PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the Resolutions of the 2018
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

February 2019
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SR1  CANNABIS EXCISE TAX REVENUE SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Whereas the Government of Canada intends to legalize non-medical cannabis on October 17, 2018, and has taken the following actions regarding cannabis excise tax revenue sharing:

- agreed to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Cannabis Taxation, which provides for the federal transfer of cannabis excise tax revenue to provinces and territories; and,
- increased the percentage of cannabis taxation revenue to be transferred to provinces and territories in order to help local governments manage impacts associated with the legalization of non-medical cannabis;

And whereas in the absence of fulsome data the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Executive has endorsed:

- a principled approach to guide the negotiation of a cannabis excise tax revenue sharing agreement with the Government of British Columbia:
  1. Cannabis legalization should not result in additional local government funding by property taxpayers.
  2. Local governments should be reimbursed for costs associated with the implementation of legalized cannabis.
  3. Local governments should be reimbursed for any additional policing costs resulting from cannabis legalization.
  4. Remaining excise tax revenue (after taking out expenses incurred as part of principles 1–3, and the federal share) should be shared between the Province of BC and local governments.

- a short- and long-term cannabis excise tax revenue sharing strategy, which among other things seeks to adopt the Ontario cannabis excise tax sharing model as the framework for determining an agreement in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advance its short- and long-term strategy for cannabis excise tax revenue sharing to the Province of British Columbia for the purpose of negotiating a provincial-local government revenue sharing agreement.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Federal Government has indicated its strong preference to keep cannabis taxes low to reduce illicit market activity. As a result, cannabis taxation is not expected to generate significant provincial revenues.

The post-legalization period will provide all levels of government with an opportunity to better quantify the costs and revenues associated with cannabis sales and consumption, which will facilitate continuing discussions between all levels of government.
SR2  GREYHOUND SERVICE ELIMINATED

Whereas Greyhound announced that as of October 31, 2018 it will cease to operate bus service between BC communities and eliminate inter-city bus service throughout western Canada;

And whereas this announcement will significantly impact passengers and businesses that rely on Greyhound for affordable transportation and shipping service across Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal government work in consultation with local governments, public regulators and operators to establish new, affordable and coordinated transportation services that will ensure the continued movement of passengers and freight across BC and Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province is committed to ensuring that the people of B.C. have access to safe, affordable and reliable transportation. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will continue to work with communities across the province to identify transportation services that work for the needs of the region, and we will continue with this approach for those that may be affected by changing services.

After Greyhound’s announcement to terminate service in Western Canada, a Federal, Provincial, Territorial working group was assembled - co-chaired by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - to assess the impact of the intercity bus service disruption in Western Canada and to consider short and long-term strategies for surface mobility of those living in rural and remote areas.

Also, the Passenger Transportation Board implemented a fast-tracked application process to replace service with as little disruption as possible. Applications received through this process represent approximately 83 percent of the routes abandoned by Greyhound. The Province subsequently issued a Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) to gauge interest from the private sector in filling the remaining gaps. The RFEOI closed on January 15th 2019 - responses are currently being reviewed.

The Federal Government has offered to partner with interested provinces and territories to cost share (50/50) on the provision of subsidies (over a two-year period) to encourage the entry and expansion of operators to cover specific gaps in service. The Province BC is interested in exploring this offer and is working with the federal government on next steps.
SR3  FIRE SAFETY ACT

Whereas UBCM members endorsed resolution 2015-A3 which asked that the “provincial government provide the resources necessary to inspect and enforce provincial safety regulations, including the Fire Services Act and its regulations, through either the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than pursuing options to download the responsibility for inspections and enforcement of provincial regulations on local governments.”

And whereas the provincial government:
- passed the new Fire Safety Act in 2016, replacing the Fire Services Act, requiring regional districts to take on responsibilities for fire inspections and enforcement despite assurances to the contrary;
- committed to amend the new Fire Safety Act, prior to it being brought into force by regulation, to remove the mandatory requirements on regional districts and make them optional;
- advised in 2018, that it has reversed its decision and directed the Office of the Fire Commissioner to implement a single standard of fire safety for public buildings whether located in municipalities or unincorporated areas.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support in principle “one standard of fire safety” throughout BC, but reiterate to the Province our established policy position as outlined in resolution 2015-A3, that UBCM does not support regional districts as the vehicle for implementing the Province’s direction regarding one standard of fire safety.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Government has directed the Office of the Fire Commissioner to implement a single standard of fire safety for public buildings, whether located in a municipality or a regional district. Working collaboratively with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the UBCM Fire Safety Act Working Group, the Office of the Fire Commissioner will work to understand how to mitigate the added administrative and operational costs of setting up a program to serve the unincorporated parts of British Columbia.
A1 EMPLOYER HEALTH TAX IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Whereas the proposed new Employer Health Tax to fund medical services for British Columbians will require organizations with a payroll greater than $1.5 million—including many local governments—to pay the highest tax rate at 1.95 per cent of their total payroll;

And whereas for many local governments, the amount of remittance required under an Employer Health Tax rate of 1.95 per cent of total payroll will be double the amount of the premiums that the local government as an employer paid previously for MSP;

And whereas the provincial government has provided selected tax breaks to the private sector, effectively offsetting the additional costs of the new Employer Health Tax:

Therefore be it resolved that, in the absence of tax breaks that have been provided to the private sector, the provincial government design the transition to the Employer Health Tax to be cost-neutral for local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

At 1.95%, B.C.’s Employer Health Tax (EHT) rate is tied with Ontario as the lowest payroll tax rate in the country. The tax will bring B.C. in line with the rest of Canada, as British Columbia was the only province that charged regressive medical services fees to individuals. The EHT will apply uniformly to public and private sector employers, and the transition from MSP fees to the EHT will result in a net tax savings of $800 million for British Columbians, making it one of the largest middle class tax reductions in B.C. history.
PROTECTING LOCAL WATERWAYS & WILD FISH SPECIES

Whereas British Columbia’s coastal communities rely on healthy waterways and healthy marine ecosystems including fisheries for economic, social and ecological wellbeing and where the proliferation of open-net fish farms with non-native fish species threatens local waterways and wild fish species, undermining the economic, social and ecological wellbeing of local communities;

And whereas many open-net fish farms have been established in Indigenous territories in the absence of adequate consultation with Indigenous governments, undermining the shared objective of reconciliation and respectful relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia consult First Nations governments, local governments, conservation organizations and industry on a transition plan to closed-containment aquaculture, including a just transition for affected workers.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture are of great importance to B.C., providing significant economic and social benefits across the Province. Government supports the objective of transitioning aquaculture operations to closed-containment systems where practical and appropriate. The Ministry of Agriculture’s goal is to ensure sustainable and resilient fisheries resources, to meet cultural, environmental, social, and economic interests and ensure safe food supply for future generations.

There are still significant barriers to large-scale transition to closed-containment aquaculture. Challenges include high energy consumption costs, technological barriers, and the need for closed-containment systems to be located near their markets to reduce transportation costs. High capital costs and lending rates from financial institutions that are risk-averse to providing financing to aquaculture operations during uncertain economic conditions have made financing difficult for the development of large, closed-containment salmon farms. The Province will continue to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and industry in exploring options and/or incentives for adopting innovative new technologies (closed containment and others) and minimize the risk to wild salmon.

Despite these challenges, provincial government staff across several agencies work to ensure B.C.’s policies support the conservation and protection of healthy waterways and marine ecosystems, including looking at options for supporting the transition of marine net pens to closed-containment systems. The Government of Canada has recently introduced the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adaptation Program (FACTAP) which is designed to assist the seafood industry (aquaculture, capture, recreational fisheries and seafood processing) with upgrading existing equipment and processes to clean technology/process alternatives. FACTAP is cost-shared between DFO, the Province (represented by the Ministry of Agriculture), and applicants.

B.C. has also recently revised its policies on salmon-farming tenures to ensure increased reliance on best-available science and assurances from DFO on the minimization of risk to wild salmon stocks. Effective June 2022, the Province will only grant Land Act tenures to fish farm operators who have satisfied DFO that their operations will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks, and who have negotiated agreements with the First Nation(s) in whose territories they propose to operate.
In June 2018, B.C. launched a multi-stakeholder Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC) that is assisting in the development of a strategy to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. The Council consists of 14 British Columbians who have a broad understanding of the role that salmon play within B.C.’s environment, for coastal and inland Indigenous communities, and local economies up and down the coast. The Council’s report was made public in October, 2018 to coincide with the start of the International Year of the Salmon. The report provided 14 specific recommendations to support the health, habitat and management of wild salmon as well as the sustainability of the wild salmon industry in British Columbia.

Government had planned to refer the report to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food to conduct a public engagement but, due to scheduling challenges and time constraints, chose to ask the Council to lead the public engagement. Multiple community meetings were held, and those unable to attend in person were able to provide their input to the Council through an online public engagement site. Government will begin developing proposals for a made-in-B.C. wild salmon strategy this summer, supported by the advice and guidance of the WSAC.
A3 MODIFY SPECULATION TAX: LOCAL GOVERNMENT VACANCY LEVY

Whereas vacant residential properties are not in the best interests of BC communities;
And whereas local governments are best placed to determine the nature and extent of the adverse impacts of vacant residential properties and to administer exemptions based on local needs;

And whereas a levy administered and retained by local government on vacant residential properties can be a way to encourage the availability of more rental accommodations;

And whereas revenues from such a levy on vacant residential properties would assist a local government directly or through regional pooling to create and encourage non-market housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to replace the approach in the current proposed Speculation Tax with a provision to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties and to require local governments that choose to impose such a levy to invest the revenues in non-market housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

B.C.’s housing crisis has spiralled out of control, hurting people, businesses and communities. As a government, we have a responsibility to tackle housing affordability so that families, renters, students, seniors and others have an affordable place to live. Government created a 30-point housing plan to help people find a home where they work.

One part of that plan is a speculation tax that targets foreign owners, satellite families, and those with homes that sit empty. It is focused on the largest urban centres, facing the most serious housing affordability crises, and addresses the issue of property owners who do not pay taxes here and take housing stock out of the market.

The speculation tax is best administered at the provincial level as the Province has the most appropriate audit and compliance tools for administering the tax. This is especially important when it comes to the satellite family and foreign owner components of the tax. Revenue from the speculation tax will help to fund important housing affordability initiatives in B.C.

The Province will monitor the speculation tax closely to ensure it meets the needs of British Columbians and will make adjustments as necessary.
A4 SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL LISTING PLATFORMS’ RESPONSIBILITY IN COMPLIANCE

Whereas the Province announced in February 2018 that it struck an agreement with Airbnb whereby the latter will collect both provincial sales tax (PST) and the municipal and regional district tax (MRDT) on short-term guest stays in British Columbia and in April 2018, a second agreement was announced between Airbnb and the City of Vancouver whereby Airbnb will not accept listings in that city that do not hold a business license;

And whereas most local governments are achieving only minimal compliance with their short-term rental regulations, particularly when compared to the compliance of conventional accommodators, and those local governments that do have high compliance must charge exceptionally high license fees in order to cover compliance-check costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short-term rental platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The issue of short term rentals (STRs) is complex and relatively new. The Province recognizes that growing demand for STRs can put significant pressure on: vacancy rates, rents and home prices for residents and seasonal workers across the province.

The Province is aware that many communities are responding to the issue of enforcement in a variety of ways. Local governments in B.C. have the authority through the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to regulate short-term rentals, for example by limiting or banning short-term rentals through zoning or applying restrictive conditions through business licensing.

The Province has recognized the issue of STR enforcement and compliance in stratas. The Strata Property Act was amended to enable strata corporations, effective November 30, 2018, to fine up to $1,000 a day for strata residents not complying with a strata bylaw limiting or banning short term rentals.

The Province will continue to closely monitor the issue of STRs and their impact on communities across B.C.
### B1 REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Whereas the primary purpose for provincial legislation requiring public notification should be to help municipalities notify residents based on what the metrics demonstrates and based on getting the best value for limited money;

And whereas printed newspapers are no longer the only or most effective means of giving public notice and yet the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* specifically require that all public notices be published in a print newspaper;

And whereas with a new provincial government and new technologies this resolution is aimed at better notifying residents while ensuring money spent on notification is effective:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to review the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* and consider modernizing the language so that newspapers, social media, web sites and other forms of online advertising are all given an equal footing for local governments to consider how to best inform their residents.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

The current public notice provisions already provide a degree of flexibility for communities - newspaper is not limited to print and is broadly defined as a ‘publication or local periodical that contains items of news and advertising’. Additionally, “alternative means” can be used where it is not practical to publish in a newspaper, and there is explicit authority to provide additional notice including by the internet or other electronic means.

While there is flexibility already in place, the Province recognizes that media environments are evolving in communities throughout B.C. Though local newspapers continue to reach residents in many communities, electronic and internet-based forms of communication have increasingly become an important source of local information.

The Ministry is currently working to understand the specific challenges that local governments face with the current notice provisions and the policy implications of different options. If the Province determines that it is appropriate to amend current notice publication requirements, the amendments would need to carefully balance key local government system principles – such as transparency and accountability - with a flexible approach that ensures notice publication requirements work for the broad range of local governments and communities in British Columbia.

If the Province determines that it is appropriate to amend legislated notice publication requirements, the Province will consult with UBCM regarding such potential changes.
NOTICE BY MAIL

Whereas Section 220 of the Local Government Act requires that notice of a special board meeting must be mailed to each director at least 5 days before the date of the meeting, and the Interpretation Act specifies that such mail must be delivered by Canada Post;

And whereas this requirement, which applies to regional districts and not municipalities, creates unnecessary time delays for holding special board meetings and is not in keeping with technological advances of recent years:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be urged to amend the legislation to permit such notices to be provided by other means, including electronic mediums.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Regional district boards must meet regularly and provide advance public notice of these meetings in accordance with the procedures established in their procedure bylaw.

Special board meetings are only held when an item cannot wait for a regularly scheduled board meeting. For these meetings there is a special requirement to provide written notice of the meeting to each board member to ensure they all receive the information. Mail is the traditional delivery system available to all, recognizing that reliable internet may not be readily available in all areas of the province. In addition to speed, considerations of certainty, reliability and accessibility are all important in relation to notice provisions.

While the default is for notice to be mailed to each Director five days before the date of a special general meeting, there is flexibility built in to alter these requirements if needed. Section 220(3) allows for mailed notice to be waived by a unanimous vote of the board. Section 220(4) allows for notice to be given less than five days before the date of the meeting if it is an emergency, and that notice does not have to be provided in writing.

Where the requirement to mail notice has been waived, notice can be provided to board members through whichever means is most appropriate (including by email). Additionally, local governments can always provide notice of meetings to Directors through whichever means they prefer in addition to the requirements of the legislation.

The Province recognizes that with rapid technological change, there may be value in a more general review of legislated requirements that require mail delivery. In spring 2013, Government enacted legislation to allow for electronic delivery of municipal property tax notices. At that time it was determined that electronic delivery of tax notices would achieve the greatest cost-saving and efficiencies, as most other statutorily prescribed mail notices are only for a few residents or individuals. A more thorough review of statutorily prescribed mail notices would be a significant undertaking, would depend on a clearer understanding of how big the problem is and would need to be weighed against other legislative priorities.
B3 REVIEW OF BOARD OF VARIANCE PROCESS
Whereas the Local Government Act requires local governments to appoint boards of variance that are empowered to consider minor variances where a person alleges that complying with a bylaw respecting the siting, size or dimensions of a building would cause them hardship;

And whereas deliberations of local boards of variance provide minimal opportunities for public comment on the requested variances, and provide no role for comment from the elected council of a municipality or the board of a regional district in unincorporated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government review the current provisions in the Local Government Act relating to boards of variance and consider amendments to ensure that the interests of public accountability, transparency, and local democracy are upheld.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Accountability, transparency and democracy are foundational to the local government system of governance. To ensure that boards of variance meet these principles, local governments have the statutory authority to set out procedures that boards are required to follow.

Boards of variance are also required by statute to hear the applicant and any person notified (i.e. all owners and tenants occupying the subject land or adjacent properties) prior to making an order on an application. Boards may also allow other interested persons and the local government to make representation to the board.

Prior to undertaking any legislative review, Government would require a better understanding of how existing provisions are not meeting the interests of public accountability, transparency and democracy, and the specifics of the legislative amendment being requested.
MODERNIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Whereas a review of the Local Government Act was intended to be undertaken after the Community Charter came into force in 2004;

And whereas, while a review of election financing rules and a statute revision that updates style and language have taken place, a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act has not been done:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to initiate a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act to ensure it meets modern needs and addresses the issue of equity between municipalities and regional districts (e.g. scope of regulatory authority, requirements for service establishment, etc.).

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recognizes that regional districts require legislation that meets their diverse and evolving needs. After an extensive period of review and engagement, regional district legislation was substantively updated with the adoption of the Local Government Act in 2000. Subsequently, the Community Charter was adopted, and consequential amendments to the LGA connected regional district legislation to the new legislative framework, and made some of the Community Charter’s key innovations apply to regional districts as well. For the most part, the current framework has proven flexible enough to allow regional districts to adapt to the evolving needs of their communities, so a comprehensive review is not warranted at this time.

However, the Ministry is always interested in ensuring that the regional districts’ legislative framework works effectively, while recognizing that legislative change has to be focused on resolving issues which matter to people. As the Resolution Committee notes, targeted amendments since 2004 have addressed particular challenges - such as cumbersome Provincial approval processes - and the 2015 revision made the legislation more accessible and comprehensible for those who work with it on a regular basis. If regional districts are facing legislative barriers to addressing specific problems, the Ministry is prepared to work with regional districts to understand those problems and, if needed, make targeted legislative amendments or use existing tools (such as regulation-making powers) to assist in specific situations.
B5 PROVINCIAL FUNDING HIGHWAY RESCUE
Whereas highway rescue services should be consistent throughout the Province of British Columbia, available on all provincial highways and funded in full by the provincial government;

And whereas highway rescue services are available on some highways, but:
   1. Funded through local taxation if the incident location is within the local rescue service area boundary; and
   2. Funded in part by Emergency Management BC if the incident location is outside of the local rescue service area boundary;

And whereas the Province is responsible for maintaining all provincial highways in the Province of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government assume the responsibility of ensuring that highway rescue services are provided in a consistent manner on all provincial highways and are fully funded by the Province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

For areas of the province where road rescue is not provided as part of a local government service, the Province provides support to road rescue providers that are willing and able to undertake a response outside of their jurisdictions. Under the policy, reimbursement rates are intended to offset costs directly associated to the response and it provides for WorkSafeBC coverage and exemption from civil liability under the Emergency Program Act.

Currently, the Province is working with the Fire Chiefs Association of BC to examine road rescue issues and to develop a proposed governance framework for road rescue. Such a framework will then be used to examine the suitability of possible funding solutions.
B6 SEARCH AND RESCUE FUNDING

Whereas Search and Rescue volunteers provide valuable service in support of police forces, the BC Ambulance Service, the Coroners Service, and local governments in the province, and the costs associated with providing the necessary training, equipment and facilities is increasing;

And whereas Search and Rescue groups rely on grants and other time consuming, short term and unpredictable funding sources which do not provide financial security or allow long term strategic operational planning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to implement a consistent and sustainable funding model for Search and Rescue groups to allow them to better provide efficient and effective search and rescue operations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

In January of 2016, the Province provided a one-time $10 million grant to BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) to support search and rescue (SAR) teams across the province; BCSARA has used this funding to pilot its fund disbursement model. The $10 million grant was divided and dispersed over two years.

In March 2017, an additional $5 million was provided to BCSARA to support SAR in B.C. These additional funds provide a third, and currently final, year of this type of grant funding for BCSARA and SAR groups in province.

In February 2018, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General approved, in principle, for staff to develop, for consideration, a framework for a government-administered fund. Development of this model would include examination of equitable allocation for a secure funding stream.

A consultant has been hired and is working with Emergency Management BC and BCSARA staff to table recommendations for the Minister’s consideration.
B8  ALERT READY EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Whereas the emergency Alert Ready system used in the province of British Columbia provides warnings related to major disasters of a potential life threatening nature such as Tsunamis and Earthquakes;

And whereas local governments would benefit greatly if this system could provide rapid local access for major local emergencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM works with the Province of British Columbia to provide access to the Alert Ready (emergency alert) system to local governments in order to allow them to broadcast critical and potentially life threatening alerts to residents of their respective communities using the framework of the Alert Ready System.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is procuring a web-based software interface that will provide local authorities an alerting capability for both broadcast-immediate and informational alerts related to all hazards within their areas of authority. Broadcast-immediate alerts will be pushed to the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination system also known as Alert Ready for immediate broadcast on radio, television and LTE smart phones as well as other attached systems (e.g., Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road signs, local mass notification systems, applications, etc.) within the affected area. In addition, all broadcast-immediate and information alerts will be posted to www.emergencyinfoBC.gov.bc.ca and pushed out to open feeds.

EMBC released a request for proposals on August 7, 2018 for the on-demand software interface to enable managed access to Alert Ready and other connected media. A phased introduction of this enhanced system across the province is anticipated to start in 2019.
B9 FUNDING FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Whereas restorative justice is an alternative to the formal court process for certain criminal offences that enhances victim satisfaction while also encouraging offenders to take responsibility for their actions and provide direct restitution to repair the harm they have caused;

And whereas the success rates of restorative justice processes are higher than that of traditional criminal justice that result in significant cost savings while providing a valuable service to the Province of British Columbia but receive minimal, ongoing funding from the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to implement a stable, long-term funding source for Restorative Justice Programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Government of British Columbia is committed to enhancing the use of Restorative Justice (RJ) in the province; however this work is going to take some time. Staff from across government’s justice and public safety sector have begun working together to explore opportunities for enhancing RJ across B.C. using a strategic, integrated, cross-sector approach.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring that the approach taken is community-driven and informed. Ministry staff are currently engaging with key leaders in B.C.’s RJ community to inform the development of potential opportunities for enhancing RJ in B.C. and to promote greater collaboration and dialogue about RJ.

In addition to the stakeholder engagement processes currently underway, project staff have undertaken the following activities:

- Established a cross-ministry working group to guide discussion to explore opportunities for enhancing RJ in B.C.;
- Completed an extensive annotated bibliography and literature review; and
- Completed a discussion paper that is guiding and informing consultations with restorative justice stakeholders and justice partners.

The Ministry encourages organizations that deliver restorative justice programs to review the 2018/19 Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants call for proposals, in particular, the restorative justice stream.
B10 COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE FIRESMART PROGRAM

Whereas the FireSmart program is a valued initiative that helps British Columbia residents understand how wildfires can threaten structures, properties and communities and provides information on reducing wildfire hazards on private properties;

And whereas the Provincial Government could further build upon the success of the FireSmart program by developing a broad-based public awareness campaign that draws on the interests of various organizations to build community support:

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Government collaborate with private and public organizations (such as local governments, insurance companies, broadcasters, first responders, etc.) to develop and implement an innovative, all-platform public awareness campaign that:

- encourages a shift in attitude towards accepting personal responsibility in reducing wildfire hazards on their own properties; and
- provides clear information about the FireSmart program, including the preventative steps residents are encouraged to consider carrying out on their own properties.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province commends local governments for recognizing the importance of shared responsibility in hazard mitigation and presenting a pro-active initiative, and agrees that working together on wildfire prevention and mitigation is the most effective way to increase public safety and minimize the potential negative impacts of wildfire.

The BC Wildfire Service will continue to work with communities, First Nations and regional governments to raise public awareness of FireSmart principles and the proven benefits of reducing wildfire risks on private property and in neighbourhoods. This resolution will be forwarded to the B.C. FireSmart Committee for consideration as they develop strategies to increase public awareness and use of FireSmart principles.

The new Community Resiliency Investment Program will provide funding to local governments and First Nations in B.C. to undertake community-based FireSmart planning and activities to reduce wildfire risks to communities. Education with a focus on public outreach, will be a supported activity under the program.

Government urges communities, local organizations and the public to undertake small-scale or localized awareness campaigns. Grassroots endeavours are effective and will strengthen formal campaigns or efforts put forward by agencies and levels of government.
B11 HIGHWAY AND ROAD LINE PAINTING

Whereas highway markings are necessary for the safety of pedestrians, drivers and their passengers by indicating obstacles and crossings, to help keep traffic on the correct side of the road and to convey important passing lane and other navigational information and that the paints now being used wears off so quickly that the lines have vanished within a few months after application:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to increase the safety of pedestrians and drivers/passengers using our highways and roads by ensuring that a more durable paint be used or that a second coat of paint be applied each year.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province recognizes that the need for clear and visible road markings is a high priority. Over the last three years, the Ministry conducted a review of the pavement marking operations including a paint testing project that evaluated the durability of 18 paint formulations. As a result of this review, the Ministry incorporated the following changes to the pavement markings program in 2018:

- 15% more lines painted annually throughout the province
- Use of larger glass beads for increased reflectivity and visibility at night, and thicker paint for longer-lasting pavement marking in coastal areas
- Second coat application in areas that experience premature wear
- Enhanced contractor monitoring and auditing, to maintain consistent performance

In addition, the Ministry will invest $2M per year in durable (plastic) pavement markings for high traffic areas, primarily in the Lower Mainland.
**B12 COMMITMENT TO ROAD SAFETY**

Whereas the design and rules of the road should ensure that all British Columbians can arrive at their destination safely and recognizing that traffic fatalities and serious injuries are preventable;

And whereas the Province of BC has the goal of having the safest roads in North America by 2020:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to prioritize safety measures for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and those in wheelchairs and mobility devices.

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

Government is constantly looking at new solutions that promote a high level of safety for all road users on British Columbia’s roads and highways. The Province is working together with our road safety partners to advance Vision Zero so that British Columbia will have the safest roads in North America with the ultimate goal of zero traffic fatalities.

The Province continues to work together with stakeholders through the BC Road Safety Strategy, which is made up of road safety partners from across the province who come together to explore and work on ways in which we can make our roads safer in British Columbia.

Most recently, as part of the strategy, the Province released three modules of the BC Community Road Safety Toolkit, a resource which provides information for local governments on proven road safety best practices, including those that can improve safety for vulnerable road users.

In addition, the Province of British Columbia has been working with the federal, provincial and territorial governments to develop a report that identifies different strategies and countermeasures that could be used by jurisdictions to address heavy vehicle interactions with vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. It is anticipated that this report will be made available as a reference document for all Canadian jurisdictions.
B13  CN RAIL EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY
Whereas the amount and frequency of dangerous goods being transported by CN Rail through all areas of the province is increasing;

And whereas the capacity to respond to a dangerous goods incident in many populated areas of the province is not adequate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of BC to initiate a process with CN Rail to develop a dangerous goods incident emergency response strategy in close consultation with the Province of BC and local governments to ensure adequate response capacity in all areas of the Province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province of British Columbia recognizes the direct risks and costs of spill incidents placed on local governments by the amount and frequency of dangerous goods transported by rail through BC and is working hard on the development of new spill preparedness, response and recovery regulations.

The first set of new regulations passed in October 2017 include new requirements around spill contingency planning which place a proactive obligation on regulated persons, such as rail operators, to demonstrate their capability to respond to a spill incident. A second phase of regulations, expected in 2019, is currently undergoing analysis and will include the following areas:

- Response times, which ensure timely responses following a spill;
- Geographic response plans, which ensure resources are available to support an immediate response, which consider the unique characteristics of a given sensitive area;
- Compensation for loss of public use from spills, including economic, cultural and recreational impacts; and
- Maximizing application of regulations to marine spills.

As committed to during the 2018 Estimates Debate, the Ministry is also in the process of pursuing additional information from rail operators regarding heavy oil transportation in B.C.

The Province is committed to ensuring a collaborative approach to spill preparedness, response and recovery in BC and will continue to engage with federal, local and Indigenous authorities as well as industry and other key stakeholders on spill management as the province continues to strengthen its regulatory framework through additional enhancements.
B14 PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE FROM NORTH VANCOUVER TO PRINCE GEORGE

Whereas the loss of BC Rail service in 2002 was economically devastating to many communities in the BC Interior and the current reduction of Greyhound Bus service further reduces transportation options to these communities;

And whereas remaining transportation options, such as personal vehicles and airlines are unaffordable for many of the most vulnerable members of these communities;

And whereas Council for the District of Lillooet believes that public rail transportation will improve public safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance economic development opportunities throughout the former BC Rail corridor:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to work in partnership with VIA Rail to fund and conduct a feasibility study for VIA Rail passenger rail service between North Vancouver and Prince George, BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

As passenger rail is an environmentally friendly way to connect communities, the Provincial Government supports the possibility of passenger rail service in corridors where sufficient demand exists for the service to be economically sustainable.

Given that previous market demand for passenger rail service in this corridor was marginal, and the costs to taxpayers to reinstate service in the form of subsidies would be substantial, the Provincial Government is not currently considering funding a feasibility study to reinstate rail along this corridor. This does not dissuade local governments along the corridor to collectively approach VIA Rail or any other rail carriers with a request to undertake such a study.
**B15  ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY**

Whereas to respond to the complex and evolving needs of British Columbians and diversify the economy, local government across BC have developed forward-thinking: transportation plans, the development of community centres, age-friendly community plans, and Integrated Community Sustainability Plans.

And whereas a provincial active transportation strategy - fully supported by dedicated staff and increased investments in provincial funding for municipal/regional active transportation projects - would accelerate implementation of existing community plans, and enhance the liveability and competitiveness of BC communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to establish a provincial active transportation strategy, with dedicated staff and increased investments in local active transportation.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Ministry is leading the development of the Provincial Active Transportation Strategy that is currently being informed through extensive consultation and engagement and in partnership with all government ministries and key stakeholders. The Strategy will contain actions to encourage new infrastructure, education and incentive programs, and safety improvements for people walking, cycling, and using other forms of active transportation. The Strategy was announced in the Premier’s December 2018 CleanBC release, which outlines a path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Ministry strongly supports cycling, walking and other modes of active transportation and recognizes these affordable transportation options reduce congestion and emissions and promote healthier communities. As part of its plan to encourage active transportation, the Ministry integrates cycling and pedestrian facilities, such as wider shoulders on highways or separated multi-use paths, in new construction and improvements to highways, whenever possible.

The Ministry also supports active transportation through its BikeBC program that helps towns, cities, First Nations and local governments create and maintain their cycling networks. BikeBC shares the cost of municipal cycling infrastructure projects, such as separated bike paths and bicycle/pedestrian overpasses, with local governments.

Following consultations with stakeholders and communities throughout B.C., the Ministry enhanced BikeBC’s scope in 2018 to cover up to 75 per cent of costs for communities with a population under 15,000. Upgrades to existing infrastructure are also now eligible under the program, as are projects such as repair stations, bike racks and lockers. For 2018/19, 26 communities, both rural and urban, are eligible to receive BikeBC grants totaling $9.11 million.
B16 TRANSPORTATION OF PATIENTS IN RURAL AREAS

Whereas medical services in southern rural British Columbia have been regionalized, requiring travel times of 3 to 9 hours for patients seeking scheduled critical care or specialist attention or requiring transport home after being transported to the hospital by BC Ambulance;

And whereas weather conditions, lack of air service and the cancellation or reduction of regular Greyhound Bus Service has made travel impossible for those residents without private transportation and support networks, causing a reduction to the economic and social development of rural areas in southern rural BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure work with BC Transit, local hospital boards, citizen and local government transit committee and private business to find solutions for transportation of critically ill patients awaiting surgery.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Travel Assistance Program (TAP), established in 1993, helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible British Columbia residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community upon referral by a physician. The program is a corporate partnership between the Ministry of Health and private transportation carriers (air, rail, and ferry service) who agree to waive or discount their regular fees. In the 2017/18 fiscal year, TAP approved over 130,000 requests from BC residents for assistance with medical travel.

In addition to TAP, other programs are available to assist residents with the cost of medical travel. Since 2004/05, health authorities have received $6 million annually to support Health Connections, a program which funds a variety of transportation options for patients who must travel from their home community to obtain necessary, non-emergency medical services.

The BC Family Residence Program (BCFRP), implemented in 2010, provides additional supports to BC families with the costs of medical travel. One component of the BCFRP is enhanced funding to Hope Air, a well-known national charity that arranges free flights for patients of all ages who cannot afford to fly to receive the medical care they require.
B18 COLLECTION OF UNPAID BYLAW FINES
Whereas municipalities lose a significant amount of non-tax revenue annually because of unpaid bylaw fines;

And whereas non-tax revenue sources such as a bylaw fines help offset costs to municipal services and reduce the property tax burden on residents;

And whereas the current methods available to municipalities for the collection of bylaw fines are slow, expensive and labour intensive;

And whereas the collection of bylaw fines with the cooperation of the Province and the Insurance Corporation of BC will ensure prompt payment of any unpaid bylaw fines:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province and the Insurance Corporation of BC collect outstanding traffic related bylaw fines on behalf of municipalities at the time of auto insurance and/or driver’s license renewal.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

The provincial government has no plans to use ICBC to collect municipal by-law fines at this time.
Whereas the current mechanisms for collecting municipal fines, though improved, still do not provide adequate provision for the collection of unpaid fines;

And whereas existing effective collection mechanisms for unpaid property taxes, and current permitted ‘special fees’ are in place;

And whereas the available fine collection mechanisms available are time consuming, costly and onerous for local governments to undertake.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the legislation to allow the addition of unpaid municipal fines related to a specific property to the permitted ‘special fees [...] may be collected as property taxes’, including through eventual tax sale property auction;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to streamline the current court online filing system for municipal fines, and investigate other efficiencies and mechanisms for collection, including any necessary corresponding legislative changes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

As their name entails, property taxes are taxes levied against a specific property for a basket of government goods and services. Thus, unpaid property taxes represent an effective lien on the underlying property. If those outstanding taxes become delinquent, a municipality may initiate a tax sale process in year the taxes become delinquent.

There is a limited range of fees and charges that are somewhat similar to property taxes because they relate to services provided to a specific property (e.g. a water utility fee or a garbage pickup fee). Because of this similarity, section 258 of the Community Charter allows for these limited fees to be incorporated into taxes in arrears (and ultimately linked to the tax sale process). It is important to note, this is a very limited application of the broad scope of potential fees, most of which are not eligible for inclusion as taxes in arrears.

Fines and penalties (like noise, parking, and nuisance violations) are very different from taxes and eligible fees because they do not relate to servicing a property. Instead, they are issued for violations of civic regulations.

The confiscatory authority of government (including tax sale) is an extremely significant power, and therefore must be used in a limited and restrained manner and under very strict rules. As fines and penalties have little or no relationship to any municipal service to properties, there is no reasonable basis for linking them to the tax sale process.

There are other reasonable remedies available to local governments for levying, administering, and collecting fine violations through the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act, Part 8 of the Community Charter (ticketing of bylaw offenses), and the Offense Act.

Thus, the Province is not prepared to expand section 258(1) of the Community Charter [special fees collected as property tax] to include fine violations as part of taxes in arrears.
B20  PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Whereas volunteer fire departments provide emergency firefighting response services to communities throughout British Columbia while struggling to meet the increasing costs driven by expanded regulations and compliance requirements, increasing demand for services and changes in the legal environment;

And whereas the Province of BC does not contribute directly to the delivery of fire services by local volunteer fire departments making service delivery very challenging for small fire departments and communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia set up a program to provide ongoing funding to all volunteer fire departments to assist in the annual operating costs associated with purchase and maintenance of capital infrastructure and equipment, training, and administration of the fire service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) provides advice and guidance to fire departments and local government with respect to fire safety, fire prevention and fire code enforcement. The OFC’s mandate also provides for the establishment of training standards.

The Provincial Government does not have the mandate to provide for the delivery of structure fire services. However, local governments can choose to provide fire services and the related costs are borne by the local government for both career and volunteer fire department models.

Where a fire service is established outside of local government authority, then the organization providing the fire service is responsible for its related costs and meeting any statutory obligations that are applicable to fire departments.
B21   PARKLAND DCC RESERVE EXPENDITURE EXPANSION

Whereas the *Local Government Act* legislates the manner in which local governments may collect, hold and use development cost charges (DCCs) for the capital costs of parkland;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* permits the use of DCC money for landscaping on parkland, allowing for the construction of playing fields including such items as levelling ground, planting grass and other plant material, the legislation does not contemplate different forms of playing field surfaces such as manufactured surfaces and artificial turf which promotes water conservation, is environmentally friendly, and requires less maintenance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to broaden the allowable uses of development cost charge reserve funds to include alternate recreation and field surfaces.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Ministry’s current policy regarding eligible costs associated with parkland development cost charges (DCCs) was developed in consultation with the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC). DFRC is comprised of Ministry and local government staff, development representatives, and other related organizations.

Several years ago, the DFRC conducted a detailed review of this issue and unanimously agreed not to expand the scope of eligible costs for parkland DCCs. In coming to this conclusion, the DFRC stated the purpose of the Parkland DCC is to acquire land and provide basic improvements necessary to develop that land as a useable community park (including: fencing, landscaping, and playground equipment). A list of eligible costs associated with parkland DCCs is provided in the Province’s *“Development Cost Charge Best Practices Guide”*.

Expensive improvements like pools, arenas, and all-weather playing fields are well beyond the scope of basic improvements for a community park. The Ministry encourages local governments to explore alternative financing tools (like designated reserve funds or borrowing) to help pay for these type of improvements.
B22 INTERFACE WILDFIRE FUNDING
Whereas rural volunteer fire departments in BC provide safety for their communities and also save the Province millions of dollars through their courageous efforts in fighting wildfires;

And whereas many of these fire departments are self-funded brigades that operate without financial support from any level of government due to an insufficient tax base;

And whereas the flood and fire report *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in BC* recognizes the need for a strategy to support these fire departments and brigades in the valuable role they play in fighting wildfires:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia provide funding to rural and First Nations fire brigades and fire departments for emergency training, equipment and response capacity with respect to urban interface wildfires.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province recognizes the strength and contribution of volunteers — in particular, our first responder volunteers — and takes this opportunity to express its gratitude.

The 2017 and 2018 fire seasons demonstrated that resourcing wildfires is becoming more challenging. The Province is currently reviewing options, including cross-training and mechanisms to increase firefighting capacity as part of the response to the Abbott Chapman report.

The BC Wildfire Service will continue to work closely with local fire departments and volunteer firefighters throughout the year to plan for each wildfire season and also co-ordinate effective responses to wildfires that occur in wildland-urban interface areas. The BC Wildfire Service will also continue to collaborate regularly with local fire department personnel to develop cross-training exercises.

This resolution will be forwarded to the B.C. FireSmart Committee for consideration. This committee is a partnership between the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; the Office of the Fire Commissioner; the Fire Chiefs’ Association of British Columbia; the Union of B.C. Municipalities; the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society of B.C.; and the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.
B23 DEVELOPMENT OF ONGOING PROVINCIAL FUNDING PROGRAMS FOR FIRST NATIONS RECONCILIATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING EFFORTS

Whereas current provincial programs offer some financial assistance to advance reconciliation and relationship building efforts, they generally support “one off” events as opposed to more systemic and sustained engagement efforts;

And whereas funding under such provincial programs is far less than the actual cost of convening multi-party collaborative processes, resulting in the contribution of funding by local governments;
And whereas funding under such provincial programs is not stable, on-going funding and results in large amounts of staff time to apply for these programs:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia develop stable, ongoing funding programs with systemic, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to assist with First Nations reconciliation and relationship building efforts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation has a long standing relationship with local governments and recognizes the importance of engaging local government in reconciliation activities. Through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR), the Province provides some support for local government to advance its own reconciliation with First Nations through the Community to Community (C2C operated by MAH) and Rural Dividend Fund programs (operated by FLNR).

MIRR signed a new MOU in Fall 2018. MIRR has held the initial implementation of the MOU with UBCM and the second meeting is scheduled for February 2019. BC Participation in the Implementation of the MOU is jointly by MIRR and MAH staff.

The responsibility of local governments to engage with neighbouring local government entities is not new, and the increased attention by local governments to extend that engagement to neighbouring First Nations is important to ensure that all affected have input and consideration into local and regional initiatives. Local government’s day to day relationship building with neighbouring First Nations should be considered part of their existing role and responsibilities.
B24 UNDERFUNDING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Whereas public libraries in British Columbia are underfunded to meet the evolving needs of their communities;

And whereas public libraries provide necessary access to knowledge and learning to all members of their communities, including those most marginalized:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia restore funding levels to the pre-2009 rates;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia commit to forming a Task Force to work with Public Library Associations to ensure funding.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is working with our partners, the British Columbia Library Trustees Association, the British Columbia Library Association, the Association of British Columbia Public Library Directors and the British Columbia Libraries Cooperative, to renew the provincial strategic plan for public libraries. Public libraries are an integral part of our government’s vision for a province that works for everyone. Refreshing the strategic plan will enable all libraries regardless of size or location to deliver the connected and digitally enhanced programs, services and information resources that British Columbians need now and in the future. Public library funding and distribution will be reviewed within the context of this refreshed plan.

Government is committed to working with libraries, community agencies and other stakeholders to ensure a stable and reliable public system that is future-focused. We are committed to improving the lives of British Columbians and we understand that libraries are well-positioned to complement other efforts underway that promote rural development and poverty reduction.
B25  BROWNFIELD SITE ASSESSMENT VALUE
Whereas local governments, particularly in rural and remote areas, are experiencing a growing number of brownfield sites well situated along their transportation of municipal services corridors which provides zero municipal property tax revenues to municipalities;

And whereas when the brownfield sites require contamination remediation, BC Assessment assess the brownfield sites, usually in the business class with a one dollar value to the land, resulting in zero tax revenues to the municipality;

And whereas these brownfield sites are not carrying their fair share of the tax burden for the community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the Assessment Act to provide municipalities with the authorization to assess brownfield site properties in a “separate” class that creates greater motivation by the owners, generally corporate, to mitigate the environmental hazards and redevelop these unsightly properties.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The issue of contaminated sites/brownfields is a province-wide concern, for both rural and urban communities, and one that the Province takes seriously.

As pointed out in response to UBCM resolution 2017-B21, the cost of remediation is often prohibitive, and can even exceed the market value of the property. As a result, increasing the rate of taxation and/or creating a new property class for these properties may have unintended consequences and challenges from the outset. As such, MAH is not at this time considering a separate property class for brownfield sites (Ministry of Finance is in agreement with this position).

However, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy staff have been reviewing the results of the Province’s first Brownfield Renewal Strategy (2008-2014) to develop a plan for encouraging the remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites across B.C. going forward. MAH staff will certainly collaborate where appropriate once this plan takes shape.
B26 EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM—DRYWALL (GYPSUM)

Whereas the Regional District of North Okanagan has diverted over 1500 tonnes of drywall (gypsum) material per year over the last twelve years;

And whereas recycling companies will no longer accept waste drywall (gypsum) due to Work Safe BC concerns with asbestos content, causing significant operational issues at Recycling and Disposal Facilities;

And whereas the British Columbia Recycling Regulation requires producers to be responsible for end of life of their products:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy amend the British Columbia Recycling Regulation to include drywall (gypsum), under a new schedule called Construction and Demolition Materials.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

B.C. is proud to be a leader in North America with more Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs with higher capture rates than any other North American jurisdiction.

The Ministry has been focused on pursuing continuous improvement with our 22 existing EPR programs and will consider expanding B.C.’s EPR programs as part of our commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility.

Construction and demolition materials, including gypsum, are identified in the CAP-EPR as materials to be considered for inclusion in the future. Should the Ministry go forward with expansion, an Intentions Paper process will take place to ensure input from all stakeholders and Indigenous peoples is received.

Local government engagement in EPR is paramount to the programs’ success. The Ministry will continue to engage with local governments as we work to enhance EPR in B.C.
B27 RECYCLE BC STEWARDSHIP PLAN UPDATE

Whereas Recycle BC is currently conducting a review of its stewardship program, and appears that the following section from the Recycle BC’s March 2018 Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan (Plan) will have serious impacts on many local governments in establishing new curbside collection recycling programs:

4.3.2 New Curbside Programs:
Local governments in communities that did not have PPP curbside collection programs by May 2014, when the program was launched, are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as contractors collectors if the employment a PPP curbside collection program, provided each of the following criteria is met.

Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan:
- A curbside garbage collection program was in place by May 2014;
- The community represents an incorporated municipality; and
- The community has a minimum population of 5,000 residents;

And whereas the impact of the proposed changes to the above section will leave numerous communities and electoral areas within British Columbia ineligible to receive any Recycle BC incentives to administer new curbside collection programs in the future, leaving new curbside collection programs initiated to increase diversion of packaging and printed paper to be funded solely by the taxpayer:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC immediately act to improve legislation in order to hold the stewardship agencies accountable for the total cost associated with the delivery of the depot program and, specifically, the Minister of Environment address the proposed changes in the Plan and acknowledge the tax funded subsidies in the Plan to ensure that all British Columbians have access to Recycle BC services through a fully funded producer responsibility stewardship model.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Recycle BC (RBC) program has been consulting on a revised program plan for the next five years, including establishing a revised threshold on curbside delivery. The revised plan proposes that for new curbside services a community must be: an incorporated municipality, have a minimum population of 5,000 residents, and have provided garbage collection as of May 2014. Other communities would be served by depots. Consultation on the revised program plan has been ongoing since November 2017 and concluded with RBC receiving comments on the latest revised plan (Phase II) through September 6th, 2018.

The Ministry recently issued guidance to stewardship agencies for the demonstration of “producers paying the costs” in their stewardship plans.

The Ministry is aware of RBC’s proposed threshold for curbside service. The final plan will be provided to the Ministry to be reviewed by a statutory decision maker. The review will include rural access criteria, an evaluation of “producer paying the cost” and ensuring a satisfactory consultation process took place.
B28  EPR FOR AGRICULTURE PLASTICS
Whereas agriculture plastic is currently disposed of as solid waste in landfills, or by burning and burying on site, resulting in decreased landfill capacity or air and environmental pollution;

And whereas local governments are working to reduce waste to landfills, and producers of agriculture plastic should be responsible for its’ disposal:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the province establish a regionally based Extended Producer Responsibility Stewardship program for agricultural plastics.

RESPONSE:  Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry appreciates local government support of the Recycling Regulation (the regulation) and the desire to expand the regulation to include agriculture plastics. This regulation is an important part of BC’s work towards zero waste and supporting a circular economy.

B.C. is proud to be a leader in North America with more EPR programs with higher capture rates than any other North American jurisdiction.

The Ministry has been focused on pursuing continuous improvement with our 22 existing EPR programs, and will consider expanding B.C.’s EPR programs as part of our commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility. Industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) packaging, which would include agriculture plastics, is identified in the CAP-EPR as a material to be considered for inclusion in the future.

Local government engagement in EPR programs is paramount to continuing the strong legacy of EPR in B.C. The Ministry will continue to engage with local government as staff work towards further strengthening current programs, while beginning to prioritize options for potential program expansion.
B29 UNIFORM BUSINESS REGULATIONS FOR DISPOSABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING
Whereas uniform regulations of businesses provide predictability, certainty and efficiency for consumers and business operators;

And whereas unrestricted use of disposable plastic packaging is inconsistent with values of British Columbia residents and imposes costs on local governments in British Columbia, prompting communities to examine options for business regulations limiting disposable plastic packaging in order to contain costs and manage solid waste streams responsibly:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia work with local governments and retailers to introduce uniform, province-wide business regulations in relation to disposable plastic packaging, to substantially reduce the volume of disposable plastic packaging in local solid waste streams.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry greatly appreciates local government interest in addressing, through regulation, disposable plastic packaging.

Disposable packaging is currently regulated through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. B.C. is proud to be a leader in North America with more EPR programs with higher capture rates than any other North American jurisdiction.

The Ministry has been focused on pursuing continuous improvement with our 22 existing EPR programs, and will consider expanding B.C.’s EPR programs as part of our commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility.

The Ministry will continue to engage with local government as ministry staff work towards further strengthening current policies and programs. The Ministry commends the actions taken by local governments to develop single-use item strategies and other related initiatives to reduce plastic in the environment.
B30  BC HYDRO LED STREET LIGHT CONVERSION
Whereas high pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights are a major energy burden to municipalities and contribute significantly to green house gas emissions and light pollution;

And whereas BC Hydro owns the majority (approximately 75 per cent) of all municipal streetlights:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to direct BC Hydro to begin an LED streetlight conversion project to programmable LED streetlights in all local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

BC Hydro owns and maintains approximately 95,000 of about 350,000 streetlights across B.C. The streetlight replacement program has been delayed as BC Hydro continues to evaluate new technologies that have come on the market since BC Hydro began its pilot projects.

BC Hydro is looking at all options to offer customers, including light colour, wattage and light distribution. As well, BC Hydro is considering the needs of customers related to dimming, street light failure/outage notifications and Smart Cities requirements.

BC Hydro is working on the rollout of the streetlight replacement program. They have been consulting with communities over the last two years on an LED streetlight rate structure and plan to file a rate design application with the BC Utilities Commission in late 2019. An updated rate is required prior to the rollout of LED street lights as current rates do not include charges for BC Hydro owned LED streetlights. BC Hydro cannot charge for LED streetlights without BCUC approval of a LED streetlight rate.

BC Hydro anticipates streetlight replacement work will begin in 2020 and is anticipated to take between three and six years to complete.
B31 PROVINCIAL FUNDING FOR ENERGY RETROFITS OF BUILDINGS
Whereas the BC NDP’s Energy and Jobs Plan for BC includes the following priorities:

- Retrofitting public buildings: “a serious long-term commitment to energy efficiency in all our public buildings (that) will save money, will reduce overall demand for energy, and create good-paying jobs and apprenticeships in every community in British Columbia”;

- Retrofitting homes and businesses: “helping families and businesses replace wasteful equipment, seal leaks and install proper insulation...(to) reduce individual Hydro bills, free up our existing generation capacity, and reduce climate changing emissions”; and

- Investing in clean energy: “British Columbia has tremendous opportunity to produce renewable energy and export renewable energy technology. By providing investment and leadership, the Province of British Columbia can support our technology sector and foster the good-paying research, engineering and trades jobs of the future.”;

And whereas the sooner the Province of British Columbia moves on investing in energy conservation and renewable energy production the better, as both are crucial to meeting not only provincial but also local governments’ climate goals;

And whereas Greenhouse Gas (GhG) emissions from inefficient buildings are high, for example 56 percent of all GhG emissions in the City of Vancouver, but the lack of funding for building retrofits is a major barrier for building owners;

And whereas Manitoba Hydro provides a good example of how to fund energy retrofits through its on-bill financing program whereby loans for energy retrofits are provided to building owners with loan payments matching prior energy bills;

And whereas energy retrofit programs such as Manitoba Hydro’s energy retrofit program have created many new skilled jobs in rural, First Nations and urban communities, and resulted in lower energy bills which contribute to more affordable housing;

And whereas the provincial government investment and leadership in renewable energy technologies would help create jobs in BC communities and also help ensure that low-carbon and zero-carbon building components and technologies are available so that builders and local governments can meet the building code requirements in the BC Step Energy Code and Vancouver Building bylaw:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to move quickly to retrofit public buildings, including schools, for energy efficiency;

And be it further resolved that the Province implement a program such as the Manitoba Hydro’s that includes energy retrofit incentives, rebates, loans program, and other funding mechanisms, to help homeowners and businesses finance energy retrofits on their buildings, including non-profit, co-op and purpose-built rental housing;
And be it further resolved that the Province invest in renewable energy technology development and production that would create jobs throughout BC and help local governments and builders meet building code requirements that are moving towards zero-carbon buildings.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources**

The Province is currently developing a strategy for a clean growth future; a strategy that will drive innovation, expand energy-efficiency and conservation programs, produce new energy responsibly and sustainably, create investment and good long-term jobs across the province and thereby, establish the pathway to meet the Province’s emission reduction targets.

In summer 2018, as part of its work to build a clean growth future for the province, the Government received public input on three intentions papers focused on clean transportation, clean and efficient buildings, and a clean-growth program for industry. In 2019, public input will be sought on more topics including public sector leadership and low carbon energy.

In the intentions paper for clean, efficient buildings, actions for consideration include: rebates and low-interest financing, and support for development, commercialization, and demonstration of high performance designs and technologies. The Province is currently developing a new retrofit incentive program to complement existing utility programs for households, businesses, the public sector, and low-income segments.

This is all part of the government’s long-term clean growth strategy, which will bring together our action on climate change and work already underway to drive sustainable economic growth with cleaner energy and fewer emissions. It will be integrated with the Province’s:

- Economic Development Strategy
- #BCTech Strategy
- Emerging Economy Task Force

The clean growth strategy is part of the government’s commitment to stimulating sustainable growth and jobs using our clean energy to power our economy while driving down greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The same innovations that reduce our emissions and improve our quality of life can help us capture a larger share of the global market for clean energy, technologies, products and expertise.

As we begin to implement the strategy in the coming years, we will continue to seek public input on priority areas as outlined in Towards a Clean Growth Future for BC. This will help us update and expand the strategy as new ideas are presented and more opportunities arise.

We will also continue to collaborate with the Federal Government through the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. We will work in full partnership with Indigenous communities. And we will continue to receive advice from the Climate Solutions and Clean Growth Advisory Council.
B32 ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITS

Whereas the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets Act sets aggressive legislated targets for reducing greenhouse gases; under the Act, BC's GHG emissions are to be reduced by at least 80 percent below 2007 levels by 2050;

And whereas reducing energy use in existing homes is an integral part of meeting the GHG reduction target but there are financial barriers for homeowners to participate in energy efficiency retrofit programs;

And whereas, local improvement charges in British Columbia do not include the provision of cost recovery for energy efficiency retrofits on private property:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia enact legislation to allow the cost recovery of locally financed green energy technologies and energy efficiency retrofits on private properties through local improvement charges.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Province is currently not prepared to expand municipal taxation and financing authority to home energy retrofits, as this would involve public taxation and financing for privately owned improvements. Local improvement charges/taxes and accompanying public borrowing are reserved for financing the costs of public infrastructure that are owned and controlled by the municipality, such as construction of a sidewalk or a wastewater facility.

Local improvement charges and public borrowing are not the appropriate vehicle to finance private acquisitions that are owned by residents. There is already a robust home equity financing market for those types of undertakings.

However, provincial legislation provides many other options for local governments to support and promote a green economy; these include:

- municipal grants to individual households to subsidize a portion of the costs of acquiring solar panels.
- waivers or reductions of development cost charges when a new development has qualifying energy efficiency components.
- partial revitalization tax exemption when property owners install or upgrade energy efficiency improvements.
- enhanced public education and communications on energy efficiency.

Provincial staff are available to assist local governments on these options to promote a green economy.
B33 DIKE UPGRADE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEISMIC STANDARDS

Whereas the provincial Flood Hazard Management Land Use Guidelines, which require that dike improvements meet strict seismic standards while also making allowance for future sea-level rise, took effect in January 2018;

And whereas there are properties both on and outside the dike that have historically been used for industrial, commercial and residential purposes;

And whereas dike corridor upgrade strategies will have significant impacts on properties located along dikes;

And whereas a 2012 provincial government study estimated that future dike upgrades in Delta alone would cost more than $1.2 billion:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local governments in relation to dike upgrades and climate change; develop and implement a new comprehensive funding program for major capital works to improve the level of flood protection for the entire Lower Fraser River system; and provide long-term funding to support municipal dike corridor upgrade strategies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Government recognizes that upgrading dikes is expensive for communities and that limited funding to address these emerging issues is a challenge to flood management. Current legislation, regulation and/or policy may need to be updated to clarify the roles and responsibilities of governments to upgrade flood infrastructure to meet climate change.

The Province is currently developing a Provincial Flood Risk Strategy. In the interim, Government will continue to provide and update guidelines and information on managing and adapting to seismic risks and climate change, so that local governments and First Nations can plan for mitigation and adaptation measures.

Government continues to collaborate with the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy and its partners to review potential funding models that take into consideration climate change and seismic issues on critical flood infrastructure.

Government is working to improve access to and funding levels of programs, such as the Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund, to address large-scale flood infrastructure improvements.
B34 IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT

Whereas the Province of BC enacted a Water Sustainability Act modernization in 2016 which has provisions for setting Water Objectives and creating Water Sustainability Plans;

And whereas Local Governments, Improvement Districts, Water Use Communities, Community Watersheds and unorganized Water User Groups have an interest in the protection and governance of watersheds and aquifers that provide drinking water, irrigation and fisheries resources and have further interest in enabling sustainable real estate development as the effects of climate change become increasingly more evident:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development work with UBCM and water governance specialists to establish regulations, implement Water Objectives, and designate areas for Water Sustainability Plans, where necessary to ease the tensions arising due to competition between domestic and agricultural water use, source protection, resource extraction and wildfire mitigation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in partnership with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is currently working on policy to support development of water objectives and water sustainability plans for the province.

Opportunities to test these policies are currently being evaluated. A watershed governance pilot in the Nicola Watershed has been initiated. The signed MOU establishes the government-to-government relationship between provincial ministries and First Nations. Local government and stakeholder engagement for the Nicola watershed governance pilot has been initiated, and communication with First Nations, local governments, and stakeholders is ongoing.

Use of these Water Sustainability Act tools will be phased in and coordinated with the broad range of ongoing government initiatives, including land use planning and assessing cumulative effects.

Government is committed to working with First Nations and communities to modernize land-use planning while sustainably managing B.C.’s ecosystems, rivers, lakes, watersheds, forests and old growth.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Government acknowledges and thanks local governments for their continued interest in supporting improved watershed and aquifer protection and management, alternative watershed governance, and source water protection.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy continues to support the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development with the implementation of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA), including work on regulations such as Water Objectives, Water Sustainability Planning, and exploring alternative water governance models.
The Province continues to explore opportunities to pilot WSA management and governance tools using a phased approach that maintains awareness of other ongoing initiatives, existing resources available, and opportunities to build better relationships with local and Indigenous governments and communities across the Province. Local government participation and support will continue to be vital for the success of these initiatives. This phase of WSA regulation and policy development will continue to take time as the Province engages with the many different parties who may be affected by these new regulations and policies; that broad engagement is foundational to developing good public policy.
B35 CHANGE TO CLASS E REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FARM GATE SALES
Whereas for the benefit of producers and consumers and in the promotion of a prosperous agricultural industry, it is vital for farmers in British Columbia to be able to operate their farms to establish a living income and for citizens of British Columbia to have the ability to purchase heritage meats through farm gate sales;

And whereas current licensing regulations require that rural farmers living within 2 hours of an abattoir must take their livestock to a facility for slaughter, where the existing abattoirs do not have capacity to meet the service demands:

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Agriculture be requested to make an immediate change to the Class E licensing requirements to give farmers the ability to slaughter their livestock on farm premises and to offer and promote farm gate sales.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Government appreciates the concerns, comments and feedback about the challenges facing small agriculture producers. The Ministry of Agriculture launched a consultation in March 2018 to gather information about Class D and E licences and the licensing process. The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) established on April 24, 2018 launched a province-wide public consultation on meat production, including consideration of Class E licences.

In late September 2018, SSCAFF released their report which had 21 recommendations for government, including review of the current policy for Class E licences. Since the report came out, Ministry staff have been working to address many of the recommendations and to ensure appropriate consideration of the work by the Committee, including the review of Class D and E licensing.
B36  BC CONSERVATION SERVICES
Whereas the provincial government is responsible for managing conservation service, with underfunding having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

And whereas the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service has not been able to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, off road vehicle enforcement, illegal dumping, human wildlife conflicts prevention, or respond to wildlife human conflict:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be required to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing conservation services.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The B.C. government recognizes the need for additional conservation officers to help protect the province’s natural resources and lessen human-wildlife conflicts.

In April 2018, the Province announced the addition of 20 new conservation officers, which included 12 new positions being added to locations with the highest need. The 12 new positions were made available due to additional funding in the 2018/19 budget.

The Conservation Officer Service uses the zone deployment model to increase effectiveness. This model enables conservation officers to work remotely from their patrol vehicles and provide response anywhere in the zone depending on the priority of the call.
B37   RESTORING PROVINCIAL COORDINATION OF PLANNING AND FUNDING OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE LOWER FRASER RIVER AND SOUTH COAST

Whereas along the lower Fraser River and south coast of British Columbia, regional planning and funding of flood management infrastructure has become poorly coordinated and underfunded since the provincial government devolved much of its role in flood protection in the mid-2000s;

And whereas sea level rise, freshet events, and seismic standards will require significant upgrades to flood protection in the city of Vancouver and elsewhere along the lower Fraser River and south coast:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government works with local governments along the lower Fraser River and south coast to restore the provincial government’s role in coordinating regional flood protection and the provision of long-term sustainable funding to enable resilient flood management planning and infrastructure efforts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Government provides funding and collaboration with the Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy, and its partners, to strengthen flood management infrastructure, increase resiliency and reduce vulnerability to flood events in the Lower Mainland.

Government is currently developing a Provincial Flood Risk Strategy to review the roles and responsibilities of provincial and local governments, and to determine the provincial support measures required to successfully reduce flood risks.

Government provides either cost-shared or fully-funded programs to local governments, such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund and BC Disaster Mitigation Program, to assist communities in planning and building community flood resilience.

Government continues to provide and update guidelines and information on managing and adapting to climate change, such as sea level rise and seismic risks.

Government will continue to coordinate and provide access to federal programs and provide notification of current funding programs to local governments and First Nation communities.
B39  PRIVATE SEWER UTILITIES

Whereas private water systems are governed under the Water Utility Act, which ensures that the public interest is protected from a monopoly that has no competition in the area of service it provides;

And whereas the Water Utility Act provides for the appointment of a Comptroller of Water Rights with the authority that the rates charged to customers of water systems are not excessive, but reasonably allow only for operating costs, a contribution for capital replacement and upgrade, and a provision for management fees;

And whereas no similar regulations exist to ensure the same level of transparency, responsibility and protection for private sewer utilities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish legislation to govern private sewer utilities to ensure that the same level of accountability found in the Water Utility Act is afforded to customers of private sewer utilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Ministry staff are aware of the request that the Province regulate and manage private sewer utilities in response to concerns about rates. Private sewer utilities are permitted under the Environmental Management Act and the Municipal Wastewater Regulation, however there is no provincial oversight body for the operation of private sewage utilities.

Ministry staff have been working with the Silver Star Property Owners Association (SSPOA) to better understand the scope of the issue and what options could be implemented to address the concern. Some preliminary work has been completed, however more work is required to complete the assessment of the scope of the issue and what the resource implications would be to adopt a regulatory role in the management of private sewer utilities. Any review of options would have to consider governance structures, resource requirements, and how effectively the issue would be addressed.

In addition, due to the way permitting is coded and tracked the number of private sewage utilities is unknown. Ministry staff are also working to better understand how many private sewer utilities exist.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province views local governments as best-suited to regulate sewer system services given the powers they have under the Local Government Act. The provincial regulatory regime authorizes municipal wastewater discharges but does not regulate their financial charges. Local governments provide sewer system services and have the ability to customize the way the services are provided, regulated and financed. Under the Local Government Act, a regional district has the authority to prohibit the installation of sewage works provided by other parties (either a private utility or a municipality).

This issue has come about due to a few private systems that appear to be unjustly charging fees. The Province will continue to monitor the issue; however, at this time, it is not considering the regulation of private sewer utilities. The Province may revisit the issue if research indicates a need for regulation.
Although the provincial government does not regulate financial charges, local governments can by enacting applicable bylaws.
Whereas the provincial government is undertaking a review of BC’s natural resource sector professional reliance model to be complete by Spring 2018;

And whereas the use of professional reliance within BC’s resource sector is a long-standing practice;
And whereas over the past decade the use of professional reliance has increased in response to government’s regulatory reform initiatives;

And whereas since 2013 the Environmental Appeal Board, Forest Practices Board, Office of the Auditor General and Office of the Ombudsperson have highlighted the need for adequate oversight of qualified professionals in providing independent, objective advice to government regulators;

And whereas there is increasing public concern related to specific instances of decision-making based on professional reliance:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government ensure that government oversight of professional associations, and professional associations that oversee qualified professionals, employ best practices to protect the public interest in the management of public land by the natural resource sector.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

On June 28th, 2018 the Province released the independent final report of the professional reliance review commissioned by government in fall 2017. This report includes 121 recommendations to improve the professional reliance model. These recommendations fall into three themes: first, the governance of professional associations and the qualified professionals they oversee, including forest professionals, engineers and geoscientists, agrologists, biologists and science technicians; second, regulatory recommendations focussed on improvements to professional competency, government expectations and accountability, public trust, and information quality; and third, regime specific recommendations across nine natural resource statutes.

As a direct result of the professional reliance review, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy introduced in the House Bill 49 (Professional Governance Act) on October 22, 2018; the Act subsequently received Royal Assent on November 27, 2018. The Act implements two of the professional reliance review’s recommendations by legislating best practices for professional governance and establishing an Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (the Office). The Office, led by a Superintendent with statutory authorities, will administer the Act, develop policy on professional governance, oversee the regulatory bodies through compliance activities (monitoring and guidance) and enforcement of the Act, and report annually to the Minister of Attorney General.

The Professional Governance Act and regulations developed pursuant to the Act will be implemented in phases over the coming years starting in spring 2019.

The Province is carefully considering the remaining recommendations from the final report and will respond to these recommendations in due course.
**PRIVATE MANAGED FOREST LAND ACT AMENDMENT**

Whereas Section 21 of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* is an unacceptable restriction on the authority of local governments to regulate activities on private managed forest land (PMFL);

And whereas local governments and communities would benefit significantly from PMFL owners sharing their management commitment, operations maps, harvesting plans and supporting assessments and long-term disposition or development intentions for their land;

And whereas PMFL regulations are not equivalent to forestry regulations that apply to Crown forest land:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and Regulations to provide local government more authority to regulate activities on PMFL; require the owners of PMFL to undertake annual consultation and sharing of management commitments, operations maps, harvesting plans and supporting assessments and long-term disposition or development intentions for land within municipal boundaries; and amend the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and Regulations to standards that are equivalent to Crown forest land regulations.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

The *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and regulations are intended to encourage the management of private lands as forests and balances the property rights of private land holders with obligations for environmental protection. The Act and regulations also ensure consistency in how private managed forest lands are governed regardless of where in the province they are located.

Imposing requirements for information sharing within municipal boundaries is an unjustified intrusion into private decisions of landowners. There are opportunities available for direct communication between concerned local governments, individual land owners, Private Managed Land Association, and the regulator of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act*, the Managed Forest Council.
B42 LARGE SCALE HARVESTING ON PRIVATE LAND

Whereas many areas of rural BC have significant holdings of forested private land which are not constrained by the requirement to plan for impacts of forest harvesting including those related to terrain, hydrological and slope stability;

And whereas these forested private land holdings, if harvested, may affect municipal infrastructure, crown land, adjacent private property, and water sources:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Forest Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development develop and implement tree removal regulations for the planning and harvesting of trees on forested private land where there is a harvesting of an area greater than 4 hectares in order to protect the adjacent property, infrastructure or natural resources from incremental damage caused due to the large scale harvesting of trees.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

There has been an increase in the number of private land timber mark applications, as land owners respond to high timber prices.

Private land logging is not regulated to the same standard or extent as Crown land logging. However, Ministry natural resource officers monitor for violations on private land that occur under the Water Sustainability Act, Heritage Conservation Act, Forest Act and the Forest and Range Practices Act.

Natural resource officers in the Kootenays have received a number of complaints regarding private land logging; however, inspections to date have found no infractions.

At this time, the Ministry is not considering additional regulations for logging on private land.

If the public is witness to any suspected acts of non-compliance, they are encouraged to call BC’s RAPP violation reporting system, which can be found online.
EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM

Whereas there is a critical need to plan for wildfire and take action to reduce the risk to residents, and the Report and Findings of the BC Flood and Wildfire Review recommended that the Government of British Columbia expand the community forest program to communities where interest and capacity exist;

And whereas community forests have the mandate, the ability, and the interest to manage the threat of wildfire to create more resilient communities and forests and half of the existing community forests are held by First Nations or a partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The expansion of the community forest program has great potential to lead to more such partnerships:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia be petitioned to expand the community forest program by increasing both the number and size of community forests to help achieve wildfire protection, promote rural development, and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province will continue its work to expand wildfire protection, promote rural development, and strengthen relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities outside of expanding the Community Forest Program.

There are several challenges that exist with the expansion of the Community Forest Program including the fact that the provincial annual allowable cut is fully allocated – there is no timber volume presently available to support an expanded program. Further, an expansion of the program would require a reapportionment of the allowable annual cut from major license holders, at significant cost impact to licensees and the Province.
RESOURCING COLLABORATIVE PLANNING ON PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND

Whereas cumulative development pressures and conflicts on provincial Crown land continue to escalate in a context of outdated land use management plans, most of which have not been updated for approximately 15 or more years;

And whereas the provincial government has recently stated its intent to modernize land-use planning and sustainable management of BC ecosystems in collaboration with stakeholders:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development be urged to take a leadership role and immediately provide sufficient funding and resources to enable effective, community-based, collaborative land use planning for Crown land which includes First Nations, local governments, provincial government agencies, industry sectors, interest groups, and local residents.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Modernized land use planning program development began in 2018 and will be jointly designed and led by the Government of B.C. and First Nation governments. It will evaluate historic land use plans, explore new land use opportunities, and respond to emerging challenges in the management of B.C.’s public lands and natural resources. The Province envisions a fiscally modest program that will be targeted and scalable. Communities, local governments, industry and other stakeholders will also have the opportunity to provide feedback on the program’s design.

Land use planning projects are expected to begin in April 2019.
B45 INCREASED VISITS TO PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREAS

Whereas, as a result of the success of recent provincial tourism marketing strategies, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of visits to local provincial parks and recreation sites (“Provincial Recreation Assets”), including Joffre Lakes Provincial Park and Strawberry Point Recreation Site in Electoral Area C of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) and Porteau Cove Provincial Park in Electoral Area D of the SLRD;

And whereas the increased number of visits is straining the current infrastructure of the Provincial Recreation Assets, both in terms of the capacity of:

- visits/traffic that can be accommodated on a daily/other basis; and
- current levels of staffing, maintenance and enforcement to manage the increased visits;

And whereas the increased number of visits is also impacting wildlife and contributing to a heightened wildfire risk:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province:

a) commensurate with the increased number of visits being driven by provincial tourism marketing strategies, provide additional funding to increase staffing, maintenance and enforcement operations in respect of existing Provincial Recreation Assets; and

b) investigate the development and addition of new recreation assets to the existing inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets (such that the increased number of visits may be spread over a larger inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets).

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Campsite expansion was launched in November 2016 with an investment of $22.9 million to add more than 1,900 new campsites, between BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC, within five years. Over 1,000 of those campsites will be in recreation sites. The expansion is provincial in scope but targeted at the highest demand areas.

As a result of the growing demand for camping opportunities in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Recreation Sites and Trails BC has recently completed construction and improvements to 45 campsites. Plans are also in progress for an additional 110 new campsites over the next 3 years.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC has hired additional Recreation Technicians to assist with increased recreation interest in the Lower Mainland and the Okanagan areas. Identifying and drawing visitors to parts of the province that have surplus capacity, and could benefit economically from more tourism, is part of the overall strategy.
B47 FIBRE OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Whereas many small and rural communities lack the financial resources to invest in the infrastructure to provide fibre optics;

And whereas fibre optic infrastructure is increasingly necessary to provide advanced technology in community-sustaining sectors such as business development, health, education, government, and emergency response management:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to provide funding programs that enable small and rural communities to invest in fibre optic infrastructure.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens’ Services

The Provincial Government is continuously working with internet service providers to help ensure that citizens and small businesses in rural areas are connected. For any company to compete in today’s economy, bandwidth is essential to sell goods and services, communicate with customers, and take advantage of web-based applications. The Province invests in projects with measurable economic, social and community benefits such as business development, improvement of health and education services, and emergency management.

In 2017, the Provincial Government committed $40 million to expand the Connecting British Columbia program to improve high-speed internet connectivity in remote, rural and Indigenous communities. Funding is available to help local governments, including regional districts, install new fibre network transport systems and local connectivity infrastructure, and develop connectivity infrastructure strategies. The Province is also working closely with the federal government to leverage new programs as they become available, such as the Infrastructure Canada’s Investing in Canada fund and the new CRTC regulatory fund anticipated next year.
B48 EXCEPTION TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST ASSISTANCE TO BROADBAND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Whereas a purpose of the Community Charter is to provide municipalities and their councils with the authority and discretion to address existing and future community needs and the flexibility to determine the public interest and to respond to the different needs and changing circumstances of their communities;

And whereas the availability of high speed broadband service has become critical to economic development, education and communication, and has recently been declared a ‘basic’ service by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

And whereas there may not be a viable business case for a commercial or business undertaking to provide high speed broadband service to a community; and in particular, to rural communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to amend the Community Charter and the Local Government Act to create an exception to the general prohibition against assistance to permit municipalities to operate the service of providing capital financing for services provided by a broadband service provider.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Province recognizes that fast, reliable, internet service results in better access to provincial programs and services, and supports economic development in rural and remote parts of the Province. The Ministry is currently reviewing this matter and undertaking work to better understand the challenges (including the differences between municipal and regional district contexts on this issue) and to determine how it may be addressed within the legislated rules that govern local government assistance to businesses.
Whereas the resource extraction activities in and around communities within the Nechako Watershed take place under a lack of landscape level planning;

And whereas these poorly planned resource extraction activities contribute significantly to the provincial economy, but generate wealth at the expense of environmental and economic sustainability:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province move quickly to landscape level planning and provide the oversight required to ensure a balanced approach to resource extraction and land management across BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Modernized land use planning program development began in 2018 and will be jointly designed and led by the Government of B.C. and First Nation governments. Local governments will also be consulted on how they wish to be engaged.

Proposed land use planning projects will also include engagement with industry, non-government organizations, stakeholders and the public. The program will evaluate historic land use plans, explore new land use opportunities, and respond to emerging challenges in the management of B.C.’s public lands and natural resources.

At the forest landscape-unit planning level, amendments to the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) are being proposed for 2019 to address concerns about forest resource development and extraction, and the matter of establishing a planning framework at a landscape scale.

The Ministry has already taken steps toward developing a renewed forest management planning framework that promotes Indigenous collaboration, and additional engagement will occur with communities, stakeholders and the public.

Ministry branches are working together to ensure that a renewed FRPA planning framework aligns with and supports other related initiatives, such as Land Use Planning, wildfire mitigation and response, wildlife habitat protection, and the management of species at risk.
B50 REGионаl Hospital District Capital Funding Formula

Whereas regional hospital districts were created under the Hospital District Act to raise a “local share” of capital costs for hospital equipment and buildings through property taxation;

And whereas the Province is moving towards making other provincial services such as transportation totally a provincial responsibility;

And whereas the current standard practice for capital infrastructure projects is a cost sharing formula of 40 per cent for regional hospital districts and 60 per cent for the Province, resulting in unsustainable continuous increases to local property taxation levies for regional hospital districts:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government review the method of using property tax revenue for funding health care infrastructure projects and formally reduce the expectation placed on regional hospital districts.

Response: Ministry of Health

The Hospital District Act (the Act) is a legislative framework for regional hospital districts (RHDs) and their roles and responsibilities. The Ministry is aware that some RHDs have requested a review of, and amendments to, the Act to clarify a number of issues, including funding.

The Ministry recognizes that the Act and its regulation need to be updated and aligned with current practices and supports RHDs efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness in funding health care infrastructure projects. When there is an opportunity to amend the Act, consultations with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities, will be part of the process.

RHDs continue to be key partners in building local healthcare infrastructure. Health authorities work with their RHDs to determine what level of cost-sharing may be possible for specific projects within their approved capital plans. The Province continues to expect a regional contribution towards health capital projects of 40 percent.
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FAMILY PRACTITIONERS IN BC
Whereas there is a lack of access to family practitioners in communities throughout British Columbia, exacerbated by barriers to licensing for International Medical Graduate (IMG) physicians and limited opportunities for medical school graduates to complete their required residencies;

And whereas the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia regulates the practice of medicine under the authority of provincial government legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be urged to work with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC to increase the number of family practitioners in British Columbia by expediting the licensing process for qualified IMG physicians and creating more residency opportunities for medical school graduates.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Postgraduate Medical Education
There has been a significant investment into the expansion and distribution of the University of British Columbia (UBC) medical residency program, over doubling the number of entry-level positions to 346, and also making UBC’s Family Medicine residency program the largest in Canada. As part of this expansion, entry-level International Medical Graduate (IMG) positions have increased from 6 to 58, including a 40 IMG seat expansion since 2011. Of these 58 IMG positions, 52 are dedicated to Family Medicine. Given this unprecedented expansion, including over tripling IMG positions since 2011, there are no immediate plans to significantly increase entry-level residency positions at this time. Furthermore, now that the UBC residency program has just reached steady state, outcomes of expansion will begin to be realized as trainees’ transition from residency to independent practice.

Primary and Community Care
The Ministry is providing $150 million over three years to expand the coverage of primary care providers and team-based care so that more people can get access to care when they need it, through urgent primary care centres, community health centres and patient medical homes, embedded within primary care networks, and has recently announced 200 new GP and NP contracts for new graduates or graduates that have not yet established their own patient panel.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs)

- The Ministry of Health has been working closely with health authorities, Doctors of BC, BC Nurse Practitioners Association, Divisions of Family Practice and other community partners, in order to establish the first phase of implementing PCNs across BC to provide quality team-based primary care services to the population of local communities, coordinating access to health authority specialized services through integration and service redesign.
- PCNs are a network of local primary care service providers that will enable patients to access a full range of primary health care options across different points along the continuum of health (including staying healthy, maternity, living with a chronic condition and coping with end-of-life), streamlining referrals from one provider to another, and providing better support to primary health care providers. The initial focus of PCNs is to identify and address the patient attachment gap in their defined geographic area (community).
The Ministry of Health aims to support the development of at least 15 PCNs in 2018-19, as per the Ministry Service Plan. Over the next three years, PCNs will be established in 70 percent of BC communities, from large cities to less populated rural areas.

The first PCNs are being implemented in Burnaby, Comox Valley, Prince George, Richmond, South Okanagan Similkameen, Smithers, Kootenay-Boundary, Fraser Northwest, Vancouver City Centre, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, and South Island.

**Patient Medical Homes (PMHs)**

- PMHs are advanced primary care clinics that are defined by 12 attributes. Key attributes of PMHs include the provision of timely access to comprehensive, coordinated primary care where individuals and families have a regular primary care provider who knows them and their needs.
- The General Practice Services Committee is working to support family practices to advance to become PMHs, putting initial focus on the foundational building blocks of high performing primary care: engaged leadership, data-driven quality improvement, panel assessment and management, and team-based care.

**Urgent Primary Care Centres**

Urgent Primary Care Centres (UPCCs) will provide access to urgent primary care services for patients currently without a GP or NP, and will work to attach those individuals to primary care providers within a Primary Care Network. They will offer weekend and after-hours access for both attached and unattached patients with urgent care needs in order to relieve pressure on local hospital emergency departments. The Ministry has committed to opening ten new UPCCs by spring 2019.

**Community Health Centres**

Community Health Centres (CHC) bring together broader health and social services to improve access to health promotion, preventative care, and ongoing primary and community care services. The Ministry is working with the CHC community to support their involvement in PCN development, and to support further development of this model in BC.

**Recruitment of new GP and NP positions**

- On May 27, 2018, the Province announced, as part of its primary health-care strategy, the planned recruitment of 200 nurse practitioners and 200 general practitioners, including new graduates and residents of family medicine to address the gap in primary care over the next three years.
- Through the provincial health authorities, the Province will offer graduating medical residents and nurse practitioners the opportunity to start their careers within primary care networks in team-based practices on alternative payment arrangements, instead of traditional fee-for-service.
- The objective of the new service contracts is to support increasing patient attachment across the province and this initiative is targeted to practitioners who do not currently have a patient panel.
- New doctors can benefit from the experience and knowledge of other health-care professionals and have income security while they build their patient panels.
- By supporting more general practitioners and nurse practitioners to join primary care networks and team-based practices, more families will have access to a greater number of primary care providers for their day-to-day health needs.

The **College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC** has been delegated the authority under the **Health Professions Act** to license and govern the practice of their registrants in the public interest by ensuring they are qualified, competent and following standards of practice. To practice medicine in BC, all physicians must be licensed. An IMG may be granted **provisional licensure** with the expectation that requirements for full licensure are met within five years.
B52 FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SERVICES ON RIVERVIEW LANDS

Whereas the lack of adequate treatment and housing resources for British Columbians living with mental illness and addictions places severe financial and social burdens on local communities, contributes to homelessness, and prevents many British Columbians from accessing the support they need to heal, secure safe and stable housing, and participate fully in community life;

And whereas the Riverview lands in Coquitlam are well positioned to once again serve as a centre for mental health and addictions services in the Metro Vancouver region, given adequate funding from senior governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be urged to commit significant additional funds for mental health and addictions services on the Riverview lands.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province of British Columbia directed BC Housing to lead a vision consultation process on the future of the Riverview Lands in Coquitlam. In December 2015, after extensive consultation, A Vision for Renewing Riverview Lands was released. The document lays out a master development plan for a comprehensive mixed-use community that will include a health care district as well as market and supportive housing.

Government is aware that establishing mental health care facilities at the Riverview lands has received strong public and stakeholder support.

The Province will be relocating 3 facilities from the Willingdon Lands in Burnaby to the Riverview lands:

- Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addictions (CMHA) (105 beds) - operated by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) (planned for completion in 2020);
- Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre (28 beds) operated by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (planned for completion in 2019); and
- Provincial Assessment Centre (10 beds) operated by Community Living BC (planned for completion in 2019).
B53 SENIOR FUNDING

Whereas seniors health and well-being are a primary concern to all levels of government; and for older adults to remain at home for longer, to remain socially connected and independent in their communities, Health Promotion and Prevention initiatives based on physical activity, social connectedness and independence offered by the Community Based Seniors’ Services (CBSS) Sector which are key components of the service delivery continuum;

And whereas seniors aging in place is best for the health of seniors; their friends and families; for the communities that they are in; and for the control of health care costs;

And whereas crucial community-based services include physical activity and recreation, information and referral, nutritional supports, consistent medical care, education and creative arts, seniors centres, and initiatives such that support seniors aging in place;

And whereas stronger collaboration of all levels of government and Health Authorities is required to be better aligned and integrated with the CBSS Sector;

And whereas municipalities lack the financial resources to address the physical and social needs of the growing senior population:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to provide consistent funding, easier access to grants, and support the development of programs for all seniors in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The B.C. Government is committed to improving the lives of older British Columbians.

Seniors want to remain connected and engaged within their communities, continue to partake in meaningful activities and maintain family and social connections, and live with as much freedom from the impact of their medical conditions as possible. That is why the Province continues to invest in community-based, home support services to help seniors age in place.

Through Budget 2018, Government provided $548 million over three years to improve care for seniors, including funding for primary care, home and community care, residential care and assisted living. This funding comes in addition to the $250 million in federal funding for home and community care, which will assist many seniors, along with the $189 million from the Ministry of Health’s base budget that has been allocated for seniors’ care.

Supporting seniors to age in place means supporting their family-and-friend caregivers with the right services to be able to continue to care. The Ministry of Health is allocating $75 million of the $548 million to expand respite care and adult day programs, providing much needed support for seniors and their caregivers. Respite services are provided at home through home-support services, adult day programs, or on a short-term basis in a long-term care facility, hospice or other community care setting. Adult day programs assist seniors to live in their own homes by providing supportive group programs and activities in the community.
The Province works together with the United Way to administer the Better at Home program in communities across BC. Better at Home provides non-medical, home support services to seniors so they can continue to live independently in their own homes for longer, and remain connected to their communities. Services include: light housekeeping, yard work, grocery shopping, snow shovelling, transportation services, minor home repairs, and friendly visiting. There are currently 69 program sites operating, with many sites serving more than one community. The Province has provided $52 million since 2012 to Better at Home for program operation and expansion, and has earmarked continued annual funding of $11 million beginning in 2018/19.

The Province works with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and British Columbia Healthy Communities Society (BCHC) to support local governments in creating Age-friendly Communities. UBCM receives $500,000 annually to provide age-friendly planning and project grants to local governments.

The Province has continued to provide the United Way of the Lower Mainland funding to support the community-based seniors’ service (CBSS) sector through support for the Raising the Profile project and the development of a knowledge hub. Funding has included:

- $50,000 in 2016/17 for regional consultations and development of a literature review and Raising the Profile report. The Raising the Profile report shows that helping older adults to remain physically and mentally active, socially connected and resilient can have significant health benefits and reduce health care utilization and costs.
- $10,000 to support the Provincial Summit on Aging which took place in November 2017 and again in March 2018.
- $720,000 in 2017/18 to support provincial coordination, and the development of a knowledge hub that will help build capacity in the sector through information, networking, training, mentorship and other activities.
Whereas the provincial government through the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* regulates public consumption of tobacco and vapour products throughout the province and will, through the proposed *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* regulate the public consumption of cannabis throughout the province;

And whereas many local governments have bylaws regulating smoking in public places that extend prohibited areas beyond the prescribed distance, and are being afforded the same opportunity to extend provincial regulations in the proposed *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*;

And whereas many of these bylaws are not consistent with each other throughout the province; And whereas smoking regulations that change across multiple jurisdictions are confusing for the public and make voluntary compliance challenging:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Provincial Government of British Columbia to extend the prescribed distance from a doorway, window, or air intake in which a person must not smoke tobacco, hold lighted tobacco, use an e-cigarette or hold an activated e-cigarette from 6 meters to 7.5 meters and prohibit smoking in all public parks by amending the Tobacco and Vapour Control Regulations and by ensuring the corresponding distances prescribed in the Cannabis Control and Licensing Regulations are the same.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Health**

B.C.’s tobacco, vapour product and cannabis laws set a provincial minimum of a six metre buffer zone from air intakes, open windows and doorways. Local governments may set more restrictive buffer zone laws based on individual requirements.
B55 SENIORS’ HOUSING

Whereas the lack of appropriate affordable seniors’ housing, in resource based communities in BC makes it extremely difficult for seniors to age at home or access to intermediate senior housing;

And whereas access to safe, affordable and appropriate Senior’s housing helps to create vibrant, sustainable communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments to work with community partners to develop solutions for the lack of seniors’ housing and to provide the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of a full range of affordable seniors’ housing in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Government of British Columbia recognizes that people want to age and live in the communities they are connected to and have helped build.

The Province is investing in new housing options for British Columbians through various funding initiatives. One of these is the Building BC: Community Housing Fund, an investment of close to $1.9 billion over 10 years to develop 14,350 units of mixed-income, affordable rental housing for independent families and seniors.

BC Housing works with non-profit organizations, housing co-operatives and local governments to create new housing projects through the Request for Proposals process for funding approval. Recognizing the challenges that smaller and rural communities may face, BC Housing offers them assistance in developing their proposals.

As well, we have created the HousingHub to increase the supply of affordable housing. The goal of this new office is to identify and advance innovative approaches to create affordable homes—both for rent and for purchase—in the communities that need them most. The HousingHub office works with non-profits and private developers, faith groups, property owners, federal and local governments, and Indigenous partners to locate, use, or repurpose land in communities where affordability is an issue. Provincial land will also be designated for some projects.

Communities are encouraged to connect with BC Housing to discuss these and other programs that could help to address local housing issues.
AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Whereas the lack of affordable housing and co-operative housing in resource based communities is having a detrimental effect on the local economies and the quality of life for many British Columbians;

And whereas affordable housing and co-operative housing are essential to support vibrant and healthy communities, attract and retain skilled workers to our communities and affects the footprints into resource based communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to increase the number of new affordable housing units and new co-operative housing units constructed in British Columbia and allocate funding for all communities to plan in advance of funding announcements.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government is committed to increasing the number of affordable housing units and new co-operative housing units. Building the homes people need and can afford in the communities where they work and contribute is a top priority for the Province.

With Budget 2018, the Province made a more than $7-billion investment in affordable housing over 10 years through the Homes for BC: 30-Point-Plan for Housing Affordability. This includes a directly funded commitment to build 33,700 new units of housing through capital investments and partnerships.

Budget 2018 actions are now being implemented through funding streams and programming. This includes the new Building BC Housing Community, Supportive, Indigenous and Women’s Transition Housing Funds – in which project proposals are being accepted and reviewed. Approved projects for the Community, Indigenous and Women’s Transition Housing Funds were announced in Fall/Winter 2018/2019. The Supportive Housing Fund projects are expected to be announced in 2019.

The new HousingHub division at BC Housing, created through Budget 2018, is facilitating partnerships with local governments, the non-profit and private sectors, Indigenous Peoples, faith and community groups to build new affordable housing units – including those in housing co-operatives.

The Province also allocated $5-million for local government housing needs assessments to help plan and better align available funding with each community’s needs and capacity.
CELLULAR COVERAGE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Whereas there was a resolution passed at UBCM in 2004 to cover the Highway 16 corridor with cell phone service, when 59 per cent of Canadians had cell phones; and

And whereas 14 years later, while 86 per cent of Canadians have cell phones, Port Clements and other rural areas along Highway 16 still suffer from the impacts of having no cell phone service, emphasized for Port Clements residents by the stress and demands of the January 2018 earthquake and subsequent tsunami evacuation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that the increasingly essential infrastructure of cell phone coverage is made available to highway corridors in rural BC as soon as possible and without any further delay.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens’ Services

The Provincial Government agrees cellular service along highway corridors is an important service affecting public safety, community development and access to services.

Telecommunication companies are nationally regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC); there are no regulations requiring cellular service in any region of Canada.

The CRTC is currently examining a new federal funding model for internet and cellular services which may include new supports for expanding cellular services in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

The Province works with service providers and other levels of government to expand connectivity which can provide the foundation needed for cellular network companies to supply cellular coverage to communities with a fibre connection point.

Government regularly reaches out to cellular service providers to convey the need to expand cell service in every part of B.C. However, we hear that it’s often not economically viable for cellular network companies to increase coverage in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

The Provincial Government is working with other levels of government and the private sector to bring free public Wi-Fi to several highway rest areas in B.C.
B58 SUPPORTING INNOVATION IN HOME HEATING SYSTEMS
Whereas electric baseboard heating is widely used as a more environmentally friendly option to heat homes;

And whereas the cost of heating homes with electric baseboards is higher than other commonly used energy sources such as natural gas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal government be encouraged to support the development of alternative home heating products that are more affordable to consumers, yet sensitive to environmental sustainability targets.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

The Province is currently working to create a roadmap for the future of B.C. energy that will drive innovation, expand energy-efficiency and conservation programs, produce new energy responsibly and sustainably, and create investment and good long-term jobs across the province.

As part of its work to build a clean growth future for the province, the Government is inviting public input on a number of topics—an intentions paper on clean and efficient buildings was released summer 2018, and, in 2019, another will be released on low carbon energy. In the intentions paper for clean, efficient buildings, actions for consideration include a Low Carbon Buildings Innovation Program to support research, commercialization, and demonstration of high performance designs and technologies.

Affordability in environmentally sustainable home heating can come from reduction in energy demand from the building envelope, efficiency of the home heating technology, and reduction in capital or installation costs for the heating technology. The Province has been working in all of these areas—for example: funding development of higher performance windows built in BC, doing exploratory work on natural gas heat pumps, and funding a field study of electric heat pump water heaters. The Province has also been advancing energy efficiency in both buildings and equipment through the BC Building Code and Energy Step Code, and the Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation. Minimum energy performance standards often generate economies of scale and market learning that result in declining prices.

Amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation have helped to make more renewable natural gas available as a low-carbon energy option. These changes have supported FortisBC in working with municipalities and farmers to acquire and inject biomethane from landfills, sewage, and manure into its system. Other amendments to this regulation have enabled BC Hydro to invest in electrification, which could result in incentives that make options like electric heat pumps more affordable.

The Province is currently developing a new retrofit incentive program to complement existing utility programs for households, businesses, the public sector, and low-income segments. The program will include incentives for low-carbon high-efficiency technologies, and also provide partnership opportunities for municipalities wishing to provide complementary incentives or co-promote the program.
B59 BROADCASTING PERSONAL INFORMATION WITHOUT CONSENT

Whereas a presentation by Bradley Weldon from the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) was given at the annual CEO/CAO Forum on March 20, 2018 and dealt with application of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) regarding a public body disclosing personal information inside or outside of Canada through broadcasting transmissions without the person’s consent in the context of public hearings/meetings and webcasting;

And whereas the only operational solutions suggested were arduous and seemingly against all tenets of open and transparent public meetings and the advice given was to seek amendments to current legislation authorizing disclosure on the internet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to explore the need for amendments to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) regarding the potential export of video personal information inside or outside of Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens’ Services

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) has two purposes: to make public bodies more accountable to the public, and to protect personal privacy. The Province is committed to ensuring that the balance between these two purposes is maintained.

Restrictions on sharing or storing personal information outside of Canada are in place to ensure that British Columbians’ personal information is protected from harm. These restrictions are not an absolute prohibition; there are several authorities for disclosure and storage of personal information outside of Canada, one of which involves seeking consent.

The Province acknowledges the challenges with obtaining informed and voluntary consent, in the format prescribed in the regulation to FOIPPA, in order for local government bodies to publish personal information in video recordings of public hearings or other meetings. The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) has made several recommendations to local government on how to address this problem through changes to internal procedures or municipal bylaws.

The Province will continue to monitor this matter to ensure that the current requirements remain relevant and practical in a changing legal and technological environment.
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CROWN COUNSEL LAWYERS

Whereas property crime rates have increased throughout the province, and the more borderline criminal cases are not going to trial because Crown Counsel resources are stretched too thin;

And whereas it is the Crown Counsel who lays charges and prosecutes in criminal matters:

Therefore be it resolved the provincial government increase the number of Crown Counsel lawyers to adequate levels to keep better pace with the growing criminal caseload.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

The Ministry of Attorney General (Ministry) appreciates UBCM raising the issue of resourcing of the BC Prosecution Service.

We would like to clarify the statement above that “…the more borderline cases are not going to trial because Crown Counsel resources are stretched too thin.” This is not an accurate description of the factors that govern whether a matter goes to trial.

When police conclude an investigation, they have the discretion to submit a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) to the BC Prosecution Service for a determination on whether its charge assessment standard is met. If charges are approved, a prosecution is initiated.

In completing a charge assessment, Crown Counsel are guided by policy CHA 1 and impartially assess the investigative file that is brought to them, carefully balancing all relevant factors in light of the available evidence, the governing Criminal Code provisions (as informed by the relevant case law), and their assessment of the public interest as agents for the Attorney General of British Columbia.

Crown Counsel are obliged to fairly, independently, and objectively examine the available evidence in each case in order to determine if the evidentiary threshold established in Crown Counsel policy has been met. If so, then they must go on to determine whether the public interest requires a prosecution by considering the particular circumstances of each case and the legitimate concerns of the local community. Application of this two-part test continues to apply throughout the prosecution and is the only determinant of whether a matter proceeds through to a trial.

With respect to resources, the BC Prosecution Service has a budget of $140 million for the 2018/19 fiscal year. This amount maintains status quo levels of Crown Counsel and legal administrative employees. Province-wide, there are approximately 475 Crown Counsel.

The total volume of RCCs submitted by police has remained relatively stable for the past three fiscal years. Those that include theft and possession of stolen property offences show a similar stable pattern.
Where members of the public have concerns or enquiries relating to specific prosecutions, they are encouraged to review policy COM 1 which outlines processes for *Complaints and Enquiries Relating to Specific Prosecutions*.
B61  BY-ELECTION NOT REQUIRED BY REGIONAL DISTRICTS IN ELECTION YEARS

Whereas under the Local Government Act, municipalities are not required to conduct a by-election if a vacancy occurs after January 1st in a general election year;

And whereas under the Local Government Act, regional districts are required to conduct a by-election unless a vacancy occurs after June 1st in a general election year, which is expensive and unnecessary for such a short period of time:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to enable regional districts to decide whether they wish to conduct a by-election if a vacancy occurs after January 1st in a general election year.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government is interested in supporting local governments seeking to improve efficiencies in governance while maintaining a fair and democratic framework. The Ministry appreciates the work of the Ad-Hoc Committee in preparing its report and recommendations on Alternate Electoral Area Directors.

Currently under the Local Government Act (LGA) section 54 (2), a local government may decide not to hold an election if the vacancy occurs after June 1 in the year of an election. LGA section 54 (3) provides that municipalities may determine if they will hold an election if the vacancy occurs after January 1 in the year of election if two additional conditions are met: if the vacancy is for an "at large" position (i.e. not a neighbourhood constituency); and quorum is maintained.

Similar to representation within a municipal neighbour constituency (which also requires an election until the June 1 deadline in a general local election year), an electoral area director represents a specific sub-area of a larger jurisdiction. The principle expressed in the legislation is that where representation is connected to that smaller, specific area, an election is required as soon as practicable. This prevents the concern of an electoral area not having an elected representative in place for as long as 10 months, if a vacancy occurred in early January in the year of an election. Enabling such a long absence also would seem out of step with one of the Committee’s other recommendations to require a by-election after 6 months of an electoral area director’s absence.

Additional analysis will be needed to better understand the desired outcomes of the Committee’s report, the details and implications of its specific recommendations, and the linkages among them. Government’s interest is always in finding the most targeted and effective ways to ensure that local governance is both effective and accountable.
B62 CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR RURAL PLACES, SMALL MUNICIPALITIES AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

Whereas the current level of transportation services do not adequately address the safety, economic interests, and social needs of the citizens who live in many rural places, small municipalities, and remote communities;

And whereas there is not a clear, multi-faceted plan in place that coordinates all modes of transportation and takes into consideration the current reality or foreseeable transportation needs of rural and remote areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government review the current state of transportation in British Columbia and creates a comprehensive, forward looking plan that fulfills the safety, economic interests, social needs and environmental well-being of rural places, small municipalities and remote communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province is concerned about the availability and access to transportation for those living in small, rural and remote communities, especially with the 2018 sudden withdrawal of Greyhound services, and will seek ways to work with communities to address those access needs.

Currently, BC Transit provides service in all communities with populations of 10,000 or more, and in many smaller communities. BC Transit also provides seven regional networks at Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Trail, Cranbrook, Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako.

With the initial Greyhound service withdrawal in the north, the Province introduced BC Bus North service to provide an interim long-distance motor coach service solution along many of the discontinued Greyhound routes. BC Bus North is currently providing four services that connect Prince George with Prince Rupert, Valemount and Fort St John / Dawson Creek, as well as connecting Dawson Creek with Fort Nelson.

The Province is also providing $2 million over three years to support 12 community transportation services for the purchase and operations of vehicles as part of the Community Transportation Grant Program, one of the five actions of the provincial Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan.

The Province also provides financial support through infrastructure grant programs such as the BC Air Access Program, aimed at ensuring airstrips serving remote communities remain a safe and reliable transportation mode for general and emergency access.
B63 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Whereas the availability of transportation services provided to many small, rural and remote communities across BC has declined;

And whereas there exists a need for a socially-mandated intercity bus transportation program to provide essential transportation services for small, rural and remote citizens:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government initiate a “Connecting Communities Fund”, made available to eligible local governments, to address significant transportation challenges for citizens and taxpayers who reside in small, rural or remote communities with a view of providing them with access to transportation hubs located on primary transportation corridors.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province shares the concerns regarding the transportation challenges facing citizens and taxpayers residing in small, rural or remote communities. When Greyhound withdrew service from the north, prior to their 2018 sudden announcement of complete withdrawal from all of BC, the Province reviewed various options including the Greyhound proposed “Connecting Communities Fund”. As an interim measure, the Province established BC Bus North to provide an interim long-distance motor coach service solution along many of the northern routes previously serviced by Greyhound.

In addition, the Province does provide inter-city transportation services through BC Transit and continues to respond to increasing demand or other challenges. BC Transit operates in all communities with a population of over 10,000 and in many smaller communities. BC Transit also provides seven regional networks at Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Trail, Cranbrook, Kitimat-Stikine and Bulkley-Nechako. In May 2018, BC Transit signed an MOU with the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen to develop a Service Plan specific to implementing service between Penticton and Kelowna.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is actively engaged with Transport Canada and provincial and territorial transportation departments across the country to find solutions to address the discontinuance of Greyhound service in Western Canada and in parts of Ontario on October 31, 2018. The lack of long haul service is a national issue affecting many Canadians and we are working hard with our provincial and federal partners to identify solutions to address the situation in a timely manner.
PROTECTING COASTAL COMMUNITIES & WATERWAYS FROM OIL SPILLS
Whereas the Province of British Columbia is pursuing regulations to restrict the transport of diluted bitumen until such time as adequate safeguards are in place to protect coastal communities and waterways from the harm caused by oil spills;

And whereas the impacts of oil spills on local communities are severe, including: costs relating to emergency response, clean-up and recovery; damage and loss of enjoyment of shoreline areas; damage to biological diversity of plant and animal species; reduced property values; public health impacts; and economic losses in tourism, fishing and other sectors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the efforts of the Province of British Columbia to introduce regulations that will safeguard coastal communities and waterways from harm caused by oil spills.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province of British Columbia recognizes the unique challenges faced by local governments confronted with the direct risks and costs of spill incidents and their critical role in first response. The Province is committed to ensuring a collaborative approach to spill preparedness, response and recovery in developing effective and efficient rules for spill management throughout B.C.

While the responsibility for marine spills rests with federal agencies, a spill of any significance will impact and involve all orders of government. The Province is encouraged by the work the Federal Government is undertaking to strengthen protection of B.C.’s coastal and marine environments under the Oceans Protection Plan, a $1.5 billion investment over five years in coastal protections.

In support of improving spill management in B.C., in 2017, the Province established improved standards for spill preparedness for liquid petroleum products across transportation sectors while requiring stringent response and environmental recovery actions from all spiller{s}. Further policy review is underway on a variety of measures to ensure that concerns regarding response times, geographic response plans, loss of public and cultural use impacts and coastal protection are adequately addressed, with policy and regulations planned for 2019.

Government has referred a jurisdictional question to the courts regarding B.C.’s ability to regulate the impacts of heavy oil transportation. Court hearings on this case are expected in March 2019. B.C. will continue to engage with federal, local and Indigenous authorities as well as industry and other key stakeholders on spill management as B.C.’s regulatory framework is strengthened.
B67 WATERSHED GOVERNANCE MODEL

Whereas UBCM has consistently advocated for providing water purveyors with greater control over the watersheds that provide drinking water to their communities;

And whereas an integrated watershed governance approach that recognizes indigenous water rights and utilizes a collaborative, consensus building approach to decision making could provide a model that addresses community needs while balancing the resource and capacity limitations experienced by local governments and First Nations:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province recognize and support local watershed collaborative governance entities and adequately resource these entities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA), Cabinet may make regulations authorizing other persons or entities to carry out specified powers and duties related to water management. These powers and duties are limited to those of the comptroller, water manager, engineer or officer. Any regulations related to decision making powers would specify the person or entity that would make such decisions, the conditions supporting the decisions to be made, and the watershed where such decisions would be made.

Other WSA tools that enable local participation in watershed management include the establishment of advisory boards under s.115 and the designation of a ‘responsible person’ for the development of a water sustainability plan (WSP) under s.66(1). WSP development is collaborative in nature and can be led by local individuals or groups outside the provincial government, including a Local or Indigenous Government. A completed WSP can affect how land is managed within the specified watershed.

Implementation of the WSA is ongoing and is being phased over time. Opportunities to engage Local and Indigenous Governments leadership in water management will be explored. A pilot in the Nicola watershed will test governance tools, including potentially water objectives and watershed planning. The experience and knowledge gained are expected to inform policy, regulations and future projects, including future WSPs.
B68  PACKAGING AND PRINTED PAPER RECYCLING REGULATION AMENDMENT

Whereas the Province has enacted legislation under the Environmental Management Act and the Recycling Regulation to require Extended Producer Responsibility Plans (stewardship programs) for PPP (Packaging and Printed Paper) from residential sources only;

And whereas local governments collect solid waste and recyclables including PPP from all sectors including residents and industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) entities;

And whereas opportunities for recycling by the ICI sector in rural BC are limited or non-existent due to their distance from large urban areas;

And whereas that lack of recycling opportunities results in either the PPP products being landfilled or local governments stepping in to provide an ICI recycling service, both scenarios resulting in the financial burden for handling ICI-generated PPP on all taxpayers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend Recycling Regulation 449/2004 to include the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector in the requirement for Extended Producer Responsibility Plans for Packaging and Printed Paper.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry greatly appreciates local government support of the Recycling Regulation (the regulation) and the desire to expand the regulation to include ICI packaging. This regulation is an important part of British Columbia’s work towards zero waste and supporting a circular economy.

B.C. is proud of being a leader in North America for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs with more programs having higher capture rates than any other North American jurisdiction. The Ministry has been focused on pursuing continuous improvement with our 22 existing EPR programs, and will consider expanding B.C.’s EPR programs as part of our commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility. This plan identifies several product categories for future inclusion in EPR programs, including ICI packaging and printed paper.

Local government engagement in EPR programs is paramount to continuing the strong legacy of EPR in B.C. The Ministry will continue to engage with local government as work progresses on further strengthening current programs, while beginning to prioritize options for future program expansion.
B69 RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES
Whereas Recycle BC provides funding to local governments for the collection and processing of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) materials and the operation of residential EPR Depots;

And whereas Recycle BC proposes expansion of the current program to include only incorporated municipalities with a population greater than 5,000 with curbside collection established prior to May 2014:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to require Recycle BC’s Program Plan to include access and financial support from Recycle BC for unincorporated and rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Recycle BC (RBC) program has been consulting on a revised program plan for the next five years, including establishing a revised threshold on curbside delivery. The revised plan proposes that for new curbside services a community must be an incorporated municipality, have a minimum population of 5,000 residents, and have provided garbage collection as of May 2014. Other communities would be served by depots. Consultation on the revised program plan has been ongoing since November 2017 and concluded with RBC receiving comments on the latest revised plan (Phase II) through September 6th, 2018.

The Ministry recently issued guidance to stewardship agencies for the demonstration of “producers paying the cost” in their stewardship plans.

The Ministry is aware of RBC’s proposed threshold for curbside service. RBC consulted on proposed amendments to its EPR plan until September 6th, 2018. The final plan will be provided to the Ministry to be reviewed by a statutory decision maker. The review will include rural access criteria, an evaluation of “producers paying the cost” and ensuring a satisfactory consultation process was followed.
VENTING INDEX IN BC
Whereas British Columbia communities have been experiencing the burning of brush piles that create smoke that lingers low to the surface;

And whereas the burning of brush piles is sometimes authorized based on the venting index established in distant centres;

And whereas the establishing of the venting index does not always represent the venting conditions in the area around the affected communities thus affecting the health and safety of the residents;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy develop more venting indexes that would be representative of the venting conditions in all areas of British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Environment Canada maintains a system of 26 Venting Index Zones with 42 computer generated values. The Ministry will continue to work with Environment Canada to encourage weather forecasters to manually adjust the 42 computer-generated values to improve the accuracy of the Venting Index.

Recognizing that the Venting Index does not always represent the venting conditions in communities, the Ministry encourages forest sector operators to take advantage of Custom Venting Index forecasts that are available from meteorologists in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and from the private sector for a fee.

Use of Custom Venting Index forecasts generally increase the number of days when burning can be conducted while reducing the potential for smoke impacting communities.
B71 MORATORIUM ON ALR LANDS FOR CANNABIS

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Premier of British Columbia and the Minister of Agriculture place a moratorium on further use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands to grow recreational cannabis while it performs a minimum of six month review and broad consultation with farmers, local governments, industry and the public on the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for the growth and production of marijuana.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

In response to the federal legalization of non-medical cannabis, and concerns from local governments, the Province amended the Agricultural Land Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation (the Regulation) on July 13, 2018. Prior to July 13, 2018, local and first nation governments had no authority to prohibit commercial medical cannabis production on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) within their jurisdictions.

This regulatory change, effective immediately, gives authority to local and Indigenous governments to prohibit cement-based, industrial-style, cannabis-production bunkers on ALR land in their communities, while clarifying that cannabis production in the ALR cannot be prohibited if grown lawfully:

- in an open field;
- in a structure that has a soil base;
- in a structure that was either fully constructed or under construction, with required permits in place, prior to July 13, 2018; or
- in an existing licensed operation.

Local and first nation governments can now prohibit certain methods of cannabis production on the ALR in their jurisdictions. Specifically, local and First Nations governments can prohibit cannabis production in the ALR in new concrete-floored structures or any structures that are not entirely soil based. This includes new concrete-bunker style facilities and greenhouses that are not entirely soil based. The Province recognises that many communities view such structures as inappropriate for the ALR.

The amendment also means that local and first nation governments cannot prohibit operation of an existing cannabis facility that pre-dates the amendment, was under construction at the time of the amendment, or the transitioning of cannabis into an existing building, which had been used for the purpose of growing crops inside it. Local governments continue to have the ability to regulate or prohibit cannabis production on other land in their communities.

The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal that administers the Agricultural Land Commission Act and is also available to address questions related to the amendment. The ALC has released an information bulletin describing their interpretation of the Regulation in relation to cannabis.
B72  BACKCOUNTRY TOURISM
Whereas the rapidly increasing popularity of adventure tourism is having adverse impacts to the natural environment, such as increased human/wildlife conflicts, the closures of popular destinations to unmanageable volume, garbage, and an increased risk of wildfire in remote areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be requested to match the investment made in their Tourism Marketing with a commensurate investment in infrastructure, maintenance, enforcement, and staffing to assist in mitigating the resulting challenges of increased visitor volumes at local Provincial parks and other backcountry areas;

And be it further resolved that a trail booking and reservation system fee structure be developed to mitigate day-to-day impacts to the natural environment.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

Government is supporting the adventure tourism sector through a cross-ministry working group and ongoing engagement with the Adventure Tourism Coalition of 19 sector associations representing nature-based experiences across the province.

Government is also supporting the strategic development of tourism through the Destination Development Planning program being led by Destination BC. This initiative, currently in the second year of a three-year program, will result in the creation of 10-year tourism development plans for 20 distinct areas across the province.

Partner ministries are also investing in infrastructure to support outdoor recreation and adventure tourism. BC Parks has operational and campsite expansion budgets that include projects and facilities in backcountry areas. An additional $1 million has been approved for 2018-19 for backcountry facility investment.

Recreations Sites and Trails (RST) in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development manages trails and facilities on Crown land outside of parks, and has an estimated budget of $11 million for 2018-19. This includes $650,000 in funding to support maintenance, $1.4 million capital investment in new and renovated infrastructure, and $1.8 million as part of a campsite expansion project.

Where use levels and demand warrant, BC Parks and RST are implementing reservation systems for high demand recreation sites, particularly on the coast. Rather than consider reservations and fees for trails, RST is piloting work on implementation of a comprehensive Visitor Use Management Framework to better guide decisions on approvals, management and investment in recreation infrastructure.
**B73 SUSTAINABILITY OF WEST COAST FISHERIES**

Whereas fisheries are an important economic driver for the Province of British Columbia, particularly on Vancouver Island;

And whereas fisheries in BC is defined as inclusive of commercial, indigenous, recreation and aquaculture:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province ensure that all decisions with regards to the management of all fisheries, and protection of the natural environment, are made based on current data, technology, science and traditional knowledge.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture**

Commercial and recreational fisheries and aquaculture are of great importance to B.C., providing significant economic and social benefits across the Province. B.C. agrees with the importance of well-informed fisheries and aquaculture decisions. The Ministry of Agriculture’s goal is to ensure sustainable and resilient fisheries resources, to meet cultural, environmental, social, and economic interests and ensure safe food supply for future generations.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat, and proper management and control of fisheries, including aquaculture. DFO is also responsible for collecting data regarding the environmental performance of the industry in B.C. via its licensing activities, and its regular scientific research and monitoring programs. DFO and B.C. use the latest data and advice contained in peer-reviewed scientific research (i.e., through Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat) to inform decisions to sustainably manage marine resources in the Pacific. Provincial staff work across agencies internally as well as externally with DFO colleagues to find solutions to issues facing the seafood and aquaculture industries. B.C. also regularly engages with DFO and other Provinces and Territories on management of fisheries resources through formal committees such as the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers.

B.C. has recently revised its policies on salmon-farming tenures to ensure increased reliance on best-available science and assurances from DFO on the minimization of risk to wild salmon stocks. Effective June 2022, the Province will only grant Land Act tenures to fish farm operators who have satisfied DFO that their operations will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks, and who have negotiated agreements with the First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate.

In June 2018, B.C. launched a multi-stakeholder Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC) that is assisting in the development of a strategy to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. The Council consists of 14 British Columbians who have a broad understanding of the role that salmon play within B.C.’s environment, for coastal and inland Indigenous communities, and local economies up and down the coast. The Council’s report was made public in October, 2018 to coincide with the start of the International Year of the Salmon. The report provided 14 specific recommendations to support the health, habitat and management of wild salmon as well as the sustainability of the wild salmon industry in British Columbia.
Government had planned to refer the report to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food to conduct a public engagement but, due to scheduling challenges and time constraints, chose to ask the Council to lead the public engagement. Multiple community meetings were held, and those unable to attend in person were able to provide their input to the Council through an online public engagement site. Government will begin developing proposals for a made-in-B.C. wild salmon strategy this summer, supported by the advice and guidance of the WSAC.
B75 MEAT PROCESSING REVIEW
Whereas consumers are increasingly interested in sourcing locally and ethically produced meat products;

And whereas current slaughter and meat processing regulations create a barrier for smaller farming operations to fulfill this consumer demand:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to review meat processing regulations in order to facilitate expansion of safe, local, slaughter and meat processing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Government appreciates the concerns comments and feedback about the challenges facing small producers. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the Public Health Act and the Food Safety Act which regulate food establishments, including the areas of slaughter establishments that process meat. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the Food Safety Act only as it relates to these establishments for the slaughter of animals for food purposes.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food (SSCAFF) was established on April 24, 2018 and launched a province-wide public consultation on meat production, including slaughter and meat processing regulations and their impact on smaller farming operations.

In late September 2018, SSCAFF released their report which had 21 recommendations for government. Since the report came out, Ministry staff have been working to address many of the recommendations and to ensure appropriate consideration of the work by the Committee.
B76  ELECTRICITY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM
Whereas the electricity rates in British Columbia can be difficult for low-income households to pay;

And whereas electricity rates have increased significantly in the past 10 years and are expected to continue to increase in the next decade:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to direct BC Hydro to develop an electricity affordability program for low-income residential customers and that a northern subsidy program be developed for over the winter months.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

The B.C. government is currently conducting a comprehensive review of BC Hydro to identify cost savings, efficiencies, new revenue streams and other changes to keep electricity rates low and predictable over the long-term.

On August 29, 2018, Finance Minister Carole James released Public Accounts 2017/18, confirming a surplus and taking steps to address a past audit qualification on BC Hydro’s regulatory deferral accounts. The fall 2018 report on the first phase of the review, and government’s response, will inform a refreshed rates plan, and assist BC Hydro in preparing its next rates application, to be filed with the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) in early 2019.

In the interim, BC Hydro residential customers who find themselves in an emergency – such as loss of employment, unanticipated medical expenses or pending eviction for example – are now eligible for a grant of up to $600 toward their outstanding BC Hydro bill. The grant does not need to be repaid. The Customer Crisis Fund is currently a three-year pilot program running until 2021.

In addition, over three years from 2018 to 2020, BC Hydro will spend $10 million – an increase of $2.2 million dollars – on low income conservation programs to help customers in need. These programs include:

- The Energy Conservation Assistance Program, in partnership with FortisBC, provides free energy assessments and energy-saving products such as new ENERGY STAR refrigerators and insulation upgrades. Over 13,000 customers have participated, including more than 3,600 First Nation homes in 90 communities.
- Energy Savings Kits – which include a number of simple, easy-to-install products such as energy-efficient LED light bulbs and weather stripping – have been distributed to more than 100,000 customers since 2008. This has resulted in over $4 million dollars in annual electricity cost savings to BC Hydro’s low income customers.
- Both BC Hydro and FortisBC have a range of low or no-cost tips on their websites that can help customers reduce energy consumption and lower energy bills.
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 consider 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;

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

The term “parcel” is defined similarly in the Assessment Act and the Community Charter. In the Community Charter, a “parcel” means any lot, block or other area in which land is held or into which it is subdivided, but does not include a highway.

Providing there is a reasonably equitable and consistent method of entering properties onto the roll, this definition provides sufficient latitude for a municipality to create a parcel tax roll to suit its needs, including using the same parcels as BC Assessment under section 5 of the Assessment Act.

However, in accordance with section 193(4) of the Community Charter, a municipality cannot divide a legal parcel, as defined under the Assessment Act, for the purposes of a parcel tax roll.

Given the above latitude, the Province is not considering any legislative changes at this time.
B78 VERIFICATION OF SUBMISSIONS DURING PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS
Whereas the *Local Government Act* legislates the Public Hearing process and broadly provides for submissions to be made by anyone in the public having an interest in the matter or the property;

And whereas Councils must consider all submissions made with respect to the public interest in the zoning, rezoning, OCP or OCP amendment without an ability to verify the validity of submissions made electronically:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province bring forth an amendment to the *Local Government Act* which would assist local governments with the ability to verify the legitimacy of a submission where there is strong reason to believe that the submissions are false and dishonest and made to undermine the integrity and purpose of the Public Hearing process and UBCM work with the province to understand best practices.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

British Columbia’s land use planning system is based on legislation, policies and processes that support community-based decisions through an emphasis on local decision making. Council or board members need to consider not only the oral and written submissions made at a public hearing but also their local government’s staff reports to ensure their decisions strike an appropriate balance among community interests and existing land use objectives and policies. Council and board members are ultimately accountable to the electorate for the choices they make.

The existing legislation regarding public hearings ensures that community members and all persons who believe that their interest in property is affected are provided the opportunity to contribute to the discussion about decisions made by local elected officials. The Province recognizes that communication environments are evolving and consideration could be given to a future dialogue with UBCM regarding the development of best practices for public hearing procedures and how much weight in its deliberations elected officials would give to potentially dishonest submissions during the public hearing process.
B79  **RURAL NEEDS ACT**

Whereas provincial policy development tends to be focused on research obtained from the larger urban areas;

And whereas there can be a lack of consideration for the impact to the province’s rural communities when adopting legislative changes and policy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to adopt an act or policy that places a statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to rural needs in the development of policy and legislation.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Government is committed to understanding the unique perspectives and interests of rural communities when it makes decisions that affect those communities. For example, government is now reviewing applications from rural communities for its “Rural and Northern Communities Fund.” Upon completion of this review, the fund will provide up to $90 million in funding to meet the unique infrastructure needs of rural communities. This program responds to specific infrastructure concerns that have been raised by rural communities in the past (e.g. broadband connectivity, energy efficiency, local public transit etc.). More broadly, rural local governments are encouraged to make government aware of particular policy concerns by raising those concerns through UBCM and/or directly with the appropriate Minister.

UBCM’s work as an advocate for all local governments serves as a key source of information when government makes decisions that affect rural communities. For example, UBCM’s executive structure ensures rural representatives can provide regular input to the Minister and have a key role when government consults on statutory amendments or other key policy decisions affecting rural communities. As well, Convention provides rural representatives with a regular opportunity to meet directly with Ministers, and the resolution process provides a rich source of information about rural issues that the Ministry regularly utilizes when making decisions affecting rural communities. In the past, the Ministry has worked with UBCM to ensure these ongoing engagement processes adequately represent the broad range of UBCM members’ perspectives. If rural communities have specific concerns that their interests are under-represented in these processes, the Ministry is open to working with UBCM to explore opportunities for improvements.
B80 STRATA UTILITY BILLING LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

Whereas many British Columbia municipalities invoice strata corporations directly for the collection of utility services fees;

And whereas billing individual strata property owners directly for utility services fees would have significant financial administrative implications for these municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing be respectfully requested to take forward to the Legislative Assembly amendments to the Community Charter and Strata Property Act to afford municipalities the option of imposing utility services fees on either strata councils or on individual strata lot owners.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

User-fees are based on a fee for service transaction. In these transactions, form follows function. That is, the party that receives the service directly from the municipality (e.g. a utility service), is usually the party that pays the fee.

Some utility services are provided to the building as a whole, for example water through a single meter, which is then distributed to the individual units. In this example, it makes most sense for the municipality to levy a bulk fee on the building as a whole (e.g. billed to a strata corporation). The strata corporation may then allocate the costs (in an equitable manner) to the individual units in the building as part of its normal strata fees.

Other utility services may be provided directly to individual units within a building, for example, some strata properties are constructed with utility meters for each unit. In these cases, the municipality may bill each unit directly for usage.

Therefore, if form follows function, a municipality should set the form of its billing (including who is the billing party) based on the function of service delivery (i.e. direct service to an entire building or to an individual unit).
B82 FULL DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS BY LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Whereas The Province of British Columbia states on the government website that "The intent of the Financial Disclosure Act is to identify what areas of influence and possible financial benefit an elected official, nominee or designated employee might have by virtue of their office, and to ensure the public has reasonable access to the information."

And whereas while the current Financial Disclosure Act requires disclosure of direct employment conflicts, it does not require disclosure of potential conflicts for local elected officials where the conflicts may be obscured as a result of them being employed as lobbyists or government and public relation consultants on behalf of other private interests:

Therefore be it resolved that the Financial Disclosure Act be amended to ensure that all potential conflicts and financial interests of local elected officials are disclosed per the stated intent of the Act.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

The Financial Disclosure Act requires a candidate for local office and a local government official to disclose their assets, liabilities, sources of income, real property and corporate assets, including assets held jointly with family members. The Act does not address conflicts of interest. However, local elected officials are also subject to conflict of interest provisions contained in Division 6 of Part 4 of the Community Charter. This Division sets out in detail the rules and procedures for conflicts of interest, which includes both direct and indirect pecuniary interests of the official.
B83 Elected Official Disqualification

Whereas there is no provision in BC legislation for disqualification from local government office, or mechanism for recall, in the event that an elected official is convicted of a serious criminal offense:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement legislation to require that an elected local government official be disqualified from office upon conviction of a serious criminal offense, not including convictions related to non-violent acts of civil disobedience;

And be it further resolved that an elected local government official be required to take a paid leave of absence from office upon Crown approval of charges until the court process is complete.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Under current local government legislation, a person is prevented from running for or continuing to hold a local government office if the person has been convicted of and is currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence, unless the person is released on probation or parole and is not in custody. Indictable offences are the most serious offences under the Criminal Code of Canada; lesser offences such as summary conviction offences currently will not cause disqualification.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing takes these matters very seriously; however, this is a sensitive issue, triggering complex policy, legal, and practical questions. The legislation should balance the principle that it is the electors’ choice to decide who should best represent their interests in their communities with statutory restrictions to protect communities from candidates who are “unsuitable” for public office. Ministry staff are currently reviewing potential options to address the issues raised; however, any proposed changes in this area are intricate and must be considered carefully.
B84  DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING ELECTED OFFICE

Whereas council has no authority to seek the removal of a council member who has been criminally convicted during his/her current term;

And whereas the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, has recommended that the City of Pitt Meadows advocate through LMLGA and UBCM for appropriate changes to the governing legislation for local government;

And whereas the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, has advised that her Ministry is prepared to work with UBCM on the issue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make whatever legislative changes are needed to:

- Require that an elected local government official be put on unpaid leave immediately upon conviction, during his or her current term, of a serious criminal offence (to be defined by legislation), not including convictions related to non-violent acts of civil disobedience until the expiration of the time to file an appeal or determination of an appeal; and
- Require that an elected local government official be disqualified from holding office upon conviction, during his or her current term, of a serious criminal offence (to be defined by legislation), not including convictions related to non-violent acts of civil disobedience upon the expiration of the time to file an appeal or determination of an appeal.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Under current local government legislation, a person is prevented from running for or continuing to hold a local government office if the person has been convicted of and is currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence, unless the person is released on probation or parole and is not in custody. Indictable offences are the most serious offences under the Criminal Code of Canada; lesser offences such as summary conviction offences currently will not cause disqualification.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing takes these matters very seriously; however, this is a sensitive issue, triggering complex policy, legal, and practical questions. The legislation should balance the principle that it is the electors’ choice to decide who should best represent their interests in their communities with statutory restrictions to protect communities from candidates who are “unsuitable” for public office. Ministry staff are currently reviewing potential options to address the issues raised; however, any proposed changes in this area are intricate and must be considered carefully.
NEED FOR IMPROVED SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

Whereas there are increased issues in terms of timeliness and quality of snow and ice removal in rural areas, particularly during the past 2017/2018-winter snow season;

And whereas the deteriorating level of winter maintenance in rural areas is creating a public safety issue in regards to emergency response vehicles (fire, police, ambulance) having the ability to access streets and roadways in the event of emergency, and affecting school bus routes, leading to unsafe situations for drivers, passengers and pedestrians:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be requested to immediately undertake a review of their contractor obligations, and agreement specifications for snow and ice control in the rural areas, including a review of minimum equipment standards and staffing requirements.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The current winter maintenance standards have been in place since 2003. At that time these standards were similar to other jurisdictions around North America. For example the maximum snow accumulation standard was the same as New York State and the bare pavement after a weather event standard was the same as Washington State.

Since that time the weather and climate has been changing in B.C. with more frequent high intensity snowfall events and greater freeze-thaw cycles occurring. In addition, driver’s expectations of maintenance standards have increased. To manage these expectations the Ministry has doubled the level of winter monitoring of the maintenance contractor out in the field over the last few years and has also increased the number of reviews of the maintenance contractor’s procedures and processes.

As part of the retendering of the highway maintenance contracts the Ministry reviewed the current maintenance standards taking into consideration the issues identified from our monitoring, audits and input from our stakeholders over the last several years. In addition, we have also recognized there is a change in climate and driver’s expectations. In light of this, some of the changes include quicker response times to return pavement to bare after a weather event when the road temperature is -9 degrees or warmer, specific requirements to maintain compact snow for safe driving when the road temperature is below -9 degrees, specific requirements for the contractor to be more proactive and apply anti-icing chemicals or winter abrasives prior to a weather event and increased patrol frequencies prior to and during a weather event.

In addition, the Ministry is updating the Contractor Assessment Program, which is the process used to audit and oversee the maintenance contractor’s performance to ensure the contractor is meeting their obligations.
B86  SEISMIC EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
Whereas the provincial government has recently invested five million dollars into Ocean Networks Canada’s earthquake early warning system in BC to increase its number of offshore strong motion sensors and to integrate them with land-based sensors for robust collection and analysis of seismic activity;

And whereas this system is intended to feed a centralized source that in turn can immediately deliver early detection notifications prior to the arrival of the damaging waves of an earthquake to enhance life safety for British Columbians living in areas of the province with seismic risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province commit to making the earthquake early warning system operational by completing the development of access to this network for communities, and other entities in the public and private sectors, for public safety in all parts of BC vulnerable to earthquake.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province, through Emergency Management BC, continues to support and invest in Ocean Networks Canada’s (ONC) development of an earthquake early warning system. ONC has made significant progress to date and will soon begin a phase of extensive commissioning and testing. This phase will help the Province understand how information from earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring systems can be shared with communities in British Columbia.

The Province will continue to work with all organizations in British Columbia and in neighbouring jurisdictions in the development and implementation of earthquake early warning and seismic monitoring systems. The Province is committed to working with Local Governments and First Nations on initiatives including those related to seismic monitoring that aim to reduce seismic risk in British Columbia’s communities.
B87 LOCAL POLICE SERVICES – AMENDMENTS TO SERVICE
Whereas the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) is intended to be a “forum for consultation, analysis and communication between local government and the Province regarding the management of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement;”

And whereas the LGCMC is to “receive and disseminate information to local governments about issues that may impact the cost, quality, governance or capacity of the RCMP to deliver local police services;”

And whereas the LGCMC is to “consider changes proposed by the Province, the federal government and/or the RCMP in relation to any aspect of the delivery of local government police services;”

And whereas the RCMP British Columbia (“E”) Division consistently makes unilateral changes to the costs and delivery means of police services for local governments, with little or no consultation and clearly without advising the LGCMC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM appeal to the Solicitor General to require the RCMP “E” Division to provide one calendar year notice to local governments when there will be a change in means of service delivery that will have a substantial budget impact greater than 0.5 per cent of the total RCMP Service Contract to the local government beyond historical costs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Decisions relating to the internal management and control of the RCMP are within the authority of the RCMP in accordance with the Provincial Police Service Agreement (PPSA) and the RCMP Act. These decisions have an impact on policing costs that affect both provincial and municipal budgets.

Government understands municipal budgets are set for the fiscal year well in advance and require sufficient planning to ensure budget caps are respected. Ministry staff are working with RCMP National Headquarters and RCMP “E” Division through the National Contract Management Committee to ensure appropriate planning and consultation processes are in place to avoid unplanned in-year costs. Standard Operating Procedures have been created for early identification and notification of any issue that may impact policing costs, quality or service. Any potential costs must be included in the five-year Multi Year Financial Plans municipalities receive to allow for adequate planning to secure funds where appropriate.
PROVINCIAL POLICING

Whereas the Province of BC has established a population based formula to allocate RCMP resources to provide police services to the rural areas of the province, which does not address growing property crimes and traffic offences in rural communities;

And whereas other jurisdictions have enabled peace officers and sheriffs to assist with traffic offences, warrant apprehension, surveillance and other duties to assist the RCMP:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC explore the roles of peace officers and sheriffs in other jurisdictions to determine if legislation could be enacted in BC to assist the RCMP by providing similar services, in an effort to increase policing services in the rural areas of the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

There are currently no plans at the provincial level to expand the role of sheriffs or other peace officers such that they could assume more police-type functions.

In some British Columbia municipalities, police agencies have implemented alternatives to supplement front-line policing such as RCMP auxiliary constables and Community Safety Officers in Vancouver.

Enforcement when delivered by a sworn police officer provides the opportunity for police to perform the full range of enforcement duties and respond to a number of potential other offences. Police are also able to make arrests and lay charges under the Criminal Code of Canada.
REQUEST FOR INCREASED COURT ACCESS

Whereas the provincial government is committed to improving access to justice and the courts, and appoints and pays judges for the courts;

And whereas rural communities typically make do with a part-time circuit judge once a month, while hundreds of millions of dollars has been allocated to improving court access in urban centers;

Therefore be it resolved the provincial government mandate increased access to the courts in rural BC by providing a bi-monthly circuit court judge so that routine court matters may be dealt with in a more expedient manner.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

Government is committed to investing in a modern, innovative, and timely Justice System that serves the needs of British Columbians.

British Columbians deserve a court system that is properly staffed and able to hear and resolve disputes in a timely manner. That’s why our government is increasing the number of sheriffs and court administration staff as well as expanding the use of duty counsel to address court delays.

In addition, the Ministry is reviewing courthouse facilities Province-wide as part of the Capital Asset Management Planning process to prepare for facility needs into the future.

The allocation of judicial resources to Provincial court locations remains under the sole authority of the Office of the Chief Judge of the Province of British Columbia and is not within the purview of the Ministry of Attorney General.
B90  RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
Whereas the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General oversees the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division, Community Programs and thus the Community Accountability Program;

And whereas the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General has spoken about, "... that it's time to significantly broaden a restorative-justice system ... " (The Globe and Mail, July 30, 2017) and that restorative justice has been in operation in British Columbia since 1998);

And whereas there has not been an increase in funds since 1998;

And whereas restorative justice services are in some communities that are not part of the Community Accountability Program and are receiving restorative justice services and other communities that are part of the Community Accountability Program and no longer receive restorative justice services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General undertake a province-wide review of restorative justice services with a focus on previously endorsed UBCM resolutions (2017-B89, 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2008-B4, 2007-B3, 2006-B10, 2003-B2, 2001-B10, 2000-B7), i.e. funding standards and training plus re-open the list for communities to become part of the Community Accountability Program and to increase the funds while identifying gaps "...to enact a province-wide restorative-justice system..." in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Government of British Columbia is committed to enhancing the use of Restorative Justice (RJ) in the province; however this work is going to take some time. Staff from across government’s justice and public safety sector are working together to explore opportunities for enhancing RJ across B.C. using a strategic, integrated, cross-sector approach.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring that the approach taken is community-driven and informed. Ministry staff are currently engaging with key partners in B.C.’s RJ community, including Community Accountability Programs, to inform the development of potential opportunities for enhancing RJ in B.C. and to promote greater collaboration and dialogue about RJ.

In addition to the stakeholder engagement processes currently underway, project staff have undertaken the following activities:

- Established a cross-ministry working group to guide discussion to explore opportunities for enhancing RJ in B.C.;
- Completed an extensive annotated bibliography and literature review; and
- Completed a discussion paper that is guiding and informing consultations with restorative justice stakeholders and justice partners.

The Ministry encourages organizations that deliver restorative justice programs to review the 2018/19 Crime Prevention and Remediation Grants call for proposals, in particular, the restorative justice stream.
Whereas the criminal justice system is a foundation of Canadian society that plays an important part in maintaining a just, peaceful and safe society;

And whereas in BC, police do not have authority to lay charges as in other provinces, and unlike other provinces, the BC Crown Counsel requires a “substantial likelihood of conviction” criteria for laying charges:

Therefore be it resolved the provincial government drop the burden of proof criteria for Crown Counsel in the laying of criminal charges from a “substantial likelihood of conviction,” to a “reasonable likelihood of conviction.”

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

Attorney General as Chief Law Officer of the Crown
The Attorney General “superintends” all matters connected with the administration of criminal justice in British Columbia that are not within the jurisdiction of the federal government [Attorney General Act, s.2(c)].

Carrying out the Prosecution Function
The Assistant Deputy Attorney General (ADAG) of the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) has oversight for the overall administration of the prosecution function: approving and conducting all prosecutions in British Columbia that are not within the jurisdiction of the federal prosecution service, as well as appeals and ancillary proceedings arising out of these same prosecutions: [Crown Counsel Act, s.2]. Crown Counsel are appointed to represent the Attorney General before the courts on prosecution files.

The Importance of Independence
Prosecutorial independence ensures that a prosecutor “can take the right decision in a case without fear or favour, without being subjected to improper pressure from another source, whether it be the media, politicians, the police, a victim seeking revenge or even a misguided public opinion” [James Hamilton, “Prosecutorial Independence and Accountability”, March 2011].

The charge assessment function, and the policies that provide guidance in this regard, are exercises of prosecutorial discretion. Independence means that exercises of prosecutorial discretion are not subject to review by the courts or other external bodies, except in rare circumstances. Nor are prosecutorial authorities “bound to provide reasons for their decisions, absent evidence of bad faith or improper motives” [Sriskandarajah v. United States of America, 2012 SCC 70, para.[27]].

BCPS Charge Assessment
Charge Assessment guidelines (CHA 1) applied by Crown Counsel in the exercise of their prosecutorial discretion when reviewing RCCs received are established in policy and are available at online at: www.gov.bc.ca/charge-assessment-guidelines

When police in BC conclude an investigation, they have the discretion to submit a Report to Crown Counsel (RCC) to the BCPS for a determination on whether its charge assessment standard is met. If charges are approved, a prosecution is initiated.
In completing a charge assessment, Crown Counsel impartially assess the investigative file that is brought to them, carefully balancing all relevant factors in light of the available evidence, the governing Criminal Code provisions (as informed by relevant case law), and their assessment of the public interest, as agents for the Attorney General of British Columbia.

Crown Counsel are obliged to fairly, independently, and objectively examine the available evidence in each case in order to determine if there is a substantial likelihood of conviction. If so, then they must go on to determine whether the public interest requires a prosecution by considering the particular circumstances of each case and the legitimate concerns of the local community.

The evidentiary standard of “substantial likelihood of conviction” is clarified in the wording of the policy itself;

Subject only to the exception described below, the evidentiary test for charge approval is whether there is a substantial likelihood of conviction. The reference to “likelihood” requires, at a minimum, that a conviction according to law is more likely than an acquittal. In this context, “substantial” refers not only to the probability of conviction but also to the objective strength or solidity of the evidence. A substantial likelihood of conviction exists if Crown Counsel is satisfied there is a strong and solid case of substance to present to the court....

....In exceptional circumstances, where the relevant public interest factors weigh so heavily in favour of a prosecution that it is necessary to resort to a lower charge assessment standard in order to maintain public confidence in the administration of criminal justice, a charge may still be approved even though the usual evidentiary test is not met. ...Under such circumstances, the minimum evidentiary standard, which continues to apply throughout the prosecution, is whether there is a reasonable prospect of conviction.

(CHA1)

Application of this two-part test continues to apply throughout the prosecution and is the only determinant of whether a matter proceeds through to a trial.

2012 Charge Assessment Review
In 2012, as part of a broader justice system review, Gary McCuaig QC was engaged by the Ministry of Attorney General to conduct an independent review of the way criminal charges are assessed and laid in BC. Mr. McCuaig consulted widely in the development of his recommendations, including with RCMP and municipal police agencies.

His final report recommends that the standard of ‘substantial likelihood of conviction’ be retained as part of the BCPS charge assessment regime; the McCuaig report is available online.

The basic premises and underlying rationales for Mr. McCuaig’s recommendations continue today and there is no principled reason for revisiting them.
B92 CANNABIS LEGISLATION ENFORCEMENT

Whereas it is likely that a substantial portion of the regulatory burden and associated costs for compliance with and enforcement of the new cannabis legislation will fall on Local Government;

And whereas Local Government does not currently have the resources to deal with these issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to take whatever measures necessary to regulate the consumption of recreational cannabis in the same way they do with alcohol and prohibit consumption in public places, vehicles and workplaces.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province of British Columbia and UBCM have established a Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR), which is a forum for local governments to share their views on and experiences with the provincial regulatory regime, and discuss issues of interest or concern with the provincial Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat.

With respect to public consumption, local government members of JCCR supported the extension of existing tobacco restrictions to smoking or vaping of non-medical cannabis. There was also general support for additional restrictions on smoking cannabis in vehicles.

The Province has established restrictions on public consumption of cannabis that reflect the feedback received from the local government members of the JCCR, as endorsed by UBCM Executive. Smoking or vaping of non-medical cannabis is generally not prohibited in most public spaces where tobacco smoking and vaping are permitted, with some exceptions. Local governments are able to set additional restrictions, as they do now for tobacco use.

With respect to workplaces, the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Regulation addresses impairment by drugs or alcohol in the workplace.

The Province will continue to engage with local governments through the JCCR on cannabis-related issues of interest to UBCM, as well as any issues arising out of the implementation of the provincial regulatory regime. The Province recognizes the need to monitor implementation, and make adjustments as necessary in the months and years to come.
B94  PRIORITY FUNDING OF FLOOD PREVENTION CAPITAL PROJECTS

Whereas in early history, settlements occurred by waterways to provide for the transportation of people and goods;

And whereas these settlements have become the villages, towns and cities of today;

And whereas many of these communities are threatened by the potential of catastrophic flooding;
And whereas small communities with relatively low tax bases are heavily dependent on senior government grants for flood protection as well as other infrastructure;

And whereas grant programmes are heavily subscribed resulting in long approval processes and a shortage of grant money;

And whereas there is a need for more funds dedicated to flood prevention in a more expedient manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby both the provincial and federal governments for small community priority funding of flood prevention capital projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government is committed to funding capital flood mitigation projects for small communities. In the last three years, the ministry has funded 122 community-led flood mitigation projects, of which 72 were for small communities.

Several flood and disaster mitigation funding programs are supported by the provincial and federal governments, including:

- Rural and Northern Communities Program;
- Community Emergency Preparedness Fund;
- Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and
- National Disaster Mitigation Program

Geographic distribution and community size are considered in the technical evaluation of proposals under these funding programs. In addition, the Province continues to implement regionally significant initiatives that support community-led projects, such as climate change impacts on flooding and collection of topographic data.

Ministry staff will continue to consider the specific challenges faced by small communities in accessing current and future flood mitigation funding programs. In addition, ministry staff are available to support communities in application development.
B95  EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INCIDENT COMMANDER

Whereas Emergency Management BC is the Province of BC’s lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including training, testing and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness;

And whereas Emergency Management BC works in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-governmental organizations and volunteers during emergency response efforts;

And whereas local governments with a population under 5,000 people, make up more than half of the 162 municipalities in British Columbia;

And whereas local governments with a population under 5,000 often do not have the capacity during an emergency event to coordinate with Emergency Management BC and also cannot afford to incur a financial obligation that is later disputed and not reimbursed though the Provincial Emergency Program administered by Emergency Management BC:

Therefore be it resolved that Emergency Management BC make available to small, micro communities with populations under 5,000, Provincial Incident Commander(s) to make the critical on-site decisions during emergency events.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Emergency management is a shared responsibility; starting with individual personal preparedness and through to all levels of local, provincial, federal and international governments. Local authorities are at all times responsible for direction and control of local authority action in response to emergencies within their jurisdictions, and the vast majority of these are handled through first responders at the site level.

For emergency incidents or events that require more significant coordination and response efforts, local authority Emergency Operations Centres, Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres, and if necessary, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre may be activated to support local authorities with resources and expertise to bolster community efforts.

These established processes reflect what is set out in the Emergency Program Act and associated regulations, which outline the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and the provincial government when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies in the province. For events of the scope and scale that are beyond local authority capabilities such as those in 2003, 2017, and 2018, the Emergency Program Management Regulations outline how the Province must be prepared to assist local authorities to ensure an integrated, coordinated and effective response. The local authority is still expected to continue management of the response efforts in all emergency situations, to the best of its capability and capacity.
Whereas wildfires have plagued much of British Columbia’s Interior this summer, and will continue to threaten communities, particularly with predicted climate change;

And whereas forest restrictions continue to hamper fire mitigation efforts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support lobbying the provincial government to support and implement changes to its wildfire mitigation practices that allow for increased spacing of fibre stands, prescribed burning, larger fuel breaks around residential communities, and other methods to lessen the provincial landscape’s susceptibility to “mega-fires” and better protect our citizens and assets from this growing threat.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The BC Wildfire Service works closely with land managers on a variety of fuel management activities to reduce wildfire risks, including the use of prescribed fire, thinning, pruning and the mechanical removal of surface fuels. The Province recognizes that fuel treatments won’t stop the spread of all wildfires – rather, they modify fire behavior to assist fire suppression and/or control.

Considerable fire management planning has been done in the Cariboo/Chilcotin, even before the 2017 and 2018 fire seasons. Many opportunities for fuel break locations have been identified and are currently under development in the Cariboo region and throughout B.C., with support from the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, the Community Resiliency Investment program, and the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is leading an integrated stewardship strategy to address the topics of fire-resilient stands and species placement, and continues to look at ways to revise legislation to assist with ecosystem resiliency.

The B.C. government is reviewing current legislation, regulations and policies related to prescribed fires and resource management open fires. This review will also consider local and traditional Indigenous knowledge.
B97 WILDFIRE RELATED ISSUES
Whereas very little has been done to actually protect rural communities from the threat of wildfires since the 2003 Filmon Firestorm Report;

And whereas the threat of year-over-year catastrophic wildfires is increasing, putting communities at greater risk;

And whereas the fundamental weakness in the current approach to protecting interface communities from wildfire risk is the downloading of the responsibility for managing and treating Crown forest land to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the provincial government to enable the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to become the lead agency for developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuel management prescriptions for the Wildland Urban Interface (“WUI”), and fuel management treatments in collaboration with local government;

And be it further resolved that the Province provide sufficient funding to the Forest Enhancement Society to fully fund WUI fuel management treatments so they can be undertaken expeditiously.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The B.C. FireSmart Committee is leading a review of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process, including how a plan is developed and implemented, and how it can complement existing land use and community plans.

BC Wildfire Service staff will continue to work with the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society of B.C. and local authorities to develop a more collaborative approach to wildfire risk reduction activities.

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program was introduced by the Province in September 2018. It is intended to reduce wildfire risks and wildfire impacts in communities by providing funding and support to complete FireSmart initiatives, including priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land and on private land. The program aligns with Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. funding opportunities.

In 2018, the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. awarded $134 million for 71 projects that helped support communities, reduce wildfire risks, protect wildlife and address the effects of climate change. This work helps restore damaged forests and ecosystems, and it supports workers and communities that rely on forestry.
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B98  WILDFIRE CRIME

Whereas in the wake of BC wildfires, many reports were made of persons illegally accessing restricted fire zones and in particular vulnerable evacuation zones to commit wildfire crime including trespass, vandalism, looting, theft of personal property, theft of wildfire fighting equipment and supplies and impersonation of wildfire or emergency personnel ('fire marshals');

And whereas the BC Emergency Act and the Criminal Code of Canada are in need of strengthened language and provisions to specifically and appropriately target and prosecute perpetrators of wildfire crime, including crime which potentially threatens firefighter life and safety;

And whereas penalties appropriate to the severity of such criminal activity in fire zones and vulnerable evacuation zones would enable and provide for meaningful prosecution and conviction, as well as providing a strong and effective deterrent to persons considering such crime:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government and federal government be encouraged to take whatever actions deemed necessary to enable and provide for more appropriate and meaningful penalties for such wildfire crime and/or other similar emergencies situations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

During the summer months, the enforcement of wildfire legislation is a top priority for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development’s Compliance and Enforcement Branch.

Although many of the illegal activities fall under the Criminal Code, the branch’s Natural Resource Officers actively enforce wildfire-related provincial legislation and investigate alleged infractions in collaboration with the BC Wildfire Service, the Conservation Officer Service and local police agencies such as the RCMP. Natural Resource Officers invest significant resources in patrolling areas around wildfires and enforcing area restriction orders that allow firefighters to do their work effectively.

Fines and penalties associated with contraventions of wildfire-related legislation serve as effective deterrents to irresponsible behaviour. In March 2016, the B.C. government significantly increased the fine amounts for 19 different violations under the Wildfire Act and another seven violations under the Wildfire Regulation.

Legislative changes made in 2016 (as part of Bill 12) were aimed specifically at people who “interfere” with firefighting efforts, in an effort to ensure that firefighting personnel can do their jobs without any unnecessary additional risks (e.g. people operating watercraft where airtankers are scooping up water.)

Ministry staff will continue to work hard to educate the public about the need for wildfire regulations, and to raise awareness of the potential consequences of not abiding by applicable legislation. Members of the public are encouraged to report any wildfire-related violations to the Natural Resource Violation reporting line at 1 877-952-7277, or #7277 on a cellphone.
B99  WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTING INVENTORY

Whereas local knowledge of the local climate, terrain, travel routes, communication channels and resources can contribute to the safety of emergency responders and the public in the dangerous and demanding work of fighting wildfires;

And whereas many locals, including contractors and industry, have heavy equipment, local expertise, and are required to have firefighting equipment and trained personnel on site when carrying out any activities on the land base and will stay to fight wildfires to protects their assets, structures, land, and livestock, sometimes for significant periods before the BC Wildfire Service is able to arrive:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC Wildfire Service be urged to maintain current inventory listings of the local resources available for firefighting purposes and find ways to work collaboratively with them in the suppression of wildfires.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The BC Wildfire Service calls on the skills and expertise of numerous contractors and local suppliers each year to support the Province’s many resource needs during the wildfire season. Contractors offer valuable resources that complement the work of fire crews and staff. During the fire season, the BC Wildfire Service works closely with the contractor community to determine how the availability and expertise of contractors line up with the province’s firefighting requirements.

The BC Wildfire Service will continue to keep arrangements with dozens of companies from all parts of the province to provide contract firefighters and support personnel. In addition to using contractors to supplement our firefighters, all of the air support and heavy equipment that the BC Wildfire Service calls upon during the fire season is supplied through contractors. The BC Wildfire Service also contracts out catering services, security, first aid, danger tree fallers, traffic control and trades (including electrical, plumbing and carpentry).

Local contractors are encouraged to register with the BC Wildfire Service through Request for Standing Offer (RSO) competitions that are regularly posted to BC Bid. Requests for standing offers are accepted throughout the year.

Each of the province’s six fire centres maintains a list of heavy equipment operators within the region who are prepared to make their equipment (bulldozers, diggers, etc.) available to assist with wildfire suppression operations if the need arises. Anyone who wishes to be added to one of these lists can contact their local fire centre for more information.
B102  UPDATING THE BC MOTOR VEHICLE ACT TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL ROAD USERS

Whereas the BC Motor Vehicle Act was originally passed in 1957, and reflecting the transportation environment of its time, it was written with an emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of motorist, and does not adequately address the rights and responsibilities of other road users;

And whereas the provincial government has established a “Vision Zero” plan to eliminate road-related injuries and deaths by 2020, through the trend towards reduced injuries and deaths for vulnerable road users are not keeping pace with improved safety for motorists;

And whereas the Road Safety Law Reform Group of BC have created meaningful recommendations toward reform of the Act based on current scientific and legal research, recognized best safety practices from other jurisdictions, and the experiences of BC road users;

And whereas the Provincial Health Officer’s Annual Report “Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Reducing the impact of Motor Vehicle Crashes on the health and well-being in BC” seeks to address challenges to road safety while building upon our current successes;

And whereas these recommendations address modern conditions on the provinces’ roads, and seek to reduce conflicts between motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and persons with disabilities, and better protect seniors, children and other vulnerable road users:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to support modernization of the Motor Vehicle Act, addressing the recommendations in the Road Safety Law Reform Group of BC Position Paper entitled “Modernizing the BC Motor Vehicle Act” to enhance safety for all road users.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province is always looking at new safety solutions that reflect the way roads are being used today. The Province invests in transportation improvements, provides the regulatory tools to support enforcement, and invests effort in educational programs to improve safety on our road system. Work will continue as the Province pursues Vision Zero so that British Columbia will have the safest roads in North America with the ultimate goal of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

The Province is encouraged by submissions made by various stakeholders respecting the Motor Vehicle Act. These submissions are reviewed by ministry staff as part of our efforts to determine how the Act can enhance road safety and promote an efficient and economic transportation system.

Any significant revisions to the Motor Vehicle Act undertaken would be part of a complex, multi-year project and would require considerable research and analysis, including cross-jurisdictional scans and consultations with an extensive range of stakeholder groups.
B103 REDUCING EXCESSIVE DRIVING SPEEDS IN DESIGNATED BC ROAD SAFETY CORRIDORS, FOR ALL DRIVERS, ALL THE TIME

Whereas the correlation between excessive speed and road accidents is well accepted, and the high human and economic cost to British Columbia is well understood;

And whereas average-speed-over-distance or point-to-point technology has proven extremely effective in jurisdictions worldwide at controlling road speed for all drivers all the time in designated road safety corridors:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to pilot average-speed-over-distance technology at one or more suitable locations in BC, including but not limited to the Sea-to-Sky Highway 99 at Lions Bay, the Malahat Highway 1 or the Coquihalla Highway 5.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

One of the provincial government’s primary objectives is to promote a high level of safety for all road users on British Columbia’s roads and highways.

The Province continues to explore many different approaches to further maximize road safety, including completing the activation of red-light cameras at 140 intersections to 24/7.

Government is also taking steps to address the issue of speeding in British Columbia and is currently focused on upgrading the existing red-light camera program to capture and enforce speed at certain high-risk intersections.

Government also recently announced that it is reducing speed limits on 15 sections of highway in the province, including the Sea-to-Sky Highway and will be installing more modern weather information systems connected to digital signage along the Sea-to-Sky Highway, to complement existing variable speed limit signs. The Province is also working with RCMP to ensure drivers are complying with the new speed limits.

At this time, implementing the Intersection Safety Camera speed activation upgrades remains the priority for expanding automated enforcement in the province.
B105 AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE – PROTECTIVE TAXATION REFORM

Whereas a significant portion of Agricultural Land Reserve lands are being used for permitted non-farming uses;

And whereas this land is some of the most agriculturally productive in Canada;

And whereas existing taxation and assessment procedures for the Agricultural Land Reserve provide benefits for non-farm uses that occur on these lands:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM further encourage the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary ‘farm uses’, as laid out in the Homes for BC companion document to the 2018 Provincial Budget.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

On January 4, 2018 the B.C. Minister of Agriculture, announced the formation of the Minister’s Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) (the Advisory Committee). The nine-member Advisory Committee was tasked with providing strategic advice, policy guidance, and recommendations on how to help revitalize the ALR and ALC to ensure the provincial goals of preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming and ranching in B.C. continue to be a priority. In July 2018, the Advisory Committee submitted an Interim Committee Report with recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture for the provincial government’s considerations. The recommendations included changes to the current legislative, regulatory and administrative framework of the ALR and the ALC.

The Advisory Committee’s interim report noted the key issues under consideration by the Committee for its Final Report to the Minister, including possible tax reform to encourage farming and ranching in the ALR: “Examine the farm income threshold for farm property tax class”. The Minister received the Committee’s Final Report in December 2018 and has directed Ministry staff to review and advise on the recommendations including those pertaining to tax reform.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing administers the B.C. Assessment Act and has authority for seeking amendments to income thresholds for farm property tax status. Ministry staff are working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Finance to explore potential options to better ensure farm property tax benefits support the intended recipients. Tax reform can help ensure that the lower property tax assessment is applied to properties used for farming and ranching, where owners are investing in agriculture and managing farmland for agricultural production. Tax reform can also better support provincial, regional and municipal objectives to protect agricultural land for farming, increase active farming of land, and improve the viability of agriculture in B.C.

Government wishes to support BC farmers and ranchers and ensure that farm property tax benefits flow to these owners of farmland, not those engaged in non-farm use activities.
B106  PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Whereas fighting wildfires is the responsibility of the provincial government;

And whereas local fire departments and search and rescue teams are critical in fighting large scale wildfires during a declared State of Emergency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact any legislative and/or policy changes necessary to ensure that local emergency organizations that are requested to and do assist during a declared State of Emergency receive timely compensation for their time and supplies used assisting the Province in this manner.

RESPONSE:  Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province appreciates the efforts of local emergency organizations that assist during a declared State of Emergency, recognizing the financial impact this mobilization can have on these organizations.

The Province has implemented and will continue to implement improvements for payment processes and tools to support more timely compensation. Demonstrated actions include:

- Working with the BC Wildfire Service, a key partner in processing claims, to improve communication and payment processes, Emergency Management BC has been able to improve the claims review and payment process;
- Following the 2017 wildfire season, Emergency Management BC’s Office of the Fire Commissioner, attended the annual Local Government Financial Officers conference and provided training using best practices for the generation of reimbursement claims to the Province; and
- Obtaining additional temporary resources to process the significant volume of claims and invoices during a disaster in order for Emergency Management BC to meet its obligation to make payment within 30 days of receipt of invoices, or proof of goods or services received.
DOWNLOADING OF WILDFIRE MITIGATION COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Whereas current wildfire trends in British Columbia, being driven by the effects of climate change and the devastating and lasting effects of the mountain pine beetle, show increasing impacts to timber values from unwanted wildfires and associated suppression costs, an increased threat to infrastructure and communities and increased losses of natural resources; including mid-term timber supply;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia introduced the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) in 2004 which resulted in the cost, responsibility and expertise of wildfire mitigation on Crown land, areas surrounding local governments and land inside local government boundaries, being shifted onto local governments which is creating significant additional pressure on local government finances and staff resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to discontinue downloading wildfire mitigation costs and responsibilities onto local governments and First Nations through the SWPI program and take responsibility for wildfire mitigation costs on Crown land and areas surrounding local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province introduced the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program in September 2018. This program is intended to reduce wildfire risks and wildfire impacts in British Columbia communities by providing funding and support to complete FireSmart initiatives, including priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land and on private land.

The CRI program aligns with Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) funding opportunities. FESBC is partnering with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society of B.C. and the ministry to streamline risk reduction activities.

In 2018, the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. awarded $134 million for 71 projects that helped support communities, reduce wildfire risks, protect wildlife and address the effects of climate change. This work helps restore damaged forests and ecosystems, and it supports workers and communities that rely on forestry.

B.C. FireSmart Committee is leading a review of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan process, including how a plan is developed and implemented, and how it can complement existing land use and community plans. The committee includes the BC Wildfire Service, the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the Union of B.C. Municipalities, the Fire Chiefs’ Association of B.C., Emergency Management BC, the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C. (FESBC) and the First Nations’ Emergency Services Society.
B108 INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS COMMITMENT

Whereas the federal government has committed to meeting the International Biodiversity Targets of protecting 17 per cent of our land and inland waters and 10 per cent of our ocean by 2020 through networks of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures;

And whereas a strong provincial parks system provides economic benefits in the forms of good jobs in urban and rural communities, economic impacts through visitor spending, tourism revenue and diversifying the economy, and ecosystem services in the forms of clean air, water, providing critical habitat for species-at-risk, and climate change adaptation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to set aside dedicated funding for purposes of system expansion, ecological monitoring and research, and management planning to meet the quantitative and qualitative measures set out in the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

British Columbia is actively involved in the discussions and activities related to the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada; in particular Target 1, to protect 17 per cent of our land and inland waters and 10 per cent of our ocean by 2020.

B.C. is directly involved in this effort through the National Steering Committee for Target 1, and at the assistant deputy and deputy minister level. B.C. is seen as a leader in parks and protected areas across Canada, having undertaken a dedicated expansion of our system over the course of the last two decades.

While B.C. is the closest jurisdiction to attaining the 17 per cent goal, we remain committed to targeted expansion, focusing on community and Indigenous interests, and key areas for ecosystems management, biodiversity and species at risk. We will fund that work as we move forward on Target 1 and our internal planning, monitoring and research needs.
AMENDMENTS TO RURAL DIVIDEND FUND PROCESS

Whereas the purpose of the Province’s Rural Dividend Fund is to support rural communities and strengthen their economies;

And whereas this goal could be achieved in a more efficient manner if local governments did not have to apply and report on each application individually, but could plan the funding for appropriate projects with a cooperative, strategic lens:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide a Rural Dividend allocation to local governments each year through a multi-year agreement, similar to the federal Gas Tax Fund, allowing the local government to effectively utilize the funds for local projects based on provincial criteria, and to complete the process through a simplified annual reporting structure.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The current application-based process for allocating funds through the Rural Dividend Program ensures that funding is provided to projects that will have the greatest impact on economic development in rural communities.

Adopting a formula-based allocation for local governments, similar to the model used by the federal gas tax program, would significantly reduce the impact of the Rural Dividend Program by eliminating two of the three eligible applicant groups, First Nations communities and not-for-profit organizations.

Additionally, a formula-based allocation model would not allow funding assistance to be prioritized for communities that identify a significant need for support, including communities impacted by the loss of a main employer or the impacts of a natural disaster (i.e. wildfire/flood).

A review of the Rural Dividend Program is currently being conducted to identify opportunities for continuous improvement and ensure the program meets the needs of rural stakeholders. Opportunities to improve the efficiency of how the program works with eligible applicants, including local governments, is part of this review process.
B110 MUNICIPAL UPLIFT GRANT PROGRAM

Whereas there is a large inequity between British Columbia municipalities in per capita revenue, spending and municipal staffing capacity;

And whereas this inequity makes it difficult for low revenue communities to compete in grant funding intakes, which assess all applicants as being equal in their capacity to apply:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to establish a new capital infrastructure and operations grant fund which proactively identifies and supports those communities with high residential tax rates and low revenue due to a lack of commercial and industrial property taxation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Province currently provides over $50 million per year to small and medium sized municipalities through the Small Community Grant Program. The calculation of this grant includes variables to increase funding for communities that lack a large commercial or industrial tax base.

In addition, in March 2018, the Province partnered with the Federal Government on the new Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, which will inject $3.9 billion into capital projects throughout B.C. over the next 10 years. Included in this funding envelope is the Rural and Northern Communities Fund, which will support the infrastructure priorities of small, rural and remote communities in B.C.

Given the current level of operating and capital funding provided to small communities, the Province is currently not considering an additional funding program beyond the current programs.
B111 GRANT FUNDING

Whereas local governments are accountable and autonomous orders of government;

And whereas local governments have legally mandated obligations to prepare official community plans, multi-year budgets, long term capital plans based on more and more sophisticated asset management systems, and a variety of other strategic plans for their communities;

And whereas local governments must be able to focus on implementing their publicly approved budgets and strategic plans rather than expending their limited staff and financial resources on grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments restructure all their infrastructure and social and economic grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax allocation to local governments in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Province of British Columbia appreciates local governments’ concerns with respect to application based infrastructure grant programs. The Ministry continues to work on developing and delivering funding programs that meet the diverse needs of communities throughout the province.

With a finite amount of program funding available, the Ministry tries to balance the financial, as well as capacity, challenges faced by some local governments with the need to maximize the benefits of infrastructure programs to as many local governments as possible.

The approach in British Columbia is to provide funding through a suite of different delivery models; per capita allocations, unconditional grants and application based grants. Application based programs provide local governments the opportunity to access funding amounts, particularly for those that support regulatory driven projects, that would not be achievable through a per capita or direct allocation model.

In March 2018 the Province of British Columbia entered into a bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada to establish the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. This 10 year program has a defined cost share model and does not support a direct allocation model. It does provide local government with the option to submit an application for a wide variety of eligible capital project.
B112 COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT FUNDED BY EGAMING REVENUES

Whereas the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC), pursuant to its Corporate Social Responsibility Charter, was created to benefit the lives of British Columbians;

And whereas according to the 2016/17 BCLC Annual Service Plan Report the provision of gambling services through traditional channels such as casinos and community gaming facilities is maturing and close to meeting existing market demand while eGaming business performance was very strong with double digit growth in revenue;

And whereas host local governments received $95.8 million and non-profit community organizations received a further $134.8 million from gambling revenue in fiscal year 2014/15;

And whereas small communities are unlikely to be host local governments and have proportionally fewer non-profit community organizations that may not have the sophistication to apply for community gaming grants creating a structural inequality between large urban communities and small rural communities with respect to the sharing of gambling revenues;

And whereas eGaming is an activity engaged in province wide and not restricted by geography: Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to establish a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support communities with populations of less than 25,000 to be funded from BCLC eGaming revenues.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government is committed to supporting local not-for-profits in all communities. The Community Gaming Grants program distributes funds from commercial gambling revenues to not-for-profit community organizations throughout British Columbia. Grants of a $135 million dollars are made through a demand-driven, non-competitive process. The distribution of community gaming grants is not restricted by geography and as reported by the Office of the Auditor General in their 2016 audit of the Community Gaming Grants program there is a reasonable distribution of funds across the province with dollar amounts awarded compared to population levels. Approximately 90% of all applicants in this stream receive a grant.

Starting in 2017, an additional $5 million of funding is provided for the completion of capital projects undertaken by not-for-profit agencies, that have a total cost of more than $20,000. The objective of the Capital Projects sector is to enable not-for-profit organizations to complete capital projects that provide significant benefit to communities. As the application assessment process is competitive, additional consideration is given to the allocation of grant funding across the six Community Gaming Grant sectors, the geographic distribution of grants throughout the province, project size and the inclusion of Indigenous not-for-profit organizations.

Ministry staff will continue to monitor the distribution of the $140 million dollars against the criteria laid out in its guidelines.
B115 SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT AND TAX REFORM

Whereas the widespread land speculation and soaring assessments on commercial and industrial properties continue to pose significant affordability challenges to independent small businesses who have limited ability to absorb extraordinary increases in rent and assume all property taxes passed on to them by their landlords, including taxes on the development potential;

And whereas Vancouver City Council has formally submitted a request to the Province of BC in February 2018 to initiate a province-led intergovernmental workgroup to assess the options put forward by the City of Vancouver to address the impact of soaring property assessments on independent small business tenants in time for the 2019 tax year. The City of Vancouver has not formally heard back from the Province of BC to-date:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiate a province-led intergovernmental workgroup to address these assessment and taxation issues immediately to enable the long-term viability of independent small businesses in Metro Vancouver and the rest of British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

In October 2018, Bill 42 – Assessment Amendment Act 2018, was passed, enabling BC Assessment to value eligible Class 4 (Major Industry) properties (e.g., lumber and pulp mills, mines, smelters, etc.) based on current use rather than future Highest and Best Use (HBU) if there have been recent changes to the Official Community Plan. At the time of the Bill’s introduction, Minister Robinson committed to reviewing HBU valuation impacts on other property classes, including Class 2 (Utilities), Class 5 (Light Industry) and Class 6 (Business and Other), in addition to ongoing work on identifying property tax mitigation strategies for small businesses subject to triple net leases.

The Province is seeking to understand what changes could be considered to provide a more fair and efficient assessment system for the affected classes in the context of real estate market pressures, affordability issues and Government’s economic priorities.

MAH staff has had initial discussions/consultations with City of Vancouver and Metro Vancouver representatives. More information will be available on the consultation process in early 2019.
B116 SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

Whereas the Southern Mountain Caribou has been identified as a species at risk and the Province has announced a draft conservation agreement under the federal Species at Risk Act regarding recovery measures for the Southern Mountain Caribou, the goal of which is to articulate the actions the parties will take over the next five years to support the long term objective of achieving recovery of self-sustaining populations of the Southern Mountain Caribou in BC;

And whereas the initial focus includes the Pine, Narraway, and Quintette Local Population Units in in the Peace River Regional District in north eastern BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government consider the impact of actions proposed to assist with the recovery of the Southern Mountain Caribou will have on back country access, which is integral to the success of tourism in northeast BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province be requested to commit to involve the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in the process as they have significant knowledge regarding health concerns specific to the Southern Mountain Caribou and potential impacts to other domestic and wild animal species in the region;

And be it further resolved to urge the federal and provincial governments to give community health and viability high priority when pursuing the worthy objective of recovering the Southern and Central Mountain Caribou;

And be it further resolved to strongly urge the federal and provincial governments to enter into real consultation with all the affected communities before announcing decisions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province has invested $27 million over three years to support the recovery of caribou with an extensive Provincial Caribou Recovery Program Plan. Numbers of this iconic species are in decline across the Province. For example, in the South Peace Caribou, six herds have declined from about 800 animals in the early 2000’s to about 220 animals today.

B.C. and Ottawa have been developing a Conservation Agreement under Section 11 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA) to help this species recover. This agreement will be closely aligned with B.C.’s own Provincial Caribou Recovery Program and include commitments to herd plans, habitat protection, restorative projects, predator management, monitoring, science and research.

B.C. and the Federal Government in partnership with the West Moberly and Saulteau First Nations have also been negotiating a caribou partnership agreement which will apply to the Central group of Southern Mountain Caribou. This negotiation was undertaken following interest from First Nations.

Government recognizes that outdoor recreation is an important part of the lives of many British Columbians, and full closures of all snowmobile trails and access to the backcountry is not being considered at this time.
As the Province moves forward into caribou recovery, the impacts of all land uses will be considered – not just recreation. However, at the same time it is important to recognize the impact that these kinds of activities can have on caribou populations.

Open houses on caribou strategies will be taking place in early 2019 in the South Peace.
B117 INTENTIONAL FEEDING OF WILDLIFE – AMENDMENT TO THE WILDLIFE ACT

Whereas the intentional feeding of wildlife is often detrimental to wildlife by causing them to concentrate and habituate to living in unnatural conditions within a community, damaging property, and becoming a nuisance and public safety issue;

And whereas section 33.1 of the Wildlife Act prohibits the intentional feeding of dangerous wildlife, but does not apply to other wildlife, meaning that the feeding of wildlife in general is not regulated, and conservation or other officers have no authority to control, enforce, or educate the public about problems caused by the intentional feeding of wildlife:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government amend the Wildlife Act to prohibit the intentional feeding of problem wildlife.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province recognizes the often detrimental impacts of intentional feeding and subsequent concentration and habituation of wildlife.

In 2008, the Province amended the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation (B.C Reg. 144/2004), enabling municipalities to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements respecting the feeding or attracting of dangerous wildlife or members of the family Cervidae. It removed an existing barrier to municipal action, and sent a clear signal to municipalities that the Province of B.C. approves of municipalities establishing bylaws aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflict. In 2018, the Province drafted a policy for supplemental (intentional) feeding, to provide direction on this important issue and will work to finalize this policy in the coming year.

Government staff will continue to regularly provide information on the risks associated with supplemental feeding to the public at stakeholder meetings, and through the media. The Province is committed to exploring legislative changes to prohibit the intentional feeding of problem wildlife. This will require a careful review of options, as well as engagement with Indigenous peoples, UBCM and stakeholders.
B118  PROTECTION OF NATIVE WEST COAST SALMON
Whereas British Columbia's native west coast wild salmon can be negatively impacted by commercial salmon farms due to increased levels of diseases and parasites from farmed salmon; degradation of their genetic makeup through interbreeding with escaped farmed salmon; and ecological competition with escaped farmed salmon:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation that would protect British Columbia's wild salmon stock from the negative impacts of commercial salmon farms.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Federal Government, through Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), holds primary jurisdiction over the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat, and for the management of marine fisheries and aquaculture in B.C.

B.C., through the Ministry of Agriculture, other provincial agencies and DFO, continues to work on a variety of initiatives that support the restoration and conservation of wild Pacific salmon and the impacts from salmon farms.

In June 2018, B.C. launched the Wild Salmon Advisory Council (WSAC), a multi-stakeholder advisory council that is assisting in the development of a strategy to support restoring healthy and abundant wild salmon stocks in B.C. The focus of the strategy development is the restoration and enhancement of wild salmon populations, sustainable fisheries management and stewardship opportunities, and new economic development opportunities to assist viable and sustainable community-based fisheries. The WSAC report was released on October 11, 2018 and forms the basis of upcoming public consultations.

B.C. recently announced a new policy on the issuance of salmon farm tenures. Effective June 2022, the Province will only grant Land Act tenures to fish farm operators who have satisfied the DFO that their operations will not adversely impact wild salmon stocks and who have negotiated agreements with the First Nation(s) in whose territory they propose to operate.

On December 14, 2018, B.C. also announced that a ground-breaking government-to-government process has delivered recommendations that will protect and restore wild salmon stocks, allow an orderly transition plan for open-pen finfish for the Broughton Archipelago and create a more sustainable future for local communities and workers.

Additional initiatives underway include implementation of the Minister of Agriculture’s Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture recommendations, development of a B.C. Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund in concert with DFO and working closely with our federal aquaculture counterparts on improving the environmental and social sustainability of the industry.
WHEREAS the Fraser River is home to more salmon runs than any other river in the world, and many of these runs are affected by outdated municipal flood control infrastructure that blocks or harms salmon streams;

And whereas the Ministry of FLNRORD administers the Water Sustainability Act, and administers funding programs to replace aging and inadequate flood protection infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to improve their oversight of flood infrastructure maintenance and improvements, to include consideration of ecological connectivity and aquatic ecosystem health;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government initiate infrastructure funding priorities and partnerships that support the installation of fish-friendly infrastructure in those locations where aging or inadequate infrastructure requires upgrading or replacement.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development currently considers fish passage and ecological connectivity in our adjudication of approvals under the Water Sustainability Act. This includes ensuring proponents are seeking opportunities to improve fish passage when reviewing proposals to upgrade or maintain existing flood management infrastructure.

Ministry staff also work proactively internally and with various partners to improve fish passage associated with flood management and other infrastructure. This includes working with NGOs, the federal government, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, BC Hydro’s Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, local governments, industry and other organizations to prioritize and partner in addressing fish migration barriers.

The Province is supportive of recovering fish access to areas where passage has been blocked. Infrastructure upgrades involving the improvement of fish passage are often expensive; therefore investments of public funds target the most cost-effective and ecologically beneficial opportunities.
B120 MINE AND QUARRY SITING RESTRICTIONS

Whereas sand and gravel mines and quarries that are reclaimed as landfills have the potential to contaminate surface and ground water;

And whereas provincial regulations for aquifer and drinking water protection related to reclamation of mines and quarries are inadequate to protect community water supplies and are inferior to many other jurisdictions:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province legislate enforceable and mandatory landfill siting restrictions in the Environmental Management Act so that no waste permit, approval, or Operational Certificate can be issued for filling a mine pit with waste over a porous or sensitive aquifer.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, with input from the Ministries of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

Currently, the Information Requirements from proponents for landfill siting include hydrology and hydrogeology characterization reports including current and planned groundwater and surface water uses as well as groundwater and surface water impact assessments.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy developed a guidance document for municipal solid waste landfills that contains recommended siting, design and operational standards and best management practices for landfills which are intended to protect surface and ground water resources including vulnerable aquifers. These recommended standards are considered by statutory decision makers when making decisions about municipal waste and other landfills, and they are incorporated into authorization requirements as needed to protect surface and groundwater resources. Permitting decisions under the Environmental Management Act are required to consider requirements to protect sensitive aquifers.

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is in the process of developing directives governing the receipt, storage, use and/or processing/treatment of contaminated soil and organic material on a mine. These directives recognize that the authority for the relocation and handling of these soils resides with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. If mines are to be used to receive contaminated soils, the directives will stipulate that approval is also required by the Chief Inspector of Mines. The use of any imported contaminated soils on a mine site will be regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Mines through the approval of the Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan, including an operational environmental monitoring and management program. Any application to amend the Mines Act permit to receive, store, use and/or process/treat contaminated soil must evaluate and provide plans for contingency remediation and the costs associated with remediation. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development is responsible for issuing and administering tenures for aggregate pits on Crown land only. Prior to expiry of the tenure, the pit must undergo reclamation, which is managed by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. Once the reclamation is satisfactorily completed, the tenure can be terminated.

If a new proponent wanted to acquire the Crown land with the reclaimed aggregate pit to operate a landfill (or if the previous tenure holder wanted to do this) they would be required to apply for a new tenure. The application would undergo a rigorous process to determine suitability of the site. This
includes seeking comments through referral with provincial agencies and local government, consultation with First Nations, and engagement with the public. Professional site assessments may also be required. If the applicant is successful in obtaining a tenure, besides being in compliance with the tenure terms and conditions, they must adhere to all provincial and federal laws, local government bylaws and zoning. Before the landfill can be put on site, the tenure holder will be required to get all necessary permits and approvals to operate the landfill.
**B122  WEST COAST MARINE SPILL RESPONSE GUARANTEE**

Whereas Kinder Morgan has announced they may cancel their expansion project as soon as May 31st, 2018 and the West Coast Marine Spill Response Corporation has suspended activities at facilities they are building across our region which are tied to the completion of the Kinder Morgan project;

And whereas there is an existing and continued need for world class spill response and the jobs that are tied to that response on the West Coast of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to guarantee funding for the construction and operation of the marine response facilities including those steered by First Nations, so that those jobs and the world class ocean protection they provide are guaranteed.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

Responsibility for regulating and managing spill prevention and preparedness in the marine environment rests with the federal government. Marine spill prevention and preparedness is of critical importance to the provincial government because a spill in the marine environment inevitably impacts our coastline, marine economy, the culture and quality of life of Indigenous and local coastal communities, the environment, and other provincial resources.

The Provincial Government encourages its federal partners to continue to work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples, local coastal communities and provincial ministries to ensure there are adequate resources in place to respond effectively should a spill occur. Working with coastal First Nations to establish a network of marine response facilities represents an excellent opportunity to strengthen preparedness up and down the coast. Should any new products be proposed that increase the risk of a marine spill, it is incumbent on the federal government to ensure adequate resources are in place.

While the Province cannot regulate marine spill prevention and preparedness, provincial requirements for spill response and environmental recovery must be addressed following a marine spill when provincial resources are impacted or could be impacted, including timely and effective response actions, spill reporting, restoring damage done to the environment and ensuring polluters pay for government costs associated with the spill.
B123 STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT – FLOOD MITIGATION

Whereas the accumulation of gravel, sediment and debris such as trees and other obstructions in an active creek bed (aggradation) can increase flood hazards on alluvial fans and promote erosion of previously deposited materials, and an environmentally appropriate in-stream sediment and obstruction management program can be an important part of a local government’s flood hazard mitigation program;

And whereas careful consideration needs to be given to the scale of intended actions, and recognizing that much larger excavations done under emergency conditions during flood events could greatly increase the scale of unintended actions to the environment;

And whereas removal of gravel and obstructions from creek beds as a means of managing water surface elevations is possible, the regulatory requirements are relatively complex, and the timing of the various steps must be considered well in advance of the intended works since the approval process needs to be completed prior to nesting periods and fisheries work windows:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government and federal government to work with local governments to streamline the regulatory processes and develop management guidelines, best practices, policies, and regulations to permit local governments to perform sediment and obstruction removal work, in the most minimally disturbing way to aquatic habitats, in streambeds in order to minimize flooding during heavy-rain events;

And be it further resolved that the development of these stream-bed management guidelines, best practices, policies, and regulations be given high priority.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province recognizes the importance to public safety that flood hazard mitigation work be undertaken expeditiously, and does its best to expedite the approval process for these works.

Under the Water Sustainability Act, the Province must meet its statutory obligations to evaluate and manage impacts on water users, the environment and First Nations. These obligations take time and cannot be delegated.

Local authorities can help streamline the approval process by submitting applications in sufficient time as to be processed to meet work windows.
B124 RECLAIMED WATER USE
Whereas fresh water is a finite resource that is being consumed faster than it can be replenished;

And whereas the conservation of water is a shared responsibility between the Province and local government and the vast majority of wastewater flows back to the natural environment without being treated or re-used:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement provincial policy that requires, where reasonably available, the use of reclaimed water for operations such as dust control, agricultural irrigation, and industrial uses, prior to the use of potable or fresh water.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Municipal Wastewater Regulation has robust reclaimed water guidelines which have been in place since 1999.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy produced a companion guide for the reclaimed water guidelines in 2013 to support proponents looking to include water reuse into their wastewater infrastructure. The companion guide includes specific requirements and suggestions on the use of reclaimed water for operations such as dust control, agricultural irrigation and industrial uses.

The Province encourages proponents to consider using reclaimed water in place of potable or fresh water for industrial, agricultural and other uses where it is reasonably available.
B126  PROVINCIAL SINGLE-USE ITEM REDUCTION STRATEGY
Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia engage the packaging industry to develop a provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as part of a provincial Zero Waste Strategy, which would include but not necessarily be limited to plastic and paper shopping bags, polystyrene foam cups and polystyrene foam containers, other hot and cold drink cups and take-out containers, straws and utensils, but would exclude all single use items needed for medical use or for people with disabilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry greatly appreciates local government interest in addressing disposable plastic packaging. Disposable packaging from the residential sector is currently regulated through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. B.C. is proud to be a leader in North America with more EPR programs with higher capture rates than any other North American jurisdiction.

The Ministry has been focused on pursuing continuous improvement with our 22 existing EPR programs, and will consider expanding B.C.’s EPR programs as part of our commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility.

The Ministry will continue to engage with local government as ministry staff work towards further strengthening current policies and programs. Plastics and single-use items are an area of concerted Ministry focus over the coming months. The Ministry commends the actions taken by local governments to develop single-use item strategies and other related initiatives to reduce plastic in the environment.
B130 CALL FOR THE EXPANSION OF PROVINCIAL EV INCENTIVES

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia take the lead across North America in providing the highest available level of provincial subsidy for purchase of electric vehicles.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

British Columbia is a leader in clean energy vehicles (CEVs) with one of the largest public charging infrastructure networks in Canada, the first public hydrogen fuelling station in Canada with plans to build out more, and the highest per capita adoption of CEVs in the country (4% of new light-duty vehicle sales in 2018).

In 2011, the Province introduced the CEV Program, and has since committed more than $104 million to encourage British Columbians to choose clean, green vehicles that reduce their transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to stimulate economic development in clean transportation in BC.

B.C.’s current incentive levels match those in California, and are slightly higher than those in Oregon and Washington, but are lower than Quebec’s. B.C. has been able to achieve higher CEV adoption rates on a per capita basis than Ontario (when they had incentives) and Quebec, despite having lower incentive levels.

Overall, the CEV Program has been highly successful in stimulating demand for clean energy vehicles. On December 5, 2018, the Government of British Columbia released its CleanBC plan aimed at reducing climate pollution, while creating more jobs and economic opportunities for people, businesses and communities. In CleanBC, the Province committed to expand the CEV Program by making further investments in incentives for consumers and the expansion of charging stations and hydrogen fuelling stations.
B131  ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE MANDATE
Whereas ten US states and the province of Quebec have adopted Zero Emissions Vehicle standards that require a progressively increasing share of new passenger vehicle sales to be zero emissions vehicles (such as electric vehicles or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles);

And whereas the Climate Leadership Team’s 2015 Recommendations to the BC government included establishing Zero Emission Vehicle targets of 30 per cent of sales by 2030;

And whereas Canada and China are the co-chairs of the EV30@30 campaign under the Clean Energy Ministerial, which is working towards 30 per cent of vehicle sales across participating jurisdictions to be zero emissions vehicles by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be requested to develop requirements for Zero Emissions Vehicles to comprise at least 30 per cent of passenger vehicle sales by 2030.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

British Columbia is a leader in clean energy vehicles (CEVs) with one of the largest public charging infrastructure networks in Canada, the first public hydrogen fuelling station in Canada with plans to build out more, and the highest per capita adoption of CEVs in the country (4% of new light-duty vehicle sales in 2018).

In 2011, the Province introduced the CEV Program, and has since committed more than $104 million to encourage British Columbians to choose clean, green vehicles that reduce their transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to stimulate economic development in clean transportation in B.C.

In the December 2018 CleanBC plan, the Province committed to bring forward a legislated ZEV Standard by 2020, requiring automakers to meet increasing annual levels of ZEV sales reaching 10% of new light-duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30% by 2030, and 100% by 2040. The purpose of the proposed ZEV Standard is to ensure greater supply and availability of ZEVs at more affordable prices in B.C. The Province also committed to expand the CEV Program by making further investments in incentives for consumers and infrastructure, and to invest in pilot projects, incentives and infrastructure for transitioning medium and heavy-duty vehicles to ZEVs. The Province is taking a balanced approach, addressing consumer demand and supply barriers, and providing regulatory certainty for achieving the CleanBC targets, by continuing the CEV Program and implementing a ZEV Standard.
B132  CROWN LANDS FOR CANNABIS PRODUCTION
Whereas there is increasing concern that prime agricultural land will be used for cannabis production and have a negative impact on food security;

And whereas cannabis has been grown on non-agricultural lands for decades including Crown lands:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to develop an overall strategy that will support local cannabis producers and minimize the impact on prime agricultural lands; which could include leasing of Crown lands that would accommodate cannabis production.

RESPONSE:  Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province is developing policy to support the availability of Crown land for cannabis cultivation. Crown land both within and outside the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) will be available, and the ministry will be accepting applications by spring of 2019.

In July 2018, the Province amended the Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation to allow local governments to prohibit cannabis production in the ALR within their communities, unless it is grown in ways that preserve the productive capacity of agricultural land.
B133 REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to include a similar provision in provincial legislation, to Section 48(4) of the Land Titles Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 Chapter L-4, that allows for a local government to directly petition the court to remove a restrictive covenant or other instrument that conflicts with a provision of a bylaw enacted under Part 14 – Planning and Land Use Management of the Local Government Act [RSBC 2015] Chapter 1.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The issue the resolution seeks to address may already have a solution, but the Ministry suggests further consultation with UBCM may be required to fully understand the aim of the resolution and whether existing legislation and/or law already provides the desired outcome.

Section 35 of B.C.’s Property Law Act does provide a “person interested in land” the authority to apply to the court to modify or cancel various charges and/or interests registered against the land (including restrictive covenants). Further, it is already settled law in B.C. that a restrictive covenant can never override a land use bylaw.
B136 UPDATE OF REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY LEGISLATION
Whereas Part 12 of the Local Government Act and related regulations governing the preparation and implementation of Regional Growth Strategies have not been reviewed in 20 years;

And whereas the decades since the legislation was passed have seen shifts in provincial and local government issues and community contexts;

And whereas the Greater Vancouver Regional District v. Langley (Township) and Wall Court ruling (2014) raised questions about the effect of Regional Growth Strategies;

And whereas outdated and ambiguous legislation is felt to have contributed to a prolonged and expensive Regional Growth Strategy update process in the Capital Regional District;

And whereas many regional districts and municipalities across the province will in coming years be involved in reviews and updates of Regional Growth Strategies;

And whereas other jurisdictions have more recently updated growth strategy legislation (e.g. Alberta and Ontario):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to actively engage local government including First Nations in a comprehensive review and update of Part 13 of the Local Government Act and related regulations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Province provides support to regional districts that are in the process of developing, amending or implementing a Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). The experiences of regional districts with the RGS process, including the recent challenges of the 2014 Langley Township court case and the 2018 Capital Regional District RGS dispute resolution process, continue to inform the Province of areas in which the RGS legislation could be strengthened. A review of the RGS legislation could provide an opportunity to address RGS process elements, and take into consideration contemporary regional growth issues.

The Province is currently considering what a review of the legislation would entail and will be developing options for next steps. Should a review of the legislation be undertaken, the Province would engage in a comprehensive discussion with UBCM, local governments and First Nations to further understand any challenges and explore potential solutions.
B137 NORTHERN RESOURCE CORRIDOR PLAN

Whereas the economies of northern communities (as well as the wider economies of British Columbia and Canada) are closely linked to the ability of resource industry products to be transported from their source to export markets;

And whereas the transportation of natural resources is often challenged and impeded in routes that traverse large, urban centres:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to develop a “Northern Resource Corridor Plan” to enhance and coordinate railway, road, pipeline and power infrastructure across northern BC with the goal of faster, safer and more cost effective resource transportation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The B.C. Government recognizes the importance of B.C.’s natural resource industry, which is supported by northern communities and relies on having access to an efficient transportation network. Government recognizes that a reliable transportation network is critical to B.C. and Canada’s economy, and it is imperative we plan today to ensure we are prepared to capture the opportunities of tomorrow; that is why Government is investing in northern and rural infrastructure to help grow local economies, build stronger, more inclusive communities, and help safeguard the environment and the health of British Columbians.

One of the priorities of the Ministry is to undertake planning in a manner that enables us to strategically leverage our transportation investment and policy decisions to support the growth of a sustainable economy, while at the same time making life more affordable for British Columbians and improving their access to services. The Ministry recognizes that the best way to achieve these outcomes and enable the continued growth of our economy is by continuing to collaborate with industry, Indigenous, community and labour leaders to ensure our efforts to strengthen our infrastructure in a way that is strategic and coordinated.

The Ministry is leveraging federal funding to support the delivery of Northern infrastructure programs. As part of an agreement under the Investing in Canada Plan, the B.C. and Canada governments have committed up to $95 million towards an initial intake of the Rural and Northern Communities Program, which was announced in September 2018. One of the core outcomes of the program is to have reliable and improved road, air and marine infrastructure.
B138  BC COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Whereas BC's wild commercial fishery contributes $800 million dollars in wholesale value to the Provincial economy, of which $400 million dollars is in landed value paid to fishermen when the fish is 'landed';

And whereas rural coastal communities benefit from the portion of the landed value paid to fishermen who reside in our communities and we benefit from wages paid to shoreworkers if there are processing plants in our community;

And whereas the federal Fisheries Act has been reopened to "help ensure that the economic benefits of fishing remain with the license holders and their community by providing amendments to the Fisheries Act that would help support a strong independent inshore commercial fishery in Atlantic Canada and Quebec";

And whereas the amended Fisheries Act would recognize that when making decisions under the Act, the Minister can take into account:
- social, economic and cultural factors,
- the preservation and promotion of an independent inshore commercial fishery as in Atlantic Canada and Quebec;

The proposed Act would clarify that regulations can be made to enshrine aspects of the inshore fisheries policies in regulations, including rules that:
- help ensure that the holder of a license retains the benefits generated by fishing,
- ensure that only the license holder personally fishes using that license,
- support the Fleet Separation Policy by prohibiting certain types of corporations from holding licenses in the inshore sector,
- allow the suspension or cancellation of licenses where license holders are party to an agreement that violates any part of the Act or regulations;
- These proposed changes to the Fisheries Act would:
  - protect middle-class jobs and coastal communities by helping to keep the benefits from fishing in the hands of the harvesters and local communities,
  - strengthen the implementation of the owner-operator and fleet separation policies;

And whereas these changes to the Fisheries Act would protect middle-class jobs and coastal communities by keeping the benefits from fishing in the hands of harvesters and local communities only apply to Atlantic Canada and Quebec;

And whereas, federal fisheries policies in the Pacific Region are to continue to privatize the fisheries, which lowers the retained value to working fishermen as they have to pay quota lease fees to investors, who are increasingly becoming foreign countries and our communities are not realizing the benefits as are Atlantic communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture to work with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans on a fulsome coordinated review of fishing policy on the BC Coast;
And be it further resolved that the Province work with the federal government on the implementation of a regulatory framework that would incorporate the principles of fleet separation, owner-operation, and adjacency;

And be it further resolved that the changes to the *Fisheries Act* and Fisheries Regulations apply to the Pacific Coast so our working fishers and BC coastal communities benefit from the fisheries.

RESPONSE:  Ministry of Agriculture

Commercial fisheries and their contribution to the Provincial economy are of great importance to B.C., providing significant economic and social benefits across the Province. Government recognizes the importance of reviewing fisheries policies from time to time and continues to work with all involved agencies on processes to relook at policies and recommend any required changes. One of the Ministry of Agriculture’s goals is to ensure sustainable and resilient fisheries resources in order to meet cultural, environmental, social and economic interests for current and future generations.

Provincial staff work across agencies internally to find solutions to fisheries management issues. B.C. has established the Wild Salmon Advisory Council, which is a part of a broader provincial Wild Salmon Strategy. A key part of the strategy will be looking at the provincial role in finding new economic opportunities to assist viable and sustainable community-based fisheries. Policies affecting fisheries licensing and management are being reviewed through existing consultative channels including stakeholder committees, where First Nations and all relevant processors and stakeholders, including coastal communities, can engage.

B.C. and other Provinces and Territories are also engaging with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding the amendments to the federal *Fisheries Act* through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and the *Fisheries Act* Review Task Group. The Province has consistently relayed the expectation of extensive stakeholder consultation in the Pacific when analysing any potential implementation of socio-economic and Atlantic fisheries management policies to the Pacific Region. Government will continue to work through all channels to ensure that fisheries management policies result in socioeconomic benefits for the people and communities of British Columbia.
**B139 BUSINESS LICENSING**

Whereas regional districts do not have business licensing powers;

And whereas it is imperative to regulate and manage businesses to enhance economic development, fire fighter safety and community planning within electoral areas of regional districts:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to recommend an amendment to the *Local Government Act* to provide business licensing powers to regional districts.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Government is interested in supporting regional districts seeking to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. Given the diversity and range of priorities of regional districts in the province, historically business licensing and other additional authorities have been granted by regulation on a case by case basis. Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD), the only regional district currently with business license authority, received the authority to regulate business in 1996.

There are a number of implications that regional districts need to consider when requesting business licensing authority and developing a business licensing scheme. This includes: administrative fairness (the Board would receive the general power to regulate all business, the authority would not be specific to any particular type of business); enforcement capacity; and an analysis of the regional challenges the proposed scheme is intended to address. Ministry staff would need to consider the same implications and analyze the challenges at the broader provincial level.

Historically there has been limited interest from regional districts to receive business licensing authority, given the many implications and complexity of developing and implementing the business licensing scheme. Currently, Ministry staff are actively working with some regional district partners to identify their regional business issues and reviewing specific regional district requests for business licensing authority.
B141 MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS BETWEEN REGIONAL/LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND BC EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

Whereas British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) is the sole ambulance service and provider of pre-hospital emergency care in the province of British Columbia;

And whereas British Columbia Ambulance Service is managed by British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA);
And whereas local or regional fire departments are funded by local governments who have limited financial resources;

And whereas calls from BC Ambulance for assistance have increased over the years and come at a cost to local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that BC Emergency Health Services initiate and enter into mutual aid agreements with paid on call regional/local fire service authorities so that each party can be fairly compensated when called upon for support.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

First responder services are an important element of the provision of pre-hospital care in British Columbia, and the partnership between BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), fire departments, and other agencies in responding to emergency events is essential.

British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has recently introduced a new system called the Clinical Response Model (CRM) to guide dispatch in assigning resources to a call. The CRM ensures that fire first responders are only called out when needed, so they are available for the most urgent calls and are not tied up with lower acuity calls. The CRM has resulted in a drop in call volumes for fire first responders, which may reduce costs to local governments.

The Ministry appreciates your concern for fiscal accountability. Local governments continue to determine how to best allocate their funding and resources in terms of responding to urgent and routine calls. Some municipalities have chosen to have first responders continue to attend both urgent and routine (non-emergency) calls, but others have elected to have first responders attend only those urgent calls where a patient’s condition will benefit from initial care.

BCEHS also establishes Consent Agreements with local governments responsible for fire departments that provide emergency health services in BC. Consent agreements are intended to set out the roles and responsibilities of each agency. BCEHS is currently in the process of updating existing Consent Agreements to ensure the concerns of all parties involved are addressed.
**B143 REVIEW OF BC’S FEE FOR SERVICE MODEL**

Whereas there is a lack of access to family practitioners in communities throughout British Columbia;

And whereas the existing Fee for Service (FFS) model of compensation for family physicians does not encourage enough new medical graduates to choose family practice, and is less attractive compared to different models of compensation used in other provinces:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be urged to undertake a review of the FFS model with a view to making the compensation of family physicians in BC more attractive to encourage new medical graduates to choose family practice and stay in BC.

**RESPONSE: Ministry of Health**

The Government of B.C. announced its vision for an integrated system of primary care across the province with Primary Care Networks (PCNs) as the foundation to a team-based approach. As part of this work, the Ministry and its partners are working together on the development of a suite of compensation options for physicians, nurses and other health care providers that support team based primary care and that demonstrate clear value to British Columbians. The objective of the first phase of implementation, beginning in 2018, is to increase the number of British Columbians who have access to quality primary care and are attached to a primary care provider.

New funding has been allocated to recruit up to 200 General/Family Practitioners (GP) and 200 Nurse Practitioners (NP) to work as part of a team-based PCN. Recruitment is targeted to GPs and NPs who do not currently have a patient panel, including recent graduates. These primary care practitioners will be engaged through a provincially standardized Service Contract, developed by the Ministry of Health in consultation with Doctors of BC and the NP Council respectively, and administered by the regional health authorities. A service contract provides income security as the practitioner establishes their practice and builds a patient panel. The recruitment process was launched by Health Match BC on August 22, 2018.

Further, as part of the PCN implementation strategy, a new Service Contract will be developed and offered to established physicians with existing patient panels in approved PCNs. This new Service Contract option will be offered along with other alternative compensation options, such as blended capitation funding models, to incentivize complex care, support team-based care, and increase attachment and access to a primary care provider.
B144 PARITY IN HOSPITAL DISTRICTS CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION

Whereas under the Hospital District Act, hospital districts may contribute up to 40 per cent of capital expenses incurred by their local health authorities;

And whereas those contribution percentages should be equitable across all hospital districts;

And whereas Metro Vancouver has been relieved of their obligation to provide a contribution to hospital capital costs, shifting additional costs to the Health Authority and ultimately further impacting the ability of the Ministry of Health to fund capital projects for hospitals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM commence discussions with the provincial government to work toward a system that creates parity in the capital contributions that hospital districts in BC provide to their local health authorities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Regional hospital districts (RHDs) are key partners in building and maintaining local hospital infrastructure. The Hospital District Act (the Act) is a legislative framework for RHDs and their roles and responsibilities.

Health authorities work closely with their RHDs to determine what level of cost sharing may be possible for specific projects within their approved capital plans and RHDs are expected to contribute 40 percent of capital project costs within their region.

Since 1998, Metro Vancouver residents no longer have a RHD and they pay property taxes to TransLink in accordance with the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act.

The Ministry of Health recognizes that regional contributions towards health capital projects are inconsistent across RHDs and vary from project to project and that the Act and its regulation need to be updated and aligned with current practices. When there is an opportunity to amend the Act, consultations with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities, will be part of the amendment process.
B145 COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES
Whereas local governments are deeply concerned about the health status of their communities;

And whereas there is an urgent need in municipalities across British Columbia to find ways to improve access to quality primary health care;

And whereas Community Health Centres (CHCs), both provincially and nationally, have demonstrated the capacity to deliver cost effective, culturally appropriate health services to diverse populations in the communities they serve, based on a commitment to addressing the broader social determinants of health through a multi-disciplinary, team-based approach;

And whereas community governance of primary health care provides an effective mechanism to enable local citizens to tailor services to the diverse needs of their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM affirm its support for the provincial government’s initiative to establish 20 CHCs across the province;

And be it further resolved that UBCM direct its staff to consult with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the regional health authorities to develop proposals for implementing this commitment in local governments wishing to host new CHCs;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the MoH support local government initiatives to develop fully-fledged CHCs, which include a community governance board, the provision of interdisciplinary services, and community outreach programs that address the social determinants of health.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is in the process of finalizing a supportive policy directive on community health centres (CHCs) to guide enhancement of existing CHCs and to support the development of new community-governed CHCs across the province. This policy also aims to ensure the integration of these centres within the system of primary and community care.

The draft policy directive on CHCs was developed in consultation with key stakeholder groups, including administrators at existing CHCs; representatives from the health authorities, including the First Nations Health Authority; members of the BC Health Coalition; members of the BC Rural Health Network; patients; clinicians; academics; and staff from the Ministry.

The Ministry is in the process of developing a draft policy-implementation strategy to support alignment of existing and new CHCs with the policy attributes. This strategy will include a plan for supporting communities to develop new CHCs based on population health needs across the province.

A CHC partnership table that will include similar representation from key stakeholder groups that participated in the policy consultation sessions will be formed to discuss governance and community partnerships, community engagement, participation in regional Primary Care Networks, and overall alignment of CHCs to the new provincial policy.
B146  DENTAL CARE AND FLUORIDATION OF PUBLIC WATER SOURCES

Whereas dental health is a critical component to health and a key indicator of healthy childhood development, and poor dental health contributes to speech impediments, lower nutritional absorption and growth development, pain, learning inequality, and other health and quality of life issues;

And whereas dental care is not a universally accessible service in British Columbia and low income and financially-restricted families and individuals do not have the same access as others to dental care;

And whereas fluoride contributes to the healthy development of enamel and the use of fluoride toothpaste by toddlers and preschool-aged children can be challenging:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Health add basic dental care to Medical Services Plan coverage.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Under the Canada Health Act, each province, as a condition of federal funding, is required to offer its residents health care insurance for medically necessary hospital and physician services. While federal cost-sharing is available for these services, coverage for the services of other health care practitioners is provided entirely at the cost of individual provincial governments. This is not a comment on the value of these services, but rather reflects the limits of available public funding.

The services of dental practitioners are covered by the MSP only under very limited circumstances. Under the Medicare Protection Act and Regulations, MSP provides payment only for those surgical dental procedures such as complex extractions and/or fractures of the jaw that require hospitalization in order to be performed safely. There is no provision for coverage of general dentures, appliances or prostheses, or orthodontic services when provided in a hospital or in a private dental office.

Through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, assistance may be available for some low-income adults, and more extensive treatment for children under the age of 18 whose parents are receiving premium assistance. Additional information is available on the website at: http://www.hsd.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/2005/dental.htm. They can also be reached by calling 1 866 866-0800.

The British Columbia Dental Association can provide information on the location of Reduced Cost Clinics, dental clinics that provide services at reduced rates. The following is their contact information:

British Columbia Dental Association
400 – 1765 W 8th Ave
Vancouver BC V6J 5C6

Telephone: 604 736-7202 or 1 888 396-9888
Facsimile: 604 736-7588
Email address: post@bcdental.org

The Ministry of Health is working in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority to identify opportunities for improving the dental health of Indigenous youth.
Government recognizes that tooth decay in children can be reduced if fluoride is added to or is found naturally in a community's water supply so long as levels do not exceed the Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality Maximum Acceptable Concentration (MAC) for drinking water. While the Province endorses fluoridation of community water supplies, the decision to fluoridate a water supply system is made by each community under B.C.’s Community Charter through electoral assent of a local government bylaw.
B147  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Whereas daylight savings time no longer serves a vital function in today’s connected economy, the practice costing more to sustain today than the actualized savings historically achieved through its implementation;

And whereas there is a measurable impact to the health and safety of the general public each time daylight savings time changes are implemented (twice a year):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to abandon the practice of Daylight Savings Time and implement a single time zone province wide.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General

Government is aware that some British Columbians are opposed to continuing to observe Daylight Saving Time (DST), but Government does not have any current plans to change DST observance or to implement a single time standard across the province.

The last province-wide consultation on DST indicated a majority of British Columbians were in favour of DST because it shifts an hour of daylight to the evening throughout the spring and summer months. It is also more convenient for travellers and businesses if B.C.’s time observance is synchronous with other provinces and neighbouring U.S. states. Any future review of DST in British Columbia should include consideration of DST observance in neighbouring jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

A few areas of the province such as the Peace River region and parts of the Kootenays do not observe DST or observe Mountain Time. While a single time standard across the province would be simpler overall, Government does not have any plans to override these historical local time observances.
B149 NEED FOR EQUITABLE RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR URBAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN POLICY, PROGRAMS, FUNDING AND CONSULTATION

Whereas the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes rights to self-determination, language, culture, and health as well as rights connected to equity, justice and access and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) calls to action recognize the needs of the 70 per cent of Indigenous people in British Columbia that live off reserve in urban centres, largely to pursue work, education, access to amenities, to be closer to loved ones, and to create a good life for themselves and their children;

And whereas urban Indigenous peoples are over represented across health and social inequities, yet current provincial government programs have failed to acknowledge urban Indigenous peoples in significant policies, programs and funding opportunities linked to social health determinants including poverty reduction, housing, training and education, heritage and culture, child care and health:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province recognize and treat urban Indigenous people equitably in provincial policies and regulation, programs and funding initiatives, and consultations that are tied to root causes of inequities and improved social determinants of health including housing, access and connection to culture, education and training, child and family services and income generation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) recognizes and acknowledges that reconciliation extends to all Indigenous people living in British Columbia.

Based on the 2016 census, approximately 78 percent of Indigenous people live off reserve. This includes status First Nation, non-status First Nation, Inuit and nearly 90,000 self-identifying as Métis people.

In 2011, B.C. established the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP) to work with urban Indigenous people and all three levels of government (Federal, Provincial and municipal) to improve socio-economic outcomes for off-reserve Indigenous people in B.C.

This commitment has been reaffirmed in the mandates of all provincial ministries with a commitment to uphold and adopt the values and principles outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission “Calls to Action” and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Transformative reconciliation initiatives must include urban Indigenous peoples in significant policies, programs and funding opportunities linked to social determinants of health including poverty reduction, housing, training and education, heritage and culture, child care and health.

MIRR is currently working with the Union of BC Municipalities to explore and advance opportunities for “Reconciliation Dialogues” between urban Indigenous and Métis people and local governments.
B150  FINANCING RECONCILIATION: SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Whereas local governments and First Nations have inherited a problematic public service delivery regime that poorly finances on and off reserve local government service delivery;

And whereas local governments experience revenue deficits that impact shared and overlapping public service delivery to the entire local population, including First Nation populations, that are not fairly addressed through property tax requisition;

And whereas the federal government is constitutionally committed to providing "essential public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians" (Constitution Act, 1982 s.36), implemented in part through federal transfer payments;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC and the Government of Canada work with First Nations and local governments to explore and implement revenue solutions such as federal transfer payments, thereby supporting implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the commitments in UNDRIP;

And be it further resolved that to ensure First Nation participation in the management of said payments, UBCM request British Columbia, in consultation with First Nations, amend the Local Government Act accordingly.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Provincial Government is interested in supporting local governments and First Nations in finding ways to work on shared goals and interests including partnering to provide quality services to residents in communities.

Ministry staff are undertaking a preliminary review of this resolution in collaboration with staff from the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and UBCM. Any changes that may be contemplated to the Local Government Act would have province wide implications and would need to be considered carefully. This will take time and engagement with key stakeholders.

Work to date has included the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation providing a copy of this resolution to his counterpart at the federal level. As well, at a staff level MIRR has agreed to reach out to the Federal Government to bring them into the conversation with MAH and UBCM about this.
B151 CHANGES TO THE STRATA PROPERTY ACT

Whereas the changes in the Strata Property Act that came into effect on July 28, 2016 can create conflicts among owners within a strata building who want to terminate the strata and sell the strata building and lands and those owners who do not want to terminate the strata and sell the strata building and lands;

And whereas the changes in the Strata Property Act that came into effect on July 28, 2016 can also create situations where some owners may receive far less in sales proceeds for their units than their assessed values and force owners who do not want to sell their units to sell their units;

And whereas the changes in the Strata Property Act that came into effect on July 28, 2016 may encourage developers to aggressively push strata owners and strata councils to terminate their strata corporations and sell the strata buildings and lands;

And whereas, under some circumstances, terminating a strata corporation may be the best choice for strata owners. As some older strata buildings reach the end of their life cycle, the cost of repair may not make economic sense or owners may not have the financial ability to pay for the necessary repairs;

And whereas municipalities are limited in their ability to address these issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to study the impacts related to the changes made in July 2016 to the Strata Property Act and consider increasing the percentage of registered owners required to terminate (wind up) a strata corporation depending on the results of the proposed study.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Provincial Government recognizes that the decision to terminate (wind up) a strata corporation and sell the property is often a difficult and contentious one. The new 80 percent threshold for terminating strata corporations came into force in 2016 after extensive review and public consultation. The threshold for approval aligns with thresholds for winding up strata developments in many other jurisdictions, including Alberta and Ontario.

The recommendations for the threshold were developed by the BC Law Institute (BCLI), an independent nonpartisan organization. The volunteer strata review committee had, and continues to have, broad representation, including active participation from the two major strata associations, the Condominium Home Owners’ Association and the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association. Both strata associations represent strata homeowners. As a result of 2014 public consultation on the proposed strata termination legislation, BCLI added court oversight to its recommendations as a safeguard for strata owners. This provision was adopted by the Province when the legislation was amended and the court can consider significant unfairness to one or more owners when deciding whether to approve a termination.

The Ministry regularly monitors the strata legislation to determine whether it is working as intended.
B154  DISPOSITION OF DERELICT SCHOOL BUILDINGS
Whereas public schools are built through capital funding authorized by the Minister of Education under Section 141 of the School Act;

And whereas declining public-school enrollments in smaller communities over the past 30 years have left many public school buildings past their asset lifecycle vacant and unused for extended periods of time causing these buildings to be dilapidated and unsafe:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to allocate adequate capital funding to local school districts, so that derelict public school buildings long abandoned may be properly remediated or demolished and disposed of as a prioritized part of the capital planning process under Section 142 of the School Act, so that the health and welfare of the affected communities may not be in any way adversely impacted or jeopardized.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

Government is aware of the volume of vacant school buildings across the province and the desire and need for some to be demolished.

School Districts can, in some cases, recover the cost of demolitions or sell the properties with the sale price reflecting the demolition work required.

There are many competing priorities for funding and the Ministry of Education must prioritize funding to ensure that schools are safe and well-functioning for students and staff and that new school space is available in growing communities.
B157 CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM & FUNDING
Whereas local government has become reliant on use of information technologies including the Internet, wireless technology and smart devices to advance communications and citizen services and create operational efficiencies;

And whereas protection of privacy and security of digital and physical assets and services is critical to local government in a situation where rapidly evolving technology poses significant risk of theft and damage to hardware, software and information:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia establish a program that supports local government and provides grant resources for information technology security audits and information technology security system upgrades.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens’ Services

Government is interested in supporting local governments seeking to improve the privacy and security of digital assets and services. That could include providing grant resources for information technology security audits and information technology security system upgrades.

Ministry staff are undertaking work on this issue, to identify the criteria and amount of funds that would be required if government were to proceed to provide grant resources for information technology security audits and information technology security system upgrades. That includes considering matters such as security of delivery, consent of recipients and technological capacity.

Next steps will include discussions with staff from UBCM, Local Government Management Association and Government Finance Officers’ Association, as well as a survey of all municipal directors of information technology.
RAINBOW CROSSWALKS

Whereas LGBTQ2S+ people in British Columbia experience significantly higher rates of bullying, harassment and suicide than other populations and a lack of visible representation of LGBTQ2S+ community exacerbates these harms;

And whereas a number of local governments in British Columbia are being asked to increase visible representation of the LGBTQ2S+ community through the installation of rainbow crosswalks and would benefit from standardized guidelines on how to implement such projects:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be requested to inform and advise local governments on best practices to handle such requests, and to provide financial and technical support to local governments regarding visual representations of the LGBTQ2S+ community, such as rainbow crosswalks.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government is interested in supporting local governments by providing best practices for traffic control devices, such as rainbow crosswalk applications.

The Ministry is member of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Traffic Operations and Management Standing Committee, which provides national guidance on traffic control devices. This committee is currently undertaking a project to review the use of rainbows and other decorative pavement marking in crosswalks and will provide guidance for uniform and consistent practice. The Ministry will consider best practices for British Columbia once the national TAC project is completed.
B159  COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM VOLTAGE VARIATIONS
Whereas there has been an increase in power surges and voltage variations that have caused damage to expensive electrical components such as heat pumps in spite of the installation of surge protectors;

And whereas power companies’ terms and conditions of service state that the organization is not responsible for any loss, injury, damage or expense that is a result of interrupted service or voltage variations:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Minister of Energy and Mines, and the BC Utilities Commission work with the power companies under their jurisdiction to establish a process whereby they can provide compensation for any loss, injury, damage or expense that is a result of voltage variations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Both FortisBC and BC Hydro have established processes to review claims from customers for compensation relating to voltage variation. Customers may use their respective utilities’ regular customer service contact to enquire further about the claims process and obtain guidance on how to submit a claim to the utility and the related information to enable the utilities to investigate and assess whether compensation may apply (in addition BC Hydro provides specific resources online on how to file a claim).

The electricity tariff of the respective utilities contains provisions that address the utility’s liability regarding the service the utility provides. These tariffs are approved by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC). The BCUC regulates public utilities in the province.

If a customer is not satisfied with the utility’s quality of electricity service, they may make a complaint to the BCUC (https://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Complaints/BCUC-Customer-Complaints-Guide-Feb-2017.pdf). While the BCUC does not assist customers seeking financial compensation, it will investigate matters related to the tariff (e.g., quality of service provided by the utility). BCUC staff undertake the first level review in an effort to resolve the matter. Staff may determine whether a complaint or an unresolved element of a complaint requires adjudication by the BCUC. Staff will communicate with the customer and the company regarding the appropriate adjudication process.

As a part of its review of customer’s complaint, the BCUC strives to balance the interests of the customer (to receive safe, reliable and non-discriminatory energy services at fair rates) with the interest of the utilities (they are afforded a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair return on their invested capital). The BCUC also sets rates that are just and reasonable. This includes ensuring that a public utility recovers costs necessary to provide a reasonable level of service to customers.
B160 BUSINESS RETENTION HERITAGE PROGRAM

Whereas established, independently-owned, local businesses in communities across British Columbia are facing both prohibitive increases in rent or property tax and displacement due to new development;

And whereas there is no incentive for landlords to retain established commercial and non-profit tenants that have a history of strengthening community identity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to explore a Legacy Business Registry and Grant program (similar to the San Francisco Legacy Business Registry and Preservation Fund) with the intention of stabilizing rents and providing incentives that support the retention of established, independently owned local businesses that are an integral part of community identity.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Community Charter recognizes municipalities as an autonomous order of government within their jurisdiction and provides them with broad corporate authority, including the authority to set their own business tax rate to address municipal revenue requirements while encouraging a vibrant business sector. This broad authority recognizes that Mayor and Council are in the strongest position to weigh the needs of their community and to make informed decisions for the benefit of their citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders.

In addition, the Community Charter provides specific authority to municipalities to encourage preservation of properties and local businesses, including: revitalization tax exemptions, heritage property tax exemptions, and business improvement areas.

A municipality may also structure its Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw to protect the character of certain business districts and to promote the development of a greater supply of commercial property to encourage competition and lower rents. Thus, the Province is not considering a new Legacy Business Registry and Grant program at this time.
B161 MLA ATTENDANCE AT AREA ASSOCIATION CONVENTIONS
Whereas direct interaction and discussions between locally elected representatives and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) are key to understanding our respective goals and priorities;

And whereas the annual UBCM convention offers limited time for local elected representatives to engage directly with their MLAs:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government and each local government area association across British Columbia make a coordinated effort to synchronize the area association spring conventions and the legislative schedule to allow MLAs to attend the area association conventions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government understands and supports the need for direct interaction and discussion between locally elected officials and MLAs. The busy schedules of MLAs and local government representatives on Area Associations, particularly in the spring, can make coordinating engagement with MLAs challenging. Currently, MLAs make considerable efforts to attend area association conventions within the constraints of their demanding schedules and attendance in the Legislative Assembly.

The legislative calendar has a set calendar that is set out in the Standing Orders for the Legislative Assembly and that is also driven by the requirements of the Budget Transparency and Accountability Act (BTAA). The BTAA specifies a statutory date for budget day and consequently, the spring session commences on the second Tuesday in February with the Throne Speech and lasts until the last Thursday in May. Budget Day is a fixed day that occurs on the third Tuesday of every February, one week after the opening of the spring session.

The Legislative Assembly adjourns during spring session throughout the week of Spring Vacation, as provided under the School Act, as well as during the week of Good Friday, Easter Monday, the fourth week after Easter (if Easter falls in March), and the week of Victoria Day.

These breaks in the spring session provide an opportunity for each local government area association across British Columbia to schedule conventions to allow MLAs to attend.

In an effort to coordinate area association spring conventions and the legislative schedule, area associations could aim to hold conventions when the Legislative Assembly is adjourned during the spring session.
B163 CONTINUATION OF INCOME SUBSIDY BENEFITS

Whereas the support portion of Income Assistance ($335 for a single person) is frequently used to supplement the shelter portion of Income Assistance ($375 for a single person) to cover housing costs;

And whereas persons entering a residential recovery program maintain the shelter portion of Income Assistance but lose the support portion, often resulting in that person not being able to maintain their current housing, and putting the person at greater risk of homelessness upon exiting of the program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continue the support portion of Income Assistance benefits for individuals living in temporary housing, such as recovery programs and protective housing, for the duration of their recovery.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

When a person on income or disability assistance enters a special care facility, the Ministry pays a daily fee to the facility and a monthly comforts allowance to the individual. The daily fee varies depending upon the type of facility. Normally the support and shelter allowances are not continued, because food and shelter needs are met by the facility.

An exception is made for people who are in special care facilities that provide residential alcohol and drug treatment. Clients in these facilities are eligible to receive a shelter allowance. Providing the shelter allowance helps ensure those clients can retain a permanent residence to return to when their treatment is completed.

Due to high shelter costs around the province, those clients are also assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine if the shelter allowance alone will be sufficient to enable them to retain their permanent residence. If not, the Ministry may also provide a partial support allowance to “top up” the shelter allowance.

Clients in other types of treatment and recovery facilities are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and where appropriate, provided with a shelter allowance and a partial support allowance “top up” to enable them to retain their permanent residences.

The Ministry will undertake a detailed analysis to determine what options may be feasible to better support clients in residential alcohol and drug treatment, as well as other types of treatment and recovery.
B164  GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE STRATEGY FOR YOUTH
Whereas children and youth who have been impacted by violence experience devastating and long-ranging mental health, physical health, social and educational impacts and the #metoo campaign has recently highlighted gender-based violence as one of the most pervasive forms of violence, taking various forms (e.g. cyber, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and economic);

And whereas according to Statistics Canada, young women aged 15 to 17 report the highest rate of gender-based violence amongst all age groups (2,710 per 100,000, in 2008), and Indigenous, LGBTQ2, and disabled girls experience even higher rates of violence, noting that in 2017 the Government of Canada launched “It’s Time: Canada’s Strategy to Prevent and Address Gender-Based Violence,” identifying three priority areas: prevention, engaging men and boys, and support for survivors;

And whereas to support the strategy, the federal government has committed $100.9 million over five years, and an additional $20.7 million per year going forward;

And whereas while the BC government recently announced $5 million to assist organizations working to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, there is currently no cohesive provincial strategy in place;

And whereas in order to combat gender-based violence among youth in BC and support healthy relationships, healthy families and healthy communities, a provincial strategy is needed;

And whereas drawing on the expertise of all relevant ministries, and building on the resources and strategies identified in the federal strategy, a comprehensive provincial strategy can be a catalyst for positive cultural change:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Child and Family Development, the Ministry of Public Safety, and the Ministry of Mental Health to work together to develop a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy for Youth.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

In February 2018, the Premier appointed MLA Mitzi Dean as the Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, reporting to the Minister of Finance, Carole James. The Parliamentary Secretary’s mandate letter includes:

- ensuring gender equity is reflected in government budgets, policies and programs;
- co-ordinating cross-government action on gender issues, including gender violence, gender equality and women’s economic empowerment;
- tracking progress on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women;
- liaising with feminist and women’s organizations; and
- promoting gender equity and leadership at senior levels in the public and private sector.

To this end, a Gender Equity Office has been set up in the Ministry of Finance to lead collaboration efforts across government, and build on a number of provincial initiatives that are underway to address the critical issue of gender-based violence among youth:
• In 2012, the Ministry of Education launched the Expect Respect and A Safe Education (erase) strategy - a comprehensive initiative designed to foster school connectedness, and address bullying and worrisome behaviours in B.C. schools. Key components of the strategy include a province-wide training program for educators and community partners focused on violence and threat risk assessment (including gender-based violence) – over 18,000 participants have been trained to date.

• The Ministry of Education’s new Physical and Health Education curriculum includes a focus on developing and maintaining healthy relationships; protecting self and others from potential abuse, exploitation and harm; and healthy sexual decision making, including respecting personal values and boundaries. Complementing the new curriculum, the Ministries of Education and Public Safety and Solicitor General partnered to develop Respectful Futures – a prevention-focused resource that supports students in grades 6 to 12 in developing respectful relationships and includes facilitation guides for educators. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has also funded Violence is Preventable (VIP) - a free school-based program for students in grades K-12 designed to increase awareness of domestic violence and available supports.

• The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provides over $35 million in funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, including PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counselling and Empowerment) programs. These programs provide counselling for children aged 3 to 18 who have witnessed abuse, threats, or violence in the home, and help children and their adult caregivers heal from related trauma and learn about healthy relationships. The Ministry also supports community-driven prevention initiatives, including projects that address violence against women and children, through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Crime Remediation Grant Program.

• The provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, slated to be released in spring 2019, will take action to create a seamless system of care with a focus on improving access to treatment and recovery, and an emphasis on addressing the needs of children and youth through prevention and early intervention. The Strategy will be implemented with a strong multi-cultural and equity lens to ensure the needs of all British Columbians are met.

Government is committed to working across ministries and collaboratively with partners including First Nations, Métis and other Indigenous peoples to identify and address the impacts of gender-based violence.
B165 SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR TRAMPOLINE PARKS
Whereas the incidence of injury at trampoline parks is increasing and there are no safety standards or operational requirements in the Province of BC;

And whereas several jurisdictions in North America and Australia impose safety standards for the construction, maintenance and operation of trampoline parks:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province implement safety standards for trampoline parks and that Technical Safety BC assume regulatory responsibility for the safe installation and operation of all trampoline parks in the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The safety of British Columbians is a high priority for the Government. Recent tragic incidents have drawn attention to the need to review trampoline park safety and consider options for making facilities safer.

Although Technical Safety BC has regulatory oversight for amusement rides under the Safety Standards Act, existing regulation does not include trampoline parks in the definition of amusement rides.

Technical Safety BC is conducting an analysis of possible oversight mechanisms to identify regulatory options for trampoline parks. They anticipate providing recommendations to the Government near the middle of 2019. The need for Provincial oversight will be considered as part of this review.

Once Technical Safety BC provides recommendations, Ministry staff will have a clearer sense of the appropriate safety oversight options for trampoline parks.
PUBLIC GEOSCIENCE FOR INVESTMENT AND DECISIONS

Whereas BC local governments wish to make informed decisions about natural resource development and attract investment to their areas;

And whereas Geoscience BC provides unbiased public earth science research, as set out in the five-year Geoscience BC Strategic Management Plan 2018-2022:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide Geoscience BC with funding of $10 million per year over five years ($50 million total) from March 31, 2019.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Thank you for your request for the Provincial Government to fund Geoscience BC, which provides public geoscience information to inform natural resource decisions and attract investment to local communities.

The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resource established the BC Mining Jobs Task Force (MJTF) to help build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy and create good-paying jobs in every corner of the Province. The mandate of the MJTF includes providing a recommendation on a coordinated provincial approach to geoscience. This recommendation will contribute to government’s understanding of the state of and path forward for public geoscience. A decision on how best to support public geoscience will be made after consideration of the Task Force report and other relevant submissions.
B168 CANNABIS ADVERTISING
Whereas the Government of Canada has proposed legalization of marihuana effective on or about July 1, 2018;

And whereas the Government of Canada and provincial and territorial governments have developed enactments governing advertising and promotion of tobacco products in Canada, based on public policy consensus and Canada’s participation in the World Health Organization’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

And whereas although local governments have limited powers and jurisdiction in regard to advertising and promotion of recreational cannabis products, this substantially impacts other matters of concern to local governments in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UBCM call upon the Government of Canada and the provincial and territorial governments to coordinate public policy and regulations such that the enactments governing advertising and promotion of tobacco products be employed to apply similarly to advertising and promotion of recreational cannabis products.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

A combination of federal and provincial legislation establishes strict limits on advertising and promotion of cannabis, similar to what is in place for tobacco.

The federal Cannabis Act establishes prohibitions on activities that promote cannabis, cannabis accessories, and services related to cannabis, with some exceptions for informational promotion to adults. The Cannabis Act also establishes strict rules for cannabis packaging and labelling.

Under the Cannabis Control and Licensing Regulation, British Columbia has established a prohibition on advertising a business as a place to consume cannabis or a place to go after consuming cannabis.

The Province recognizes that all levels of government will need to monitor implementation of these rules, and continue to assess and refine cannabis policy and regulation as needed and in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of British Columbians.
B169  MEDICINES FOR LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

Whereas thousands of British Columbia residents face life-threatening conditions which can trigger imminent death if not treated immediately, such as allergic reactions, asthma and type 1 diabetes, creating a hardship for many families that must choose between meeting their basic needs and paying for these lifesaving medications;

And whereas Naloxone and other drug overdose reversing medications are covered free of charge by the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government develop an equitable system that would make available, free of charge, all medications which could halt immediate death.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths in B.C. in recent years. Opioid overdose has become the leading cause of accidental death in the province, now far surpassing all deaths associated with motor vehicles. As part of the response to this public health emergency, the Government of B.C. has increased the availability of naloxone in the first responder community as well as among community workers, volunteers and individuals. Due to the life circumstances of the majority of those addicted to opioids, the BC Center for Disease Control decided to make naloxone kits and the training to use them available at no cost.

The Government does not condone or support illegal behaviour. The aim of needle exchange programs, supervised injection services, and the naloxone program is to reduce avoidable illnesses, associated health system costs, and overall harm to society. For instance, methadone maintenance treatment and needle exchange programs mean fewer shared needles, which help to curb the spread of diseases such as hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus and lower the health costs associated with those diseases. These programs also help to reduce the property and violent crime associated with illegal drug use and the black market surrounding it.

PharmaCare is the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) program that helps B.C. residents with the costs of many eligible prescription drugs and certain medical supplies. PharmaCare provides one of the most generous diabetes coverage programs in Canada, spending over $76.9 million on diabetes medications and supplies in 2017/18.

Those living with diabetes are covered more broadly in British Columbia than in many other provinces. PharmaCare covers a number of effective therapies for treating and managing diabetes, either as full or special authority benefits, including 10 oral medications, and approximately 25 different injectable insulin products.

Diabetes is the only disease for which PharmaCare covers non-drug supplies, like blood glucose test strips, needles, syringes, and insulin pump infusion sets. In addition, PharmaCare covers the cost of insulin pump reservoirs/cartridges for patients of all ages who use insulin pumps to manage their diabetes. In 2017/18, PharmaCare’s expenditure for insulin pumps supplies was $5.01 million.

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1 PharmaNet data, Health Sector Information, Analysis and Reporting, October 4, 2018.
PharmaCare also provides full coverage of certain medications for the treatment and management of asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Medication such as epinephrine (EpiPen® Auto-Injector) for treatment of allergic reactions is also fully covered by PharmaCare, subject to the rules of a patient’s PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirement.

As you are aware, BC’s Fair PharmaCare plan provides B.C. families with coverage for eligible prescription drugs and designated medical supplies based on their net income as reported on Line 236 of their federal tax form from two years ago. The lower a family’s income, the more help they receive.

Families pay the full cost of eligible prescription drugs until they reach their deductible, at which time Fair PharmaCare begins paying 70 percent of eligible costs (for families that include someone born before 1940, Fair PharmaCare pays 75 percent), and the family is responsible for a co-pay of 30 percent (or 25 percent if born before 1940). Once they reach their family maximum, Fair PharmaCare pays 100 percent of eligible costs for the remainder of the year.

The Ministry recently announced it will reduce and even eliminate the Fair PharmaCare deductible for the lowest income residents in the province, helping to make sure they get the prescription medicines and medical devices they need but are currently struggling to afford.

As of January 1, 2019, families with net annual incomes between $15,001 and $30,000 no longer have a deductible. Co-payments will also be lowered for families with net incomes of $45,000 and less, and families with a net income of $13,750 and less will no longer have co-payments.
WHEREAS the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons has developed standards and guidelines for opioid prescriptions, recognizing the public health crisis associated to prescription opioid misuse, including the significant potential for addiction and overdoses;

And whereas in response to the opioid crisis in the United States, Veterans Affairs hospitals began publicly reporting on opioid prescriptions, which has led to a nearly 50 per cent collective decrease in opioid prescriptions in those hospitals across the country between 2012 and 2017:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to publicly release anonymized opioid prescription rates, by community, for all health regions in British Columbia, in a manner similar to that of Veterans Affairs hospitals in the United States, recognizing the impact of public reporting on reducing opioid prescription rates.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Government is aware of the increasing public interest in the use of controlled prescription drugs that are at risk of misuse or diversion and also recognizes the impact of public reporting on reducing such risk.

Ministry of Health staff have completed a 2017/18 British Columbia Controlled Prescription Drug Atlas (the Atlas), a report containing aggregated utilization for two drug classes of controlled prescriptions: opioids and benzodiazepines. It includes information on dispenses, patients, prescribers and pharmacies and compares controlled prescription drug use across local health areas.

The Ministry of Health is working through the approval process to achieve public release of the Atlas.
LR1 MILITARY TRAINING FOR AID IN WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION
Whereas the British Columbia 2018 wildfire season has been unprecedented and has grown more severe;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has requested resources from the Government of Canada to aid in wildfire suppression efforts;

And whereas provincial training requirements need to be met to engage in fire suppression:
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to have Canada’s military personnel trained in wildfire suppression to aid in wildfire events across Canada;

And be it further resolved that this wildfire suppression training becomes a part of all present and future basic training for all Canadian military personnel.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

When B.C. is experiencing unusually high wildfire activity (such as during the provincial states of emergency in 2017 and 2018), the Province may request assistance from the federal government to support its firefighting efforts. This could include Canadian Armed Forces personnel, vehicles and aircraft to complete a wide variety of support tasks, such as repositioning of wildfire crews and equipment, evacuations or emergency transport of injured personnel, and basic firefighting duties.

The BC Wildfire Service’s goal is to use highly trained and experienced Type 1 and Type 2 firefighters from B.C. (and elsewhere in Canada if necessary) before asking military personnel to engage in on-the-ground wildfire response.

Each year, some Canadian Armed Forces personnel (some of whom may be reservists) receive basic wildfire suppression training through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC). This includes a two-day course on basic wildfire response operations (S-100: Basic Fire Suppression and Safety), however personnel are not trained up to the CIFFC’s Type 1 or Type 2 firefighter standard.

During the 2018 provincial state of emergency, about 200 Canadian Armed Forces personnel assisted with the mop-up and patrol of wildfires that had already been contained, under the supervision of the BC Wildfire Service. The BC Wildfire Service provided the necessary personal protective equipment and firefighting equipment.

The Canadian Armed Forces determines the type and extent of training that its personnel receive.