

Resolutions to be Considered at the 2017 UBCM Convention

Vancouver Convention Centre Vancouver, BC

The resolutions sessions are presently scheduled for:

Wednesday, September 27

10:40 am

Principal Policy Session

Section SR resolution

Section A resolutions

Section B resolutions as time allows

Thursday, September 28

8:55 am

Policy Session continues

Policy Paper 1

Section ER resolution

Section B resolutions as time allows

Friday, September 29

8:00 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 2017 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.

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 credits 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.

Key Issues

Members submitted 150 resolutions by the deadline, fewer resolutions than in 2016. This indicates a focusing of local government interest on selected important issues.

In 2017, 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 affordability and availability of housing; infrastructure funding and eligibility criteria; reduction of waste and management of waste streams; and decision-making regarding forests and other natural resources.

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 clarifies the debate. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate all member-submitted resolutions for 2017.

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 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 and Procedures for Handling Resolutions for the details of these policies.

Resolutions received after the deadline are handled as late resolutions, in accordance with the Conference Rules and 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.

2017 UBCM Resolutions Committee

Director Wendy Booth, Chair
Chair Alison Sayers, Vice Chair
Director Jim Abram
Mayor Sharon Gaetz
Councillor Phil Briennesse

Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

| Section | Subsection | Description | Handling |
|-----------|------------|--|--------------------------|
| SR | | UBCM Executive resolutions on priority issues. | Considered individually. |
| ER | | Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the <i>UBCM Act</i> . | Considered individually. |
| A | | Member-submitted resolutions on priority issues. | Considered individually. |
| B1 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolutions that support established UBCM policy. Recommendation: Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. | Considered as a block. |
| B2 | a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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;
- 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 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. A resolution submitted following the regular deadline shall be considered “late” and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that the resolution shall be provided to UBCM by the Friday noon preceding the date of the Annual Convention.

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.

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 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 will be deemed appropriate for Plenary discussion only if the topic 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 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 arose 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 Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

37. The 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).

For Resolutions Not Printed in the Resolutions Book

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.

The Chair, at his or her discretion, may require that any such motion be submitted in writing and may require that copies be provided to all delegates present before consideration thereof. [Bylaw s. 14(c)]

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]

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Section SR Resolutions

Section SR resolutions pertain to priority issues identified by the UBCM Executive, of concern to a broad range of UBCM members around the province.

Section SR

SR1 Local Government Role in BC Framework for Cannabis

UBCM Executive

Whereas the federal government intends to legalize cannabis by July 2018, and to date the provincial government has conducted minimal consultation with local government regarding the development and implementation of a BC framework for cannabis;

And whereas within a BC framework for cannabis, it is likely that a substantial portion of the regulatory burden and associated costs—for example, in the areas of compliance and enforcement—will fall on local government:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM membership endorse the following principles to guide UBCM's advocacy with the provincial government regarding local government's role in a BC framework for cannabis:

- fulsome and meaningful provincial consultation with local governments;
- provision of adequate provincial funding to cover any responsibilities and increase in administrative burden of any provincial framework that requires local government participation;
- equitable sharing of tax revenues from cannabis between all orders of government; and
- respect for local choice, jurisdiction and authority, including but not limited to land use and zoning decisions.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee understands that legalization of cannabis has emerged as a major policy issue for UBCM and its membership, as local governments stand to face widespread impacts. Recently tabled federal legislation (Bill C-45 and Bill C-46) has provided greater clarity regarding federal and provincial frameworks that may be developed, and potential areas of responsibility for all orders of government. With the expectation that a 'made in BC' framework will be developed by July 2018, the UBCM Executive has put forward Special Resolution 1 (SR1), consistent with current policy, to provide broad organizational direction.

1. Rationale

Special Resolution 1 addresses an emerging policy issue for British Columbia local governments; one that was only recently given some clarity through the tabling of federal legislation (Bill C-45 and Bill C-46). Legislation has provided information on federal, provincial and potential local government areas of responsibility, while also leaving provinces and territories to create their own unique cannabis legalization frameworks. The federal government intends to legalize cannabis by July 2018, leaving provinces and territories little time to develop their frameworks, or allow a federal mail order system to prevail.

With this in mind, the UBCM Executive has proposed SR1 to provide broad organizational direction going forward. SR1 is consistent with past policy (2016-A2 and 2016-A3), the results of UBCM's cannabis survey, and information obtained through participation in local government working groups. UBCM's Community Safety Committee and Healthy Communities Committee have vetted the resolution, which was endorsed by UBCM's Executive in July 2017.

2. Current UBCM Policy

BC local governments endorsed two resolutions at UBCM's 2016 Convention that are directly related to the federal government's initiative to legalize cannabis:

2016-A2 *Marijuana Regulations*

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.

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.

3. UBCM Cannabis Legalization Survey

On March 29, 2017, UBCM distributed a survey to its membership, seeking input on a number of issues related to the legalization and regulation of non-medical cannabis (e.g. revenue sharing, consultation, implementation, potential repercussions, and attitudes towards legalization) as well as issues related to medical cannabis.

One of the most cited concerns among the 57 respondents was the potential for a transfer of responsibilities to local governments without accompanying funding from other orders of government. When asked to indicate their three primary concerns regarding a legalized cannabis regime, 78.9% of respondents selected “downloading of duties onto local governments” as a concern. Many respondents were also concerned with the potential distribution of revenue, and the necessity for local governments to receive a share, especially if they were to assume new responsibilities. This is consistent with UBCM resolution 2016-A3, which requested that a portion of any future federal or provincial tax collected through cannabis sales and distribution be shared with local governments.

The lack of communication and consultation between federal and provincial orders of government and local governments was also apparent, with only 7.2% of respondents having been directly consulted by the federal government, federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, or the provincial government. Many respondents refrained or were unable to answer portions of the survey due to a lack of federal/provincial communication.

The survey results are available on the Cannabis Regulation page of the UBCM website:

<http://ow.ly/ub0G30eLye0>

4. Background

On April 13, 2017, following approximately ten months of work by the federal Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, the federal government tabled long awaited cannabis legalization and enforcement legislation (Bill C-45 and Bill C-46), with the intention of legalizing cannabis by July 2018.

Federal legislation places emphasis on keeping cannabis away from children, and profits out of the hands of criminals. This is accomplished in part by imposing a set of strict penalties for those who operate outside the legalized system, including but not limited to:

- *up to 14 years in jail for selling cannabis to anyone under 18, or using someone under 18 to commit a cannabis-related offence;*
- *up to 14 years in jail for taking cannabis across international borders; and*
- *up to 14 years in jail for production beyond permitted personal cultivation.*

There are also promotional restrictions, including a ban on any promotion (e.g. celebrity endorsements), packaging or labeling that could be appealing to children. This includes a restriction on selling cannabis through any self-service display or vending machine.

Initially, sales will be restricted to fresh and dried cannabis, oils and seeds, and plants for cultivation. Edibles will be legalized and regulated once appropriate rules for their production and sale are developed. Individuals will initially be able to make cannabis products (e.g. foods, drinks) at home under some restrictions.

Cannabis production, distribution and possession outside the federal medical cannabis program will remain illegal until new laws are in place. This includes a ban on importing and exporting cannabis-related products. The federal government has set aside \$9.6 million for a comprehensive public awareness campaign that will focus on youth, health and safety risks, and surveillance.

a) Federal Responsibilities

As expected, the federal government will be responsible for the supply of cannabis. This entails a number of responsibilities, including:

- establishing a federal licensing regime for cannabis production;*
- monitoring and setting requirements for federally licenced producers;*
- setting industry-wide standards around the following:*
 - types of products available;*
 - packaging and labelling requirements;*
 - serving sizes and potency standards;*
 - prohibiting the use of certain ingredients;*
 - promotional restrictions;*
- seed to sale registry to track products and ensure cannabis comes from a legal source;*
- restrictions on adult access to cannabis;*
- establishing criminal penalties for those operating outside the legal system;*
- enforcing law at the border; and*
- managing Canada's international treaty commitments.*

The federal government has also been placed in charge of establishing minimum conditions that provincial and territorial legislation for distribution and retail would be required to meet to ensure consistency. These minimum conditions are in areas such as minimum age of consumption, personal possession limits, and personal cultivation.

Should provinces and territories fail to enact legislation regulating cannabis sales prior to the date of legalization, there are provisions in place that will allow recreational cannabis to be purchased by individuals through mail orders from federally licenced producers.

b) Provincial Responsibilities

There are a number of responsibilities transferred to provincial and territorial governments as part of Bill C-45; some are constrained by minimum federal conditions, while others are at the discretion of provinces and territories. These responsibilities include:

- setting a minimum age for consumption (minimum set at 18 by the federal government);*
- establishing distribution and personal possession limits within the federal maximum of 30 grams per adult, 5 grams per "young person" aged 12-18 (adults and young persons are permitted to distribute limited quantities of cannabis, but are not permitted to sell cannabis);*
- regulation of personal cultivation operations (maximum number of plants set at 4 per residence with a 100 cm height limit by the federal government);*
- creating restrictions around where adults can consume cannabis (e.g. public places, vehicles, designated lounges, etc.);*
- licensing distribution and retail operators (where cannabis will be sold), and carrying out associated compliance and enforcement activities;*
- establishing provincial zoning rules; and*
- amending provincial traffic safety laws to address impaired driving.*

c) *Other Issues*

In addition to Bill C-45, the federal government concurrently tabled Bill C-46, providing for new enforcement powers related to cannabis and alcohol. Essentially, it will be considered impaired driving to have “a blood drug concentration that is equal to or exceeds the blood drug concentration for the drug that is prescribed by regulation” within two hours of operating a motor vehicle. How this will be measured and determined is not clear. The federal government still has not determined what constitutes an illegal blood alcohol or blood drug concentration. Research continues into the development of a device that can detect tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) levels from an individual’s saliva.

As part of this legislation, the police will have the authority to request a roadside alcohol breath test at any time, but may only request a cannabis saliva sample if they have reason to suspect an individual has been using cannabis.

Despite legislation giving stakeholders and Canadians a better idea of what a legalized regime will entail, it still leaves unresolved issues. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- federal and provincial tax rates;*
- packaging rules and regulations;*
- date that edibles will be introduced into the legalized framework;*
- restrictions for making cannabis products at home (e.g. foods, drinks);*
- information around police enforcement tools and regulations; and*
- compensation for provinces, territories and local governments related to enforcement and other resources expended as part of the legalization and regulation of cannabis.*

See also resolutions B88 and C2.

Conference decision:

Section ER Resolutions

Section ER contains extraordinary resolutions—specifically, those that request amendments to the UBCM Bylaws, or request the provincial government to amend the *UBCM Act*.

In accordance with the UBCM Bylaws, a three-fifths (60 per cent) majority vote is necessary to adopt an extraordinary resolution.

Section ER

ER1 **Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws Regarding Removal of a Resolution From a Block**

Coquitlam

Whereas Sections 23(a) and (d) of the UBCM Bylaws provide that voting delegates present at the Annual Convention may move to group resolutions for consideration as a block; with voting delegates enabled, under certain conditions, to move removal of a resolution from the block for separate consideration and debate;

And whereas the original motion to group resolutions for consideration as a block requires only a simple majority to pass, but a motion to remove a resolution from a block for separate consideration and debate must receive a three-fifths (60 per cent) vote to pass:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM simplify the rules of procedure in the UBCM Bylaws by amending Section 23(d) to remove the requirement for a three-fifths (60 per cent) vote in order to remove a resolution from a block for separate consideration and debate, with such an amendment having the effect of allowing removal from a block by way of a simple majority.

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 proposing amendments to the UBCM Bylaws to simplify the rules of procedure and allow removal of a resolution from a block with the support of a simple majority.

The Committee would clarify that if the resolution were to be endorsed and the UBCM Bylaws changed, the new procedures would take effect in 2018.

Conference decision:

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

Elections

A1 Local Government Election Campaign Financing

Oak Bay

Whereas there are currently no limits on election campaign donations or restrictions on corporate or union donations for local government elections;

And whereas all major political parties have committed to enacting some form of electoral finance reform for provincial elections in the coming term:

Therefore be it resolved that should the provincial government make changes to provincial campaign finance regulations to limit and restrict campaign donations, those changes be extended to include campaign finance regulations for local government.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B94, which called on the provincial government to “prohibit political campaign contributions from corporate and union sources” for both provincial and local government elections, as well as to limit the size of individual candidate contributions and contributions to campaigns.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government referenced the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECF), which includes expense limits. The Province stated that it did not intend to introduce campaign contribution limits.

Conference decision:

Selected Issues

A2 Encouraging the Use of Residential Property for Housing

Victoria

Whereas residents and communities across British Columbia face acute housing affordability and housing availability challenges, threatening the economic security of individuals as well as the productivity and viability of local economies, as youth, seniors, people with disabilities and working people lack access to affordable housing options;

And whereas effective fiscal and taxation tools have been identified to address these challenges by encouraging the use of residential property to provide housing, and discouraging speculation, “flipping,” commodity investment and other market distortions aimed at maximizing the exchange-value of residential property for the owner, while contributing toward a sharp escalation in the price of housing:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada take action to introduce effective fiscal and taxation tools to encourage the use of residential property to provide housing, and discourage speculation, “flipping,” commodity investment and other market distortions that contribute toward a sharp escalation in the price of housing;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia adjust the (1) Property Transfer Tax and (2) Capital Gains Tax Exemption for primary residences, to encourage residential occupancy and discourage speculation, including the option of a phased-in Capital Gains Tax exemption for primary residences that increases over time to encourage residential occupancy and discourage speculation, and guarantee a dedicated and fixed portion of revenues from Capital Gains, Property Transfer and Land Value Capture taxes for municipal affordable housing and transit infrastructure.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for provincial and federal fiscal and tax tools to encourage the use of residential property to provide housing, while discouraging real estate speculation on residential property (2016-B136, 2006-B23, 2000-B77).

See also resolutions B14 and B91.

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.

Included in Section B – Part 1 are resolutions numbered:

B1 – B54

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

I move that the resolutions in Section B – Part 1 be considered as a block.

If the motion is endorsed by delegates, then the resolutions in Section B – Part 1 will be considered as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such a resolution; for example:

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. A delegate may request to remove a resolution from the block and consider it separately for debate, only if they wish to speak in opposition or propose an amendment to the resolution. [UBCM Bylaws s. 23(d)]

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered individually, after the vote on the block been decided.

Finally, once all motions regarding the block have been heard, the spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the motion:

Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section B – Part 1 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.

Section B1

Legislative

B1 Public Notice

Penticton

Whereas Section 94 of the *Community Charter* prescribes public notice provisions through a newspaper distributed at least weekly;

And whereas other forms of media have a far greater reach than newspaper publications:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development be requested to conduct a comprehensive review and evaluation of the statutory advertising provisions with a view to amending such provisions in response to the technological advances of recent years.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2016-B1 and 2015-B88, both of which called on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and Community Charter to provide greater flexibility for local government publication of statutorily required public notices.

In response to resolution 2016-B1, the provincial government pointed out that the Community Charter already supports use of “alternative means” where it is not practical to publish a public notice in a newspaper. The Province also clarified that once a local government meets the minimum statutory requirement to publish a notice in a newspaper, the Community Charter “explicitly authorizes additional public notices, including by the internet or other electronic means.” The provincial government expressed willingness to engage in future dialogue with UBCM regarding changes to public notice requirements.

Conference decision:

B2 Recall of Local Government Elected Officials

Penticton

Whereas constituents may believe local government elected officials are in breach of integrity and/or eroding public confidence;

And whereas the recently extended term of office for local government elected officials in British Columbia negatively affects the ability of the local electorate to vote for change in their local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia amend legislation to include a recall process for local government elected officials.

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-B93, which requested that the provincial government make legislative amendments to provide a mechanism for voter recall of local government elected officials.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government indicated that it was not at the time considering recall legislation for local governments. Further, the Province cited local government elections as “the fundamental democratic framework around which elected officials are ultimately held accountable for their decisions and actions.”

Conference decision:

Community Safety

B3 Support for BC Fire Departments

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the Office of the Fire Commissioner has, over the past two years, put more requirements in place for fire departments in British Columbia;

And whereas the cost and time commitment of these increased training, risk management, and records management requirements has negatively impacted fire fighter recruitment and has resulted in increased local government taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be directed to work with the Office of the Fire Commissioner to explore provincial funding options to help support British Columbia fire departments in meeting the standards now required by that Office.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding, training, and resources to support fire departments throughout the province (2016-B4, 2015-B3, 2012-B10, 2009-B27, 2009-B63, 2006-B68, 2003-B34, 2003-B48, 2002-B28, 2001-B46, 1996-A2). Most recently, members endorsed resolution 2016-B4, which asked the Office of the Fire Commissioner to establish “Fire Training and Evaluation Teams” to provide ongoing training opportunities, evaluation and records management training for all fire departments in British Columbia.

In response to resolution 2016-B4, the provincial government highlighted the training curriculum for interior and exterior firefighting developed and made available by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, as well as provincial funding for “train-the-trainer” team leader courses through the Fire Chiefs Association of BC. The Province also referenced on-going regional workshops offered in partnership with the Local Government Management Association “to provide training to Chief Administrative Officers and Fire Chiefs including the provision of information management, record keeping and training tools.”

Conference decision:

B4 Interface Wildfire Prevention Responsibility

East Kootenay RD

Whereas wildfire is identified as a significant risk to many communities in British Columbia;

And whereas the current Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative places the responsibility for both wildfire prevention and forest management on Crown land onto local governments and First Nations, who do not have jurisdiction on Crown lands or staff with forestry expertise, resulting in a program that demands excessive staff time to administer and creates unnecessary liability for the local government or First Nation:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested to develop a more efficient and effective model to address the interface wildfire risk reduction needs of BC communities under the supervision of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fund and engage in wildfire management planning, especially on Crown land (2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1, 2013- B116, 2012-B109, 2012-B112, 2012-B113, 2012-B114, 2011-B80, 2010-B59, 2010-B68, 2010-B91, 2009- B131, 2008-B59, 2007-B74).

Since 2011, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) has allowed staff and consultant costs as eligible expenditures for operational fuel treatments. In part, the intent of these eligible expenditures is to allow eligible applicants to access the forestry expertise they require to oversee fuel treatments.

The Committee understands that in January 2017, changes were made to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan funding stream to increase the maximum grant available and lessen the required community contribution. A template is now available for all CWPPs which will help local governments and First Nations to identify and prioritize future fuel management and FireSmart activities.

In addition, in April 2017, changes to the SWPI were announced. Eligible applicants may now apply for joint funding for operational treatments with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. Funding permitting, joint funding for operational fuel treatments will be available to:

- *allow applicants to access funding in excess of the annual SWPI funding maximums;*
- *enable operationally logical treatments with areas inside the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and outside of the WUI; and*
- *support treatments in regional district unincorporated areas that did not previously meet the requirements regarding service area and a community contribution of 10%—which may result in 100% funding for selected eligible projects in unincorporated areas.*

Conference decision:

B5 Victim Services Program Funding

Nanaimo RD

Whereas victim services programs provide support and assistance to victims of crime;

And whereas the Ministry of Public Safety has the ultimate responsibility for the victim services programs and yet does not fully fund these programs:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia fully fund all victim services programs.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province provide funding for victim services programs (2015-B4; 2014-B4; 2011-B14; 2010-B12; 2008-B4; 2006-B9; 2003-Victims Services Program; 1996-B43).

In response to resolution 2015-B4, the Province re-iterated its position that police-based victim service programs should be cost shared with local governments in communities that contribute to their policing costs.

See also resolution B56.

Conference decision:

Whereas RCMP 'E' Division uses, in some areas, an integrated detachment model (two or more municipal or provincial RCMP units housed in one building) to provide policing to combined municipal and provincial areas;

And whereas municipalities authorize and fund increases to the number of municipal officers at the integrated detachments, but the number of provincially funded officers does not automatically change, possibly resulting in a potential imbalance and financial subsidy to provincial or rural areas by the municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to initiate a review of the number of provincial officers serving at an integrated detachment when the municipal component of the detachment is increased to ensure that the municipal and provincial areas are being funded fairly.

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 and the RCMP to fund and staff the provincial component of combined or integrated detachments, to ensure that rural areas outside of municipal boundaries are provided with the same service and responsiveness as areas within municipal boundaries (2016-B82, 2009-B67, 2006-B12).

Conference decision:

Transportation

Whereas Transport Canada made the requirement in 2013 obliging railroad companies to provide annual aggregate information on dangerous and hazardous good, on a quarterly basis for CN and CP to municipalities that request it;

And whereas there is no consideration to go beyond the current approach, which would ensure emergency response organizations have the information on dangerous and hazardous goods at their disposal:

Therefore be it resolved that Transport Canada require that all railway companies ensure that local emergency response organizations are provided with up to the minute information on the dangerous and hazardous goods on any train that is traveling through their 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 2014-B55, which in part requested federal legislation that would require rail carriers to provide local governments with “timely information regarding the frequency of Class III tank cars travelling through communities carrying hazardous materials.”

Members also endorsed resolution 2015-B13, which called for a “comprehensive national strategy for the rail transportation of dangerous and hazardous goods” that would include in part:

- *A security-focused, prevention-based reporting structure to allow first responders and key municipal officials information about dangerous and hazardous goods before they pass through their community; and*
- *A strategy to allow for local governments to induce timely inquiries into infrastructure safety after rail derailments or similar failures.*

The sponsor correctly notes that the federal government in 2013 began requiring railway companies, if requested by local governments, to share with municipal first responders and emergency planners information on the nature and volume of dangerous goods being transported by rail through their communities. However, UBCM acknowledges that at present, the railway companies provide this information only to local governments that request it; and on an annual basis, rather than up to the minute.

Conference decision:

B8 Public Transportation

Vanderhoof

Whereas many rural communities in northern British Columbia do not have public transit;

And whereas the absence of public transportation in these rural communities places them at a distinct disadvantage as their citizens have no opportunity to use public transportation within or between communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC implement a public transportation strategy and establish solutions leading to the sustainability of public transit in all rural communities.

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 provide sustainable public transportation solutions across BC, including in rural and remote communities (2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2007-B13, 2005-B7). Most recently, resolution 2015-B9 from the same sponsor asked the Province for “adequate funding to support local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities.”

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government expressed willingness to work with communities to find public transit options. The Province also referenced the Action Plan for the Highway 16 Corridor; as well as work by the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition on intra-regional transportation service.

See also resolution B57.

Conference decision:

B9 BC Transit Expansion & Funding Certainty

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the current Annual Operating Agreements (AOA) between BC Transit and local governments provide for base service levels that are equal to the previous year but do not reflect agreed upon expanded transit service levels;

And whereas local governments are expected to authorize future commitments for transit expansion which are subject to cost increases at the discretion of BC Transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide a rolling 3-year funding commitment to BC Transit in order to provide and secure longer term funding assurances necessary for local governments to adequately budget and plan for transit expansion beyond the current year.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide dedicated and sustainable funding for public transit and future expansion of services, thereby supporting local government budget and transportation planning processes (2015-B55, 2014-B60, 2013-B15, 2012-B95, 2012-B115, 2010-B21, 2006-B20, 2005-B7, 2004-B55, 2003-B60, 2003-B65).

Conference decision:

B10 Highway Maintenance

Comox Valley RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for highway maintenance and provides service delivery performance requirements within their maintenance contracts and no independent process is provided to ensure the timely delivery of those services and communication of when those services will be delivered;

And whereas community and neighbourhood concerns in electoral areas suggests that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure needs to fund its highways and road maintenance programs in a more effective manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure:

- a) review how it provides performance measures to its public and how it keeps its public informed as to when it can expect the remediation of a maintenance deficiency so that it can devise a process that will assure the public that it is delivering its highway maintenance obligations; and
- b) ensure adequate resourcing is available to administer and monitor highways and road maintenance contracts such that public safety and traveling conditions are enhanced on rural roads.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to communicate more transparently with the public about highway maintenance performance measures and increase the funding for road maintenance and safety improvements (2009-B16, 2009-B161, 2008-B113, 2007-B97, 2005-B80, 2001-B14).

Resolution 2008-B113 specifically requested that the Province:

- *conduct more stringent monitoring and performance audits of road maintenance contractors; and*
- *communicate more transparently, frequently and regularly with stakeholders and the general public about the results of such performance assessments.*

In response to resolution 2008-B113, the provincial government described:

- *the quality control requirements it imposes upon highway maintenance contractors;*
- *different mechanisms used by provincial staff to assess the performance of highway maintenance contractors; and*
- *the frequency and nature of provincial communication with stakeholders including local governments, regarding highway maintenance.*

Conference decision:

B11 Highway Lane Markings

Sayward

Whereas in many driving areas, driving is made unsafe for the public due to faded line markings both on the shoulder and the centre of highways;

And whereas the Department of Transportation has contractor line painting guidelines which do not respond adequately to the adverse weather conditions faced by drivers:

Therefore be it resolved to increase public safety on roads the Department of Transportation be requested to change the guidelines to increase the frequency and visibility of shoulder and centre line painting on all provincial roads.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2016-B10 and 2014-B53, both of which requested that the Province improve the line markings and the maintenance of those markings on all provincial roads.

In response to resolution 2016-B10, the provincial government indicated that it had been working for several years to improve the durability and effectiveness of highway markings, through product research and by implementing more stringent requirements in its contracts for pavement marking.

Conference decision:

B12 Highway 16 Updates & Improvements

Vanderhoof

Whereas the Trans-Canada Highway 16 is the only east-west highway connecting communities in northern BC and is a critical link for the economic development of the region and province, especially providing access to the Asia-Pacific;

And whereas there is a need to facilitate safe and efficient traffic flow on the highway through areas that are in dire need of improvements, reducing 'bottle-necks,' more 'three-laning,' and safer level rail crossings, etc.:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the federal and provincial governments to allocate the necessary funds and implement a comprehensive program to make improvements on the TransCanada Highway 16, as well as Highways 118, 37, and 27, within BC.

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 2014-B81, which asked the provincial government to develop an "Asia-Pacific northern infrastructure strategy" to address barriers to trade and transportation, and impacts to northern communities along Highway 16; and called for consultation with northern stakeholder communities and industry as part of the development of the strategy.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government referenced an analysis of multi-modal transportation trade networks along Highway 16, as part of the Pacific Gateway Initiative.

UBCM also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a province-wide, multimodal transportation strategy or policy that would include components such as highway upgrades; safety improvements; transportation of dangerous goods; emergency response; and coordination between different modes of transport (2013-B13, 2009-B16, 2008-B110, 2008-B107, 2003-B59, 2000-B63, 1998-A6, 1996-B88, 1995-B55, 1992-A17).

Conference decision:

Taxation

B13 Provincial Compensation for Delinquent Taxes on Properties Not Subject to Tax Sale

Burnaby

Whereas the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* regulate municipal actions for the recovery of unpaid property taxes by means of a tax sale;

And whereas the *Community Charter* restricts municipalities from auctioning off any property belonging to the Crown or Crown entity that is held under lease or licence by a third party thereby eliminating municipalities' abilities to recover delinquent taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to repeal Section 257(6) of the *Community Charter* and add a provision that makes the Province the final guarantor of taxes payable to a municipality in all cases whereby taxes are unrecoverable on Crown land held under lease or licence, or other property not subject to tax sale under Section 254 of the *Community Charter*.

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 2011-B86, which called for provincial amendments to the Community Charter to enable local governments to collect outstanding taxes owing on defaulted Crown leases; as well as a provincial commitment to compensate local governments for revenue loss in cases where a Crown lessee defaulted on its local taxes.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government suggested that local governments could apply the legal remedy of distress, in accordance with Section 252 of the Community Charter. The Province indicated that local governments could use this mechanism to "collect on outstanding taxes before they become delinquent," thereby providing an opportunity to collect prior to provincial cancellation of a Crown lease.

Conference decision:

B14 Restoration of Land Value Tax

Victoria

Whereas concern around housing affordability is widespread in British Columbia communities, and the Land Value Tax provides a fiscal mechanism to incentivize improvements to property for housing and other purposes, and creates a disincentive to holding vacant property for speculative purposes;

And whereas local governments in British Columbia previously had the authority to introduce Land Value Taxes—taxing land at a higher rate than improvements:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia restore the authority of local governments to introduce a Land Value Tax, to incentivize improvements to property for housing and other purposes, and create a disincentive to holding vacant property for speculative purposes.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to grant municipalities the option of setting differing property tax rates for land and improvements (2011-B24; 2008-B18; 2007-B72). The Committee would observe that these previous resolutions have focused more on the issue of vacant and derelict buildings, rather than housing affordability.

In response to resolution 2011-B24, the provincial government highlighted the utility of existing mechanisms in the Community Charter and related regulations, such as local service taxes that municipalities can impose on land, on improvements, or on both; and revitalization tax exemptions, which can be used to provide tax relief for property owners who make significant improvements to their properties.

The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolution 2016-B13, which called for an amendment to the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation to include prescribed classes for vacant land and vacant contaminated land, making possible a higher tax rate or flat taxes for these classes of property.

See also resolutions A2 and B91.

Conference decision:

B15 BC Hydro Fair Compensation

Cariboo RD

Whereas private utilities are required to pay property taxes on properties including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines;

And whereas BC Hydro is authorized by provincial law to pay grants-in-lieu to local governments rather than paying property taxes:

And whereas this inequity has been an ongoing issue of importance to local governments, especially regional districts where the majority of distribution and transmission lines are located, but for which no property taxes may be collected:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Finance to review the issue of grants-in-lieu paid by BC Hydro with respect to its transmission and distribution assets as promised during the preparation of Budget 2012.

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 relating to Crown Corporation assets and the payment of grants in lieu of property taxes, or full property taxes based on assessed property values (2012-B68; 2011-B23; 2009-B44; 2005-B96; 2001-B21; 2001-B24; 1995-A6). Further, UBCM General Policy 1.8 states that “property taxation distribution ... should be based on actual value assessments and grants in lieu of taxes paid by other governments and their agencies should be paid on the same basis as the ordinary taxpayer.”

Conference decision:

Finance

B16 Small Community Grant

Wells

Whereas most small communities (those with populations of less than 5000 people) in British Columbia have small tax bases and limited revenue sources;

And whereas the operational costs of the municipal governments and municipal capital projects have increased significantly over the last ten (10) years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase the funding it provides to small communities through the Small Community Grant program in order to address the actual costs to serve and support British Columbia’s small communities.

Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the Small Community Grant program and asking for the funding formula to be indexed and fine tuned to the realities of small local governments in BC (2014-B20, 2013-B18, 2012-B132).

The Committee would observe that for selected small local governments in BC, funds received from the provincial government through the Small Community Grant already comprise up to 70 per cent of the total budget for local government operations.

Conference decision:

B17 Property Transfer Tax for Homelessness & Affordable Housing Langley Township

Whereas the District of Saanich introduced resolution B109 in 2007 for said purpose with a prescriptive remedy of 20 per cent of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) to be annually directed to a pooled fund to be administered by UBCM to address homelessness and affordable housing;

And whereas the resolution was endorsed by the Executive but not acted upon by the provincial government;

And whereas the incidences of homelessness throughout BC have increased exponentially in the past decade and most particularly in recent years, based on anecdotal and empirical information derived from the Regional Homelessness Count across Metro Vancouver and across the province as a whole;

And whereas there is a growing financial and social burden on local governments who are not statutorily mandated to provide below-market housing and deal with homelessness issues, but are nonetheless increasingly forced to spend inordinate and extraordinary resources relative to their tax base as in order to deal with the rising homeless population while concomitantly grappling with affordability issues;

And whereas the provincial PTT has increased by 44 per cent between 2014/15 and 2015/16, and is forecast to increase by over 50 per cent between 2015/16 and 2016/17:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that a defined percentage of funds arising from the Property Transfer Tax be attributed to a specific "Affordable Housing and Homelessness" reserve fund in order to address these issues proportionately facing local governments throughout the province of 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 that requested the provincial government allocate a portion of revenues from the Property Transfer Tax to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability (2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).

The 2017 resolution from Langley Township calls on the provincial government to direct a defined

percentage of Property Transfer Tax revenues to a specific "Affordable Housing and Homelessness" reserve fund in order to address these issues proportionately facing local governments across BC.

However, the Committee would observe that the most recent resolution addressing this issue, 2011-B67, proposed alternate means of disbursing funds from Property Transfer Tax revenues. The resolution asked the Province to "create Regional Housing Trust Funds from Property Transfer Tax revenues to provide subsidized, supportive and affordable housing," with funds levied for this purpose "kept within the regions they are levied from and disbursement be contingent on financial or in-kind local contributions."

In response to resolution 2011-B67, the provincial government stated that any “proposed transfer of tax revenue to local governments must be evaluated in the context of the Province’s need to fund essential services.” The Province observed that tax revenues fluctuate, and may not always meet the funding needs of specific programs.

With its support for previous resolutions, the UBCM membership clearly identifies the Property Transfer Tax as a provincial revenue source that should, in whole or in part, be used to address homelessness and housing affordability issues. Members are less clear about the specific framework under which this should be done, as well as the degree of responsibility for homelessness and housing that would be appropriate to download onto local governments.

Conference decision:

B18 Federal Funding Rules Limiting Gas Tax Funds Stacking

Telkwa

Whereas most large local government water and wastewater infrastructure projects require grant funding support from the provincial and federal governments;

And whereas federal funding rules restrict “stacking” gas tax funds as part of municipal grant funding contributions;

And whereas the preference of some communities may be to utilize accumulated federal gas tax funds as part of their matching grant contribution to limit the burden on their property tax payers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government to allow communities to use federal gas tax funds as part of their matching contribution to grant funding for critical infrastructure projects involving water and wastewater.

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 2006-B84, which called on the federal government to allow for the use of federal gas tax funds (specifically, Community Works Funds) in conjunction with other federal funding programs such as the Canada-British Columbia Infrastructure Program.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government acknowledged that local government use of gas tax funds was constrained “if the eligible project is receiving federal funds under another infrastructure program. In that case, the rules respecting the maximum federal contribution limitations under that other infrastructure program apply.”

Conference decision:

B19 Future Tripartite Infrastructure Funding Programs

Sayward

Whereas many communities are wrestling with increased infrastructure costs for essential services and in finding adequate sources of funding;

And whereas small communities have very limited funding options for providing basic infrastructure for their residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province and federal government to develop future infrastructure funding programs that provide for a lower cost-share threshold for communities under 5,000.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking 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 (2016-B18, 2015-B22, 2015-B87, 2014-B19, 2012-B13, 2009-B29, 2004-A7, 2000-B12).

Resolution 2015-B22 in particular asked the provincial and federal governments to “revise the current one-third/one-third/one-third formula to reflect the inequities for smaller communities with identified essential projects within their boundaries.”

In response to resolution 2015-B22, the provincial government indicated that it regularly considers “the challenges of small local governments, and as such, analyses the cost-share formula in the development of all programs.” The Province expressed concern that changing the cost-sharing formula might “equate to fewer communities that ultimately receive funding support.”

The Province further pointed out that for federal-provincial programs, “cost sharing formulas are set by the federal government and must be adhered to,” and that “there is not an opportunity to change these formulas which are set in federal-provincial agreements.”

The Resolutions Committee would point out that, with recent federal ‘Phase 1’ funding programs such as the Clean Water & Wastewater Fund, the federal contribution was established at 50%, with the provincial contribution at 33%, leaving a 17% contribution share for BC local governments. This is consistent with UBCM’s position captured in the UBCM Phase 2 Funding Submission to Infrastructure Canada, as well as UBCM’s 2017 Provincial Election Platform, where UBCM advocated to a 50% federal contribution and a minimum provincial contribution of 33% for all local government capital funding programs.

Conference decision:

Assessment

B20 Split Classification for Short Term Commercial Accommodation

Tofino

Whereas the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation enables BC Assessment to split-classify two specific Short Term Overnight Commercial Accommodation Properties (strata accommodation properties and ‘bed and breakfast’ residential properties) between Class 1 and Class 6 to reflect the dual residential and commercial use of these properties;

And whereas the regulation does not capture residential properties that are also used commercially for short-term overnight accommodation (known as “short term rentals” or “vacation rentals”), creating a tax fairness issue:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province amend legislation so that all residential properties used for short-term overnight accommodation be eligible to be split-classified between Class 1 and Class 6, and that classification methodology for short-term rentals be developed in consultation with stakeholders.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-A4, which called on the Province to work with UBCM to regulate short term accommodation in a manner that would address compliance, and taxation fairness between providers of short term accommodation.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government observed that concern with “levelling the playing field” between traditional accommodation providers and those providing accommodation through peer-to-peer networks, relates primarily to a “lack of regulatory requirements for the sharing economy, rather than actual differences in tax treatment.” The Province highlighted income tax compliance efforts by the provincial and federal governments related to the sharing economy. The Province also pointed out that accommodation “subject to tax under the Provincial Sales Tax Act remains taxable regardless of how it is advertised or how providers and customers connect.”

Unlike the 2016 resolution, this resolution is specifically attempting to address the issue of tax fairness by seeking regulatory changes to allow BC Assessment to include short term rentals into the split classified category.

Conference decision:

B21 Brownfields

Vanderhoof

Whereas vacant sites or orphan properties known as “brownfields” are prevalent on properties located within communities along the Highway 16 transportation corridor, are eyesores to the community and have caused real or suspected environmental contamination and negatively impact economic development of that specific site and in the general area of that specific site;

And whereas the owners of these “brownfield” sites have already reaped the benefits and there should be a financial cost for those who don’t clean up their mess:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Assessment Act* Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation be amended to add a separate property class; “Class 10 – Brownfield,” which applies to any vacant or deserted properties that are classified as a brownfield.

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 2016-B104, which called on the provincial government to create a separate assessment class for brownfield sites.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government indicated that it is not currently considering a separate property class for brownfield sites. The Province pointed out that “the cost of remediation, if required, is often prohibitive and can even exceed the market value of the property,” and expressed reservations about unintended consequences and challenges resulting from taxing brownfields at a higher rate.

Conference decision:

Environment

B22 Access to Used Oil Recycling Facilities in Rural BC

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas access to used oil, used oil filters and used oil container recycling services in BC is very inadequate particularly in rural areas;

And whereas the British Columbia Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA) is required by provincial statute to provide used oil, used oil filters and used oil container recycling services to all citizens of British Columbia;

And whereas the British Columbia Used Oil Management Association must submit a Stewardship Plan to the provincial Ministry of Environment for approval:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial Ministry of Environment require that the British Columbia Used Oil Manufacturing Association (BCUOMA) Stewardship Plan include minimum requirements for public drop-off depots that will insure that there is access to public recycling facilities no more than 10 kilometres from where BCUOMA recycling program materials are sold.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2016-B29, from the same sponsor, calling on the provincial government to require the BC Used Oil Management Association to provide collection of used motor oil, used oil filters, and used oil bottles in all communities where new oil is sold.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government suggested that implementing collection of used oil, filters and bottles in all communities where new oil is sold would be quite challenging and costly for the BC Used Oil Management Association and for the public. The Province pointed out that used oil collection facilities must meet the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulation. According to the Province, the Ministry of Environment and the BC Used Oil Management Association are aware of underserved areas of BC, and are in the process of reviewing revisions to the Stewardship Plan. The provincial government suggested contacting Ministry of Environment staff for updates on the status of the review.

Conference decision:

B23 Local Partnerships for Energy Efficiency Retrofits

Victoria

Whereas local governments across North America are partnering with other levels of government to provide incentive programs to property owners to save money and reduce the environmental impact of buildings, including incentive programs funded through local service charges to support the installation of solar energy technology options for solar photovoltaic, solar hot air and solar hot water;

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 the Province of British Columbia work with local governments, First Nations governments and the federal government to introduce robust incentive programs to support residents, property owners and property managers in improving energy efficiency of buildings to address climate action and housing affordability objectives, and that the Province of British Columbia enact 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 & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to enable local governments to support energy efficiency improvements to privately owned buildings. The mechanism proposed is municipal financing for green energy technologies on private properties, including the ability for local governments to recover costs through local improvement charges (2016-B19, 2014-B64).

In response to resolution 2016-B19, the provincial government observed that existing legislation permits municipalities to undertake a “financial agreement or assistance to individual residents to subsidize a portion of the acquisition of solar panels. However, the assistance or agreement would be a standard commercial contract or grant between the municipality and the individual property owner, and would not be done through a local service (with a tax levy on the individual property purchasing a solar panel).” The Province pointed out that the contract or grant must not be used to provide assistance to business.

The provincial government further clarified that “local services and accompanying public borrowing and tax levies are reserved for financing the costs of public infrastructure ... owned and controlled by the municipality,” and are not appropriate for financing “private acquisitions that are owned by individual residents (such as solar panels or energy efficient devices).”

Conference decision:

B24 Contaminated Sites

Nelson

Whereas large tracts of industrial lands situated in strategic locations within British Columbian municipalities are assessed as brownfields and lie dormant and undeveloped having been contaminated from industrial use;

And whereas the provincial taxation system in British Columbia does not encourage owners of brownfield properties to clean up their contaminated sites and effectively allows those who polluted these lands to enjoy a ‘tax holiday’:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development review the way contaminated sites (brownfields) are assessed to create a system where sites that are sitting dormant are taxed as green (remediated) sites, and that local governments be permitted to provide a permissive tax exemption as an incentive to clean up these sites.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B104, which asked the provincial government to create a new tax class for brownfield sites, to enable local governments to use property tax rates to provide an economic incentive for property owners to remediate brownfield sites.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government stated that it is not considering a separate property class for brownfield sites. The Province indicated that it was reviewing the 2008-2014 Brownfield Renewal Strategy to “develop potential options for encouraging remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites in the future.”

Conference decision:

B25 Disposal of Drywall or Gypsum Board

Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas illegal dumping is a significant issue affecting all areas of British Columbia;

And whereas the illegal dumping of construction or demolition waste in forested or wilderness areas warrants a more effective and comprehensive approach by the Province than what currently exists:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province develop and implement an extended producer responsibility program regarding the disposal of drywall or gypsum board and given the impacts of illegal dumping on the environment as well as on human health of pre-1990 drywall or gypsum board, do so on a fast-tracking basis;

And be it further resolved that the Province provide assistance to local governments with respect to the disposal of pre-1990 drywall/gypsum board (and other building materials which contain asbestos) through measures such as:

- Providing subsidies towards the costs of transporting hazardous waste to authorized landfills, resulting in lower tipping fees and possibly removing, or reducing, what some residents may perceive as an incentive to engage in illegal dumping activities;
- Increased enforcement activity by ministries and agencies having jurisdiction over illegal dumping;
- Implementing legal surveillance techniques; and
- Education and public awareness campaigns.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM 2017 Resolutions Book

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B81, which called on the provincial government to “establish options to assist local governments to dispose of asbestos contaminated gypsum;” or include gypsum as a product category in the Recycling Regulation, thereby triggering the process to develop a stewardship plan for this material.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government cited its commitment to the 2009 Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility, and stated that the BC Ministry of Environment Service Plan would include extended producer responsibility for “construction and demolition materials, as well as furniture, textiles and carpet, and appliances (including ozone-depleting substances)” by 2017/18. The Province projected that this would include construction and demolition waste such as gypsum wallboard.

Conference decision:

B26 National Strategy for Abandoned Vessels

**Victoria
Oak Bay
Ladysmith**

Whereas the AVICC and UBCM have passed a number of motions with regard to the removal of derelict vessels;

And whereas in Parliament an *Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and to provide for the development of a national strategy (abandonment of vessels) has been introduced:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the *Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and to provide for the development of a national strategy for abandoned vessels.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Bill C-352, An Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and to provide for the development of a national strategy (abandonment of vessels), received first reading on April 13, 2017.

The Act would amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as a receiver of wreck and requires the receiver of wreck to take steps to identify and locate the owner of the wreck and to take measures to remove, dispose of or destroy the wreck. It also provides for the development and implementation of a national strategy to address the abandonment of vessels by improving vessel registration, implementing recycling facilities and supporting salvage businesses, among other measures.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a solution to the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels (2016-B22, 2014-B23, 2014-B62, 2013-B30, 2012-B23, 2012-B78, 2010-B30, 2005-B112).

Resolution 2016-B22 in particular called on the provincial and federal governments to implement recommendations from a 2012 Transport Canada study by establishing an abandoned and derelict vessel program, as well as an “end of life” vessel disposal program.

In response to the 2016 resolution, the provincial government confirmed that federal authorities are the lead agency for derelict vessels. The Province referenced its guidance paper, “Dealing with Problem Vessels and Structures in BC Waters;” as well as its participation in the Joint Working Group for the Removal of Derelict Vessels.

Conference decision:

B27 Quagga & Zebra Mussel Funding**Sicamous**

Whereas British Columbia's lakes generate international tourism business totalling millions of dollars each and every year;

And whereas the Zebra and Quagga mussel infestation poses a serious threat to the economic welfare of British Columbia's tourism industry:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government provide increased educational funding and increased monitoring efforts to combat the invasive mussel infestation threatening the pristine lakes of British Columbia's tourism areas.

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 promote awareness and education, increase funding, and establish vigilant monitoring for quagga and zebra mussels (2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

Most recently, members endorsed resolution 2016-B60, which proposed that the provincial government should implement specific measures:

- *restrict all non-BC registered watercraft from entering into British Columbia; and*
- *30-day quarantine and ministry approved inspection and/or decontamination for BC-registered watercraft that leave the province, or are purchased by BC residents from outside BC.*

In response to the 2016 resolution, the provincial government pointed out that Transport Canada, a federal agency, is responsible for registration of certain powered watercraft, while other types of watercraft are not required to be licensed or registered. The Province indicated that it would not consider a "zero tolerance" policy for out-of-province watercraft in BC waters, and instead was focused on an expanded Mussel Defence Program and efforts to intercept, inspect, quarantine and enforce penalties for non-compliance.

The Committee understands that the Province announced in late 2016 a \$2 million boost to the province's invasive mussel defence program, that will see eight permanent mussel inspection stations installed at major entry points along BC's borders.

Conference decision:

B28 Ban on the Sale of Invasive Species**Squamish-Lillooet RD**

Whereas the introduction and spread of invasive plant species within British Columbia bring adverse impacts to the environment and economy;

And whereas significant financial and human resources are being allocated to control treatments, labour and research while at the same time the commercial sale of known invasive species continues to occur through retail outlets in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province ban the sale of known invasive species (plants and seeds) at retail outlets.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2011-B44 and 2008-B71, both of which called on the provincial and federal governments to develop a strategy to prevent the sale of invasive plant species and seeds.

In response to the 2011 resolution, the provincial government indicated that the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group was in the process of reviewing legislation and policy regarding sales of invasive plant species and seeds, and that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations was open to “examining and proposing opportunities for improving the Weed Control Act and Regulation.”

The Province also referenced education and awareness efforts in collaboration with the Invasive Plant Council of BC, such as the “Grow Me Instead” program.

Conference decision:

B29 BC Conservation Service Funding

Princeton

Whereas the provincial government is responsible for managing conservation service, and the British Columbia Conservation Service has not been able to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, human and wildlife conflicts prevention and respond to 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 the reduction in service 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 conservation officers should be protecting our fish, wildlife and environment by helping to ensure healthy game populations; clean land, air and water; and should be the first responder to human-wildlife conflicts where public safety may be at risk;

And whereas the conservation service has lacked the ability to:

1. Periodically review their risk assessment models for response and make appropriate amendments;
2. Deliver awareness training to RCMP and municipal police forces;
3. Provide effective zone coverage practices, where officers should be responding to complaints and concerns;
4. Review the call centre’s response criteria, and make appropriate changes;
5. Provide public education and partnerships with local communities; and
6. Protect wildlife from illegal poaching and other illegal activities that weaken wildlife populations, health and security;

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government provide adequate funding and staffing in order for the BC Conservation Service to provide public education and partnerships with local communities, deliver awareness training to RCMP and municipal police forces and review their risk assessment models and call centre response criteria.

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 provide financial and staff support to the BC Conservation Service (2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2012-B21, 2012-B22). Most recently, members endorsed resolution 2016-B30, which called for the Province 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.”

In response to the 2016 resolution, the provincial government explained that the Conservation Officer Service uses a zone coverage and deployment approach. The Province acknowledged that it had not increased Conservation Service staffing levels.

Conference decision:

B30 Canada Goose Population Management

Parksville

Whereas in the 1950s wildlife managers began relocating Canada Geese to the east coast of Vancouver Island, leading to the over abundant goose population which has devastated agricultural lands, estuaries, wildlife and critical fish habitat across Vancouver Island, bringing some of these vital ecosystems to the brink of extinction;

And whereas the City of Parksville, Regional District of Nanaimo and Guardians of the Mid Island Estuaries Society have employed sound science and a series of management actions designed to reduce resident geese numbers to levels consistent with estuary recovery in 2010:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM fully support a regional coordinated approach to resident Canada Goose management, including population controls needed to protect natural assets and promote sustained recovery of vital estuary habitats.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed amended resolution 2016-B59 regarding the management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese. Specifically, the resolution called for:

- *federal exemption of non-migratory resident Canada Geese from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918;*
- *local government to be offered the option of choosing to undertake management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese in their communities; and*
- *funding from other orders of government to assist local governments who choose to undertake management of non-migratory resident Canada Geese in their communities.*

More generally, the Committee notes that members have sought solutions to control populations of geese, with some proposals seeking greater authority and involvement of local governments in managing the problem (2013-B107, 2011-B42, 2002-B53).

In response to resolution 2016-B59, the provincial government acknowledged the risks to transportation safety, health, property, and natural habitats posed by resident Canada Geese, and expressed general support for local government efforts to gain more control over the management of resident Canada Geese.

Conference decision:

Land Use

B31 Forest Stewardship Plans – Request for Improved Consultation Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas numerous forest stewardship plans are expiring or are undergoing significant amendments;

And whereas significant concerns have been raised about the amendments with regard to impacts on domestic water sources and the overall health of watersheds and slope stability;

And whereas local residents believe that they have not been adequately consulted given that previous forest stewardship plans are now many years old:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government ensure that forest tenure holders have comprehensive consultation in potentially affected communities with residents, local government and other stakeholders.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a direct and effective role in forest resource policy and planning decisions (including but not limited to 2016-B32, 2015-B24, 2015-B39, 2015-B63, 2015-LR2, 2013-B80, 2013-B105, 2013-B112, 2013-B116, 2011-B57, 2011-B167, 2010-B91, 2010-B98).

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

Conference decision:

B32 Wind Turbine Siting on Crown Land

Peace River RD

Whereas the placement of wind turbines on Crown land that is adjacent to private property has effects on the private property and its owners;

And whereas the private property owners and other stakeholders such as local government expect proper consultation regarding placement and permitting of any large projects affecting them and their right to private enjoyment of their properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to require that local government land use regulations apply to all small scale energy generation projects, including wind energy projects, regardless of their location on public or private property to ensure proper consultation with affected landowners and local governments takes place in advance of construction of wind energy projects in the province.

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 ensure that local government land use regulations, as well as consultation with landowners and local governments, are considered when assessing proposals for new power projects in BC (2009-B40, 2009-B137, 2008-B39).

Specifically, resolution 2009-B137 in part called on the Province to develop “clear and measurable evaluation criteria to evaluate independent power production projects, and include as part of this criteria community social, land use and environmental values.”

In response to resolution 2009-B137, the provincial government confirmed that “existing federal and provincial processes assess the potential impact of proposals, including impacts on the environment, protected areas, existing land uses, recreational uses, other resource uses and First Nations’ asserted rights and title.”

Conference decision:

B33 Development Permits for Private Institutional Developments

Sechelt District

Whereas, historically, institutional developments were funded and built by senior levels of government and so legislation that would allow local government development permit oversight for the form and character of these developments was not contemplated in the *Local Government Act*;

And whereas institutional developments are now being funded and built by private providers in the Province of BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested to amend the appropriate sections of the *Local Government Act* regarding the designation of development permit areas for form and character to include privately owned institutional development in a manner consistent with that of commercial, industrial, or multi-family residential developments.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to grant local governments the authority of development permit oversight for institutional developments (2004-B19, 2001-B30, 1993-B13).

In response to resolution 2004-B19, the provincial government expressed willingness to consider such amendments “the next time there is a general review of Part 26 of the Local Government Act.” UBCM is not aware of any subsequent action by the provincial government on this issue.

Conference decision:

Community Economic Development

B34 Non-tenured Value-added Wood Processors

North Cowichan

Whereas British Columbia’s non-tenured value-added wood processors find it increasingly difficult to access a share of public wood resources for further processing in British Columbia due to the consolidation and control of the non-competitive harvest into very few hands;

And whereas British Columbia’s non-tenured value-added wood processors have had their access to the US market impeded by the dispute between the US Lumber Coalition and the tenured companies that have exclusive access to BC’s non-competitive and administratively-priced wood resource:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be requested to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that BC’s non-tenured value-added wood processors have access to a share of BC’s non-competitive wood resource for the purpose of processing it in BC and that BC’s non-tenured value-added wood processors have unimpeded access to the US market for their products;

And be it further resolved that in the event of a quota based Softwood Lumber Agreement with the United States that the Province of British Columbia allocate quota in such a way that it does not impede the survival and growth of BC’s non-tenured value added wood processors.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions and policy in support of non-tenured value-added wood processors (2011-B167, 2006-B43, 2005-B32, 2003-B29, 2002 Forest Policy Paper, 2001-B85, 1998-B75, 1997-LR4).

See also resolutions B35 and B36.

Conference decision:

B35 Facilitating Value-added Resource Development

Kitimat

Whereas adding value to natural resources is of great economic benefit to the north, the province, and the nation, because it attracts investment, delivers tax revenue, creates employment, and captures previously foregone economic value;

And whereas adding value to natural resources often reduces environmental risks associated with transporting products, minimizes waste by utilizing a great percentage of products, and ensures processing occurs under world class Canadian standards:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to adopt policies and implement regulations that will facilitate and stimulate value-added resource development.

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 resolutions 2016-B42 and 2015-LR2, which raised similar questions about distribution of existing timber supply, provision of the “Right Log To The Right Mill,” 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 resolutions, the provincial government has indicated that it is “exploring options to ensure smaller mills have access to needed timber types that meet their needs of quality;” however, the Province stated that it had no plans to restore appurtenance requirements.

By way of background, 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 (i.e. community-based tenure, reimbursement to community for removal of resource, or reinstating some form of local processing requirement.)

The Committee notes that this resolution speaks to resource development broadly, not just forestry, so the Committee would also acknowledge that the membership has requested that legislation be brought forward to entrench the principle of adjacency and afford resource based communities a direct role in the control and use of the resources which surround them and upon which their livelihood depends (2000-LR6).

See also resolutions B34 and B36.

Conference decision:

B36 Optimizing Community Benefits of Forest Resources

Victoria

Whereas British Columbia's regions are rich in forest resources, a renewable source of employment, revenues and materials that provide vital habitat for biological diversity, water quality, outdoor recreation and economic development, noting that employment and public revenues from British Columbia's forests have declined substantially in recent decades, at the same time that watersheds and ecosystems have experienced negative impacts due to existing forestry practices;

And whereas British Columbia's diverse communities can realize substantially improved outcomes from forest resources by adopting best practices in forest stewardship and forest management from Scandinavia and other jurisdictions:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia work with First Nations, regional districts and municipalities to substantially improve community benefits of forest resources, including: expansion of community tenures, introduction of regional log markets, incentives for value-added production, and strengthened standards of forest stewardship to increase legislated protection of drinking watersheds and biological diversity.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to work with local governments and First Nations to improve the community benefits of forest resources (most recently 2016-B32, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-B63, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44).

Resolution 2011-B57 in particular asked the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive review of the forest tenure system, to develop a "blueprint for reform" that would:

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

In response to resolution 2011-B57, the Province pointed out that it reviewed the BC forest tenure system in 2009, and was in the process of implementing recommendations from the Working Round Table on Forestry.

See also resolutions B34 and B35.

Conference decision:

B37 Exemption from Assistance to Business Requirements – Broadband

East Kootenay RD

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

And whereas the availability of high speed broadband service has become as critical to economic development, education, and communication as those services listed, and has recently been declared a 'basic' service by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to amend Section 275 of the *Local Government Act* by adding broadband as a service for which capital financing can be provided.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B72 from the same sponsor, which called on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act by adding broadband as a service for which capital financing can be provided. In response to the resolution, the Province expressed willingness to engage with regional district chairs and CAOs on the topic.

Conference decision:

B38 Business Improvement Districts

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas some rural areas of BC have experienced an increase in population and growth in business activity over the past fifteen years which has created business clusters based on tourism and the service industry and supported by community planning and or zoning;

And whereas electoral areas in the province have few tools to support business clusters in the rural areas to create an identity and present themselves in an integrated way:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development consider creating a mechanism, similar to that available under the *Community Charter*, for regional districts to empower business improvement districts in the electoral areas.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B95, which called for provincial amendments to the Local Government Act to grant regional districts the power to establish business improvement areas.

In its response to the resolution, the Province referenced the work of the Regional District Task Force, and indicated that a proposal arising from the task force was “enabling regional districts to establish business improvement areas in unincorporated areas.” At the time, the provincial government expressed interest in the proposal, but UBCM is unaware of follow up action regarding business improvement areas in unincorporated areas of regional districts.

Conference decision:

Health

B39 Regional Hospital District Capital Funding

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 and 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 which 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 with a recommendation to amend current policy accordingly.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution, 2016-B114, from the same sponsor.

In response to the 2016 resolution, the provincial government expressed general openness to a review of the historic cost sharing ratio, with the caveat that it can only undertake a review when the legislative agenda permits. The Province indicated that it would consult with regional hospital districts as part of such a review.

See also resolutions B96 and C6.

Conference decision:

B40 Health Services Planning

Esquimalt

Whereas the social determinants of health include housing, transportation, and built environment, which are directly influenced by local government decision making;

And whereas there is no mandated direct process for coordination of integrated planning between health authorities and local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to establish formal mechanisms for including local government consultation in health services planning by health authorities.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the provincial government to provide opportunities for meaningful consultation with local governments on health care issues and changes to health care services (2013-B45, 2007-B53, 2004-B29, 2003-A10, 2003-B101, 2002-B61).

Resolution 2013-B45 in particular called on the provincial government to require consultation with local health providers, residents of the affected community, and local governments, on any proposed change in the level of health services available.

In response to the 2013 resolution, the provincial government confirmed that “all health authorities are expected to consult with local communities when planning new services and/or changes to services.”

The Province also referred to its “Patients as Partners” engagement initiative for the design and planning of health services.

Conference decision:

B41 Nurse Practitioners

Burns Lake

Whereas the attraction and retention of sufficient medical doctors is an ongoing issue for rural BC communities;

And whereas nurse practitioners provide an excellent means of supporting doctors in meeting the needs of those seeking medical care and allowing physicians to focus on more complex and challenging patient health complaints:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the province of BC provide additional funding for nurse practitioners in rural communities and support their implementation throughout the province.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM 2017 Resolutions Book

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B70, which asked the provincial government to fund overhead and operating costs for nurse practitioners throughout the province, in order to support the efficacy of this form of primary health care delivery.

In response to the resolution, the Province expressed intent to review incentive programs for non-physician health professionals, such as nurse practitioners, in order to better support rural recruitment and retention.

See also resolutions B42 and B43.

Conference decision:

B42 Provincial Assistance to Attract Doctors to BC

Colwood

Whereas British Columbians are facing a critical shortage of primary care physicians in BC communities and unable to provide vital services to residents because BC is not competitive for a number of reasons, such as trained physicians choosing to practice in other provinces where opportunities are more economically attractive, the average gross clinical payments to BC physicians being one of the lowest in Canada and almost \$100,000 less than Ontario, and new graduates with substantial student debt accepting positions in other provinces, such as Alberta, where the average physician salary is the highest in the country at \$366,000 from billings;

And whereas too many highly qualified undergraduates are denied admission to UBC's 288 seat four-year medical degree program where only about 15% of the applicants are accepted compared to Alberta's 332 seats for first year medical students in a province with a population 12% smaller than BC's, forcing students to look elsewhere for their medical training, compounded by BC doctors who go abroad to get their medical education and must annually compete with up to 160 graduates from foreign medical schools for the handful of international residency training spots because there is no preferential treatment for BC born applicants who want to set up practices in BC in order to be closer to family and friends:

Therefore be it resolved that the communities of British Columbia—a strong and flourishing province, who want BC to be the greatest province in Canada by providing the full, holistic and complete communities that our residents expect and deserve—work together to open the doors for communities to attract doctors back to BC communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia take definitive action to put in place the necessary framework, tools, and incentives to make us competitive with the other provinces and attract physicians back into BC communities.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).

The Committee also recognizes that the issue of health care service in BC has been significant for the UBCM membership. Members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting improved physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals (including but not limited to 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41, 2003-B104).

Resolution 2016-B44 in particular proposed that the provincial government should “allocate long-term fixed funding to Divisions of Family Practice to support ... ongoing recruitment and retention of family physicians,” as well as collaborate with the regional health authorities towards the goal of “attaching every citizen to patient-centred and community base primary care homes.”

In response to resolution 2016-B44, the provincial government reaffirmed its commitment to “a provincial system of primary and community care built around inter-professional teams,” while pointing out that the current Physician Master Agreement remains in effect until March 31, 2019. The Province indicated that it was collaborating with the General Practice Services Committee to “increase practice capacity and patient access by supporting the addition of nurses in physician practices,” and that this would be tested initially “as proof of concept in key communities.”

See also resolutions B41 and B43.

Conference decision:

B43 Provincial Support for Physician Retention

Logan Lake

Whereas the provincial practice ready assessment program is attracting new physicians to rural communities;

And whereas rural communities, including Logan Lake, have benefitted from the program;

And whereas the doctor is encouraged to establish a private practice by securing patients, but is reluctant to do so because:

- patients have secured physician services elsewhere (given the lack of a doctor for several years in their home community) and are hesitant to sign-on with the new local doctor as they fear losing the service once the return to service program concludes;
- due to lack of staff, is hesitant to hire additional staff and begin a private practice due to a lack of patients;
- existing staff are unable to respond to the influx of calls from new patients due to workload; and
- they have limited understanding/knowledge of how to run a business in the province (i.e. the current health care billing system or the sharing of patient files);

And whereas the new doctor looks forward to moving on after 3 years to establish practice elsewhere where there are more patients:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Health increase funding for the rural doctor program and establish a new support model for health provision for rural communities, with other possible solutions including:

- re-establishing a local advisory council or ensuring site managers attend facilities in a timely and on a more regular basis, particularly during the transitional period of the arrival of a new doctor, during staff changeover, or to provide leadership and support to existing staff, so that IH is better informed about what is happening in their rural communities;
- incentivizing rural community graduates seeking health care training whereby a student obtains a specified number of years free post-secondary education in exchange for returning to their home community for a specified number of years; or
- providing additional and adequate support to rural doctors in the form of additional office staff and/or seed money to bridge establishing a private practice.

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 have called on the provincial government to provide increased funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (most recently, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, and 2005-B146).

See also resolutions B41 and B42.

Conference decision:

B44 Regulation & Licensing of Supportive Recovery Homes**Chilliwack**

Whereas addictions are a health care issue and the operation of supportive recovery homes can play an important role in supporting improvements to individual and community health outcomes through recovery from drug and alcohol addictions;

And whereas under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, many of the operating standards required of licensed treatment facilities—such as screening, programming, nutrition, staff competencies, and staff-to-client ratios—do not apply to supportive recovery homes, thereby reducing their effectiveness and putting at risk the safety of the vulnerable individuals they serve; facility staff; and the local community:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to undertake licensing and more stringent regulation of supportive recovery homes to ensure effective care, support, and safety for persons seeking assistance with recovery from drug and alcohol addictions; and to provide improved oversight and accountability to the communities in which they are situated.

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 resolutions 2006-B7 and 1995-A12, both of which called on the provincial government to improve regulation of supportive recovery homes.

In response to resolution 2006-B7, the provincial government indicated that it was developing a registration process for recovery houses and other mental health and addictions residences that provide lower levels of support.

UBCM would also note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial funding for mental health and addiction services; expansion of existing facilities and establishment of new facilities; and funding for related social service and housing programs (2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B60, 2013-B36, 2013-B52, 2010-B44, 2010-B143, 2010-B145, 2008-A1, 2007-B51, 2007-B153, 2006-B8, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-A1, 2005-B43, 2000-B61).

Conference decision:

B45 Mandatory Certification & Licensing of Asbestos & Hazardous Material Removal Contractors**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas:

- Health and safety risks have been identified for local government employees engaged in building inspection and landfill operations due to hazards from demolition and renovation materials;
- Asbestos exposure is the leading cause of work related deaths in BC;
- WorkSafeBC found 43 per cent of all hazardous material surveys done by contractors renovating or demolishing homes were inadequate;
- WorkSafeBC 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.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B143 with the same enactment clause as this 2017 resolution, was not debated at the 2016 Annual Convention, and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. The Resolutions Committee notes that upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2016-B143. Because the resolution was endorsed subsequent to Convention, and was conveyed to the Province later than the other resolutions, a response from the provincial government has not yet been received.

See also resolution B97.

Conference decision:

Selected Issues

B46 Aboriginal Day

Metchosin

Whereas number 80 of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada calls for a national statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation;

And whereas National Aboriginal Day recognizes and celebrates the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada, but is not a national statutory holiday;

And whereas a statutory holiday would allow all Canadians to be able to participate in the recognition and celebration of First Nations' cultures and histories:

Therefore be it resolved that the federal government, working with Aboriginal leaders, designate a national statutory holiday that celebrates the cultures and histories of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B138 was referred to the UBCM Executive for their consideration. Resolution 2016-B138 asked the provincial and federal governments to declare June 21, National Aboriginal Day, a statutory holiday across Canada. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution.

Conference decision:

B47 Rural Schools

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas public education funding increases in British Columbia (BC) have not kept up with increases in basic costs and inflation, and BC is now second to last in per student funding in Canada by providing approximately \$1000 below the national average per student;

And whereas the Government of BC has not followed the recommendations of its own Legislative Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, for the government to adequately invest in public education:

Therefore be it resolved that to ensure our constituents do not face rural discrimination, the boards of education in rural BC receive adequate funding to maintain busing for rural area students; stop more closures of rural schools; increase levels of services to all students; adequately fund public education; and stop any further erosion of the same.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding to support high quality education in all parts of the province, including rural areas (2013-B50, 2013-B51, 2007-B162, 2006-B165, 2005-B157, 2004-B94, 2003-B36, 2002-LR2, 2000-B109, 1999-B96).

The Committee would note that UBCM was invited to make appointments to a Ministry of Education Transportation Committee that will be looking at issues such as ride times, student walk limits, joint planning with school districts and transit providers, student safety, route management, etc. Recognizing that our membership has endorsed resolutions on these specific issues, UBCM agreed to participate and has made two appointments: Director Karen Goodings, Peace River RD and Councillor Mary Beil, Parksville.

See also resolution B119.

Conference decision:

B48 Don't Close the Doors on Adult Education Nanaimo City

Whereas the Ministry has abolished funding for adult basic education programs and instituted tuition fees:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC Federation of Students' campaign "Don't Close the Doors" be endorsed by requesting the Ministry reinstate funding for adult basic education programs and abolish tuition fees.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B131 regarding provincial funding for adult basic education, was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for their consideration. In particular the resolution called on the provincial government to "reinstate long-term, dedicated funding for adult basic education." Upon consideration at their April 2017 meeting, the UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2016-B131.

UBCM awaits response from the provincial government.

Conference decision:

B49 Bus Passes for Persons with Disabilities Port Moody

Whereas the provincial government changed the benefit for persons with disabilities in February 2016 by replacing the \$45 per year bus pass with a \$52 per month bus pass;

And whereas 70% of the announced increased benefit entitlement of \$77 per month would be required to cover the increased cost of the bus pass, leaving the disability bus pass users with only \$25 per month in additional funding, which has not been increased for nine years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to:

- reinstate the \$45 per year bus pass for persons with disabilities;
- eliminate the \$52 per month bus pass fees; and
- raise the Persons with Disability Benefit to \$1,200 per month.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B134 was not debated at the UBCM Annual Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration. Resolution 2016-B134 called on the provincial government to increase disability assistance by \$77 a month; cease deducting the cost of transportation assistance from the disability assistance; and maintain the fee for a BC Bus Pass at \$45 annually.

The Resolutions Committee notes that upon consideration, the UBCM Executive amended resolution 2016-B134 to read:

“Therefore be it resolved that the cost of transportation assistance not be deducted from disability assistance.”

The UBCM Executive endorsed amended resolution 2016-B134. The provincial government has not yet provided a response to the amended resolution.

Conference decision:

B50 Affordable Child Care

Delta

Whereas the current lack of qualified and affordable daycare for working families in BC is hindering economic growth and creating financial stress for many families;

And whereas British Columbia has the second-highest child-care fees in Canada;

And whereas wait-lists for daycare in some areas exceed 3,000 children:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to develop an affordable child care system that provides a regulated space for every child whose family needs it.

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 calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop and invest in an affordable child care program (most recently 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98).

Conference decision:

B51 Social Support Services for Seniors

Delta

Whereas the demographic of those over 65 continues to increase across British Columbia;

And whereas increasing numbers of seniors experience financial, social, health and housing vulnerabilities;

And whereas services for seniors are provided by a variety of local ministries, agencies and governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to plan system-wide initiatives to support seniors' healthy, stable and successful aging to limit social isolation, varieties of abuse and limited access to needed housing.

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 calling on the provincial government to provide coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2007-B152, 2006-B162). The most recent resolution, 2012-B41, requested that the provincial government provide funding for enhanced seniors' outreach and health prevention programs, and better coordination among existing services.

In response to resolution 2012-B41, the Province referenced its action plan "Improving Care for BC Seniors," released earlier that year. The provincial government suggested that it had followed through on a number of items in the plan, including improvements to information resources about health care and other government programs for seniors; public consultation regarding establishment of a Seniors' Advocate; development of a provincial strategy to prevent, identify and respond to elder abuse; the Better at Home program for non-medical support services; funding to expand Community Response Networks; and funding for age-friendly community planning and implementation.

Conference decision:

B52 Addressing Homelessness

New Westminster

Whereas the homeless population in Metro Vancouver increased by 29.8 per cent between 2014 and 2017;

And whereas the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy has focused its resources on crisis response to the chronically and episodically homeless resulting in those at-risk of homelessness not being eligible for housing support and advocacy services;

And whereas municipalities have experienced significant funding cuts to housing outreach, referral and advocacy services, and inadequate funding from other orders of government to address addictions and mental illness is significantly impacting the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to work collaboratively with the federal government to place equal emphasis on homelessness prevention and crisis response, to increase funding for housing outreach, referral and advocacy services, and to provide additional funding to address addictions and mental health.

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 and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy as part of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness (most recently 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109).

Resolution 2015-B46 in particular requested that the provincial government develop a "comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable province-wide homelessness plan that sets out a series of actions, timelines and financial requirements aimed at ending homelessness in the province, while supporting community-led initiatives on homelessness, in a compassionate, dignified and fiscally responsible manner;" and called on the federal government for a federally funded national housing strategy.

In response to resolution 2015-B46, the provincial government referenced its Housing Matters BC provincial housing strategy, updated in 2014.

See also resolution B98.

Conference decision:

Whereas lower investment in rental housing stock over the past 30 years have resulted in a low vacancy rate and steadily increasing rental costs in many communities;

And whereas market conditions have led to increased appetite for rental building owners to invest in upgrades to their buildings which provide improved unit quality, safety, and energy efficiency, but this creates the impetus for existing tenants to be evicted and subsequently experience challenges finding suitable and affordable replacement housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province to provide a funding model and regulatory framework to assist local governments in reducing the impact of "renovictions" on tenants while continuing to encourage investment in upgrading older rental housing;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the Province to increase the housing allowance portion of Income Assistance and Disability Assistance, as well as housing subsidies through BC Housing, to mitigate the impact of rising rental costs on low-income and vulnerable British Columbians.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ways to encourage investment in older and new rental housing stock (2016-OF1, 2015-B14, 2015-B47, 2015-B48, 2015-B49, 2014-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B143, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-A7, 2007-B40, 2007-B108, 2007-B197, 2006-B118, 2005-B47, 2004-B30, 2000-B77, 1998-B15, 1991-A13, 1991-B56, 1990-A20, 1990-A21).

The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase income assistance and disability assistance rates, as well as housing subsidies (2015-B45, 2014-B42, 2014-B44, 2013-B53, 2011-B175, 2000-B30, 2000-B31, 1999-A22).

See also resolutions B120 and B126.

Conference decision:

B54 UBCM Convention Resolution Section

Whereas the resolution section of the annual UBCM conference is undoubtedly the most important business at hand for elected representatives attending;

And whereas often time runs out at the end of convention before all resolutions have been brought to the floor, resulting in the remaining resolutions not being heard or debated by members on the convention floor:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM executive allow for more time during convention for the resolutions;

And be it further resolved that this additional time is created within the existing schedule without additional convention time.

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 2012-B142, which asked the UBCM Executive and staff to undertake policy amendments to ensure sufficient time to hear and decide upon all resolutions submitted for consideration at the annual UBCM Convention.

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

Included in Section B – Part 2-a are resolutions numbered:

B55 – B71

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:

I move that the resolutions in Section B – Part 2-a be considered as a block.

If the motion is endorsed by delegates, then the resolutions in Section B – Part 2-a will be considered as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such a resolution; for example:

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. A delegate may request to remove a resolution from the block and consider it separately for debate, only if they wish to speak in opposition or propose an amendment to the resolution. [UBCM Bylaws s. 23(d)]

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered individually, after the vote on the block been decided.

Finally, once all motions regarding the block have been heard, the spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the 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.

Section B2-a

Legislative

B55 Improvement District Governance

Oak Bay

Whereas Section 82 of the *Local Government Act* prohibits an employee of a municipality or regional district from being nominated for or elected to the municipal council or regional board by which they are employed unless they take a leave of absence for the period for which they intend to serve in elected office;

And whereas there are no provincial regulations prohibiting an employee of an improvement district from being nominated for or elected to the board of an improvement district by which they are employed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to align improvement district regulations with regulations governing other local government bodies by restricting employees of an improvement district from being nominated for or elected to the board of their improvement district employer.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting provincial amendments to the Local Government Act to restrict employees of an improvement district from being nominated for or elected to the board of their improvement district employer.

However, the Resolutions Committee notes that bringing the rules and regulations for improvement district employees into line with those of municipal or regional board employees does appear to be a consistent approach to avoid any situations which could result in a conflict of interest for the employee.

Conference decision:

Community Safety

B56 Funding for Police-based Victim Assistance Services

North Okanagan RD

Whereas costs for providing police-based victim assistance service continues to escalate;

And whereas the responsibility for providing victim services rests with the Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General;

And whereas the Province of BC continues to download additional responsibilities such as security checks and information technology without corresponding funding:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advise the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, that local governments reject the additional responsibilities of security checks and information technology without the Ministry's commensurate funding to local governments to cover the cost of those additional responsibilities.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to cover the cost of meeting the requirements imposed upon police-based victim services, including security checks and information technology.

The Committee would note, however, that provincial government funding for victim services programs is a long-standing issue, with members consistently endorsing resolutions calling on the Province to increase funding for victim services programs (2015-B4, 2014-B4, 2011-B14, 2010-B12, 2008-B4, 2006-B9, 2003-OF1, 2001-B12, 1994-B35, 1998-A11).

See also resolution B5.

Conference decision:

Transportation

B57 Regulation of Ride-sharing Services in Small, Rural, & Remote Communities Enderby

Whereas the Province of BC has expressed its intent to create a regulatory framework that permits ridesharing services and transportation network companies to operate in BC;

And whereas the assessment of the possible impacts of allowing new entrants into the passenger transportation field has focused primarily on large urban communities with robust, established, passenger transportation options, which is often not the reality for small, rural, and remote communities where ridesharing and transportation networking offers uniquely viable solutions in the absence of other options:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to implement a viable, flexible, ride-sharing service regulation in BC with attention given to regulatory solutions that will help solve those passenger transportation challenges that are unique to small, rural, and remote communities.

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 2012-B115, which called on the provincial government to develop a transportation strategy that would “critically assess and determine solutions towards ... passenger directed vehicle operations including both public transit and taxis in rural communities.” Members also endorsed resolution 2015-B9, asking the Province to fund “local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities.”

In response to resolution 2012-B115, the provincial government highlighted the successes of BC Transit service in smaller communities in BC.

Responding to resolution 2015-B9, the Province cited a 2010 transit feasibility study of Vanderhoof, which recommended alternative transportation modes such as volunteer driver and car share programs.

The Province also referenced its \$3 million Action Plan for the Highway 16 corridor, which included up to \$750,000 over three years for community transportation conditional grants, available to First Nations, local governments and non-profit organizations to establish or expand community-based transportation.

See also resolution B59.

Conference decision:

B59 Forest Service Roads, Tourism & Economic Diversification Kitimat-Stikine RD

Whereas Forest Service Roads (FSRs) are not maintained by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) when there is no industrial use of the roads;

And whereas circle routes in British Columbia are a popular way of tourism travel, which use a variety of transportation means, including FSRs, to connect travelers to many different tourist attractions in a continuous manner and are a significant contributor to the province's tourism industry and the local economy of communities connected to the circle routes:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations make the exception of forest service roads that are part of tourism-related circle routes to maintain them more consistently, and work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to develop a comprehensive plan to improve the forest service roads and transfer responsibility to the MoTI.

Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically asking the provincial government to transfer to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure the responsibility for maintaining forest service roads that are part of tourism-related circle routes.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional funding and improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17, 2001-B13). Resolution 2013-B128 in particular called on the Province to identify forest service roads that provide or formerly provided public access to provincial parks, and improve and maintain these forest service roads as if they were public highways.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government suggested that "maintaining roads to provincial public highway standards" is not appropriate in all circumstances, and increasing vehicle access could negatively impact the "natural values" of parks and other areas left "intentionally rustic." The Province indicated that it focuses on forest service roads with high public use; "roads providing access to community and rural residences and established high-value recreational areas."

See also resolution B58.

Conference decision:

Finance

B60 Restoration of Previous Provincial Funding Levels for Public Libraries Powell River City

Whereas the Ministry of Education, Library Branch completed the "Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities" vision and strategic plan which:

"focuses on enabling libraries to deliver the connected and innovative services, programs, and information resources that British Columbians need now and will need in the future. The vision also recognizes the important role libraries play in enabling equitable access to information. People will have access to the information they need regardless of who they are or because of any physical or geographical barriers;"

And whereas the Province recognizes that “public libraries play a key role in welcoming newcomers and job seekers in British Columbia,” and provides “British Columbians with access to the information and tools they need to learn, work, create and thrive in today’s changing world” in “safe, open spaces for people of all ages and backgrounds;”

And whereas provincial funding for public libraries has decreased from 21 per cent of total revenue in 1986 to five per cent of total revenue in 2016;

And whereas in order for public libraries in British Columbia to remain current, relevant and accessible to all, municipalities and regional districts have had to increase contributions while their capacity to continue to do so is severely limited and tenuous:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to restore funding for the public library system to a level of 21 per cent of the core annual budget required to operate the British Columbia Public Library System in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to provide funding for public libraries equivalent to “21 per cent of the core annual budget required to operate.”

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and index its funding for public libraries (2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56, 2002-B13, 2000-B28, 1999-B13, 1996-B82).

Resolution 2011-B27 in particular asked the Province to restore funding for libraries “to the levels that were achieved as part of the strategic plan prior to 2009.”

In response to resolution 2011-B27, the provincial government observed that it had maintained funding for the public library sector at \$14 million in 2011, which was “60 per cent more funding than in 2001.” The Province also suggested that implementation of the public library strategic plan “Libraries Without Walls” had “generated substantial economies of scale, enhanced the stability of libraries and improved organizational infrastructure.”

See also resolution C4.

Conference decision:

B61 Funding for Fire Equipment

Port Hardy

Whereas communities are required to provide essential services including fire safety, and emergency vehicles and equipment for fire safety are costly;

And whereas grants for emergency equipment have all but disappeared since the early 2000’s, with small communities required to fund 100 per cent of emergency equipment through taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create grants for emergency vehicles and equipment and make them available to smaller municipalities, regional districts and improvement districts at a cost share of no less than 50 per cent.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create grants for emergency vehicles and equipment and make them available to all local governments at a cost share of no less than 50 per cent.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a grant funding program for local governments with population under 100,000, that would provide at least 50% provincial funding towards emergency vehicles and equipment.

The Committee notes, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking sources of funding for first responder supplies and equipment (2014-B15, 2012-B10, 2010-B6, 2000-B15, 1993-A5, 1993-B40). Based on this member feedback, during the negotiation of the renewed Gas Tax Agreement (2014) UBCM advocated, unsuccessfully, for the inclusion of emergency response infrastructure as an eligible expense within the Gas Tax Agreement.

The Resolutions Committee would observe that resolutions that set population limits have been divisive amongst the UBCM membership. Local governments of all sizes—not only smaller municipalities or regional districts—are faced with bearing the full costs of emergency equipment. The Committee would propose an amendment to acknowledge this reality.

The Committee would also note that, following a March 2017 provincial announcement, UBCM will be administering the new \$32 million Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This new funding program will include a funding stream that focuses on building capacity for Emergency Social Services teams through new equipment, training and volunteer recruitment/retention.

Conference decision:

Environment

B62 Provincial Action on Building Energy Benchmarking

Richmond

Whereas as described in the Canada Green Building Council's "Energy Benchmarking, Reporting & Disclosure in Canada: A Guide to a Common Framework," mandatory energy benchmarking and reporting is a low cost, market-based means to enable buildings to reduce energy costs and GHG emissions;

And whereas the Province of BC is a signatory to both the Pan-Canadian Framework on Climate Change and Clean Growth, and the Pacific Coast Climate Leadership Plan, both of which commit the Province to implement benchmarking requirements for larger buildings;

And whereas a provincially administered benchmarking requirement similar to that adopted by the Province of Ontario would be most impactful and administratively simple;

And whereas climate change threatens BC communities, and action in the built environment is necessary to mitigate climate change and realize economic opportunity:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be requested to develop a requirement that buildings above a size threshold benchmark their energy performance and report this information to the province annually, and that the resulting data be available to local governments to inform their climate policy and programs.

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-B94, which asked the provincial government for legislative amendments authorizing local governments to:

- 1. require annual submission of building energy use data by building owners; and*
- 2. two years after submission, publish non-confidential and non-competitive building energy benchmarking information, contingent upon an accuracy review by building owners.*

The resolution suggested that this would enable local governments to use normalized comparison benchmarking between similar buildings as a means of targeting efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

In response to the resolution, the Province expressed support for benchmarking, and referenced its participation in the Pacific Coast Collaborative. However, the Province indicated that while it was “exploring approaches and policy options” to enable benchmarking activities, it was not willing to undertake legislative amendments.

With regard to this 2017 resolution on building energy benchmarking, the Committee is unclear on what the size threshold would be, and as such, the scope of the proposed benchmarking policy.

Conference decision:

B63 Provincial Zero Waste Strategy

LMLGA Executive

Whereas the provincial government has delegated solid waste management planning to regional districts (many of whom are pursuing zero waste) and set a target of municipal solid waste disposal of 350 kg per capita by 2020/21;

And whereas local governments can work on diversion and management of materials but the provincial government has more powers to influence what kinds of materials come in, the volume of those materials and reductions of those volumes as well as the power to regulate extended producer responsibility programs:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC develop a provincial Zero Waste Strategy.

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 asking UBCM to write a policy paper in order to ask the provincial government to develop a provincial zero waste strategy.

UBCM acknowledges that members have long supported resolutions calling on the provincial government to expand and better coordinate extended producer responsibility programs (most recently 2015-B62, 2014-A6, 2014-B97, 2013-SR1, 2013-B77, 2012-B27, 2012-B28, 2012-B30, 2012-B81, 2012-B125, 2011-B39, 2010-B33, 2009-B36, 2009-B37, 2009-B114, 2009-B115, 2009-B116, 2008-B29, 2008-B84, 2007-B25, 2006-B29, 2006-B30, 2006-B106).

Conference decision:

B64 Illegal Dumping

Peace River RD

Whereas illegal dumping of waste on private and crown land continues to be an issue across the Province resulting in unsightly, unsanitary and potentially dangerous refuse deposits in natural rural areas that should be protected and preserved for public enjoyment in ‘supernatural British Columbia’;

And whereas the problem of illegal dumping is an area of shared jurisdiction between multiple provincial ministries including Environment and Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, which results in decreased accountability and gaps in service:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to designate a single ministry as responsible for regulation of illegal dumping in the province, including enforcement of said regulations and clean-up and removal of dumped waste;

And be it further resolved that UBCM respectfully request that the Province provide adequate funding to the designated ministry to ensure minimum staffing levels can be maintained in all areas of the province to address the issue of illegal dumping.

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 considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government designate a single ministry to be responsible for regulation and enforcement of illegal dumping in BC. However, members did endorse resolution 2011-B89, which called on the provincial government to allocate additional human and financial resources to enforce, monitor and clean up illegal dump sites on Crown land; and resolution 2012-B29, which asked the Province to invest more resources to prosecute illegal dumping on Crown land.

In response to resolution 2011-B89, the provincial government expressed willingness to work directly with local governments to address local challenges with illegal dumping on a case-by-case basis.

Conference decision:

B65 Environmental Assessment Cumulative Analysis Squamish

Whereas a project subject to provincial environmental assessment (EA) process can be separated into different EA processes or excluded from the process altogether such as hydro, gas supply, navigation, etc.;

And whereas, because of this, there is no cumulative analysis that creates a clear picture of the entire impact of a proposal, including the five pillars of environmental assessment; economic, social, environmental, health and heritage, thereby distorting and potentially minimizes the magnitude of the impact or understanding by the community and local government:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province consider projects in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government ensure that the environmental assessment process takes into account the entire and cumulative impact of a project proposal, including the “five pillars” of environmental assessment: economic, social, environmental, health, and heritage impacts.

However, members endorsed resolution 2015-B61, which asked the Province to conduct a complete health impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment for all projects; and work with the Health Officers Council to develop guidance documents to support such health impact assessments.

In response to resolution 2015-B61, the provincial government stated that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) determines the requirements for environmental assessments on a project-by-project basis, but pointed out that the EAO frequently requires human health risk assessments as part of environmental assessments. The Province also expressed willingness to work with other parties “to support a consistent approach to health impact assessment across the province.”

Members also endorsed resolution 2015-B96, which called on the Province to expand the scope of environmental impact assessments to include “the wider community and environmental impacts associated with increased road, rail and marine traffic so that a range of mitigation options can be assessed”

In response to resolution 2015-B96, the provincial government indicated that the Environmental Assessment Office, which determines the scope of an environmental assessment, sets a different scope for each project. The Province stated that as part of the setting of scope, the Environmental Assessment Office could seek feedback from the advisory working group for the project, which includes “provincial, local, Aboriginal and federal government representatives.”

While not proposing changes to the environmental assessment process, the Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to undertake planning and assessment of independent power projects (IPPs), in order to minimize impacts on Crown land resources and users (2012-B61, 2009-B40, 2009-B137, 2008-B38, 2007-B146, 2006-A4, 2006-B145, 2003-B95, 2003-B96).

Conference decision:

B66 Panel on Management and Preservation of Old Growth Forests

Port McNeill

Whereas:

- The preservation and management of old growth forests is clearly an important issue;
- Currently, there are a number of plans to manage and preserve old growth forests that include parks, old growth management areas and areas identified as critical habitat;
- Industry continues to harvest old growth forests and many communities depend on the economy generated from forests—from harvesting and other forest uses;
- First Nations have many forestry interests and concerns in their traditional territories; and
- A balance between healthy forests and healthy communities is essential and achievable;

And whereas a broad-based advisory group could help formulate a coordinated strategy with respect to the management and preservation of old growth forests:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support the formation of an advisory committee focused on the management and preservation of old growth forests, and that this advisory group consist of First Nations groups, local government representatives from forest communities, industry, and environmental representation.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed amended resolution 2016-C27, which asked the provincial government to amend the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and protect from logging all old-growth forest on provincial Crown land on Vancouver Island.

The Committee also 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.

The Committee understands that over the past year, UBCM’s Community Economic Development Committee has been advocating for a greater role for local governments in forest policy decision-making.

The Community Economic Development Committee surveyed local governments regarding this topic, and the responses indicated that communities wish to be engaged and consulted prior to decisions being made that will affect the forests in their area. In a follow up round table session at the 2016 UBCM Convention, UBCM released the report, "Forest Policy Decision-Making: The Case for Greater Community Consultation and Engagement." In the report, UBCM made five recommendations, one of which was to seek support for the establishment of communication protocols or local forest advisory committees. This direction appears to be consistent with the request of the sponsor in regard to old growth.

Conference decision:

Land Use

B67 Provincial Private Moorage Program

Coldstream

Whereas the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has amended the private moorage program permitting residential docks to be authorized under a "General Permission" rather than an application-driven Crown land tenure;

And whereas residential docks authorized under General Permission will not require a referral to the local government for compliance with local government requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations amend the provincial General Permission for the Use of Crown Land for Private Moorage to explicitly require that General Permission for private moorage require compliance with any local government regulation pertaining to the construction, placement and use of private moorage;

And be it further resolved that Front Counter BC reinstate its practice of referring private moorage applications to municipalities.

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 2008-B115, which called on the provincial government to "retain administration of water leases and licenses for all docks, to ensure control and management of its waterways and public life safety." The resolution also requested that the Province increase its staffing resources for enforcement and compliance regarding water leases and licenses for docks.

In response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial government observed that it had consulted with local governments and First Nations during revision of the private moorage program. The Province highlighted tools that can be used to address problems with private moorage:

- *agencies and local governments can designate areas with sensitive values or the potential for user conflicts, so that an application would be required, regardless of dock size;*
- *where cumulative impacts are a concern, local governments may submit community moorage proposals for shared use by area residents; and*
- *local government retains the ability to manage private moorage through zoning and bylaw or head lease.*

UBCM would acknowledge a January 2017 letter to local governments, in which the provincial government clarified the scope of amendments to the private moorage program. This letter is available online on the Community Economic Development policy page of the UBCM website. The letter confirms that "... changes to private moorage policy do not affect local government zoning or bylaws. Prospective dock owners must continue to adhere to all local government requirements."

Further clarification has also been received from FLNRO staff on the new policy in response to the concerns that have been raised:

- All docks, regardless of whether they are authorized by a General Permission or other Land Act tenure (Specific Permission, Lease), remain subject to local government bylaws and zoning. This has not changed. However, there have been concerns expressed by local government, since the General Permission document no longer explicitly states this. In response the FLNRO webpage has been modified to highlight to proponents that they should contact local governments prior to construction to determine what if any local government requirements are in place. Local governments are also encouraged to work with local dock building companies to communicate their requirements.
- All new docks continue to require a notification or approval under section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) - “works in and about a stream” (or other fresh water-body).
- In the Okanagan Region where the majority of freshwater docks are located, these s. 11 WSA applications are referred to local governments, which allow the local governments to be made aware of specific dock proposals and respond to proponents accordingly. This process is being considered by other regional offices.

For further information see:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/landwater-use/crown-land/private_moorage.pdf

See also resolution B68.

Conference decision:

B68 Dock & Buoy Regulations

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas local governments in the Province of BC have limited enforcement options, staff resources and cost effective legal tools to deal with the significant number of unlawfully placed docks and buoys on lakes and rivers;

And whereas the Province of BC is responsible for the management of Crown lands, including lakes and rivers, for the benefit of the public, and is responsible for the enforcement of provincial regulations pertaining to the placement of structures such as docks on lakes;

And whereas the Government of Canada, through Transport Canada, the federal *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and *Canada Shipping Act*, is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of mooring buoys on lakes:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested to work with UBCM to better address this multijurisdictional dock and buoy issue, by consulting with local governments to align areas of overlapping regulation (e.g. zoning and provincial dock permissions), and to increase provincial enforcement resources to deal with illegal docks on lakes;

And be it further resolved that the Province of BC and UBCM call on the Government of Canada to increase Transport Canada's resources to more effectively regulate and remove buoys on lakes and rivers in BC that have been illegally placed, are unsafe, or are undocumented or of unknown ownership.

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 2008-B115, which called on the provincial government to “retain administration of water leases and licenses for all docks, to ensure control and management of its waterways and public life safety.” The resolution also requested that the Province increase its staffing resources for enforcement and compliance regarding water leases and licenses for docks.

In response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial government observed that it had consulted with local governments and First Nations during revision of the private moorage program. The Province highlighted tools that can be used to address problems with private moorage:

- *agencies and local governments can designate areas with sensitive values or the potential for user conflicts, so that an application would be required, regardless of dock size;*
- *where cumulative impacts are a concern, local governments may submit community moorage proposals for shared use by area residents; and*
- *local government retains the ability to manage private moorage through zoning and bylaw or head lease.*

UBCM would acknowledge a January 2017 letter to local governments, in which the provincial government clarified the scope of amendments to the private moorage program. This letter is available online on the Community Economic Development policy page of the UBCM website. The letter confirms that "... changes to private moorage policy do not affect local government zoning or bylaws. Prospective dock owners must continue to adhere to all local government requirements."

Further clarification has also been received from MFLNRO staff on the new policy in response to the concerns that have been raised:

- *All docks, regardless of whether they are authorized by a General Permission or other Land Act tenure (Specific Permission, Lease), remain subject to local government bylaws and zoning. This has not changed. However, there have been concerns expressed by local government, since the General Permission document no longer explicitly states this. In response the MFLNRO webpage has been modified to highlight to proponents that they should contact local governments prior to construction to determine what if any local government requirements are in place. Local governments are also encouraged to work with local dock building companies to communicate their requirements.*
- *All new docks continue to require a notification or approval under section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) - "works in and about a stream" (or other fresh water-body).*
- *In the Okanagan Region where the majority of freshwater docks are located, these s. 11 WSA applications are referred to local governments, which allow the local governments to be made aware of specific dock proposals and respond to proponents accordingly. This process is being considered by other regional offices.*

For further information see:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/landwater-use/crown-land/private_moorage.pdf

The Province confirmed that the federal government regulates private buoys.

See also resolution B67.

Conference decision:

Community Economic Development

B69 "Buy Local" Policy for Public Institutions

North Okanagan RD

Whereas it is a stated goal of the provincial government to support buy local initiatives;

And whereas taxpayer-supported institutions with on-site food services, such as universities and hospitals, are not required to buy local:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government institute a policy whereby taxpayer-supported institutions with on-site food services be required to source a targeted portion of their food purchases from local producers.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government institute a policy whereby taxpayer-supported institutions with on-site food services be required to source a targeted portion of their food purchases from local producers, subject to the Province meeting its existing domestic and international trade agreement obligations, specifically recognizing procurement thresholds.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to require taxpayer-supported institutions with on-site food service to purchase a portion of their food from local producers.

However, UBCM notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting local agriculture and food production (2011-B53, 2011-B55, 2011-B56, 2010-B47, 2010-B96, 2010-B100, 2009-B132).

The Committee is proposing an amendment to the resolution that would recognize that existing trade obligations need to be considered when making decisions to procure locally produced products.

Conference decision:

Health

B70 Funding for Child & Youth Mental Health & Substance Use Collaborative

Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative (CYMHSUC), funded and supported by Doctors of BC and the Government of British Columbia, has been working to increase timely access to integrated support and services for children, youth and families, which work contributes to improving and potentially saving the lives of children and youth struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues in British Columbia;

And whereas the CYMHSUC has grown, since 2013, to 11 provincial working groups, comprising the 64 CYMHSUC local action teams, addressing complex issues such as emergency room protocols, rural tele-health, information sharing guidelines and increased literacy for mental health and substance use in schools through training teachers and counsellors on mental health curriculum and mental health first aid;

And whereas the Government of British Columbia has not committed funding for the CYMHSUC beyond 2017:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia continue funding and support for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative beyond 2017.

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 asking the provincial government to provide continued funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative.

However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the provincial government expand and continue funding programs to support child and youth mental health (2012-B37, 2008-B51, 2006-B51, 2006-B153).

Resolution 2012-B37 specifically called on the provincial government to “support integrated services and work with school districts and local governments to provide and evaluate youth mental health services in a school setting.” In response to the resolution, the Province referenced “Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia,” with the Ministry of Children and Family Development acting as the lead agency for the child and youth portion of the plan.

Conference decision:

B71 The Case for Prevention of the Opioid Crisis

Abbotsford

Whereas communities in British Columbia are in the midst of a very severe health crisis that is taking lives of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters all over the province, such that so far this year, as of April 30, 2017, 488 people have died in British Columbia from drug overdoses, with projected death toll for 2017 estimated to be 1,400 individuals, and there is every reason to believe that this death rate will continue unabated unless our communities change the dynamics propelling this crisis;

And whereas the Abbotsford Police Department has produced a report “The Opioid Crisis, A Case for Prevention: For a crisis caused by an unstoppable flow of drugs that are killing people daily, the real answer lies with finding a way to successfully stop people from even starting,” that provides recommendations for creating a structure to address the crisis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British of Columbia, and more particularly the Minister of Health, develop a comprehensive cross-governmental prevention and intervention program and corresponding implementation plan that has a long term vision, a well-governed and well-funded sustainable structure, as well as measurable outcomes to appropriately address the crisis across the Province of British Columbia.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment***

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British of Columbia, and more particularly the Minister of Health, develop a comprehensive cross-governmental prevention and intervention program and corresponding implementation plan that has a long term vision, a well-governed and well-funded sustainable structure, as well as measurable outcomes to appropriately address the drug overdose crisis across the Province of British Columbia.

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 a “comprehensive cross-governmental prevention and intervention program and corresponding implementation plan,” well-governed, sustainably funded and with measurable outcomes, specifically to address the opioid drug crisis in BC.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improvement and expansion of services and supports for those in BC who are addressing addictions and recovery processes (most recently 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B44, 2010-B143, 2010-B145, 2008-A1, 2007-B51, 2007-B153, 2006-B7, 2006-B8, 2005-A1, 2005-B43).

The Resolutions Committee would propose an amendment to the enactment clause to make clear that the resolution calls for provincial action on a drug overdose crisis.

Conference decision:

Section B2-b

Finance

B72 Unconditional Local Government Grants

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas previously, local governments received annual unconditional grants from the Province in two payments, one at the end of March and the other at the end of June;

And whereas the 2016 grants are being paid in a single payment at the end of June, creating a cash flow hardship for small local governments that depend on the March payment to meet their operational needs:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government process unconditional grants in two payments annually to alleviate cash flow hardships.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

This resolution was submitted in 2016, but was omitted from the Resolutions Book due to an administrative error. Because of time constraints, the UBCM membership was not able to debate the resolution at the 2016 Convention, so the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for their consideration. Upon consideration of the resolution, the UBCM Executive referred the resolution to the 2017 Annual Convention.

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to change its policy for disbursing unconditional grants, so that local governments would receive two payments per year, rather than one payment per year.

Conference decision:

B73 Provincial Share of Infrastructure Spending

Victoria

Whereas local governments receive 8 cents of each tax dollar collected in Canada and municipalities own 60 per cent of all Canadian infrastructure, and face an enormous infrastructure debt, yet have the least ability to raise funds to cover that debt;

And whereas in the first phase of infrastructure spending the federal government committed 50 per cent of the cost of infrastructure projects and will soon be negotiating the second phase of spending announced in the 2017 federal budget with a potential similar contribution:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to match the federal government's percentage of spending on infrastructure projects.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government match the federal government cost share on infrastructure projects.

The sponsor correctly notes that in the first phase of the infrastructure program, the federal government committed to funding 50 per cent of project costs. However, the Committee understands that in July 2017, the federal government announced Phase 2 funding details and committed to a federal 40 per cent share, with the Province required to cost-share on local government projects at a minimum of 33.33 per cent of eligible costs.

The Committee is aware that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has advocated for an infrastructure program cost share formula of 40 per cent federal; 40 per cent provincial and 20 per cent local government.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to reduce the cost share borne by local governments for infrastructure projects (2016-B18, 2015-B22, 2014-B19, 2012-B13, 2009-B29, 2004-A7, 2000-B12).

Conference decision:

B74 Water Improvement Districts

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas water improvement districts were established as a form of local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the provincial government to provide access to grant funding for water improvement districts similar to the access provided to regional districts.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has repeatedly considered, and each time did not endorse, resolutions requesting that the provincial and federal governments allow improvement districts to access the infrastructure funding programs available to local governments (2001-B58, 1994-B41, 1986-A7).

In its comments on resolution 2001-B58, which requested that the Province allow improvement districts to access infrastructure capital grants, the Resolutions Committee stated that “eligible applicants for infrastructure programs have been local governments defined generally as municipalities and regional districts.” The Committee pointed out that “infrastructure funding is limited. If funding was extended to improvement districts the dollars available to municipalities and regional districts would be eroded”

Specific to the Federal Gas Tax Fund, the Resolutions Committee would point out that the definition of Ultimate Recipient includes; a non-municipal entity, including for profit, non-government and not-for-profit organizations, on the condition that (a) the Local Government(s) where the Eligible Project would be located, if applicable, has indicated support for the project through a formal resolution of its (their) council (s) or board(s). Provided that the project falls under an eligible project category (such as water and wastewater), and provided that the project is considered for public use and benefit, water improvement districts can be eligible. UBCM and the federal and provincial governments, with the approval of the Gas Tax Oversight Committee, have adopted a policy designed to support local government decision making with respect to a project’s eligibility.

See also resolution B77.

Conference decision:

B75 Community Works Funding – Small Communities

Sayward

Whereas many communities are wrestling with increased infrastructure costs for essential services and in finding adequate sources of funding;

And whereas small communities have very limited funding options for providing basic infrastructure for their residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to change the base level of Community Works Funding to \$100,000 for communities under 5,000.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for the provincial government to amend a federal funding program, specifically the Community Works Fund of the Renewed Gas Tax Agreement, to raise to \$100,000 the base level of funding for communities with a population of less than 5,000.

The Renewed Gas Tax Agreement is a tripartite agreement between the federal government, the provincial government and UBCM. Therefore, to be effective, the resolution should be directed at both the provincial and federal governments. The current Agreement identifies the opportunity to review the Agreement after the first 5 years (2018).

For the reference of the membership, the Resolutions Committee has compiled some background information about the Community Works Fund.

- The \$50,000 baseline amount is established within the gas tax framework agreement, meaning that the only way to change the baseline amount is to amend the overall gas tax framework agreement. At this time, the agreement provides an opportunity for the three parties to review the agreement after 5 years (2019).*
- The \$50,000 base funding is indexed, so it does increase over the life of the program, in accordance with the indexing measures that the federal government prescribed in the agreement.*
- Consistent with other resolutions requesting UBCM to make amendments to the gas tax framework agreement and programs, UBCM approaches involvement in the federal gas tax program as having two distinct and never intersecting roles – one is as the administrator of the agreement. The other is UBCM's role as advocate that only can occur during periods when the framework agreement is being reviewed (as established within the agreement) or during open negotiations (during the drafting of a new agreement). A caution here would be that UBCM would not expect either the federal or provincial government to amend a signed agreement at their whim.*
- Local governments under 5000 in population represent 88 of the 189 local governments that receive Community Works Fund in BC. The total dollar implication of changing the baseline amount awarded to these smaller local governments would be \$4.4 million per year, being taken away from the other 111 local governments that receive Community Works Fund.*
- In BC, recognizing the unique challenges faced by smaller local governments, both the Province and UBCM supported pooling a portion of the per capita allocation into the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF).*

The SPF has been established within the framework agreement. The SPF addresses the issues captured in this resolution, by providing a pooled fund, available through application, that provides smaller local governments the ability to apply and receive up to \$6 million, with 100% funded through the gas tax fund.

The Resolutions Committee understands that the \$50,000 baseline is not a standard across the country, and UBCM can follow up to get a sense of what is being done in different jurisdictions.

The Committee would observe that increasing the base, as proposed by this resolution, could have a particularly negative effect on the federal gas tax funding framework in BC. It could be argued that a larger base funding amount under the Community Works Fund would decrease communities' need for the SPF, to the point where the provincial and federal governments might question the overall point of the SPF. Losing the SPF would eliminate a key source of funding for local governments: as an example, Sayward, with a population of less than 350, received an SPF grant of \$2.9 million (100% program financed project). A \$50,000 bump to the baseline Community Works Fund received by Sayward would not cover the \$2.9 million opportunity loss to Sayward if the SPF program were to be eliminated.

Conference decision:

B76 Local Government Infrastructure Project Funding

Oliver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have taken a leadership role by investing in local government infrastructure projects, however exclude funding programs that supports irrigation water capital infrastructure that serves the agricultural sector;

And whereas local governments across Canada responsibly manage and deliver irrigation water service to the agricultural sector through infrastructure that supports the economic health of the community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada to replace restrictive funding initiatives with funding criteria that supports local government capital infrastructure project funding for irrigation water services that serves agriculture.

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 and federal governments to amend the criteria for infrastructure funding programs, to enable use of existing infrastructure funding programs for development or improvement of local government infrastructure for agricultural irrigation purposes.

In terms of resolutions, UBCM notes that members endorsed 1999-B77, which called on the Province to provide funding for irrigation of farm properties in the Agricultural Land Reserve, “as an integral part of its commitment to preserve farm land for future generations of British Columbians.” At the time, the provincial government expressed willingness to advocate for inclusion of water development for agriculture in the eligibility criteria for future infrastructure initiatives.

In general, UBCM would acknowledge that both federal and provincial capital funding programs have expanded eligible project categories in recent years. As an example, the Gas Tax Fund identifies 17 eligible project categories, focused on the majority of core local government services. However, providing standalone agricultural irrigation is not considered a core service provided by the majority of local governments. In circumstances where potable water and agricultural irrigation exist in a single system, improvements to the system would likely be eligible. UBCM would note that both federal and provincial programs have supported ‘twinning’, or separation of domestic and agricultural water systems, as the most cost effective way to provide potable drinking water, resulting in significant savings in overall infrastructure, operation and maintenance costs for both drinking and agricultural water systems.

Conference decision:

B77 Eligibility to Access Federal Gas Tax Funding

Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas federal Gas Tax funding is available to local governments under the Community Works Fund for capital infrastructure and capacity building including water and sewer utilities but excludes not-for-profit strata councils and not-for-profit private utility systems that act as purveyors of utility services to their communities from accessing these funds;

And whereas the costs of providing water and sewer services to rural property owners are becoming increasingly prohibitive;

And whereas not-for-profit strata councils and not-for-profit private utility systems construct and maintain utility services comparable to those provided within service areas established by local governments;

And whereas, unlike their local government service area counterparts, those utility ratepayers are currently responsible for the entire costs of construction, maintenance and necessary upgrades of these community utilities:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to call on the federal government to amend the Federal Gas Tax Agreement by making not-for-profit strata councils and not-for-profit private utility systems eligible to access and utilize gas tax funding for construction and improvements to water and sewer utilities, and other capital projects that provide community benefits within the criteria otherwise set out in the Gas Tax – Community Works Fund agreement.

Not presented to the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for amendments to the federal Gas Tax Agreement to allow “not-for-profit strata councils and not-for-profit private utility systems” to access gas tax funding for “construction and improvements to water and sewer utilities, and other capital projects that provide community benefits,” within the criteria for the Community Works Fund.

The Committee would point out that under the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia, the definition of Ultimate Recipient includes: a non-municipal entity, including for-profit, non-government and not-for-profit organizations, on the condition that (a) the Local Government(s) where the Eligible Project would be located, if applicable, has indicated support for the project through a formal resolution of its (their) council(s) or board(s). Providing that the project falls under an eligible project category (such as water and wastewater), and providing that the project is considered for public use and benefit, strata councils and private utilities can be eligible to receive federal gas tax funding.

Further to the criteria for eligible projects and eligible recipients, the Resolutions Committee would note that UBCM, in collaboration with the federal and provincial governments, and approved by the Gas Tax Oversight Committee, has approved a policy designed to support local government decision making with respect to a project’s eligibility.

See also resolution B74.

Conference decision:

Elections

B78 Local Elections Campaign Financing Act

Ashcroft

Whereas local elections are conducted under the *Local Government Act*, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, the *School Act* and other bylaws and legislation;

And whereas effective in 2014 Elections BC administers campaign financing and advertising rules under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*,

And whereas all candidates putting their name forward for local government elections must abide by the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* regardless of the size of the jurisdiction in which they are running and the amount of funds used in their campaign, which can be expensive, time consuming and intimidating, which could result in some potential candidates deciding not to put their name forward for local office:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* be amended to recognize that requirements to run a campaign in a community of 2,000 voters is considerably different than those required for a large centre;

And be it further resolved that changes to the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* be in place prior to the 2018 general local election.

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 on the Province to amend the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act to reduce the stringency of the regulations for candidates in smaller communities.

The Committee would be hesitant to support a request for amendments to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act when in fact the 2018 local elections will be first election to take place under the new legislation with the inclusion of expense limits. It may be premature to suggest amendments prior to experiencing the full legislative implementation.

The Committee would also note that when the Elections Task Force reported out in May 2010, their recommendations were framed around balancing a number of key principles such as: transparency, accountability, consistency, flexibility, accessibility, fairness and honesty. And while some of the rules for reporting may seem time consuming and expensive, they have been put in place in an effort to balance these key principles in the interest of the public, local government and the Province.

Conference decision:

Legislative

B79 First Nations & Closed Meetings

North Cowichan

Whereas section 90 of the *Community Charter* stipulates matters that may or must be considered in closed meetings;

And whereas there is no inherent authority to close meetings to the public to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider amending section 90 of the *Community Charter* to allow local governments to close meetings to the public to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nations governments.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for amendments to the Community Charter to allow local governments to close meetings to the public in order to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nation governments.

Conference decision:

B80 Elimination of Boards of Variance

Cariboo RD

Whereas Part 14, Division 15 of the *Local Government Act* requires local governments to appoint citizens to a board of variance, and provides for its mandate and operation;

And whereas Section 536(2) of the *Local Government Act* prohibits elected officials or advisory planning commissioners from serving on the board of variance;

And whereas the board of variance is empowered to make land use decisions that could potentially overturn a decision of the duly elected municipal council or regional district board:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to repeal “Division 15 – Board of Variance” of the *Local Government Act* in its entirety.

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 considered but did not endorse resolution 2012-B140, which asked the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to allow local governments to opt out of the requirement to establish a board of variance.

At the time in 2012, the UBCM Resolutions Committee expressed discomfort with the idea of local governments opting out of the requirement to establish a board of variance. The Committee emphasized the absence of previous policy direction from the UBCM membership, and the independent role played by boards of variance.

In its comments on resolution 2012-B140, the Committee noted that over the years, the membership had endorsed a number of resolutions on issues related to boards of variance, including appeal of decisions and limits to their authority (2000-B38; 1996-B59; 1996-A14). Members had also endorsed resolution 2006-B34, requesting legislative amendments to circumscribe the scope of powers of boards of variance, and to provide an adequate course of appeal for both citizens and local government councils.

The request made in the 2017 resolution goes beyond issues of scope of powers, instead proposing to eliminate boards of variance entirely.

By way of background, upon adoption of a zoning bylaw, a council or board must then establish by bylaw a board of variance (BOV). The BOV role is limited to the functions and responsibilities set out in s. 900-901 of the Local Government Act. A person may apply to the board of variance for a minor variance if they feel compliance with the bylaw would cause them a hardship. The council or board appoints members to the board of variance as per the Local Government Act. The local government is bound by the decisions of the board variance, subject to court review. Council or the board cannot direct the board in its decision making process.

Conference decision:

B81 Definition of a Parcel of Land

Castlegar

Whereas there are a number of properties in the City of Castlegar that contain more than one parcel and will attract more than one parcel tax when one is imposed using section 200 and 201 of the *Community Charter*;

And whereas the provisions of the *Community Charter* with respect to the definition of a parcel and the creation of a parcel tax assessment roll are inconsistent with the *Assessment Act* and are unfair to property owners while limiting municipalities from equitably distributing a parcel tax burden:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia considers revising the *Community Charter* to include the provision that is included in the *Assessment Act* in chapter 20, part 1, section 5:

Splitting and Grouping of Parcels

If a building or other improvement extends over more than one parcel of land, those parcels, if contiguous, may be treated by the assessor as one parcel and assessed accordingly;

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay & 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 amend the Community Charter to use the definition of “parcel” in the Assessment Act:

“If a building or other improvement extends over more than one parcel of land, those parcels, if contiguous, may be treated by the assessor as one parcel and assessed accordingly”.

Conference decision:

Transportation

B82 Whistle Cessation

Vanderhoof

Whereas rail traffic continues to increase throughout the province of British Columbia;

And whereas locomotive whistles severely infringe upon citizens' quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort and convenience:

Therefore be it resolved that Transport Canada require rail corporations provide a safe environment in which whistle sounding will be discontinued.

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 considered but did not endorse resolution 2014-B125, a similar resolution from the same sponsor.

In its comments on the 2014 resolution, the UBCM Resolutions Committee noted that the membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2009-B157, which called on rail corporations to provide controlled railway crossings within municipal boundaries, rather than sounding locomotive whistles.

The Committee also observed that under the Rail Safety Act, strict rules dictate when and where whistles are sounded. These rules apply at all crossings and are required for safety reasons.

Further information:

www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/brochures/en_community_brochure.pdf

Additional information on the Transport Canada website:

www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/publications-874.htm

Conference decision:

B83 Expedite Accident Clearing

**North Vancouver District
North Vancouver City**

Whereas traffic volume is increasing steadily on provincial highways and minor vehicle accidents are occurring on a frequent basis causing excessive traveler delay, significant local and regional economic loss and loss of mobility on adjacent local road networks (for example on average three accidents per week on the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge between the North Shore and Vancouver);

And whereas under provincial legislation:

- only police are authorized to issue consent to remove damaged or stalled vehicles blocking a provincial highway;
- police who attend an accident where damages are estimated over \$1,000 are required by law to conduct a time consuming accident investigation (a MV6020 form); and
- only police are authorized to fill out a MV6020 accident form:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Transportation make the following amendments to provincial legislation to facilitate more timely removal of damaged vehicles on provincial bridges, tunnels and highways thereby reducing the impact to the traveling public and movement of commercial goods:

- amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow the Province to delegate authority to their maintenance contractors to authorize removal of stalled vehicles or those vehicles involved in minor accidents from blocking a provincial highway;
- amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to increase the damage limit to \$10,000 to allow police to attend minor accidents without having to complete a MV6020 investigation and to facilitate timely removal of vehicles with minor damage; and
- expand the pilot program and move towards amending the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow the authority having jurisdiction to extend authority to fire rescue services to complete MV6020 investigations for minor accidents.

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 amend the Motor Vehicle Act to facilitate more timely removal of damaged vehicles from provincial bridges, tunnels, and highways.

Conference decision:

Community Safety

B84 Interface Wildfire Risk

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the process of reduction of interface wildfire risk is placing a growing burden on local governments in terms of staff time and cash contributions;

And whereas the current pace of progress will not result in meeting risk reduction targets for several decades:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of BC to prepare a summary of approaches being taken across the province to address interface wildfire risks, including identifications of all organizations (local governments, BC Timber Sales, provincial ministries, or non-governmental organizations) involved in preparing prescriptions and implementing treatments along with funding sources available to each organization.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & 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 UBCM and the provincial government to compile:

- *an inventory of all wildfire mitigation activities in BC;*
- *a list of all organizations undertaking such activities; and*
- *a list of the funding sources available to each organization.*

However, since 2011, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) has allowed staff and consultant costs as eligible expenditures for operational fuel treatments. In part, the intent of these eligible expenditures is to allow eligible applicants to access the forestry expertise they require to oversee fuel treatments.

The Committee understands that in January 2017, changes were made to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan funding stream to increase the maximum grant available and lessen the required community contribution. A template is now available for all CWPPs which will help local governments and First Nations to identify and prioritize future fuel management and FireSmart activities.

In addition, in April 2017, changes to the SWPI were announced. Eligible applicants may now apply for joint funding for operational treatments with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC. Funding permitting, joint funding for operational fuel treatments will be available to:

- allow applicants to access funding in excess of the annual SWPI funding maximums;
- enable operationally logical treatments with areas inside the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and outside of the WUI; and
- support treatments in regional district unincorporated areas that did not previously meet the requirements regarding service area and a community contribution of 10%—which may result in 100% funding for selected eligible projects in unincorporated areas.

Conference decision:

B85 Modification of Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes Delta

Whereas the Inspector of Dikes is required under the *Dike Maintenance Act* to provide approval of all works on a designated dike, including the seismic performance of the dike;

And whereas the provincial Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes (June 2014) require extensive and expensive geotechnical investigations and ground improvement works;

And whereas the cost of geotechnical ground improvements to meet the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes is very expensive in areas with river and marine sediments:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to reflect predicted local ground settlement conditions with the primary goal of community flood protection.

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 revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to take into account predicted local ground settlement conditions.

Conference decision:

B86 Emergency Recovery Costs Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas the cost of recovering from emergencies is a hardship experienced by many small communities and rural areas;

And whereas pursuant to the *Emergency Program Act's* Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation, the current cost-sharing percentage split for emergency recovery costs, being 80 per cent for the Province and 20 per cent for local governments, contributes to the financial component of the hardship:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province increase its share of emergency recovery costs, so that the Province is responsible for 90 per cent and local governments are responsible for 10 per cent of emergency recovery costs.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to fund training for municipal police agencies to increase the number of certified Drug Recognition Experts in order to properly police drug-impaired driving in British Columbia.

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 provide funding to municipal police agencies, to train drug recognition experts to identify the signs of cannabis impairment.

The Committee would also note that Bill C-46, tabled by the federal government on April 13, 2017, authorizes the Attorney General of Canada to approve the use of oral fluid (saliva) drug screening devices by police. A positive reading will help develop reasonable grounds that an offence has been committed, at which time an officer can demand a drug evaluation by an evaluating officer or the taking of a blood sample at the police station.

See also resolution SR1.

Conference decision:

B89 Restorative Justice Training

New Westminster

Whereas restorative justice has become a valuable tool in addressing certain criminal activities, by mediating a dialogue between the victim and the offender;

And whereas this interaction creates a direct accountability, restitution and apology from the offender;

And whereas this method of redress reduces the volume of cases before the courts:

Therefore be it resolved that other orders of government mandate that restorative justice training become a compulsory component of law enforcement training.

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 federal and provincial governments to make restorative justice training compulsory as part of law enforcement training.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide sustainable funding for restorative justice programs (2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2009-B7, 2008-B4, 2007-B3, 2006-B10, 2003-B2, 2001-B10, 2000-B7).

The Committee would observe that instituting compulsory province-wide restorative justice training for all law enforcement personnel would serve as a significant additional cost driver that would increase the costs of policing for all communities.

Conference decision:

Whereas local governments must address traffic safety challenges to ensure the well-being of our residents while balancing limited financial and RCMP resources;

And whereas traffic speed enforcement in residential areas, playground and school zones is labour intensive and the ability to use photo radar as an enforcement tool has proven to be effective and efficient in the management of speed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend provincial legislation to permit local governments to independently implement photo radar on local roads at the local government's expense.

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 proposing provincial legislative amendments to permit local governments to "independently implement photo radar" in their communities.

However, members did endorse resolution 2013-B91, which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments.

In response to the resolution, the Province pointed out that it cancelled the use of photo radar "because of a policy position that it undermined public confidence in traffic enforcement. Instead, the Province put more police on the streets to deliver targeted enforcement strategies through Integrated Road Safety Units as part of the Enhanced Road Safety program."

Conference decision:

Taxation

B91 Tax on Vacant & Derelict Residential Properties

Nelson

Whereas the Government of British Columbia and Legislative Assembly responded to a housing affordability crisis by proceeding with legislation that empowered the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties;

And whereas communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant, including properties that have remained derelict for years and, these derelict vacant buildings pose substantial risks in terms of public safety as well as liveability and desirability for adjoining/nearby neighbourhoods and properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties to local governments across British Columbia and encourage the occupancy, maintenance and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & 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 enact legislation that would grant local governments the authority to levy a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties. However, UBCM members have consistently supported resolutions calling for tools or incentives to support rental and affordable housing (2016-B143, 2015-B14, 2015-B48, 2014-B43).

See also resolutions A2, B14 and C1.

Conference decision:

B92 Federal GST Charges on Provincial Carbon Tax

Vernon

Whereas the Government of British Columbia instituted a “carbon tax” in 2008;

And whereas the Government of Canada imposes GST on the “carbon tax”, essentially a tax on tax;

And whereas the carbon tax and subsequently the GST on the carbon tax applies widely on carbon fuels and affects the cost of living for British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial and federal governments to eliminate the GST being charged on the provincial carbon tax.

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 and federal governments not to charge federal GST on the provincial carbon tax.

The Committee understands that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities recently responded to the sponsor's correspondence on the application of GST on provincial carbon tax. FCM indicated that municipalities can claim a rebate to recover 100 per cent of the GST or of the federal part of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) paid or payable on eligible purchases and expenses. Bodies defined as municipalities under the Excise Tax for this purpose include the following:

- *incorporated municipal bodies, such as cities, towns, villages, and metropolitan authorities;*
- *entities determined by the Minister of National Revenue to be a municipality, such as transit commissions and public libraries; and*
- *entities designated by the Minister of National Revenue, in relation to their delivery of municipal services, such as some non-profit social housing corporations or co-operatives.*

Conference decision:

B93 Tax-free Employer-provided Health Benefit Plans

Burnaby

Whereas employer-provided health benefits plans help fill crucial gaps in the public health system;

And whereas group health benefit plans cover nearly \$30 billion annually in health care costs for up to 22 million Canadians and their families, accounting for nearly 30 per cent of the health-related spending nationally;

And whereas group coverage offers significant cost savings and access advantages over individual insurance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to maintain the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefit plans.

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 federal government to “maintain the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefit plans.”

The sponsor correctly points out that the federal government is undertaking a review of federal tax credits, which comprise over \$100 billion a year in foregone federal tax revenue. One of the areas currently exempt from federal tax (outside of Québec) is employer-provided group health benefit plans.

The Resolutions Committee understands that if the federal government were to end the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefits, those benefits would then be reported on an employee’s T4 slip as a taxable income. This would affect an estimated 22 million Canadians, including UBCM and its membership, as UBCM administers a group benefit program that provides coverage to 3,500 local government employees.

Conference decision:

**B94 2017 Federal Budget – Proposed Removal of One-third Non-taxable View Royal
Expense Allowance**

Whereas the 2017 federal budget proposes to remove the tax exemptions beginning in 2019 for the 1/3 non-accountable expense allowances paid to members of provincial and territorial legislative assemblies and to certain municipal office-holders, including mayors, councillors, directors and alternate directors;

And whereas the impact of this change is that the full amount of remuneration will now be subject to income taxes and Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions and, resultantly, may be considered a disincentive to the holding of public office:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the federal government to abandon its proposal to tax the 1/3 non-accountable expense allowances paid to members of provincial and territorial legislative assemblies and to certain municipal office-holders.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government cease pursuing a proposal to tax the 1/3 non-accountable expense allowances paid to members of provincial and territorial legislative assemblies, and certain municipal office-holders.

See also resolution C3.

Conference decision:

Regional Districts

B95 Hazardous Properties Remediation Costs Nanaimo RD

Whereas regional districts exercise their legislated authority to remediate properties of hazardous conditions and/or environmental contamination, the cost of which may be recovered from the property owners or added to taxes in arrears if unpaid on December 31 in the year in which the work is done;

And whereas if the taxes and debts remain unpaid, pursuant to the *Taxation (Rural Area) Act* a property may be forfeited to the Province and the Province is under no obligation to reimburse a regional district for the cost of remediating properties of hazardous conditions and/or environmental contamination:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to enact legislation or provisions that enable local governments to be reimbursed for the costs of remediating properties of hazardous conditions and/or environmental contamination that are subsequently forfeited to the Province on default of payment of the costs by the property owner.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to reimburse regional districts the costs of remediating contaminated properties, in cases where the contaminated property has subsequently been forfeited to the provincial government due to unpaid taxes.

The Committee understands that in situations where there are significant community concerns, hazardous conditions or environmental risks associated with the condition of a property, a regional district may direct a property owner(s) to remediate a property in accordance with the Community Charter or other enactments. When an owner fails to mitigate the concern or hazardous condition, a regional district may undertake the work and recover the costs from the owner. Should an owner default on payment, the outstanding amount is then transferred to the Surveyor of Taxes for collection of the debt through payment of taxes by the owner or from the proceeds of the sale of the property.

Under current legislation, when a property is forfeited to the Province, the Committee notes that all outstanding liens, notices on title and unpaid amounts become null and void pursuant to the Taxation (Rural Area) Act. This includes any outstanding costs incurred by a regional district for the remediation of hazardous conditions, which are typically expensive undertakings. In such cases, there is no alternative for a regional district but to assign those costs back to the service area participants. Changes to provincial legislation that would permit a regional district to recover remediation costs after property forfeiture would lessen the burden on the regional district taxpayer.

Conference decision:

Health

B96 Review of & Amendments to the *Hospital District Act* Kootenay Boundary RD Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the enabling legislation of regional hospital districts in British Columbia, the *Hospital District Act*, prescribes the purpose of hospital districts which hospital district boards struggle to interpret;

And whereas in 2003 the Ministry of Health recommended that the Act be updated and in 2014 the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health stated that a review of the Act was in progress:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review and update the *Hospital District Act* expeditiously and invite input from the regional hospital districts in British Columbia in order to clarify the mandate and role of hospital districts.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & 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 review and update the Hospital District Act to clarify the mandate and role of hospital districts.

See also resolution B39.

Conference decision:

B97 WorkSafeBC Regulations on Asbestos

Greenwood

Whereas the recent WorkSafeBC regulation, “Safe Work Practises for Handling Asbestos,” will financially impact local governments in British Columbia since the majority of buildings are constructed pre-1990;

And whereas the provincial government downloading the costs of inspections and asbestos abatement to the owners will cause a decline in house sales pre-1990, heritage homes will be destroyed, and this will also will encourage illegal construction and increase illegal dumping on Crown Land:

Therefore be it resolved that the WorkSafeBC regulation, “Safe Work Practises for Handling Asbestos,” be postponed until a financial plan is in place to assist the owners of pre-1990 buildings.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Due to time constraints at the 2016 Annual Convention, resolution 2016-B143 was not considered and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. The Resolutions Committee notes that upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution, which called on the provincial government to institute “mandatory licensing, certification and enforceable compliance in safely handling asbestos and other hazardous material for all demolition, renovation and environmental remediation contractors.”

UBCM awaits a response to resolution 2016-B143 from the provincial government.

Though the UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2016-B143, the Resolutions Committee is providing no recommendation for the 2017 resolution, because it makes a new request. The 2017 resolution calls for postponement of the WorkSafeBC asbestos handling regulation until a financial plan is in place.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership typically does not support resolutions that would provide financial benefit for an individual.

See also resolution B45.

Conference decision:

Selected Issues

B98 Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy

Kitimat

Whereas the Government of Canada funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Rural and Remote Homelessness program no longer gives priority to communities with population bases less than 25,000;

And whereas the changing focus of this program has left small communities under-serviced and unable to work with the vulnerable populations in finding adequate housing and facilitating social services for individual clients, and without this funding, small local governments are unable to fund outreach workers for these services without creating further financial pressure by downloading of provincial and federal responsibilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government to refocus the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Rural and Remote Homelessness program funding to those programs in communities of less than 25,000 population.

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 federal government amend the Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Rural and Remote Homelessness program to focus on communities of population less than 25,000.

By way of background, the Committee understands that the Rural and Remote Homelessness program provides federal funding to increase resources and services for those that have unstable housing. Prior to Budget 2016, this funding prioritized non-designated communities (i.e. those not covered under a separate ‘Designated Communities funding stream’) with populations of 25,000 or less. The federal government has since removed this population cap from the program criteria, and the sponsor suggests that the change forces smaller non-designated communities to compete with larger non-designated communities for the same funding—effectively rendering the program even more over-subscribed than before.

The Resolutions Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2015-B108, which requested other changes to the federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy:

- update the “Designated Communities” eligibility list to reflect homelessness challenges faced by communities not previously listed;*
- amend the funding criteria to consider a broad range of factors including community capacity and the specific needs of individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; and*
- increase funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy to take into account new communities added to the program.*

See also resolution B52.

Conference decision:

B99 Municipal Lobbyist Registry

Vancouver

Whereas other provinces have enacted legislation that allows for municipal lobbyist registries ranging from Quebec, which requires municipal lobbyists to register in the provincial registry, to Ontario, which allows for municipalities to set up their own registries with enforcement powers;

And whereas British Columbia does not currently allow municipalities to use the provincial lobbyist registry nor does it extend the legal authorities municipalities would need to enforce lobbyist rules with a local registry:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC provide municipalities with the ability to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyist's conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, and the ability to enforce those rules.

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 enable local governments to register lobbyists, and set and enforce rules of conduct for lobbyists.

Conference decision:

Land Use

B100 Microcell Transmitter Placement Consultation

Grand Forks

Whereas public consultation on the placement of cell towers is mandated;

And whereas new technology is moving away from these large towers to microcell transmitters which do not require local government or public consultation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition relevant provincial and federal governments to mandate similar public consultation requirements for the placement of microcell transmitters as per cell towers.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial and federal governments to implement a requirement for consultation with the public regarding placement of microcell transmitters specifically.

UBCM would point out that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been working for some time on behalf of local governments to address the issue of antenna siting, and in 2014, the federal government introduced new regulations for companies wishing to install radio communication antenna towers. The Joint Protocol on Antenna Siting, between FCM and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), reflects the 2014 regulations:

http://www.fcm.ca/Documents/reports/FCM/Antenna_Siting_Protocol_Template_EN.pdf

FCM confirms that Industry Canada has officially removed the exemption that had permitted antenna towers under 15 meters to be built without notification or consultation with local governments and the public. To be clear, companies must share towers where possible, consult with local governments and the public, and adhere to existing local antenna siting protocols.

It would appear that mechanisms are already in place to address the concern raised by the sponsor regarding placement of microcell transmitters. Rather than moving forward with a resolution on this issue, UBCM would encourage the sponsor to contact UBCM and FCM for assistance developing and implementing a local protocol for antenna siting.

In the context of resolutions, UBCM members endorsed resolution 2002-A6, which requested that the federal government “develop a workable, fair and meaningful process to adjudicate disputes relating to the location and siting of telecommunications towers, including effective dispute resolution mechanisms and enforceable penalty provisions.” More recently, the membership endorsed amended resolution 2012-B141, which called on the federal government to:

- *institute a requirement for consultation with local governments prior to approval and installation of telecommunications towers or antennae;*
- *develop and adopt best practices for minimizing the impacts of towers in communities; and*
- *work cooperatively with local governments to resolve issues that may arise.*

Conference decision:

B101 Policy on Breweries, Distilleries & Meaderies

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas an inequity exists between Agricultural Land Commission rules that apply to breweries, distilleries and meaderies under Policy L-21 vs. wineries and cideries under Policy L-03 which impede the economic growth, agricultural production and agri-tourism opportunities in rural communities;

And whereas Agricultural Land Commission Policy L-21 requires that at least 50% of products for breweries, distilleries and meaderies be grown on site:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission be requested to revise the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to allow breweries, distilleries and meaderies to contract with another BC grower to meet the 50% farm product requirement.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting amendments to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to provide breweries, distilleries and meaderies with flexibility similar to that accorded to wineries and cideries when determining “activities designated as farm use.”

The Committee understands that in order for activities to be designated as farm use, breweries, distilleries, and meaderies operating on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve must demonstrate that at least 50 per cent of the farm products used to produce the alcohol have been grown on the farm. In the case of wineries and cideries, however, if the area of a winery or cidery within the Agricultural Land Reserve is greater than two hectares, they are permitted to supplement their own agricultural production by contracting with other BC farms to purchase agricultural product used to make the wine or cider.

Agricultural products purchased under these conditions are counted towards the 50 per cent requirement.

See also resolution C5.

Conference decision:

B102 Provincial Water Lot Leases

Delta

Whereas the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations resumed responsibility for the administration of Crown land in the Lower Fraser River estuary from the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on January 1, 2015;

And whereas there have been (i) significant delays in the issuance of water lot leases, (ii) restrictions placed on some permitted uses of the water lots, and (iii) restricted tenures that do not provide the long-term certainty needed for investment;

And whereas this situation has created economic uncertainty, halted some significant waterfront development proposals, and hindered local government community revitalization efforts:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to implement an expeditious tenure replacement process that provides long-term certainty for leaseholders, provides an effective mechanism for First Nations consultation, and facilitates appropriate waterfront development.

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 asking the provincial government to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the tenure replacement process for water lot leases, and include a mechanism for consultation with First Nations.

The Committee does note that members have endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to improve its administration of Crown leases, specifically to shorten processing times (1996-A13, 1995-B47).

Conference decision:

Community Economic Development

B103 Forest Health

Williams Lake

Whereas forest health is essential to resource development and economic opportunities in our region;

And whereas British Columbia communities continue to struggle with the effects of the pine beetle epidemic that was exacerbated by restrictions imposed by park and protected area designations, and a fir and spruce beetle infestation has now taken hold as a result of inadequate measures to control beetle infestation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to take a proactive approach to the health of the forest, with treatment of diseased trees taking precedence over park or protected area designations, as well as other restrictions such as mule deer winter range or old growth designations.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to be proactive in its strategy to improve forest health across BC, particularly with regard to treatment of diseased trees and combatting beetle infestations (2015-B38, 2011-B105, 2003-A12).

Resolution 2015-B38, for example, asked the Province to implement and fund Type 4 silviculture strategies, including planting, spacing, pre-commercial thinning, fertilization, and rehabilitation of dead pine stands uneconomical to harvest, especially in areas impacted by beetle infestation.

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government stated that it had updated the silviculture strategies in heavily impacted mountain pine beetle timber supply areas, and was piloting “larger landscape-level integrated silviculture strategies” in selected areas. The Province highlighted its Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy, and reminded local governments that the Province increased funding for the Forests for Tomorrow program to \$48 million per year.

The Committee notes that while there is policy in support of forest health, delegates need to determine if they are comfortable with forest health taking precedence over all other designations as noted in the enactment clause.

See also resolution B114.

Conference decision:

UBCM 2017 Resolutions Book

Whereas local governments wish to improve economic drivers and help local and BC companies grow in our region;

And whereas a listing of all registered businesses as collected by BC Registries and Online Services would facilitate as a mechanism to understand the existing businesses and potential economic opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Ministry of Technology, Innovation & Citizens' Services—the ministry responsible for BC Registries and Online Services—and request that a business registry census be provided to municipal and regional governments 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 to provide annually to each local government a list of provincially registered businesses located within that local government's boundaries.

Conference decision:

Environment

B105 Comprehensive Reporting of Community Energy & Emissions Inventory Highlands

Whereas the Province of BC provides Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI) numbers to BC local governments, but the Province omits or has inconsistent reporting of emissions from:

- Manufactured goods (embodies emissions in vehicles, building materials, and all consumer goods)
- Aviation for individuals and commercial transport
- Loss of soil carbon from agriculture
- Deforestation (loss of sequestered CO₂);

And whereas these emissions account for a significant amount of total emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to improve the CEEI to account for these significant sources and where not possible, fully acknowledge these sources of emissions when reporting to local governments.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to improve the quality and specificity of data reported as part of the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI).

However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2010-B84, which requested that the Province commit to funding a CEEI update for local governments every two years.

See also resolution B106.

Conference decision:

B106 On-road Transportation Sector Required in the Community Energy & Emissions Inventory

Capital RD

Whereas the on-road transportation sector is a critical component of the Provincial Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI);

And whereas this sector has been removed from CEEI for all communities outside the lower mainland:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government include the on-road transportation sector in future Community Energy and Emissions Inventories.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to include the on-road transportation sector in future iterations of the Community Energy and Emissions Inventory (CEEI).

The Committee notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2010-B84, which asked the Province to commit to funding a CEEI update for local governments every two years. In response to the resolution, the provincial government indicated that it had committed to “producing CEEI reports every two years starting in 2010. These reports will contain at a minimum the same amount of detail as the 2007 reports, with the possibility of expanding the scope of the inventory contingent on additional funding.”

See also resolution B105.

Conference decision:

B107 Ending the Inhumane Use of Animal Traps

Nanaimo City

Whereas the Province has indicated a review of wildlife trapping regulations is underway and the use of body and leg hold traps within urban areas continues to pose an unacceptable risk of injuries to humans and pets, and the unrestricted sale of traps to unlicensed individuals continues;

And whereas since 2012, the Province has not provided the required ministerial approval for wildlife trapping bylaws submitted from the City of Vernon, City of Surrey, District of Sechelt and City of Nanaimo:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province provide ministerial approval to local government bylaws in a timely manner, until such time that the Province completes a review of the trapping regulations.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to provide timely ministerial approval for local government bylaws regarding wildlife trapping.

The Committee notes, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking more stringent regulation of wildlife trapping, whether by the provincial government or by local governments (2013-B62, 2012-B124, 2011-B171). A common aim of these resolutions has been to prevent injury to humans or domesticated animals from wildlife traps.

In response to the 2013 resolution, the provincial government committed to continue working with local governments to reduce the risk to domestic animals posed by wildlife trapping. The Province referenced an in-process review of trapping regulations, as well as the development of educational programs to emphasize the importance of signage in active trapping areas.

Conference decision:

B108 Province-wide Rat Reduction Strategy

West Kelowna

Whereas in recent years, the Province of BC has seen an increase in the population and distribution of rats for which no provincial strategy exists;

And whereas rat infestations lead to damage to buildings, electrical wiring and stored food supplies and rats carry diseases that could be transmitted to humans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Ministry of Environment to develop and fund a strategy to reduce and/or control the rat population in BC.

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 the provincial government to develop and fund a province-wide rat control strategy.

Conference decision:

B109 Recycle BC

Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the Regional District of Central Kootenay and other regional districts have demonstrated over a long term our ability to manage an effective, efficient recycling program, which achieves significant waste diversion and meets the needs of residents;

And whereas Recycle BC, since its inception, has unilaterally attempted to dictate service levels, operational constraints and financial reimbursements (including penalty clauses) which conflict with local needs and proven practices when regional districts have entered into discussions to enter the program:

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Environment direct Recycle BC to negotiate a cash transfer to regional districts (without operational constraints) to support existing programs which manage the recovery of printed and packaging materials and that if agreement cannot be reached by 31 March 2018 then the Ministry begin a mediation process to resolve the level of payments by December 31, 2018.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & 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 Province to direct Recycle BC to negotiate a cash transfer to regional districts to support existing recovery programs for packaging and printed materials.

Conference decision:

B110 Preventing Polystyrene Foam Pollution in the Marine Environment**Islands Trust**

Whereas foam from marine infrastructure is an increasing source of pollution on British Columbia's beaches;

And whereas there is concern that plastic-associated chemicals from polystyrene and other types of rigid foam are harming the marine environment and contaminating food webs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial and federal governments to implement measures that prevent rigid foam pollution in the marine environment.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to implement measures to prevent pollution of the marine environment with rigid foam and associated chemicals.

Conference decision:

B111 Non-compostable Produce Sticker Labels**Maple Ridge**

Whereas composting is available and encouraged in most communities and many backyards in Canada;

And whereas the use of plastic non-compostable identification stickers contaminates the finished compost in commercial and private compost facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments (where applicable) change both domestic and import regulations related to food labeling to require compostable stickers or vegetable based ink/food safe stamps on all fruits and vegetables sold in Canada.

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 and federal governments to require any sticker labels on fruit and vegetable produce to be compostable, with food safe vegetable based ink stamping of produce accepted as an alternative.

Conference decision:

B112 Spill Detection Technology**Kitimat**

Whereas currently accepted technologies, including SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) and MBS (Material/Mass Balance System), can fail to detect leaks between 1.5 to 3% of pipeline flow volume which could result in upwards of 100,000 litres per hour of crude oil leaking without detection on a pipeline transporting 500,000 barrels per day;

And whereas other internal industrial leak detection tools such as Smart Pig Technology have been proven to fail to locate pipeline flaws resulting in environmental damage;

And whereas external hydrocarbon sensing cable is a proven technology that can detect leaks of less than 1 litre, making it possible to locate, contain and repair leaks before they become major environmental disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to implement regulations that ensure pipeline safety standards are to the highest available standards and include mandatory external hydrocarbon sensing technologies.

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 and federal governments to enact pipeline safety standards that require the use of external hydrocarbon sensing technologies.

Conference decision:

B113 Environmental Assessment Funding System Squamish

Whereas the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes are not the direct jurisdiction of local governments and therefore not subject to associated service cost recovery fees and cost of public engagement;

And whereas these environmental assessment processes can be very time consuming, expensive and onerous for local government staff, community and council:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government set up a funding system to allow for local governments to be compensated for the staff time spent including research, review, technical and working group participation, and to augment and support community engagement during the entire process;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government's Environmental Assessment Office fee schedule be revised to include a fee for local governments throughout the certification process.

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 compensate local governments for staff time spent working on referrals from the provincial environmental assessment process; nor have members considered a resolution asking the Province to revise the fee schedule for the Environmental Assessment Office to pay local a government to participate in certification processes relevant to that local government.

UBCM would point out, however, that members have endorsed resolutions requesting that the provincial government undertake more thorough and frequent consultation with local governments as part of environmental assessment processes, and provide local governments with more time to respond to referrals (2009-B33, 2001-A9). Resolution 2009-B33 specifically called on the Province to amend its policies and procedures to ensure that "referral periods are established in such a manner to allow local governments, as well as other stakeholder or interest groups, that wish to comment, a fair and reasonable opportunity to do so."

In response to resolution 2009-B33, the provincial government emphasized its commitment to honour the 2007 Protocol on Principles for Sharing Environmental Responsibilities between the Province of BC and UBCM. Regarding environmental assessment referral periods in particular, the Province confirmed that:

- *The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) invites local government to participate in the intergovernmental working group set up for each proposed project;*
- *The Public Consultation Policy Regulation requires two public comment periods during the review of a proposed project between 30 and 75 days each to allow the public to provide written submissions;*
- *The length of the public comment period is determined on the basis of the complexity of the proposed project and other factors (typically between 45 and 60 days);*
- *Information relevant to the public review is posted to the EAO Internet and placed in convenient locations in the vicinity of the proposed project;*

- *Public open house meetings are held to describe the proposed project and receive the views of the public; and,*
- *The EAO considers that these measures allow for a fair and reasonable opportunity for public input.*

Conference decision:

B114 Woodland Caribou Implementation Plan Consultation Northern Rockies RM

Whereas the Province, in compliance with the federal *Species at Risk Act*, is currently in the process of developing implementation plans for the conservation and regeneration of woodland caribou in BC;

And whereas such plans, by restricting the harvesting of timber in specified areas can have a significant negative impact on forest industry investment operations, and local economies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government immediately commit to meaningful consultation with local governments potentially affected by woodland caribou implementation plans, such consultation to involve thorough investigation and consideration of socio-economic impacts.

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 2011-B93, which called for “meaningful and respectful” federal consultation with local government and the agricultural community, regarding recovery planning under the Species at Risk Act. The 2011 resolution sought to find a balance between conservation needs and agricultural production.

In response to the resolution, the federal government acknowledged the concerns of local governments and the agricultural community. The federal government pointed out that as part of the process of implementing conservation strategies, it had undertaken a range of consultation with provincial and local government, and agricultural stakeholders.

UBCM would also note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for strong provincial and federal legislation to support conservation of species at risk and promote biodiversity (2011-B41, 2010-B35, 2008-B87, 2004-B80).

See also resolution B103.

Conference decision:

B115 Task Force for Watershed Management Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the forest industry is critical to the success of the economy of British Columbia;

And whereas communities that rely on surface water for drinking and irrigation are concerned about the effect of wildfire, tree harvesting and landslides in all consumptive water sources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to form a task force comprised of representatives that include tenure holders, wildfire specialists, biologists, hydrologists, and citizen representatives to consult with local governments to determine their concerns on consumptive watershed management.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay & 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 establish a task force of representatives from tenure holders, wildfire specialists, scientists, and the citizenry, that would consult with local governments to determine their concerns on consumptive watershed management.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (most recently 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

Conference decision:

B116 Resale of Electricity for Electric Vehicle Charging Metro Vancouver

Whereas the BC Climate Leadership Plan has a stated goal of supporting vehicle charging development for zero emission vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lack of access to electric vehicle (EV) charging, especially in stratified dwellings, is an impediment to EV uptake;

And whereas exclusions from the definition of a 'public utility' under the BC *Utilities Commission Act* include a person providing a service or commodity to tenants, but are silent regarding strata corporations and its resident members;

And whereas processes for exemptions from provisions of the BC *Utilities Commission Act* discourage small-scale for-profit resale of electricity for the purpose of electric vehicle charging:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia amend the *Utilities Commission Act*, before the end of 2018, to specifically exclude from the definition of a 'public utility' a strata corporation providing services to its members, and exclude from the definition of a 'public utility' a small-scale reseller of electricity at profit for the purpose of electric vehicle charging in public and private settings; and, in both of the aforementioned cases, exempt the reporting requirements currently set out in Section 71 of the Act.

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 amend the Utilities Commission Act to exempt from the definition of "public utility" and associated reporting requirements:

- *a strata corporation providing electricity and electric vehicle charging facilities as a service to its members; or*
- *a small scale for-profit reseller of electricity for the purpose of charging electric vehicles.*

See also resolution B132.

Conference decision:

Section B – Part 3-a

Resolutions Proposing New Policy

Included in Section B – Part 3-a are resolutions numbered:

B117 – B120

After consideration of Section B2-b resolutions, a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion:

I move that the resolutions in Section B – Part 3-a be considered as a block.

If the motion is endorsed by delegates, then the resolutions in Section B – Part 3-a will be considered as a block.

These resolutions will not be debated individually unless there is a motion introduced to specifically consider such a resolution; for example:

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. A delegate may request to remove a resolution from the block and consider it separately for debate, only if they wish to speak in opposition or propose an amendment to the resolution. [UBCM Bylaws s. 23(d)]

If the motion to remove a resolution from the block is approved, the resolution would be considered individually, after the vote on the block been decided.

Finally, once all motions regarding the block have been heard, the spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the motion:

Shall the recommendations 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.

Section B3-a

Community Safety

B117 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits Funding

Squamish

Whereas sexual assault evidence collection (SAEC) kits are currently funded through the Ministry of Health, with SAEC kits considered evidence that is from a committed crime;

And whereas survivors of sexual assault need medical forensic examinations readily available on demand and should not be expected to travel further than 50km to facilitate equitable access to justice and associated resources:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government move funding from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Justice and fund comprehensive, 24/7 access to services and staffing needed (sexual assault nurse examiners) and to provide SAEC kits in communities lacking in forensic services.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government fund comprehensive, 24/7 access to services and staffing for medical forensic examinations, and provide sexual assault evidence collection kits in communities where forensic services are not available.

However, members endorsed resolution 2015-B80, which called for a national intergovernmental task force to determine the steps needed to “erase the “rape culture” that is pervasive in schools, universities, workplaces and elsewhere across Canada;” as well as “improve the reporting, arrest and conviction rates across Canada.”

Conference decision:

Finance

B118 Rural Dividend Fund Program

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia’s Rural Dividend Fund Program has an application requirement that applicants must provide a review engagement letter for projects over \$10,001 in funding or audited financial statements for projects over \$100,001 in funding;

And whereas these requirements for a professional review of financial statements can be at a significant cost to non-profit agencies and create a barrier for these agencies to make application to the Rural Dividend Fund thereby reducing the opportunity for non-profit organizations to leverage their capacity to strengthen the economy of rural communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to determine other means of investigating the financial strength of non-profit organizations that are key partners and valuable contributors to sustainable rural community economies.

Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government determine other means of investigating the financial strength of non-profit organizations that are key partners and valuable contributors to sustainable rural community economies.

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 Rural Dividend Fund Program by developing an alternative to review engagement or audited financial statements as a means of investigating the financial strength of non-profit organizations that apply to the program.

The Resolutions Committee would point out that the Rural Dividend Fund Program is a provincial government initiative, not a UBCM initiative. UBCM was not involved in the development of the program, nor is UBCM involved in the administration and delivery of the program. The Committee would propose an amendment to define the Rural Dividend clearly as a provincial government program.

Conference decision:

Selected Issues

B119 Equal Access to Public Education

Hudson's Hope

Whereas the provincial government was involved in an initiative to seek input on rural education in fall/winter 2016-2017;

And whereas school district funding is inadequate for some districts to provide busing to all rural and remote students:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM executive have discussions with Ministry of Education to make clear definitions of rural and remote, identifying the significant difference between lower mainland rural and remoteness with northern rural and remoteness;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the BC Government and the Ministry of Education to provide all required funding to bus eligible students to and from school, because all rural and remote students must have equal access to public education.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse with Proposed Amendment

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Education consult with affected stakeholders to make clear definitions of rural and remote, identifying the significant difference between lower mainland rural and remoteness with northern rural and remoteness;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the Ministry of Education to provide all required funding to bus eligible students to and from school, because all rural and remote students must have equal access to public education.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to define more clearly the concepts of rural and remote in the context of K-12 education, taking into account differences between northern and southern regions of BC. Nor have members considered a resolution asking the Province to provide "all required funding to bus eligible students to and from school."

Resolution 2016-B132, however, asked the provincial government to “reconsider the issue of school bus transportation funding and impacts to school divisions and rural and remote areas.” Due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B132 was not debated at the UBCM Annual Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration.

Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive determined that no action was required, since in August 2016, the provincial government had announced a \$14.7 million Student Transportation Fund that could be accessed by school districts around the province, to assist with the cost of transporting students to and from school. In October 2016, the Province confirmed that every school district in BC had applied and been approved to receive financial support from the Student Transportation Fund.

The Committee would note that UBCM was invited to make appointments to a Ministry of Education Transportation Committee that will be looking at issues such as ride times, student walk limits, joint planning with school districts and transit providers, student safety, route management, etc. Recognizing that our membership has endorsed resolutions on these specific issues, UBCM agreed to participate and has made two appointments: Director Karen Goodings, Peace River RD and Councillor Mary Beil, Parksville.

The Committee is proposing an amendment to the first enactment, which more clearly directs the Ministry to undertake consultations with affected stakeholders around the definitions of rural and remote; and a slight amendment to the second enactment to direct the request to the Ministry of Education.

See also resolution B47.

Conference decision:

B120 Long Term Rental Accommodation

Radium Hot Springs

Whereas there is a shortage of long term rental accommodation in British Columbia;

And whereas there are elements of the *Residential Tenancy Act*, including limits on allowable rent increases and controls on tenancy agreements, that are a disincentive to the development of new long term rental accommodation housing stock;

And whereas existing homeowners are reluctant to enter the long term rental accommodation market due to the widespread protections afforded tenants under the *Residential Tenancy Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister Responsible for Housing to undertake a review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* to identify potential changes to help alleviate the issue.

Not presented to the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister Responsible for Housing to review the Residential Tenancy Act to identify and address elements of the Act that discourage development of new long term rental accommodation housing stock and discourage existing homeowners from offering long term rental accommodation.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically calling on the provincial government to review and amend the Residential Tenancy Act with the goal of encouraging existing homeowners to provide long term rental accommodation, and provide incentive for development of new long term rental accommodation housing stock.

However, the Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions seeking review and standardization of the Residential Tenancy Act to provide clarity and certainty to both landlords and tenants (2016-B121, 2014-B51). Resolution 2014-B51 in particular urged the Province to “address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.”

In response to the 2014 resolution, the provincial government stated that it did not intend to make changes to the Residential Tenancy Act, and instead encouraged landlords and tenants to use the dispute resolution services of the Residential Tenancy Branch.

The Resolutions Committee also notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting incentives for development and retention of rental housing stock (2015-B48, 2014-B43, 2012-B143).

The request made in the enactment clause of the 2017 is vague, specifically the use of the phrase “the issue.” The Resolutions Committee would propose an amendment to state more clearly the issues that a review of the Residential Tenancy Act might address.

See also resolutions B53 and B126.

Conference decision:

Section B3-b

Selected Issues

B121 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 from a commerce and business perspective, aligning the BC Family Day holiday with other provinces and with President's Day in the USA would allow our province to remain "open for business" on a day when national and international commerce, business, and markets are open;

And whereas weather on the later February week end is generally expected to be more favourable for highway travel as compared to a week earlier:

Therefore be it resolved that the government of the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to engage in a public consultation process with a view to answering 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:

Due to time constraints, the UBCM membership was not able to consider resolution 2016-B139 at the 2016 Convention, and the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Subsequently, the Executive received correspondence from Sun Peaks and Whistler advising that the decision to observe Family Day in BC on a different Monday than other provinces was made to provide for BC families to access resorts and venues on a day not shared with other out of province tourists.

The Resolutions Committee notes that upon consideration, the UBCM Executive referred the resolution back to the sponsor, to address questions arising about the need for broader consultation with the public prior to setting the date, and the effects on business operations.

As of 2016, UBCM members had not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to move the annual Family Day holiday to the third Monday in February. Due to the lack of policy direction on this matter, the Committee is offering no recommendation.

Conference decision:

B122 Rights of Service Dog Teams

Maple Ridge

Whereas, as a result of the BC *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* which was enacted in January 2016, people who are blind, visually impaired, deaf and require a guide dog to safely navigate, are being harassed, repeatedly asked for identification, subjected to government red tape, and denied access to public space without meaningful recourse or sanctions to deter discriminatory acts:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government amend the BC *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* to:

3. Reduce the barriers that limit enforcement of the law and impose stiffer penalties against those who refuse access to guide dog teams;
4. Change the BC *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* to include guide dogs that are already certified by the International Guide Dog Federation; and
5. Impose restrictions as to who can ask to see identification and under what circumstances.

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 amend the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act to clarify the rights of people using guide dogs while making enforcement of the Act more straightforward.

Conference decision:

B123 Ending Discriminatory Insurance Coverage

Maple Ridge

Whereas insurance companies continue to discriminate against individuals who currently receive or have a history of psychiatric treatment by excluding insurance claims related to psychiatric disorders;

And whereas the Canadian Psychiatric Association advocates for the right to obtain insurance without prejudice as justified by Section 15 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which prohibits discrimination based on a “mental or physical disability”:

Therefore be it resolved that medical insurance, life insurance, disability insurance, automobile insurance, and insurance for protection or replacement of possessions be made available to individuals currently experiencing, or with prior history of, a psychiatric disorder on “the same terms and conditions that prevail with any other illness” as recommended by The Canadian Psychiatric Association.

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 insurance industry to cease discriminating against people who experience or have a prior history of psychiatric disorder, and make available to such individuals all types of insurance “on the same terms and conditions that prevail with any other illness.”

Conference decision:

B124 Handling of Motions to Vary the Agenda

Port Hardy

Whereas Section 14(c) of the UBCM Bylaws provides that at the Annual Convention, a voting delegate may put forward from off the floor any motion for discussion—such as a resolution not in the Resolutions Book, or a Resolutions Book Section C resolution, not recommended to be admitted for discussion—and if the support of three-fifths (60 per cent) of the voting delegates present is given, such a motion may be admitted for discussion;

And whereas UBCM practice is to vary the agenda to undertake immediate discussion of the motion; however, this practice:

- disrupts the agenda and the planned order of discussion of resolutions printed in the Resolutions Book; and
- does not allow voting delegates to prepare or plan to be present for discussion of the motion from off the floor:

B126 Renovictions & the Residential Tenancy Act**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 undertake a broad review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* including, but not limited to, amending 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;
- eliminate or amend fixed-term tenancy agreements to prevent significant rent increases upon renewal; and
- permit one tenant or applicant to represent and take collective action on behalf of all tenants in a building.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B121, which called for provincial amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act to standardize tenant assistance, particularly “tenancy dissolution and/or relocation as a result of building demolition.”

In response to resolution 2016-B121, the provincial government summarized selected provisions of the Residential Tenancy Act, and indicated that it did not plan to amend the Residential Tenancy Act.

The Committee also notes that due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B137 was not debated at Convention but was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration. The UBCM Executive amended the resolution, so that it called on the Province to “address the problem of “renovictions” in an effort to maintain affordable rental stock,” as well as “identify ways to encourage and incent building owners to re-invest in existing rental stock instead of downloading these costs fully onto existing tenants.”

The UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2016-B137 as amended, and UBCM awaits a response from the provincial government.

The Resolutions Committee would observe that the original wording of resolution 2016-B137 was similar to the enactment clause of this 2017 resolution. The prescriptive nature of the wording gave the UBCM Executive pause, since a foundational tenet of general policy adopted by UBCM members is local choice; the right and responsibility of a local government to determine and implement the solutions best suited to its community.

See also resolutions B53 and B120.

Conference decision:

B127 National School Food Program**Vancouver**

Whereas 1.7 million Canadian households, including almost 500,000 individuals in BC alone, experience food insecurity, and the current patchwork of school food programming reaches only a small percentage of our over 5 million students, with Canada remaining one of the only Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development nations without a national school food program;

And whereas the Coalition for Healthy School Food is working at a national level to advocate for the creation of a cost-shared Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in Canada to have access to healthy meals at school, serving culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities advocate for a Universal Healthy School Food Program to provincial and federal governments.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to BC School Trustees Association**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish a cost-shared national school food program.

However, the Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions seeking to improve food security for all British Columbians, particularly low-income individuals (2013-B56, 2010-B51).

The Committee would observe that local government holds no jurisdiction over school district policy or operations. The sponsor has not indicated whether school districts in BC have requested or expressed support for a national school food program. Because of this gap, the Resolutions Committee would propose referral of this resolution to the BC School Trustees Association, to ensure that the perspectives of school districts are included in the discourse on this issue.

Conference decision:

B128 Exam Requirements for Owner Builder Certification Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Province of BC through the *Homeowner Protection Act* establishes the requirements for property owners to be authorized as owner builders by BC Housing to build and occupy a new home for their personal use;

And whereas due to recent amendments to the Act, BC Housing requires that owner builders write and pass an Owner Builder Authorization Exam prior to authorization under the legislation and has not produced a study guide or hosted educational sessions to allow property owners to prepare for the required examination which has resulted in an extremely high failure rate for applicants:

Therefore be it resolved that in support of the ability for property owners to reasonably receive authorization as owner builders, UBCM urge the Province to prepare study materials and host education sessions designed to assist applicants through the required examination process.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government provide study materials and educational opportunities for applicants who wish to undertake the Owner Builder Authorization Exam under the Homeowner Protection Act.

Conference decision:

B129 Abolition of Daylight Savings Time Grand Forks

Whereas research has shown the practice of changing to Pacific Daylight Savings Time each spring can have a negative impact on people's health and cognitive awareness;

And whereas there have been petitions and calls for the abolition of Daylight Savings Time:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to consult with the people of BC with a view to abolishing Daylight Savings Time.

Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2016-B140, which asked the provincial government to discontinue the annual time change in BC.

Further, UBCM members 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.

Conference decision:

Finance

B130 Bill C-15 Federal Banking “Bail-in” Legislation

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Canada Economic Plan (2014) and Bill C-15 (2016) enact legislation for a bail-in regime for “domestic – systemically important” banks (DSIBs) providing power to the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation to convert prescribed debt of a non-viable bank into common shares (bail-in);

And whereas local governments in British Columbia accumulate large financial reserves through taxation to hold for future infrastructure development both directly with banks and through the Municipal Finance Authority investment program, the loss of which through a bail-in program would widely harm all local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government take measures to reduce the risk of local government reserves being used for bail-in conversion, either by promoting changes to federal legislation to specifically exclude local government reserves from bail-in or by promoting legislation such as Glass-Steagall rules; or if unable to do this, by creation of a secure repository for reserve funds, and/or by providing advice to local governments to avoid bail-in risk.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution regarding local government exposure to risk from reserve funds being used for bail-in conversion.

Due to the technical nature of this resolution, UBCM consulted with the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) on this matter. The Resolutions Committee understands that MFA is fully aware of this issue and is keenly monitoring this legislation and the supporting regulations.

The new bail-in strategy emerged as a result of the 2007-08 global financial crisis. It is intended to protect taxpayers by ensuring that losses are borne by investors and creditors of a failed bank and not taxpayers.

The regime will allow bank regulators to force conversion of a bank debt security into equity under certain circumstances when the regulator feels the bank is in trouble financially.

Similar bail-in legislation has already been adopted or has been proposed in all G-20 countries. Canada has already passed bail-in legislation and is working on supporting regulations. It is unlikely they will reverse course at this time.

Conference decision:

Environment

B131 Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracking

North Saanich

Whereas seventy per cent of Canadians support a national moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for natural gas until it is scientifically proven to be safe;

And whereas research has proved that in recent years fracking operations have caused a number of earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or larger in British Columbia and Alberta;

And whereas more study is needed regarding the effects on public health, wildlife, and ecosystems of several hundred chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process;

And whereas several of Canada's provinces and territories do not permit fracking due primarily to strong public opposition regarding groundwater contamination from fracking chemicals, serious risks to public health, and aquifer depletions from usage of millions of litres of water in the fracking process;

And whereas Supreme Court decisions have affirmed the Crown's obligation to consult meaningfully on proposed energy projects which could impact British Columbia's First Nations' treaty rights and traditional ways of life, and these consultations have been incomplete or at times absent:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Government of British Columbia to place a moratorium on any additional fracking wells while initiating a steady phase-out of hydraulic fracturing in British Columbia and promoting conversion to alternative green energy development.

Not presented to the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to "place a moratorium on any additional fracking wells while initiating a steady phase-out of hydraulic fracturing" in BC, and promoting conversion to alternative green energy development.

Conference decision:

B132 Electric Vehicle Charging in Strata Buildings

Metro Vancouver

Whereas the BC Climate Leadership Plan has a stated goal of supporting vehicle charging development for zero emission vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lack of access to electric vehicle (EV) charging is an impediment to EV uptake;

And whereas a significant and growing proportion of British Columbia residents live in multifamily dwellings, most of which are stratified;

And whereas requirements for approval by a strata corporation under the BC *Strata Property Act* for alteration of common property represent a significant barrier to installing and accessing means of charging in stratified buildings:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia amend the BC *Strata Property Act*, before the end of 2018, such that strata councils and strata corporations must accommodate reasonable requests from residents, for the purpose of electric vehicle charging, to access existing or install new powered outlets and/or electric vehicle charging infrastructure, where the assignment of associated costs are to be determined by the strata council and/or the strata corporation.

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 for provincial amendments to the Strata Property Act to require that strata councils and strata corporations accommodate “reasonable requests from residents, for the purpose of electric vehicle charging, to access existing or install new powered outlets or electric vehicle charging infrastructure,” with assignment of associated costs to be determined by the strata council or corporation.

See also resolution B116.

Conference decision:

Health

B133 BC Ambulance Services

Cache Creek

Whereas the BC Ambulance Service provides emergency response in rural areas to those who experience serious trauma accidents or life threatening medical emergencies;

And whereas most rural ambulance stations are staffed with paramedics trained to the emergency medical responder or primary care paramedic levels;

And whereas most of the better trained advanced care paramedics and critical care paramedics are stationed in larger urban centers whose residents benefit from tertiary care facilities within relative proximity compared to rural residents' health facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government require the BC Ambulance Service to staff rural ambulance stations with much needed advanced care or critical care paramedics whose skills and training are necessary for life support where tertiary care is often hours away rather than minutes away as it is in urban centers.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require the BC Ambulance Service to staff rural ambulance stations with personnel who have completed advanced care or critical care training, rather than the more basic emergency medical responder or primary care training.

Conference decision:

B134 Comparable Standby Wages for BC Ambulance Service

Hudson's Hope

Whereas many remote and rural municipalities experience a shortage of qualified ambulance staff and this puts these municipalities in danger of not having the service when they need it the most;

And whereas many rural ambulance stations only provide on-call coverage with no guaranteed shifts for staff and the on-call rate of \$2 per hour is not a sufficient rate for paramedics to make the income needed to be self-sufficient:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the BC government to work with the provincial bargaining body and BC Ambulance Service in the next round of provincial collective agreement bargaining to ensure that BC Ambulance Service staff have on-call rates of pay comparable with other health science professionals, e.g. lab technologists, radiation technologists, and nurses.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Due to time constraints, resolution 2009-B68 was not debated at the UBCM Annual Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration. Resolution 2009-B68 asked the provincial government and BC Ambulance Service to increase the stand-by and on-call pay rates and honorarium for volunteer or part-time ambulance staff paramedics in rural and remote communities. The Resolutions Committee notes that upon consideration, the UBCM Executive determined that no action was required.

In its comments on resolution 2009-B68, the UBCM Resolutions Committee acknowledged that recruitment and retention of volunteer ambulance attendants was long standing issue, made more complex by differences in pay rates depending on where ambulance attendants are based in BC. The Committee referenced labour negotiations under way at the time between the Province and ambulance attendants, and because of the negotiations, declined to comment further on the rate of pay of volunteer ambulance attendants.

Conference decision:

B135 BC Ambulance Service

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC Ambulance Service is an integral part of the provincial health care system;

And whereas BC Ambulance dispatch services are not provided locally to rural communities in BC;

And whereas there are logistical challenges in rural challenges that may be best managed locally:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial Minister of Health to require the BC Ambulance Service to amend its dispatch model to allow for local responders to determine how best to manage a response to an emergency or other calls for service.

Not presented to the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend the dispatch model of the BC Ambulance Service, to allow local responders to determine how to manage response to an emergency or other call for service.

Conference decision:

B136 Helicopter Emergency Medical Services

Terrace

Whereas the resource sector is the corner stone of the economies of most rural communities and modern health care is crucial to attracting new investment, a workforce, and securing quality of life for rural residents;

And whereas the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman's report on Helicopter Emergency Medical Services has identified that rural communities are negatively affected by an inadequate emergency transportation system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to adopt the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman recommendations on "Helicopter Emergency Medical Services" including mandating a legislated one-hour timeline for every resident of the province to have access to Trauma 3 Level of care.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Community Safety

B138 Agricultural Dams

Cariboo RD

Whereas agricultural dams are significant resources for water storage for food producers in certain regions of British Columbia, and climate change with temperature increases and hydrological shifts will make these water sources even more important in future;

And whereas the Dam Safety Regulation specifies requirements for owners to hire engineers to inspect and develop plans to maintain these dams based on the level of risk;

And whereas these requirements are complex, onerous, and prohibitively expensive to dam owners, and the level of risk depends in part on development downstream which is beyond the control of the dam owner;

And whereas agricultural dams provide shared values to society, including recreational values, ecological values as they provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and water sources for forest firefighting:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to work with agricultural dam owners to assist them in meeting the requirements of the Dam Safety Regulation in order that these water storage resources are safely preserved for food production and other values into the future;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province to fairly apportion the cost of inspecting and maintaining agricultural dams in a manner that takes into account other shared values, and the level of development downstream from the dams.

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 asking the provincial government to assist owners of agricultural dams to meet the requirements of the Dam Safety Regulation; nor have members asked the Province to apportion the cost of inspecting and maintaining agricultural dams “in a manner that takes into account other shared values, and the level of development downstream from the dams.”

Conference decision:

Land Use

B139 Single Wide Mobile Homes as Second Dwellings on Agricultural Properties

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation has established the standards for a second dwelling on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land and the Agricultural Land Commission’s (ALC) Policies L-08 and L-18 specify that manufactured homes must normally conform to the CSA Z240 series standards unless a property owner makes a non-farm application to the Commission;

And whereas construction of factory built, movable dwellings has progressed significantly with technology and the CSA Standard is not flexible enough to accommodate the needs of farmers to provide accommodation on their properties without an application;

And whereas these new movable dwellings incorporate innovative energy-efficient, green building technology and can be sited to reinforce the farmland protection objectives of the ALC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Agriculture amend the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to provide more certainty for types of manufactured homes that are permitted as residential uses and request that the Agricultural Land Commission amend their policies to allow for the siting of other types of factory built, movable dwellings outside of the CSA Z240 series standards.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting amendments to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to provide flexibility regarding second dwellings on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve, specifically the requirement for the dwelling to meet CSA Standard Z240 for a double wide mobile home.

The Committee has reviewed the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation, as well as Agricultural Land Commission policies L-08 and L-18. The Committee acknowledges that the policies cite the CSA Z240 series standards for manufactured homes. It is unclear to the Committee, however, whether the referenced policies are wholly prescriptive; and by extension, whether a property owner who wishes to site as a second dwelling a manufactured home that does not comply with the CSA Z240 series standards must automatically make a non-farm application to the Agricultural Land Commission.

Conference decision:

Section C

Section C contains resolutions that are similar to others in the same year. Resolutions may also be placed in Section C if they relate to larger UBCM policy initiatives already underway, such as policy papers, working groups, or intergovernmental consultation processes; or if the resolutions are regionally focused or require more work to be understandable.

Resolutions placed in Section C are not recommended to be admitted for debate.

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 – C6

Part 3 of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to Area Associations or sponsors for fine-tuning or due to being of a regional nature:

C7 – C8

Section C2

C1 Extension of Taxation Authority for Vacant & Derelict Buildings

Victoria

Whereas the Government of British Columbia and Legislative Assembly responded to a housing affordability crisis in July 2016 by proceeding with legislation that empowered the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties;

And whereas communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures, while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant, including properties that have remained derelict for years or decades, noting that vacant and derelict buildings pose substantial risks in terms of public safety in communities, as well as liveability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties to local governments across British Columbia, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B91.

C2 Legalization & Regulation of Cannabis

North Vancouver City

Whereas the Government of Canada is moving towards the legalization and regulation of cannabis, as outlined in the final report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, dated November 30, 2016, entitled, "A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada;"

And whereas the introduction of this new affluent industry will have significant cost implications for municipalities in terms of licensing, inspections and enforcement;

And whereas the burden of implementation could unfairly fall on municipalities to fund:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia to include local and First Nation governments in the tax regime recommended in the Final Report of the Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, dated November 30, 2016, entitled, "A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada," to equitably distribute revenues from the legalization and regulation of cannabis.

Not presented to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution SR1.

C3 Federal Budget Impact on Tax Exemptions

Capital RD

Whereas proposed measures announced during the 2017 Federal Budget would remove the tax exemptions for the 1/3 non-accountable expense allowances paid to members of provincial and territorial legislative assemblies and to certain municipal office-holders;

And whereas no consultation with elected officials was conducted prior to the announcement;

And whereas impacts to public service compensation could discourage youth from seeking elected office:

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Agriculture make an immediate change to update Agricultural Land Commission Regulation 2(2.3) to read:

A brewery, distillery or meadery, and ancillary uses, are designated as farm uses for the purposes of the Act if:

- a) at least 50% of any of the farm products used to make the beer, spirits or mead produced each year is grown on the farm on which that brewery, distillery or meadery is located, OR
- b) the farm on which the brewery, distillery or meadery is located is more than 2 ha in area and at least 50% of any of the farm products used to make the beer, spirits or mead produced each year is grown:
 - i. on the farm, OR
 - ii. both on the farm and on another farm or processor using British Columbia ingredients located in British Columbia that provides any farm product to the brewery, distillery or meadery under a contract having a term of at least 3 years, AND,
- c) any permanent structures used to produce beer, spirits or mead must not exceed the lesser of 10% of total parcel size or 1000 square metres, including all ancillary structures or areas such as parking, water reclamation, tasting and public areas and storage.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B101.

C6 Regional Hospital District Capital Infrastructure Funding Formula Terrace

Whereas a primary purpose of a regional hospital district under the *Hospital District Act* is to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospitals and hospital facilities;

And whereas the current practice is that long-term capital infrastructure projects are financed based on a cost-sharing formula of 60% the Province and 40% the regional hospital districts, which is often not achievable for rural hospital districts:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government formally establish a reduced expected rate for rural regional hospital districts below the current standard of 40% as their contribution to capital infrastructure projects.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer to Similar Resolution**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

Refer to resolution B39.

Section C3

C7 Creating a Fair Market Approach to Lease Rates for Marinas

Nanaimo City

Whereas under the *Canada Marine Act* the federally governed port authority is required to set the lease rate structure for water lots at market value and Nanaimo Marina owners contest that the Nanaimo Port Authority lease rates structure does not represent a fair market approach;

And whereas the Nanaimo Marina owners recommend a fair market model based on business owners' income:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for a lease fee model that is based on a fair market approach for all port authorities.

Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer Back to Sponsor**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that all federal port authorities use a lease fee model based on a fair market approach.

The Committee has recommended referring this resolution back to the sponsor due to the regional nature of the issue. The sponsor appears to be proposing a course of action for all port authorities based on their own local experience. The Committee is concerned about the implications of this type of request on other port authorities.

It is also evident from the background information that there is conflicting information about how the lease rate structure is established. The sponsor suggests that the lease rate structure does not represent a fair market approach, while the Nanaimo Port Authority has indicated that an independent third party appraiser determines the fair market value of the Port's lands and water lots and the fair market rental value of properties leased.

C8 UBCM Resolutions

Quesnel

Whereas local governments invest considerable time and effort in researching, preparing and submitting proper (early) resolutions, through their respective councils, boards and area associations to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities;

And whereas the necessity for late resolutions is recognized, they often result in time constraints that in turn preempt early resolutions from debate and becoming no longer the property of the membership as they are referred to Union of British Columbia Municipalities executive for decision:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM enable all early resolutions to remain the property of the membership at convention until they are duly debated and disposed of.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Refer Back to Sponsor**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that all resolutions received before the deadline remain "the property of the membership at convention" until duly debated and disposed of by the membership.

For any resolution not printed in the Resolutions Book, the UBCM membership is the body that decides whether or not to admit the resolution for debate at Convention. This includes late resolutions as well as resolutions from off the floor. The requirement to admit such a resolution for debate is support from a sixty per cent majority of the voting delegates present. The UBCM membership holds the authority to determine whether debate can be completed at Convention on all resolutions received before the June 30 submission deadline.

The sponsor's proposal raises a number of practical challenges for Convention organizers. Instances will arise when the time frame allotted in the Convention agenda to debate resolutions, expires. Should then the entire Convention agenda be changed on an ad-hoc basis to finish debate of all resolutions? Should the Convention policy session be allowed to run late on the final day of Convention? There are end times for room rental at the convention centre, as well as travel plans made by Convention attendees who begin to make their way home.

When asked to provide clarification, the sponsor suggested that more time should be allocated to resolutions debate, earlier in the convention to ensure that all resolutions are treated equally. The sponsor also proposed a time limit for debate of each resolution, such that if debate on a particular resolution reached the time limit, debate would pause, the resolution would be bumped automatically to the end of the queue, and debate on the resolution could continue once all other resolutions had been considered at Convention.

The Resolutions Committee is unsure how the sponsor's suggestions address the practical considerations outlined above regarding Convention agenda, scheduling, and room rental. Because of this uncertainty, the Committee would recommend referral back to the sponsor for further development and refinement of the resolution.