural rainwater harvesting systems will:

- Reduce the draw on regional, municipal and ground water systems,
- Lead to an increase in the amount of irrigated land,
- Increase overall agricultural production,
- Increase water availability for trending urban agricultural initiatives,
- Promote conservation strategies, and
- Showcase simple and effective solutions for increased water system sustainability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to establish immediately the development of policy and procedures for a rainwater harvesting system rebate program for agricultural users, which includes both above ground (cistern) and in-ground systems province-wide.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 provincial government to develop policy and procedures for a rainwater harvesting system rebate program for agricultural users, including both above ground (cistern) and in-ground systems province-wide.

Conference decision:

Regional Districts

B107 Water and Sewage Disposal Services in Electoral Areas
Peace River RD

Whereas the ability of regional districts to establish essential services for the provision of safe drinking water and sewage disposal in electoral areas is difficult when consent of the electorate must be obtained to establish these crucial services;

And whereas access to clean drinking water and environmentally safe disposal options for sewage are considered an essential service within a municipality who do not require consent of their electorate to establish these services over their boundaries;

And whereas the Local Government Act allows regional districts to establish other important services, such as emergency planning and emergency communications systems, through participating area approval by way of written consent of the electoral area director(s) under the Act:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to provide the option to establish drinking water services and sewage disposal services in electoral areas only in the same manner as those services listed under section 339(2) of the Act and therefore not require consent of the electorate.

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 amendments to the Local Government Act to authorize a local government to establish, without seeking consent from the electorate, drinking water or sewage disposal services in electoral areas.

Conference decision:

Environment

B108 Review of Professional Reliance Model Cowichan Valley RD
Whereas the provincial government is increasingly utilizing professional reliance regimes where industry proponents employ professionals to meet the public interest in natural resource management and environmental protection associated with their projects;

And whereas recent reports and audits suggest serious deficiencies in monitoring and compliance on the part of qualified professionals and a lack of oversight on the part of provincial regulating agencies:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province assess the effectiveness of current professional reliance regimes in order to reduce potential for conflicts of interest, ensure appropriate checks and balances, improve environmental performance and restore government approval authority where necessary.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 asking the provincial government to conduct a review of liability and risk assessment regarding professional reliance regimes, including but not limited to the professional reliance established through environmental or natural resources regulatory frameworks.

Conference decision:

B109 Aquifer and Water Source Protection Spallumcheen
Whereas there are many communities with highly sensitive, vulnerable aquifers and waterbodies that may be negatively impacted from intensive farming and other uses;

And whereas protecting our existing and future water sources are of the utmost importance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to require mandatory environmental farm plans, including soil testing and that communities be allowed to limit uses in areas with sensitive vulnerable aquifers and waterbodies.

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 provincial government to protect water sources from intensive farming by requiring environmental farm plans and soil testing, and authorizing local governments to limit land uses in areas with vulnerable aquifers and water sources.

The sponsor has indicated that they have communicated with the Ministry of the Environment to express support for the review and updating of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation, including revisions to minimize impacts of manure storage and application on surface and groundwater quality.

See also resolution B25.

Conference decision:

B110 Protection of Active Riverbeds  Keremeos

Whereas climate change is resulting in ever more extreme conditions in British Columbia’s rivers, including low water levels that endanger fish and riparian species;

And whereas camping in riverbeds has contributed to pollution of precious water resources, riverbeds, and sensitive riparian areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations amend current legislation under Forest Recreation Regulation #16/2004 of the Forest and Range Practices Act, from allowing camping for 14 days to prohibiting camping within active riverbeds throughout British Columbia.

Not presented to 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 asking the provincial government to amend the Forest Recreation Regulation to prohibit camping within active riverbeds.

The Committee would note, however, that members have consistently supported protection of riparian areas throughout the province (2010-B26, 2007-B42, 2004-B78, 2001-B82) as well as protection of watersheds (including but not limited to 2015-B32, 2014-B88).

Conference decision:

B111 Rainwater as a Potable Water Source  Nanaimo RD

Whereas small water systems that operate under the Drinking Water Protection Act and provide water to the public have the need for alternate potable water supplies in rural, un-serviced communities in BC;

And whereas rainwater has the potential to be a safe additional drinking water source to augment low-yielding groundwater or surface water supplies;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to develop rainwater-specific treatment objectives and standards, source characterization protocols and infrastructure requirements, to enhance the ability of small water system operators to implement and local health authorities to approve rainwater source(s) for potable water.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 provincial government to develop regulations to enable use of rainwater as a potable water supply.

Conference decision:

**B112  Disposal of Yard Waste**

Whereas burning of yard waste is no longer an option for municipalities;

And whereas disposing of yard waste at landfills is both cost prohibitive and not environmentally friendly;

And whereas the cost of composting yard waste is prohibitive without a reliable end-user market:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment provide communities with a solution based way to facilitate the disposal of yard waste.

*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 requesting assistance from the provincial Ministry of Environment to develop solutions for disposal of yard waste.

Conference decision:

**B113  Safe Soils Program**

Whereas the spread and proliferation of invasive species through many regions of the province comes from the re-distribution of invasive species laden soils and lends to increasingly costly mitigation and control strategies born by regional governments and municipalities;

And whereas there is no certification or regulation program in place to allow industries to participate and denote their soils as invasive-free otherwise referred to as a “Safe Soil”, via a set protocol and processing criteria, and thus no opportunity for purchasers to differentiate between invasive free and invasive laden materials:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial Ministry of Agriculture develop a “Safe Soil” certification program, that incorporates a processing standard and labeling regime, that soil sellers (wholesale/retail) can choose to participate, offering the purchasers seeking to manage risk clear choice of purchasing soils that are free of invasive pests.

*Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 the provincial government to develop a “Safe Soil” certification program to help combat the spread of invasive species.

Conference decision:
B114  Regional Hospital Districts  Nelson

Whereas regional hospital districts were created by provincial legislation to raise a ‘local share’ of capital costs for hospital equipment and building through property taxation with the ‘local share’ historically held at 40% for regional hospital capital projects with the Province contributing 60%;

And whereas local governments have limited ways to generate funding to pay for local services and infrastructure since property taxes are the primary source of revenue and are being stretched to meet the diverse demands local governments already face and cannot sustain the increased load in meeting hospital board expenditures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to acknowledge that property tax revenue is an unsuitable avenue to fund hospital infrastructure renewal projects, and prioritize the urgent review of the historic cost sharing ratio.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:


Responding to the most recent resolution, 2014-B35, the provincial government referenced $9.1 billion in health sector investments since 2001; a planned $2.9 billion health sector capital plan; a new multi-year capital budgeting system; and a capital policy framework. The Province also indicated that funding for health authorities would increase eight per cent over three years.

The Committee would clarify that for each proposed capital project, a regional hospital district has the authority to determine for itself the percent share of costs that it will bear. There is no requirement for regional hospital districts to cover 40% of the costs of capital projects; however, the Committee acknowledges many local governments’ observations that without a “voluntary” regional hospital district commitment to cover 40% of costs, capital projects do not receive sufficient provincial funding to move forward.

The Committee is aware that in 2008, UBCM worked with the Ministry of Health to review regional hospital district cost-sharing, and the review resulted in eleven recommendations. The provincial government in 2011 provided a progress update on implementing the recommendations. Since 2011, however, the Committee understands that capacity limitations within the provincial government have delayed further implementation of the recommendations.

Conference decision:
Section B—Part 3-a
Resolutions Proposing New Policy

After consideration of Section B2-b resolutions, a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

*Shall the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section B—Part 3-a be adopted?*

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Section B—Part 3-a resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such 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 to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered after the primary motion had been decided.
Section B3-a

Community Safety

B115  BC Child Protection Services
Colwood

Whereas the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has recommended improvements to the delivery of BC child protection services, and for the Province of BC to adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

And whereas the Sooke School District (No. 62) has also called for these improvements and for the province to fully fund the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC government be asked to take action to improve the delivery of BC child protection services, fully fund the office of the BC Representative for Children and Youth, and follow the provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 that generally called on the provincial government to improve the delivery of child protection services in BC.


Conference decision:

B116  Payday Loans Regulation
Maple Ridge

Whereas current provincial regulation in British Columbia sets payday loan lending rates at 23% for a 14 day loan, equivalent to 600% a year;

And whereas payday loans have been shown to contribute to poverty, trapping vulnerable persons in a cycle of short term debt:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to revise the Payday Loans Regulation under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act to limit loans to a 60% annual interest rate, in line with the usury laws of Canada’s Criminal Code.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee notes that resolution 2015-B122 called on the provincial government to amend the Payday Loans Regulation to lower the maximum fee percentage and interest rates, and require payday lenders to offer instalment-based repayment options. The resolution also called for provincial legislative amendments to “prohibit the issuing of more than one loan in the same week to the same applicant from any lender.”
Due to time constraints, the UBCM membership did not consider resolution 2015-B122 at the 2016 Annual Convention. The resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive, who upon consideration referred the resolution to its Community Safety Committee. The Resolutions Committee understands that the Community Safety Committee is engaged in further research into the issue of payday loans regulation.

Conference decision:

**Transportation**

**B117  Passenger Rail Service Between North Vancouver and Prince George**

Whereas in October 2002, passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George was discontinued seriously damaging community life, tourism and the economy of those communities and further burdening highway systems, the environment and personal finances;

And whereas travelling by rail is a more ecologically and environmentally friendly method of transportation with regard to air quality and climate pollution and considering vehicle travel is one of the fastest growing contributors to greenhouse gas emissions accounting for about 25 per cent of energy related carbon dioxide emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government consider reinstituting passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George.

*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 supported upgrading and expansion of rail networks in BC and across the country.

Members endorsed resolution 2010-B15, which called on the provincial and federal governments to create an electric rail network that would provide passenger and freight service between urban centres across Canada.

Members also endorsed resolution 2003-B62, which called on the provincial government to engage in broad consultation with communities, customers and employees, in order to develop a strategy for long-term rail transportation in BC that would:

- maintain north-south rail service; and
- re-introduce passenger service.

Conference decision:

**Environment**

**B118  BC-wide Youth Cycling Education Framework**

Whereas the transportation sector represents the largest part of British Columbia’s total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), with individuals generating over half of their own GHG emissions through transportation activities;

And whereas studies have shown that the number of cyclists increases significantly when investments in cycling infrastructure are complemented by education and awareness programming;

And whereas existing cycling education programs in BC rely on local funding and are therefore unevenly available across the province, and do not have consistent, formally-instituted teaching standards or oversight;

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book 167
And whereas emerging evidence suggests that consistent, comprehensive and effective cycling skills training for young people influences their future transportation decisions towards increased cycling:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to implement and fund a province-wide cycling education framework for children and youth as proposed by BC Bike Right Network.

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 on the Province to “implement and fund a province-wide cycling education framework for children and youth.”

The Committee notes, however, that members endorsed a related resolution, 2010-B17, which asked the provincial government to work with local governments on a province-wide cycling development program that would in part “ensure safety is paramount through ... cyclist and driver education programs.”

Conference decision:

Selected Issues

B119 Income Assistance Nelson

Whereas in recent years the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation has changed its service delivery model such that in-person, direct services have been dramatically reduced and income assistance services are now primarily provided remotely by centralized telephone line and over the internet;

And whereas these service delivery changes have introduced significant barriers to people on or seeking income assistance and made it excessively difficult for many individuals to receive the support they require:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be requested to work with the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation to ensure that people requiring help to access income assistance receive such help appropriate to their needs and abilities (in-person where required) in a timely manner, and in a way that does not place additional economic burden on that person (e.g. repeatedly using pay as you go cell phone minutes waiting on hold for excessive lengths of time, paying for computer/internet usage, travelling long distances to Ministry offices from surrounding areas due to local office closures, etc.) and further, in a manner that does not download the responsibility for this assistance to other service providers without compensation for such additional work.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2005-B52, which in part called on the provincial government to “end the centralization of employment and assistance field services, so as to prevent barriers to assistance access by keeping physical services within the local community.”

In response to the 2005 resolution, the provincial government emphasized the 103 employment and income assistance offices operating across the province at that time, complemented by Service BC locations in some remote communities. The Province highlighted its practice of providing services via phone or internet, “in order to improve access for everyone, particularly people with disabilities and people living in remote areas.” In addition, the provincial government indicated that it provided monthly payments by direct deposit where applicable, in order to ensure that clients have immediate access to assistance.
The Committee notes that members also endorsed resolution 2012-B95, requesting that the Province address citizens’ needs, particularly those from rural and remote communities, by “making qualified, live-in [service] delivery personnel permanently funded and resident in our towns.”

See also resolution B120.

Conference decision:

**B120  Income Assistance Rates Increase**  
Whereas the income assistance rates set by the provincial government of BC are well below the federal government measurements of low income in Canada;

And whereas the BC income assistance rates have not been increased since 2007:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase income assistance rates in BC by 25% in 2017.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:**  
**Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

**Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase income assistance rates in BC by 2017.**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically proposed a 25% increase to provincial income assistance rates by 2017.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions in support of more general increases to income assistance rates (2015-B45, 2014-B12, 2013-B130, 2011-B175, 2006-B171, 2005-B51, 2004-B134).

See also resolution B119.

Conference decision:

**B121  Standardize Provincial Approach to Tenant Assistance**  
Whereas it has been noted that additional local government policies, guidelines and approaches for tenant assistance often result in more beneficial outcomes for tenants than would have been achieved under the *Residential Tenancy Act*;

And whereas the uneven existence and application of said policies, guidelines and approaches across Metro Vancouver and the Province of BC creates an unequal and uncertain environment for tenants, landlords and developers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to include an improved and standardized approach to tenant assistance, particularly in relation to tenancy dissolution and/or relocation as a result of building demolition.

*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 on the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act*, specifically to address concerns around tenancy dissolution or relocation as a result of building demolition.
However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2014-B51, which requested that the Province undertake a more general review of the Residential Tenancy Act in order to “address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.”

In response to the 2014 resolution, the provincial government suggested that the dispute resolution and arbitration processes provided by the Residential Tenancy Branch are effective. The Province expressed willingness to work with stakeholders to improve processes, but stated that at the time it had no plans to amend the Residential Tenancy Act.


See also resolutions B63, B135, B137 and B144.

Conference decision:
Health

B122 National Pharmacare Program Victoria

Whereas the City of Victoria has been recognized and demonstrated its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community; and Canada is currently the only country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program, with over 3 million Canadians unable to afford the cost of medicines prescribed by doctors, and the risk of having no insurance for medicines particularly high among lower income Canadians, including many workers with precarious and seasonal employment;

And whereas research suggests that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system is sound policy, both economically and socially; would lower costs to businesses by as much as $8 billion per year, with a corresponding competitive advantage for Canadian companies; and could produce substantial cost savings for local government expenditures on employee benefits;

And whereas a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia work with all provinces and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, to improve the health outcomes of citizens, ensure fairness in access to medicine, and provide for greater efficiency and effectiveness in Canada’s health care system.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 the provincial government to work with the other provinces and territories and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program.

The Committee notes that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities adopted a similar resolution at its 2016 Annual Conference.

Conference decision:

B123 Rural Pharmacies Hudson’s Hope

Whereas numerous small isolated communities presently receive their prescriptions and over-the-counter medical supplies from “tele-pharmacies” whose staff work under the supervision of a pharmacist located at a distance and available by phone;

And whereas many of those communities are in danger of losing their pharmacy services at the end of 2016 because of a shortage of qualified pharmacy technicians in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work with the College of Pharmacists to design a system which facilitates education and training easily accessible from rural areas, thus allowing tele-pharmacies to continue to operate and provide services in small communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation
UBCM Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution proposing that the provincial government should work with the College of Pharmacists to establish distance education and in-service training for pharmacy technicians, to facilitate the continued operation of tele-pharmacies in rural and remote areas.

This is an issue that the Healthy Communities Committee has investigated through correspondence with the College of Pharmacists of BC. In response to the Committee, the College advised that the requirement to have a regulated pharmacy professional in tele-pharmacy sites is an important public safety measure. They also noted that the requirements for pharmacy technician staff are not new, but were made in 2010.

However, the Resolutions Committee also notes that UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions supporting educational programs to address difficulties in recruitment of medical and other professionals in rural and remote areas. This includes, but is not limited to 2015-B3, 2010-B112, 2008-B50, 2008-B2, 2007-B3 and 2006-B69.

Conference decision:

B124 Recognition and Regulation of Physician Assistants Central Coast RD

Whereas the BC Ministry of Health has undertaken operational reforms in an attempt to revitalize the primary care system, but communities across the province still experience physician shortages and other significant primary care challenges;

And whereas physician assistants (PAs) are qualified health professionals whose role is to provide a broad range of medical services under physician supervision; who are licensed to practice in many provinces across Canada, as well as in the Canadian Armed Forces; and who are recognized by the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants and the British Columbia Medical Association (Doctors of BC);

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly encourage the provincial Ministry of Health to recognize and regulate physician assistants so that they may practice in BC, with establishment of an appropriate system for liability coverage, and regulatory oversight by an organization similar to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, as one of the steps toward meeting health care demands and alleviating physician shortages in all areas of the province.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 the provincial government to recognize and regulate physician assistants to enable physician assistants to practice in BC.

Physician’s Assistants are generalists who practice medicine within a defined scope of practice authorized by a physician within a formalized supervised practice arrangement. This contrasts with Nurse Practitioners who are Registered Nurses with advanced education and training in a clinical specialty who carry out legislated nursing services independently and other delegated tasks under physician supervision.

Physician Assistants are regulated in Manitoba, New Brunswick and Ontario. They are also registered through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, but are not regulated by the Province of Alberta. There are currently four accredited Physician Assistant training programs in Canada. These programs vary in structure, but include one year of clinical rotation in areas such as emergency medicine, pediatrics or internal medicine.

Conference decision:

B125 Saving Lives Through Organ Donation Kamloops

Whereas organ donation saves lives;

And whereas one in ten citizens living in BC is affected by kidney disease where organ donation is the best option for living well and contributing fully to family and community;
And whereas BC has one of the lowest organ donor rates in Canada;

And whereas the Kidney Foundation has challenged BC mayors and councillors to save lives by raising awareness for organ donation in their communities;

And whereas BC mayors and councillors have the leadership and resolve to encourage citizens in their communities to register as organ donors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon all BC local government elected officials to accept the Kidney Foundation’s challenge to save lives through organ donation in their communities and to work with the Kidney Foundation to increase the number of people registered as organ donors in their respective communities.

Not presented to 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 local government elected officials to work with the Kidney Foundation to increase the number of people registered as organ donors in their communities.

Conference decision:

B126 Eliminate Fees for Prostate-Specific Antigen Testing
and Designate Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Whereas one in eight men in British Columbia will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime representing the number one cancer risk to men;

And whereas the economic, family and social costs to our province would be significantly diminished through increased awareness and early detection:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government make prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing free for all men in the province to ensure that all men have the opportunity to have prostate cancer diagnosed as early as possible so that survival and quality of life will be improved;

And be it further resolved that UBCM and its constituent members declare September to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 provide free prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing for all men in BC.

The Committee notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2015-B105, requesting that the provincial government proclaim September to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

See also resolutions C14 and C15.

Conference decision:
Environment

B127  West Coast Herring Recovery Plan  Powell River City

Whereas Fisheries and Oceans Canada has initiated a 2016 commercial herring fishery and roe herring harvest in the Salish Sea;

And whereas a previous moratorium on the commercial fishing of herring in the late 1960s resulted in significant recovery of herring populations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to direct the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to initiate a process to develop a west coast herring recovery plan, with local communities, First Nations, independent scientists and naturalists;

And be it further resolved that a moratorium on all commercial fishing of herring be instituted immediately until populations recover to the level decided upon by the herring recovery plan.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 federal government to develop a west coast herring recovery plan, nor have members called for a moratorium on commercial fishing of herring.

Conference decision:

B128  Unredeemed Container Deposits  Highlands

Whereas the protection of greenspace is essential to our environmental, social and economic wellbeing and many of BC’s most valuable and most threatened ecosystems are found on private lands;

And whereas $10-15 million could be raised annually for conservation by following the example of several states and recapturing the windfall monies that accrue when consumers fail to redeem container deposits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government redirect unredeemed container deposits into an annual fund for the acquisition and protection of privately owned natural spaces in BC.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 proposing that the Province establish a fund, using revenues from unredeemed container deposits, to acquire and protect privately owned natural spaces in BC.

Conference decision:

B129  Cigarette Butt Deposit Return Program  North Vancouver City

Whereas cigarette butts are a significant source of litter in many local communities;

And whereas cigarette butts are non-biodegradable and leach toxic organic chemicals and heavy metals into the environment impacting soil, fresh and saltwater, and have a significant negative impact on the aquatic and land-based organisms that ingest them;
And whereas a cigarette butt deposit-return program offers a promising solution to significantly reduce cigarette butt litter and improve environmental health:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC Ministry of Environment implement a province-wide cigarette butt deposit-return program for the elimination of cigarette litter.

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 previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to implement a deposit-return program for cigarette butts.

Conference decision:

B130 Reinstatement of PST Exemption for Electric Bicycles

Whereas cycling has become an integral part of local government transportation systems across the province of British Columbia and an important method for reducing community greenhouse gas emissions;

And whereas electric bicycles have become increasingly popular for their capacity to support people from a range of ages and abilities to incorporate cycling into their daily activities;

And whereas PST exemptions are already in place for standard bicycles, transportation fares, as well as financial incentives for clean energy vehicle purchases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to reinstate the PST exemption for electric bicycles to help ensure the environmental and health benefits of cycling are accessible to a wider range of British Columbians.

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 previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government reinstate a PST exemption for electric bicycles.

Conference decision:
B131  Adult Education
Qualicum Beach
Whereas adult basic education provides adult learners with access to courses and skills training from basic literacy to adult high school graduation, but in 2014 the provincial government announced $6.9 million in cuts to adult basic education programming in BC and, at the same time, introduced provisions to allow the charging of tuition fees for adult basic education;

And whereas charging tuition fees for adult basic education reduces enrolment and negatively impacts current and prospective adult learners:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government reinstate long-term, dedicated funding for adult basic education in British Columbia, in order to provide adult learners with continuing opportunities to develop literacy, numeracy and computer skills, as well as social skills and self-confidence.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 the provincial government to restore long-term, dedicated funding for adult basic education.

See also resolutions C18, C19 and C20.

Conference decision:

B132  School Bus Transportation Funding
Peace River RD
Whereas in 2012 the provincial government changed the formula for transportation funding for school bussing to a Student Location Factor that it is based on a measurement of population density and not population dispersion within a region;

And whereas school districts are allocated the same funding for students attending a school within 10 km of their homes as they would within 100 km of their home;

And whereas this change in funding formula has left rural school districts in a position where they have had to make drastic budget cuts and charge families fees for this service in order to make up the funding shortfall:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to reconvene the committee that developed the Student Location Factor in order to reconsider the issue of school bus transportation funding and impacts to school divisions and rural and remote areas.

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 the provincial government convene a committee to consider the issue of school bus transportation funding and its impact on school districts in rural and remote areas.

The Committee acknowledges that members endorsed a related resolution, 1998-B51, which proposed that the provincial government should enact legislation to permit the amalgamation of public transit and school bus operations, with the objective of enhancing or maintaining these services at an overall reduced cost to the taxpayer.

Conference decision:
B133  Access to Services for Youth Transitioning Out of Care  Maple Ridge

Whereas youth in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development often lose significant access to services when they age out of care at age 19;

And whereas youth in care have been shown to struggle with this transition and be at risk for homelessness, and mental health and addictions issues:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to develop transition services for youth in care that extend services to the age of 24.

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 provincial government to develop transition services, available from the ages of 19 to 24, for youth who are aging out of care of the provincial government.

See also resolution C21.

Conference decision:

B134  Bus Passes  Lake Country

Whereas the Province announced that beginning September 1, 2016 a person with disabilities on disability assistance will receive a monthly rate increase of $77 which will be reduced by the amount for clients who receive transportation assistance, and in addition, persons with disabilities will be required to pay a $45 annual administration fee to apply for an annual BC Bus Pass;

And whereas the rate for disability assistance in BC has been frozen at $906 a month since 2007:

Therefore be it resolved that persons with disabilities receive an increase in disability assistance of $77 a month, that the cost of transportation assistance not be deducted from the increase in disability assistance and that the fee for a BC Bus Pass remain at $45 annually.

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 asking the provincial government not to deduct the cost of transportation assistance from the disability assistance amount, while allowing the annual fee for a BC Bus Pass to remain at $45.


Conference decision:

B135  Affordable Homes and Property Transfer Tax  Capital RD

Whereas the issue of affordable housing is one of critical growing concern;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to take action to reduce the negative impacts on housing affordability in our province by reducing the Property Transfer Tax on both new and existing homes.
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2006-B81, which called on the Province to exempt non-profit housing organizations from the property purchase tax, in support of those organizations’ role in providing affordable housing. In response to the resolution the provincial government highlighted the work of its own agency, BC Housing, to support the efforts of non-profit housing organizations.

The Committee would observe that the scope of the 2016 resolution is broader, in that it seeks to reduce the property transfer tax levied on all property sales. The Committee also notes that as part of the 2016 provincial budget, the provincial government expressed intent to increase the property transfer tax rate on the portion of fair market value over $2 million, to three per cent from two per cent.

Previous endorsed UBCM resolutions have requested that the Province share the revenues from the Property Purchase Tax with local governments for the prescribed purpose of affordable housing (2007-B109; 2007-B110; 2007-B23; 2005-B87; 2004-A8).

The Resolutions Committee would observe that the UBCM membership endorsed expansion of local government revenue tools as a foundational concept of the Strong Fiscal Futures blueprint for strengthening the BC local government finance system. Sharing a portion of the property transfer tax with local government was specifically identified as a way to expand revenue tools for local government. With this in mind, the Committee would ask whether reduction of property transfer tax might take away a potential solution.

See also resolutions B45 and B63.

Conference decision:

B136  Foreign Investors in Real Estate  

Whereas it is well known that Vancouver has become one of the least affordable places to live in the developed world, and that the housing situation in Metro Vancouver has reached a crisis point;

And whereas speculation in residential real estate, particularly by foreign investors, is having a significant impact on housing prices and affordability for those living and working in the Metro Vancouver area;

And whereas housing is a necessity for all residents, and not simply a commodity of trade;

And whereas unaffordable housing results in lost productivity as workers commute longer distances, it impacts economic growth as more household income is devoted to housing costs and as skilled workers leave Vancouver, and it negatively affects the diversity of our communities;

And whereas it has been suggested that foreign investors avoid paying the applicable taxes on real estate investments through various means:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government, and the federal government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to take immediate action to discourage speculation in real estate, particularly by foreign investors, and to ensure that foreign real estate investors pay a fair share of provincial and federal taxes.

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 previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial and federal governments to discourage speculation in real estate, and to ensure that foreign real estate investors pay provincial and federal taxes.

Conference decision:

**B137 Tenant Evictions Through Renovations** New Westminster

Whereas the practice of “renovictions,” by which some landlords evict their tenants under the guise of performing major renovations and then significantly increase the rent of those units, is on the rise in our province;

And whereas this practice is very disruptive to those impacted, including the elderly, low-income families and new immigrants, and contributes to housing unaffordability and homelessness;

And whereas municipalities are limited in their ability to address this issue and many tenants are unaware of their rights or are reluctant to exercise them:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to allow renters the right of first refusal to return to their units at a rent that is no more than what the landlord could lawfully have charged, including allowable annual increases, if there had been no interruption in the tenancy.

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 previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to offer renters evicted due to major renovations “the right of first refusal to return to their units at a rent that is no more than what the landlord could lawfully have charged, including allowable annual increases, if there had been no interruption in the tenancy.”

The Committee would note, however, that members endorsed resolution 2014-B51, which called on the Province to review the Residential Tenancy Act “in order to address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.” The Province in response stated that it did not plan to amend the Residential Tenancy Act.


See also resolutions B121 and B144.

Conference decision:

**B138 Designate National Aboriginal Day as a Statutory Holiday** Metchosin

Whereas June 21, National Aboriginal Day, recognizes and celebrates the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada;

And whereas it is considered a statutory holiday for people working in Aboriginal organizations, but not for most Canadians, meaning most Canadians are not able to participate in the recognition and celebration of First Nations’ cultures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial and federal governments to designate June 21, National Aboriginal Day, as a statutory holiday for all Canadians.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM 2016 Resolutions Book 179
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 UBCM work with the provincial and federal governments to designate June 21, National Aboriginal Day, as a statutory holiday for all Canadians.

**National Aboriginal Day** was declared a national holiday in 1996, and is intended to be a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Northwest Territories have designated June 21st as a statutory holiday, and the Yukon is currently evaluating the financial and economic implications that making this change would have on local businesses and organizations. No other Canadian jurisdictions recognize National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday.

Conference decision:

**B139 BC Family Day**

Quesnel

Whereas the Family Day holiday is observed in British Columbia on the second Monday in February, while the Family Day holiday is observed on the third Monday in February in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, along with Louis Riel Day in Manitoba, Heritage Day in Nova Scotia and Islander Day in Prince Edward Island;

And whereas aligning the BC Family Day holiday with other provinces would allow families to more conveniently share the holiday with family from other provinces;

And whereas weather on the later February weekend is generally expected to be more favourable for highway travel as compared to a week earlier:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to approve widespread calls to align the date of the BC Family Day holiday with the other provinces in Canada by moving the date of the BC Family Day holiday from the second Monday to the third Monday in February.

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 provincial government to move the annual Family Day holiday to the third Monday in February, in order to harmonize with other provinces.

Conference decision:

**B140 Discontinuance of Annual Time Change**

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the Province of BC has the authority to regulate time change and currently observes Pacific Standard Time with an annual time change to Daylight Savings time but for certain areas of the north and southeast corners of the province;

And whereas data supporting the occurrence of adverse health effects on individuals following the annual time change and negating the energy savings argument continues to grow:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to consider discontinuing the annual time change within the Province of BC.

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 resolutions 1999- B98 and 1993-A23, both of which requested that the Province adopt daylight savings time year-round for areas of BC within the Pacific time zone. However the Committee recognizes that significant time has passed since the assembly last considered these resolutions, and the membership’s policy direction may have changed.

Conference decision:

Transportation

B141 Highways Maintenance Fernie
Whereas providing safe and well-maintained highways, roads and bridges is the responsibility of the Province of BC;
And whereas the Province of British Columbia has privatized the maintenance of BC’s highways, roads and bridges;
And whereas the request for proposals is open to the current companies that hold contracts and new bidders who are under no obligation to retain the current contractor’s professional, skilled, and trained employees or maintain successorship rights;
And whereas loss of jobs in local communities will have negative impacts on those economies:
Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government retain these skilled jobs by awarding maintenance contracts for highways, roads and bridges to companies that will maintain the employment and successorship rights which will benefit local economies.
Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

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 provincial government award highway maintenance contracts locally and in a way that grants local successorship rights.

The Committee would ask whether the provisions of inter-provincial and international trade agreements such as the New West Partnership, CETA, and NAFTA would permit the strategy for awarding highway maintenance contracts that is proposed in the resolution.

Conference decision:

Taxation

B142 Tax Exemption for Emergency Preparedness Kits New Westminster
Whereas emergency preparedness is a concept promoted by all levels of government;
And whereas a well prepared community allows our emergency responders time to respond to the most critical emergency calls first:
Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UBCM ask other orders of government to eliminate all provincial and federal taxes for the purchase of bona fide emergency preparedness kits.

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 requesting that other orders of government provide a sales tax exemption for emergency preparedness kits.

Members have endorsed resolutions calling for provincial sales tax exemptions for equipment used for fighting fires, life-saving, and volunteer search and rescue activities (2009-B6, 2007-B22, 2005-B14, 2003-B14, 2001-B23, 1990-B31). In these situations, the equipment would have been purchased by a local government, or by a non-profit community organization such as a volunteer fire department or volunteer search and rescue group.

The Committee would observe, however, that the 2016 resolution differs from previous resolutions in that it appears to seek sales tax exemption on emergency preparedness kits purchased from retail stores by individual consumers. The Committee would also note that not all communities have access to pre-packaged emergency preparedness kits.

**Conference decision:**

**Community Safety**

**B143  Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Removal**  
**Burnaby**  
**Port Coquitlam**

*Whereas:*

- asbestos exposure is the leading cause of work related deaths in BC;
- WorkSafe BC found 43 per cent of all hazardous material surveys done by contractors renovating or demolishing homes were inadequate;
- WorkSafe BC lacks the tools for enforcement and monitoring of existing hazardous material regulations;
- there is currently no provincial certification or licensing in BC of asbestos abatement professionals to ensure standards and allow for the suspension of non-compliant contractors; and
- mandatory provincial certification and licensing of demolition and environmental remediation contractors would allow local governments in BC to require these licenses from contractors as a condition for issuing demolition and renovation permits:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government require mandatory licensing, certification and enforceable compliance in safely handling asbestos and other hazardous material for all demolition, renovation and environmental remediation contractors.

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 previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require licensing, certification and enforceable compliance for all contractors that handle asbestos and other hazardous material.

*See also resolution C3.*

**Conference decision:**

**B144  Reflective Products for Non-professional Road Users**  
**New Westminster**

*Whereas the federal government announced it is participating in the UN’s Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020;*
And whereas many pedestrians are killed or injured in motor vehicle accidents, particularly at night due to a lack of visibility:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the federal Minister of Transportation and the provincial Minister of Transportation require a standard for reflective clothing, products and accessories for non-professional road users.

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 requesting that the provincial and federal governments establish standards to require non-professional road users to wear reflective and other safety clothing and accessories.

Conference decision:

B145 Extending the Civil Resolution Tribunal to Tenancy Nelson

Whereas the Province has created the Civil Resolution Tribunal (CRT) to reduce barriers to access to justice and increase convenience and efficiency in the resolution of strata disputes and small claims;

And whereas tenants and landlords who wish to enforce their rights under the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) face excessive waits, representing a significant barrier to equality of access to justice and contributing to landlords reporting that they are converting to short-term vacation rentals, depleting an already strained rental market:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government consider extending the CRT’s mandate to include the resolution of residential tenancy disputes;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government be urged to encourage the provision of long-term rentals by strengthening the enforcement process to ensure timely, binding justice for landlords and tenants, including strengthening interprovincial enforcement of tenancy-related monetary judgements.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to extend the mandate of the Civil Resolution Tribunal to include residential tenancy disputes.

The Committee would acknowledge, however, that issues with the effectiveness of the residential tenancy dispute resolution process are not new. Members endorsed resolution 2012-B98, which called on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act “such that the Residential Tenancy Branch enforces their dispute resolution decisions or orders, and does so within a reasonable timeframe.”

In response to the resolution, the provincial government stated that it had “no plans to change the enforcement process.”

See also resolutions B121 and B137.

Conference decision:
Section C

Part 1 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to policy papers and/or special sessions at Convention:

[No resolutions have been placed in this section.]

Part 2 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the Resolutions Book:

C1 – C22

Part 3 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to the Area Associations due to being of a regional nature:

C23 – C29
Section C2

C1 DNA Analysis Costs

Whereas the costs of DNA analysis services are steadily increasing;

And whereas the Province of BC has announced it will only contribute $1.36 million per annum, regardless of the actual costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate on behalf of all local governments for the Province of British Columbia to index their contribution to the rising costs of DNA analysis services.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution A1.

C2 DNA Downloading

Whereas DNA analysis is a judicial issue in the administration of justice and constitutionally the responsibility of the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province pay 100% of the RCMP costs for DNA analysis; And be it further resolved that the Province establish a DNA laboratory in British Columbia.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution A1.

C3 Mandatory Certification and Licensing of Asbestos and Hazardous Material Removal Contractors

Whereas asbestos exposure is the leading cause of work related deaths in BC;

And whereas WorkSafeBC, the provincial agency charged with ensuring safety for workers, found 43 percent of all hazardous material surveys done by contractors renovating or demolishing homes were inadequate but WorkSafeBC lacks the tools for enforcement and monitoring of existing hazardous material regulations;

And whereas there is currently no provincial certification or licensing in BC of asbestos abatement professionals to ensure standards and allow for the suspension of non-compliant contractors;

And whereas mandatory provincial certification and licensing of demolition and environmental remediation contractors would allow local governments in BC require these licenses from contractors as a condition for issuing demolition and renovation permits:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government require mandatory licensing, certification and enforceable compliance in safely handling asbestos and other hazardous material for all demolition, renovation and environmental remediation contractors.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments: Refer to resolution B142.

C4 Short-term Residential Rental Accommodations

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work with BC Assessment and UBCM to remove these operational inequities by seeking resolution to the issue, perhaps with the development of a new property tax classification that would allow municipalities to capture lost tax revenues and to “level the playing field” between commercial accommodators and those competing with them from within the residential property class.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments: Refer to resolution A4.

C5 Tax Fairness for Online Accommodation Booking Platforms

Whereas the explosive growth of online accommodation booking platforms is forcing many BC local governments, large and small, to take urgent action to protect affordable housing stock for long-term residents;

And whereas Ministry of Finance regulations currently provide that anyone offering four or more units, on their own behalf or on behalf of another owner, must collect and remit Provincial Sales Tax and Municipal and Regional District Tax (Hotel Tax);

And whereas the Ministry of Finance has so far not applied this regulation to online booking operators, creating a tax advantage for those offering rooms or suites online with negative consequences for housing affordability and exiting accommodation operators:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to ensure tax fairness and a level playing field for online accommodation booking platforms by collecting all applicable sales taxes at point of purchase on daily private room rentals.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments: Refer to resolution A4.

C6 Collection of Provincial Sales Tax and Municipal and Regional District Tax on Short-term Accommodation

Whereas the explosive growth in short-term accommodation rentals in BC communities facilitated by online booking platforms (such as airbnb, VRBO, etc.) impacts the availability and price of housing for long-term rentals and purchasers;

And whereas the majority of short-term accommodation rentals offered by online booking platforms do not collect or remit provincial sales tax (PST) and Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) where applicable, and thereby enjoy a further tax advantage over traditional short-term accommodation providers (hotels and motels);
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to ensure tax fairness and a level playing field by collecting all applicable taxes (PST and where applicable MRDT) on short-term accommodation rentals offered by online booking platforms and other means.

Not presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution A4.

C7 Federal Marijuana Tax Fund Prince George

Whereas BC local governments bear the financial burden of federal government policy approaches that emphasize enforcement of marijuana prohibition, consume significant portions of municipal budgets and that divert law enforcement attention away from criminal activities where police involvement can better improve community safety;

And whereas UBCM in the past has endorsed a resolution calling on other orders of government to research the regulation and taxation of marijuana that could provide funding to local government as a revenue source for police activities related to community safety and drug law enforcement;

And whereas UBCM has reviewed possible taxation models and suggested a model similar to that of the Gas Tax Fund, which would create a new revenue source for local government and that would be established within federal legislation;

And whereas the federal government has indicated that it plans to consult with Canadians in 2016 and to introduce new marijuana legislation in 2017:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to request the federal government include local government as part of the marijuana taxation equation through the establishment of a federal marijuana tax that would provide revenue that would be shared with local governments across the province.

Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution A3.

C8 Marijuana Revenues Nelson

Whereas the Government of Canada has publicly declared its intention to legalize, regulate and restrict access to marijuana with creation of a new system of marijuana sales and distribution with appropriate federal and provincial excise taxes applied;

And whereas the new legal framework will not completely eliminate the costs associated with enforcement initiatives related to drugs in Canada, it is expected they will be significantly reduced, providing the federal government opportunities to redirect savings and invest in youth engagement and prevention programs and initiatives that include community partnerships with provincial and local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Government of Canada to share a portion of revenues realized from the legalization and regulation of marijuana together with a share of savings realized from reduced enforcement costs with provincial and local governments given the marked impact that marijuana sales and distribution will have upon Canadian communities and the need for direct investments to youth engagement initiatives not limited to recreation, health care programs, employment, community and cultural programs.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments
C9 Non-migratory Resident Canada Geese

Whereas non-migratory resident Canada Geese populations are large and increasing beyond acceptable limits in many local governments, farms, parks and local areas in British Columbia;

And whereas non-migratory resident Canada Geese are the source of numerous social, economic, environmental, human health and safety impacts and problems;

And whereas the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was established at a time when all or nearly all Canada Geese were migratory between Canada and the USA and were in decline;

And whereas the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 assigned the legal mandate for management to the federal government (Canadian Wildlife Service) in cooperation with the provinces (provincial wildlife agencies);

And whereas the Canadian Wildlife Service and the BC Wildlife Branch lack the capacity and mandate to manage non-migratory resident Canada Geese at the local government or local level:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Government of Canada to exempt non-migratory resident Canada Geese from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918;

And be it further resolved that the management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese be assigned to local and local government authorities in British Columbia.

C10 Watershed Protection Outside of Community Jurisdiction

Whereas agencies responsible for areas impacted by logging are not required to consider cities, towns, villages and hamlets that may be affected by logging upstream of their communities;

And whereas agencies are not required to consult with communities and other water purveyors downstream of logging activity:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government require that all agencies responsible for logging activity taking place in a watershed that will potentially affect a community or other water purveyor, inform the affected community through public consultation, providing mitigation measures and obtain their approval before logging begins.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association
And whereas the harvesting of lumber may have a significant impact with regard to water licenses, recreational tourism and slope stability:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to implement policy to ensure adequate consultation and response time between the provincial government, affected land owners and local governments to solicit input with regard to the issuance of timber licenses.

_Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association_

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** Refer to Similar Resolution

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**
Refer to resolution B32.

**C12 Restoration of BC Agricultural Extension Services**

_Quesnel_

Whereas the agriculture industry in BC is an extremely important economic sector providing strong and independent jobs with good potential for growth with the right forms of support;

And whereas British Columbia has the oldest farmers on average in Canada (56 years) and the lowest percentage of farmers under 25 years of age, necessitating the need for training a new generation of farmers;

And whereas there are significant gaps in knowledge and training for existing farmers and those wanting to enter the agriculture sector;

And whereas due to various factors, including climate change, aging demographic of farmers, Provincial expropriation of lands to accommodate industry and emphasis on revenue from exports, our ability to provide a sustainable food source for British Columbians is declining;

And whereas for the purpose of defining the scope of Agricultural services that should be provided in the Province of British Columbia, “Extension Services” will be defined as, “the process of facilitating access to—and transfer of—knowledge and innovation among agricultural producers in a manner that enables them to prosper and adapt to changing conditions”:

Therefore be it resolved that in support of the Province of British Columbia’s Jobs Strategy, UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to deliver a province-wide community based agricultural extension program to support knowledge enhancement for new, prospective and existing farmers in British Columbia while improving future food security.

_Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association_

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** Refer to Similar Resolution

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**
Refer to resolution B40.

**C13 Diagnosis of Work-related Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Among First Responders**

_New Westminster_

Whereas first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are required to prove to WorkSafeBC that the disorder happened out of and during the course of employment, even when their medical doctors have diagnosed the disorder as work-related;

And whereas WorkSafeBC denial of these claims simply shifts the burden of compensation onto private insurance carriers and local governments;

Therefore be it resolved that a medical diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder by a bona fide medical practitioner representing the patient, be presumed by WorkSafeBC as to have happened out of and during the course of employment, with the burden of proof to the contrary borne by WorkSafeBC.
Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B43.

C14 Eliminate Fees for Prostate-specific Antigen Testing Colwood
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government make prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing free for all men in the province to ensure all men have the opportunity to have their prostate cancer diagnosed as early as possible so that survival will be improved.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B126.

C15 Prostate-specific Antigen Testing Langley Township
Therefore be it resolved that prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing be free for all men, where warranted, with respect to current medical guidelines and best practices regarding age, risk factors and consultation with a physician.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B126.

C16 Poverty Reduction Plan for BC Rossland Richmond Nelson
Whereas the poverty rate in British Columbia continues to be among the highest in Canada at approximately 1 in 10 using the most conservative estimate (low income cut-off – after tax), and child poverty rates in BC are still 1 in 5;

And whereas many impacts of poverty are experienced at the local level, and local residents pay for poverty in increased health care costs, higher crime, higher demand for community, social and charitable services, lack of school readiness, reduced school success, and lower economic productivity;

And whereas 78 per cent of British Columbians want the provincial government to implement a poverty reduction plan;

And whereas BC is the last province in Canada to have a commitment to a poverty reduction plan:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government develop and implement a provincial poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in BC by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B47.
C17 National Housing Strategy

Whereas safe, adequate and affordable housing is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of individuals and the social and economic wellbeing of communities;

And whereas local governments lack the resources to be able to fundamentally address issues of affordable housing in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM bring a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ 2017 Annual General Meeting to strongly encourage the federal government to prioritize the development of a national housing strategy to address access to affordable housing across the housing continuum, in conjunction with provincial and local governments.

Not presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B45.

C18 Investing in Post-secondary Education

Whereas education is both an economic and social driver, and therefore of benefit to local communities;

And whereas two major changes in advanced education policy in the past two years (the elimination of tuition-free Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language programs, and the launch of the Skills for Jobs Blueprint) have had a dramatic negative effect on student choices and access to post-secondary programs for BC students:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Federation of Post-secondary Educators’ “Open the Doors” campaign and pledge support for a fully-funded, public post-secondary system.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B131.

C19 Funding for Post-secondary Education

Whereas education is both an economic and social driver, and therefore of benefit to local communities;

And whereas two major changes in advanced education policy in the past two years (the elimination of tuition-free adult basic education and English as a second language programs and the launch of the Skills for Jobs Blueprint) have had a dramatic negative effect on student choices and access to post-secondary programs for BC students:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators’ “Open the Doors” campaign and pledge support for a fully-funded, public post-secondary system;

And be it further resolved that the Government of British Columbia restore full funding to BC’s public post-secondary system, including free tuition for adult basic education and English language programs.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B131.
C20  Funding for Adult Basic Education  Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the loss of funding for adult basic education programs has created financial barriers to learning, and impedes individual and community economic and social progress;

And whereas the public interest is served by eliminating barriers to education:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly encourage the provincial government to reinstate funding to the post-secondary system to provide free adult basic education programs critical to the future prosperity of BC communities.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B131.

C21  Fostering Change: Supporting Kids Aging Out of Care  Vancouver

Whereas Fostering Change is an initiative of Vancouver Foundation to improve supports for young people aging out of foster care in British Columbia, who experience far greater rates of homelessness, unemployment, and lower high school graduation rates than their peers;

And whereas young people from care have far fewer family and community relationships and resources that are critical to the success of most young people in their 20s;

And whereas, since its founding in 2013, Fostering Change has brought together young people in and from care, diverse community organizations and members of the public through a series of dialogues to create a statement of principles for sign-on by community partners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Fostering Change statement of principles: “We believe youth aging out of foster care should be able to count on three things until age 25:

- consistent financial support with basic living costs like housing, transit, and food while they attend school, learn skills, and find work;
- long-term relationships with caring dependable adults for support, advice, and references, so that they always have somewhere to turn;
- a chance to connect and contribute to their communities through creative, cultural, and volunteer activities, so that they feel like they belong.

We believe this will make a difference, and ask community, political, and business leaders to commit to a plan that includes these supports.”

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:  Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:
Refer to resolution B133.

C22  Legislation and Action for a Barrier-free BC  Quesnel

Whereas British Columbians with disabilities encounter a variety of physical, sensory and technological barriers as well as ones related to communication, education, employment, attitudes and many others on a daily basis;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia launched a non-mandatory, non-legislated initiative entitled “Accessibility 2024” in 2014 with the goal of making BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by the year 2024;
And whereas both the Province of Ontario and the Province of Manitoba have enacted disability legislation with the Province of Nova Scotia working toward the introduction and enactment of disability legislation in 2016:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM believes it is important to achieve a barrier-free province for all persons with disabilities, and advocate for the BC Legislative Assembly to enact a strong and effective British Columbians with Disabilities Act.

*Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** Refer to Similar Resolution

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

Refer to resolution B62.
Section C3

C23  Executive Leadership Committee on Flood Mitigation  Kent

Whereas flood control and river management is paramount to reduce infrastructure damages and to protect life safety in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley;

And whereas an Executive Leadership Committee is needed to help channel flood management responsibilities, mitigation, and capital funding upgrades for priority projects in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley:

Therefore be it resolved that an Executive Leadership Committee be struck consisting of representatives of the LMLGA Flood and River Management Committee to work with the Joint Program of the Fraser Basin Council to prioritize flood mitigation solutions for the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley and to seek funding from the Province and federal government for flood control and prevention.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

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 calling on Metro Vancouver, the Squamish-Lillooet and Fraser Valley regional districts, and the Fraser Basin Council to form an executive leadership committee on flood mitigation, in order to seek provincial and federal funding for flood control and prevention.

The Committee would suggest that as written, the resolution raises a regionally specific issue, and advocacy on this topic would best be undertaken by the area association.

C24  Island Corridor Foundation Federal Funding  Port Alberni

Whereas the Esquimalt & Nanaimo (E&N) Railway corridor remains a critical transportation asset for the current and future needs of the people and economy of Vancouver Island;

And whereas AVICC passed a resolution urging action in 2012 and further delay in repairs to the corridor jeopardizes its viability:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the Government of Canada to approve and release the $7.5 million for capital works on the Victoria to Courtenay rail line in order for work to begin as soon as possible and ensure the future of rail based freight and passenger transportation between Victoria, Courtenay and Port Alberni.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 requesting that the federal government release $7.5 million in funding for capital works on the Victoria to Courtenay rail line, to ensure the rail line’s continued ability to support rail based freight and passenger transportation.

Members have endorsed several resolutions specifically regarding the Esquimalt and Nanaimo rail corridor:

• 2008-LR4 called on the provincial and federal governments, in partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation, to fund Vancouver Island rail infrastructure upgrades to rejuvenate the E & N right-of-way to meet modern rail transportation standards;
• 2005-B143 called on the provincial and federal governments to waive certain taxes in order to support the Island Corridor Foundation’s efforts to acquire the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way; and
1995-B57 asked the federal government to continue operating the E & N rail service on Vancouver Island or transfer the service to the provincial government with the assurance that the Province would operate the service.

The Committee would suggest that the use of this transportation corridor is a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

See also resolution C29.

C25 Support for the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance

Whereas all 21 local governments in northwest BC have come together as the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance to seek from the provincial government an equitable share of benefits arising from future economic growth in the region;

And whereas these local governments are endeavouring to create viable, healthy, sustainable communities but are severely challenged by substantial services and infrastructure deficits, yet are not conferred the financial capacity to provide these services and infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that NCLGA call upon the provincial government to commence revenue sharing negotiations with the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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 calling on the provincial government to enter into negotiations on revenue sharing specifically with the Northwest BC Resource Benefits Alliance.

However, the Committee would observe that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that supported resource revenue sharing (2014-B59, 2012-B20, 2011-29, 2011-B30, 2009-B30, 2003-B30).

At the 2013 UBCM Convention, UBCM members adopted the Strong Fiscal Futures report. While the Strong Fiscal Futures report acknowledges that regional revenue sharing agreements have an important and growing role in the local government finance system, the Select Finance Committee chose to focus its recommendations on province-wide arrangements that would benefit local government as a whole.

The Committee would suggest that as written, the resolution raises a regionally specific issue, and advocacy on this topic would best be undertaken by the area association.

C26 Electoral Area Grant Opportunities

Whereas the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas have been excluded from participation in various provincial and federal programs and grant opportunities because they are not considered to be rural communities due to their affiliation with the Capital Regional District;

And whereas the Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy and Islands Trust policy specifically dictate terms requiring those electoral areas to remain “rural” in nature, and the current “BC Rural Dividend” provincial grant program specifically excludes the Capital Regional District electoral areas and includes 156 provincial electoral areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the governments of Canada and British Columbia recognize the rural nature of the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas and include them in all future government programs and grants offered to British Columbia electoral areas.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Area Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the federal and provincial governments to include all electoral areas in future government funding programs aimed at supporting rural and remote communities.

The Committee would observe that while the sponsor indicates that the “BC Rural Dividend” program is not available, the bulk of funding programs offered to electoral areas in BC do include the electoral areas from the Capital Regional District.

The Committee would suggest that, as written, the resolution raises an issue that is regional in nature, and advocacy of this matter would best be pursued by the area association. The Committee also notes that this resolution has not been considered by the area association.

C27 Protection of Old-growth Forests Metchosin

Whereas old-growth forest is increasingly rare on Vancouver Island, and is gone for centuries once logged;

And whereas old-growth forest has significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resource, carbon sink and much more;

And whereas current plans on provincial Crown land call for logging the remaining old-growth forest, outside of protected areas, Old-Growth Management Areas, and similar reserves, over the next 10-20 years:

Therefore be it resolved that the old-growth forest on provincial Crown Land on Vancouver Island be protected from logging;

And be it further resolved that AVICC send a letter to the provincial government—Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations—as well as relevant government organizations requesting that the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan be amended to protect all of Vancouver Island’s remaining old growth forest on provincial Crown land.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 calling on the provincial government to protect all old-growth forest on provincial Crown land from being logged, and to reflect this protected status in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan.

However, the Committee notes that in 1992 members endorsed resolution LR5, which asked the Province to “take the necessary measures to ensure that the proposed protected areas are not compromised before the Protected Areas Strategy has been completed.” This resolution was brought forward in part, to protect the old growth in the area until the Protected Area Strategy had been finalized.

Regarding old growth forests, the Province has reported that:

- there are more than 25 million hectares of old growth forests in BC of which 4.5 million hectares are fully protected, representing an area larger than Vancouver Island;
- land use planning processes in the 1990s engaged the public, First Nations, environmental groups, and communities to identify protected areas on Vancouver Island and the South Coast, with the resulting percentage of protected areas in both regions exceeding the United Nations recommended target of 12 per cent; and
- of the 1.9 million hectares of Crown forest on Vancouver Island, 840,125 hectares are considered old-growth—but only 313,000 hectares are available for timber harvesting.

The Committee would suggest that the protection of old-growth forest on provincial Crown land on Vancouver Island is a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.
C28    Post-secondary Collaboration in Northern BC    Fort St. James Burns Lake

Whereas post-secondary education is a key economic driver in north central BC and plays a fundamental role in the recruitment and retention of skilled workers and their families;

And whereas post-secondary institutions in north central BC encounter issues with low enrolment and interruption of programs, ultimately contributing to the inability of communities to rely on satellite campuses;

And whereas collaboration, resource-sharing and innovation can greatly optimize service delivery in a region, like north central BC, with a vast geography and sparse population:

Therefore be it resolved that NCLGA work with the provincial government and post-secondary representatives to implement a new model of collaborative service delivery amongst our current four post-secondary institutions to meet the future educational needs of all northern communities and to create a stable delivery model that communities can rely on.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

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 calling on the provincial government and northern BC post-secondary institutions to collaborate to meet education and training needs.

However, the Committee acknowledges that members have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting improved and increased post-secondary education and training opportunities (2015-B104, 2014-B31, 2013-B41, 2012-B96).

The Committee would suggest that as written, the resolution raises a regionally specific issue, and advocacy on this topic would best be undertaken by the area association.

C29    Island Corridor Foundation    Langford

Whereas the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) was established in 2003 to oversee the management and operations of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) rail line which has a direct impact on many municipalities on Vancouver Island but these same municipalities have no direct representation on the ICF board;

And whereas although the rail service has not been operating for the past several years, and the services provided to municipalities along the corridor by the management of ICF have not met the standard expected, the costs to local governments to support the ICF continue to be significant:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC work with impacted local governments and the ICF board to conduct a financial and governance review of the Island Corridor Foundation.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and 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 calling for a finance and governance review of the Island Corridor Foundation, including “consideration of options to provide a cost effective transportation alternative should the costs of resurrecting rail prove too costly.”

Members have endorsed several resolutions specifically regarding the Esquimalt and Nanaimo rail corridor:

• 2008-LR4 called on the provincial and federal governments, in partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation, to fund Vancouver Island rail infrastructure upgrades to rejuvenate the E & N right-of-way to meet modern rail transportation standards;
• 2005-B143 called on the provincial and federal governments to waive certain taxes in order to support the Island Corridor Foundation’s efforts to acquire the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way; and
• 1995-B57 asked the federal government to continue operating the E & N rail service on Vancouver Island or transfer the service to the provincial government with the assurance that the Province would operate the service.

The Committee would suggest that the finances and governance of the Island Corridor Foundation are a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

See also resolution C24.