

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the
Resolutions of the 2015
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
Convention



Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
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A1 ALLOCATION OF NEW BUILDING CANADA FUND

WHEREAS local governments collect only 8% of total tax revenue in Canada but are responsible for 60% of the infrastructure demands which contribute to the upward spiralling of property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada, through the Building Canada Fund, allocates monies to the provinces that are meant to address the increasing infrastructure deficit and demands, but the Province of BC transfers only 40% of these monies to local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province to allocate a minimum of 60% of the Building Canada Fund directly to local government.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Over 70 percent of the \$47.475 billion New Building Canada Plan is dedicated to local government infrastructure under the \$21.8 billion Gas Tax Fund, \$10.425 billion Municipal GST/HST Rebate and \$1 billion Small Community Fund. Under the Gas Tax Fund, \$1.317 billion will flow to local governments throughout BC over the first five years and approximately \$2.760 billion over the ten year program, helping them build and revitalize their public infrastructure.

Approximately \$1.090 billion was allocated to BC under the \$10 billion Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component of the New Building Canada Fund (BCF). As per the program criteria established by the federal government, \$109 million (10%) is dedicated to local government infrastructure under the Small Communities Fund (SCF), with matching provincial funds, for communities with a population less than 100,000 and \$981 million (90%) is available for National and Regional Projects (NRP). NRP is intended to support projects of national and regional significance under targeted eligible categories with a soft threshold of \$35 million. BC's focus is on investments, which could include local government initiatives, which facilitate job creation and economic growth.

The federal government committed to almost \$60 billion in new infrastructure funding over the next ten years; \$20 billion each for transit, green and social infrastructure. This funding is incremental to that provided under BCF. Almost \$11.9 billion was allocated nationally under Budget 2016 and local government will have access to federal funds for capacity building (\$250 million), access to federal funds for transit (\$3.4 billion), water & wastewater (\$2 billion), climate resilient (\$518 million) and cultural & recreational (\$342 million) infrastructure and benefit from federal investment in affordable housing (\$1,481 million). Funding for public transit and green infrastructure, which were eligible under BCF, will allow BCF to focus on roads, bridges, transportation corridors, ports and border gateways. It should be noted that provincial projects, such as highway improvements, provide significant benefits to local government.

Local governments across BC are also eligible to apply directly for funding under the merit based \$4 billion National Infrastructure Component of BCF and the \$1.25 billion P3 Canada Fund.

BC remains committed to investing in public infrastructure to enhance productivity, create jobs and facilitate economic growth across the province.

A2 MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES AND RESOURCES

WHEREAS local governments have been raising concerns in recent years regarding the increasing demands being placed upon police resources and hospital emergency services by people with mental health and addiction issues;

AND WHEREAS people with mental health and addiction issues deserve proper and timely psychiatric and medical care;

AND WHEREAS some municipalities have made repeated requests to the Provincial government to provide adequate resources to deal with people with mental health and addiction issues without seeing any improvements to services or resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be called upon to develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from mental health and addiction issues including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing, as a matter of priority within the BC health care system.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to ensure that the level of resourcing and facilities for providing mental health and addiction services are increased throughout the province to allow for improved access and treatment for those suffering from mental health issues, including addictions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Our Government has made it a priority to build a comprehensive system of mental health and substance use services throughout the province, with the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) making record investments totalling \$1.4 billion annually.

The Province also invested a total of \$138 million of capital funding to build or expand mental health facilities in communities around BC as part of the Riverview Redevelopment Project. Community-based facilities offer patients better living environments, closer to their communities and family supports.

In 2013, the Ministry acknowledged that individuals with severe addiction and or mental illness have unmet service needs that are resulting in risk to clients and providers, high use of police, corrections and emergency services, high rates of homelessness and concerns for public safety. In response, the Government developed a provincial Action Plan: *“Improving Health Services for Individuals with Severe Addiction and Mental Illness”* with immediate and longer-term actions to improve outcomes for this client population.

Since the announcement of this provincial Action Plan in November 2013, the Ministry has provided \$20.25 million beginning in 2014/15 for health authorities to expand services for this client population and the following new mental health and substance use services have been developed throughout BC:

- Two new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams in Vancouver for a total of five.
- A new nine-bed Acute Behavioural Stabilization Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital to provide specialized, short-term, intensive mental health and addiction treatment.
- An Assertive Outreach Team in Vancouver – offering short-term intensive transition support, linking high need patients from emergency rooms to the appropriate community care.
- Expansion of the Inner City Youth Team in Vancouver to support up to 240 youths.
- A new youth group home – *Renfrew House* – in Vancouver offering housing, social supports

and clinical care for vulnerable youth aged 16-24.

- New rehabilitation and recovery program on the Riverview grounds - 40 beds in total (14 beds as part of the Action Plan funding and 26 beds transferred from the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addictions).
- New ACT teams in Kamloops, Kelowna, Abbotsford/Mission, and Surrey/North Delta.
- A new 14-bed transitional Regional Tertiary Care Facility in Victoria. Three new Intensive Case Management Teams (ICMT) serving Mount Waddington area (Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Alert Bay), Courtenay/Comox, and South Island.
- Three new ICMTs in the communities of Prince George, Fort St. John and Terrace.
- New Psychiatric Liaison Nurse rotations based in Emergency Departments in Prince George, Fort St. John, and Prince Rupert.

In addition, the Province has invested additional capital funding to upgrade and expand mental health facilities for this client population, such as:

- \$38 million toward the \$62 million Greta & Robert H.N. Ho Centre for Psychiatry and Education (the HOpe Centre) at the Lions Gate Hospital, which opened in December 2014.
- \$57 million toward the \$82 million 100-bed Joseph & Rosalie Segal Family Health Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, which is expected to be complete in 2017.
- A new 75-bed mental health and substance use building replacing the aging Sherbrooke Centre is expected to be open in 2019 as part of the \$259 million first phase of the Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) Redevelopment project. The provincial capital contribution to this project is \$250 million.
- \$101 million for the Centre for Mental Health and Addictions (CMHA) Replacement Project, a new purpose-built 105-bed facility to replace the Burnaby CMHA, and planned to complete in 2019. The CMHA provides services to the severely addicted and mentally ill patient population.

Also, the Ministry, health authorities, and Ministry of Justice are committed to addressing the needs of this client population in contact with the justice system through a collaborative and integrated response. BC Corrections is linking offenders with MHSU problems to community resources, and it has partnered in a number of integration projects such as the Prolific Offenders Management Project integrating resources from criminal justice, health and social services in six communities (Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, Williams Lake, and the Victoria Capital Regional District). This initiative started in 2008 and has demonstrated reduced recidivism; best practices learned from this initiative will be incorporated throughout the province.

Partners in Change, an inter-ministry partnership initiative with the Ministry of Justice, will improve the continuity of care for adults with mental health and substance use problems in contact with Corrections, both in custody and community corrections. Deliverables include a provincial service framework, transition protocols and information-sharing protocols between health authorities and BC Corrections.

Also, mobile crisis response teams provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87 in Vancouver) to provide on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions and linking people to appropriate services. These mobile response teams are located in five BC communities and provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis with on-site crisis intervention, assessment and referral to appropriate services (Kamloops, Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria).

There are also 20 Assertive Community Treatment Teams in BC that work in partnership with local police to support individuals with complex care needs. Vancouver Coastal Health, West Vancouver and Vancouver Police Departments, and the RCMP are collaborating to address the needs of mental health and substance use clients in crisis when presenting to the emergency department. Island Health is also working on processes to ensure smoother transitions for individuals brought to emergency departments by police.

The Ministry has partnered with the health authorities and the Ministry of Justice's Policing and Security Branch, to develop overarching guidelines to support the development or enhancements of local protocols between police agencies and MHSU services. These protocols will outline their respective roles and responsibilities to provide an effective, resource-efficient and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.

A3 PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR *FIRE SERVICES ACT* AND REGULATIONS

WHEREAS the provincial government has enacted various building and fire code regulations for public buildings, including the *Fire Services Act* and regulations under that Act;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is considering requiring regional districts to enforce the *Fire Services Act* and its regulations in the unincorporated areas of the province, including the obligation to provide for a regular system of inspection of hotels and public buildings;

AND WHEREAS regional districts do not have the capacity to take on an inspection and enforcement role in the rural areas without significant additional financial and human resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

The current review of the existing *Fire Services Act* includes stakeholder input and feedback on possible options for each component of the Act. The province is committed to ensuring that public safety is addressed across BC, including the issue of compliance monitoring. The province will continue to consult with stakeholders as the process continues.

A4 RESOURCING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR OIL AND HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES EMERGENCY PLANNING RESPONSE

WHEREAS oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) are being transported through or near communities in British Columbia, and proposals to increase the volume of these substances are currently being considered without adequate consideration for the risks to local communities;

AND WHEREAS the increased transport of these products translates to an increased risk to local communities from incidents such as fires, explosions and spills, with the potential to cause significant impacts to health and safety of citizens, first responders and the environment, and require the involvement of local governments to minimize the consequences to their communities;

AND WHEREAS despite their vital role in safeguarding their communities and identifying the local risks and consequences of potential incidents, local governments have not been adequately involved in risk assessment and response planning carried out by industry, project proponents and other tiers of government, and are not sufficiently resourced to participate in the risk assessment and planning process, let alone respond to the impacts of oil and HNS incidents on their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to expand the scope of oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) risk assessment and response planning to include all impacts and consequences on local communities and governments, and introduce additional funding for the resources and locally-specific capacity building required to ensure that local governments are in the best possible position to plan for and protect communities and the environment in the event of fires, explosions, spills and related incidents as a result of increasing transportation of oil and HNS.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call upon the federal government to develop a comprehensive emergency response plan and procedure for hazardous and noxious substance spill related emergencies that includes due recognition of and compensation for the role of local government emergency response services.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

On June 15, 2015 the Ministry announced plans to implement a world-leading land-based spill regime by February 2017. Many of the new requirements would ensure that local governments are supported in preparedness, response and recovery for spill events. The Ministry is currently engaged in detailed planning and design work that will inform the regime, including the legislation, regulations, funding model and creating a Preparedness and Response Organization. As the design phase of the project proceeds, it will include further engagement with local governments, First Nations, industry, and other stakeholders.

The requirements for the world leading spill response regime are informed by research commissioned by the province from Nuka Research which assessed the current marine spill preparedness and response capabilities for B.C.'s coastline. Further, the province has sought another report that will identify specific world leading practices.

The new world-leading regime would ensure an effective response to a spill of any hazardous material. Requirements for planning and response also include expanded roles for local

governments and First Nations. This will be supported by new preparedness requirements for companies with spill risk. The requirements will include the need to have detailed spill response plans, including geographic response plans, to minimize any impacts of a potential spill. Additionally, equipment staging, trained personnel and practice drills and exercises will be required.

A5 ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are the government nearest to people and the natural environment, and therefore share a deep concern for the welfare of the natural environment and understand that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the health of individuals, families, future generations and communities;

AND WHEREAS fostering the environmental well being of the community is a municipal purpose under section 7(d) of the *Community Charter* and regional district purpose under section 2(d) of the *Local Government Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia enact a provincial environmental bill of rights that:

- a) recognizes the right of every resident to live in a healthy environment, including the right to clean air, clean water, clean food and vibrant ecosystems;
- b) provides for public participation in decision-making respecting the environment and access to environmental information;
- c) provides access to justice when environmental rights are infringed; and
- d) has whistle-blower protection.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Government is strongly committed to maintaining a healthy environment for British Columbians. As noted in the Ministry of Environment Service Plan, protecting the environment, along with sustainable economic growth, are top government priorities.

The Ministry's position is that an environmental bill of rights is not needed in BC because the province's existing and continually evolving environmental and natural resource regulatory regimes protect the public interest. The government sets and enforces requirements, prohibitions and standards designed to protect public health and safety and the environment – the air, land, water and all other external conditions or influences under which humans, animals and plants live.

B1 MODERNIZATION OF *LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT*

WHEREAS enactment of the *Community Charter* in 2003 has created an imbalance of powers and authorities between municipalities and the regional districts in which they participate;

AND WHEREAS many of the regional district powers and authorities provided by the *Local Government Act* do not adequately address the current realities and complexities of regional governance in BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly encourage the Province to act upon its commitment to modernize and harmonize the legislation governing regional districts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Ministry recognizes that regional districts are diverse and can face unique challenges that may require customized solutions.

The Regional District Task Force (Task Force) was created by UBCM in 2008 to consider issues and challenges facing regional districts and to identify possible solutions and strategies. The Task Force's 2010 recommendations led to a program of both legislation and non-legislative incremental change focused on practical problems.

Legislative measures have included the Spring 2014 amendments to the *Local Government Act* which helped streamline and modernize government regulations by removing Ministry approval for some local government bylaws, including those that apply to Regional District Official Community Plans (OCP), zoning bylaws and subdivision servicing bylaws. Additionally, the recent revision of the *Local Government Act* has brought all regional district provisions together into a regional district "package" to establish a coherent order. To the extent that it is possible, the organization of regional district provisions in the revised *Local Government Act* parallels the organization of municipal provisions in the *Community Charter*.

Non-legislative initiatives have included supporting the development of regional district political leadership through the Local Government Leadership Academy, assisting regional districts in resolving service disputes and working in partnership with UBCM and LGMA to increase the dispute resolution capacity of senior staff and elected officials through training.

The Ministry recognizes the important role that regional districts play in efficient, economic and effective service delivery. The Ministry will continue to seek to refine legislation for regional districts as issues arise and as legislative priorities warrant.

B2 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVINCIAL FUND TO SUPPORT SEARCH AND RESCUE

WHEREAS capital and non-operational funding for search and rescue (SAR) in BC is not consistent, equitable, or rationally allocated and SAR organizations bear the large administrative burden of applying to myriad sources, including local governments, on an annual basis;

AND WHEREAS a 2012 Coroner's Inquest jury recommended that Emergency Management BC (EMBC) review and evaluate funding models to better support SAR operations, and in 2013 the BC Search and Rescue Association recommended a new funding model to EMBC that would provide adequate, predictable and sustainable funding through the establishment and management of a provincial fund:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to support the BC Search and Rescue Association's proposal for the development of a provincial SAR fund, and that the Province undertake necessary consultation with local governments and other stakeholders to develop, establish, and implement the fund as soon as possible.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

On January 27, 2016, the Province announced \$10 million in one-time funding to help bolster training, administrative support and equipment renewals to the BC Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA), subject to passage of Bill 10, Budget Measures Implementation Act, 2016.

The province is working with BCSARA to investigate proposed alternate funding models for the delivery of search and rescue services. Subsequent to that joint investigation, appropriate next steps will be assessed.

B3 BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRE SERVICE MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS

WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Commissioner issued the 'British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook' which establishes the “minimum standards of training required for fire services personnel in British Columbia” in September 2014 applicable to any fire service/department in British Columbia that provides fire services and includes municipal fire departments, volunteer fire departments, and fire departments established as a society under the *Society Act* of BC;

AND WHEREAS the 'British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook' states the “Authority Having Jurisdiction” describes local or regional government and further states that each local government must select and declare its firefighting Service Level in order for the local government to determine which set of minimum standards are to be met;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of each local government to immediately take steps to ensure implementation of the training requirements associated to the Service Level selected;

AND WHEREAS the financial cost to local government to implement the new 'British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook' Regulations are extremely prohibitive for rural communities and small volunteer fire departments, and may result in the closure of these departments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide funding for rural communities and small volunteer fire departments to cover the additional costs as a result of the 'British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards – Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook' Regulations.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

The establishment of the new minimum fire training standard in September 2014 provided a specific set of achievable training requirements, while ensuring firefighter safety. The new competency based standard and accompanying training materials, provide the local authority the ability to access training in a cost effective manner.

The amount of training required is determined by the fire services that the local authority chooses to provide. Smaller and rural fire departments have the ability to choose to provide in-house training using training materials made available by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

B4 VICTIMS SERVICES FUNDING

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

AND WHEREAS the authority for providing victim services for victim's issues, development of legislation, policies and programs, and for providing training and delivering and funding programs that support victims and their families is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice Victim Services and Crime Prevention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Justice Victim Services and Crime Prevention, to increase the Ministry's funding contribution for the provision of victim services with the Province of British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has a funding formula in place to distribute available funding dollars for victim service programs throughout the province. The formula is based on population and police strength, and was updated in fiscal year 2008/09 which resulted in an average funding increase of 22% per program.

Police-based victim service programs are cost shared with local governments in communities that contribute to their policing costs. This cost-sharing approach recognizes the critical role that police-based victim service programs play in police and community response to crime and trauma, particularly around crisis response services.

The Province provides over \$70 million annually in funding for services to support victims of crime including \$12 million for victim service programs, over \$16 million for violence against women programs, \$12 million for the Crime Victim Assistance Program and \$32 million for transition house services.

B5 INTERFACE WILDFIRE PROOFING

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia continues to experience large, aggressive wildfires and in 2014 experienced the third highest fire season (in hectares of land) in the Province's history, costing an estimated \$300 million in response;

AND WHEREAS despite the continuing fire threat, in 2014, the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative – Community Wildfire Protection Plan Program restricted the funding program stream to the development or update of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan and will no longer fund operational fuel treatment activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations to establish, fund and conduct a province-wide wildfire proofing program on public and private interface lands to protect British Columbia's residents and infrastructure.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Since 2004, over \$78 million has been directed through the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) to help local governments and First Nations significantly reduce wildfire risks around their communities. This includes the \$10 million top-up the Premier announced at the September 2015 UBCM convention and re-iterated as part of Balanced Budget 2016.

In September 2015, the provincial government and UBCM launched the \$500,000 FireSmart Community Grant Program to encourage more communities to incorporate FireSmart principles and earn official recognition as FireSmart communities.

As of December 21, 2015, 288 Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been completed by local governments and First Nations, and another 50 are in progress. Completed fuel treatments and risk reduction efforts covered 79,734 hectares in and around communities that face a significant wildfire risk.

Mitigating wildfire risk is a shared responsibility. Local governments have a role to play in implementing FireSmart bylaws for municipal lands in urban interface areas. Likewise, homeowners who live in interface areas can help protect their properties from fire by adopting FireSmart principles.

B6 SUSTAINABLE DREDGING OF SECONDARY CHANNELS OF THE LOWER FRASER RIVER

WHEREAS there is currently no government agency that has mandated responsibility for dredging the secondary channels of the Fraser River;

AND WHEREAS many businesses and communities along the Lower Fraser River experience economic losses from the on-going accumulation of sediment in local waterways;

AND WHEREAS the foreshore areas and bed of the Fraser River are under Provincial jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial government be requested to develop, fund and implement a long-term, sustainable dredging program for the secondary channels of the Lower Fraser River.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Currently, no government agency has mandated responsibility for dredging the secondary channels of the Fraser River. The Province is able to provide land and water permits to local government and other parties for work undertaken in the river where appropriate but cannot undertake direct responsibility for dredging. Our current focus with respect to the Fraser River is flood hazard mitigation and public safety.

The ministry regulates activity in the river and on the foreshore but has no mandate over navigation. Navigable waterways are within the jurisdiction of the federal government. Parts of the foreshore and bed of the Fraser River are under legal title to the Government of Canada.

B7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC FLOOD PROTECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS the majority of communities within the Province of British Columbia are situated in proximity to rivers, streams and water bodies, many within floodplains and upon estuaries;

AND WHEREAS gravel aggregation is well documented;

AND WHEREAS there have been no funds available to these communities, since 2013, to maintain flood prevention measures, the consequences of which could result in increasing risk of future flooding causing significant property damage:

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government re-establish the Flood Protection Program.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

The Province recognizes the value of flood mitigation and has partnered with the Federal Government since 2008 to provide funding to local governments. While the current Flood Protection Program is completing in March 31, 2016, the Province has been in consultation with the Federal Government to develop a replacement program that will encompass hazard mitigation, including flooding. In addition, Public Safety Canada's new National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) was launched in 2015. This program is merit based and the Province is actively pursuing opportunities to access this funding for non-structural works such as risk assessments and flood plain mapping. The Province is also evaluating options for local governments to access NDMP funding.

Flood protection is a shared responsibility and its success is dependent upon support from all levels of government. Local governments are required to assume the ownership and maintenance of permanent mitigation works undertaken. This ownership ensures that works are not abandoned, thus creating a future hazard. The effectiveness of temporary mitigation works, such as sediment removal, needs to be balanced with potential adverse impacts to the environment and should only be undertaken in the absence of any other mitigation option.

B8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – INTERNET VOTING

WHEREAS *Local Government Act* Part 3, Division 9 – Voting Opportunities – does not allow the ability to offer online voting to electors in local government elections;

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

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has the recommendations from the Independent Panel on Internet Voting from the report produced in February, 2014:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM requests the Province of BC to initiate the policy analysis and legislative changes required to implement online voting for the 2018 local government election.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

While the Province recognizes the potential benefits of internet voting, those benefits must be balanced with the security of the electoral process.

The Province may look into a province-wide coordinated approach to internet voting once the concerns regarding security, privacy and anonymity, raised by the Independent Panel on Internet Voting's final report, have been alleviated.

To address these concerns, the Province acknowledges that more work is needed before internet voting can be implemented safely in a way that provides appropriate safeguards to allow voter confidence.

The Province is open to exploring the topic further with UBCM and specific local governments who are interested in implementing internet voting.

B9 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS many rural, resource-based communities do not have public transit or taxi service;

AND WHEREAS the absence of local and intercommunity public transportation causes significant disadvantage to rural residents:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide adequate funding to support local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province is willing to partner with communities to provide local transportation through BC Transit, but local governments must also be prepared to commit their share of transit funding. Although the transit feasibility study done in 2010 recommended alternative transportation modes for the community, such as volunteer driver and car share programs, BC Transit would be pleased to discuss potential transit options with Vanderhoof staff.

Work to date on inter-community transportation has included discussions with over 80 community and First Nations leaders representing 13 municipalities and districts and 13 First Nations communities along Highway 16 to discuss rural transportation challenges. The meetings focused on finding practical ways to connect residents with services and amenities in major centres, such as getting to medical appointments, doing grocery shopping or simply visiting family and friends.

Ministry staff will continue to work with community partners to identify practical, affordable and sustainable transportation solutions. The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition is facilitating discussions between adjacent communities to identify options to address intra-regional needs. OBAC was represented at the transportation symposium co-hosted by the First Nations Health Authority and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on November 24, 2015.

The recommendations and feedback from over 90 participants actively engaged in the symposium discussions were used to develop the foundation of the \$3 million Action Plan for the Highway 16 corridor, which includes up to \$750,000 over three years for community transportation conditional grants. This funding will be available to eligible First Nations, local governments and non-profit organizations wishing to establish or expand community-based transportation services.

B10 ROAD SAFETY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS the British Columbia Road Safety Strategy 2015 and Beyond (2013) states a provincial goal to make roads in BC the safest in North America by “designing a system that is more forgiving of human error... “so that, even if crashes occur, they will not cause fatal or serious injury”;

AND WHEREAS the roads in the Lillooet area were constructed well before the development of modern engineering and safety standards that have been proven to reduce injury and death in the event of a collision and have many sections with steep embankments – unprotected by barrier – as well as extremely narrow unpaved shoulders;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Road Safety Strategy 2015 and Beyond (2013) identifies the Southern Interior as “by far the most deadly region of the province with about one-third of all motor vehicle related fatalities” and statistics indicate the Lillooet area has a fatality rate of 19% - more than 6 times the average for our region:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in keeping with our Provincial Government’s identified priority to improve road safety and reduce fatalities and injury, we continue to ask for a thorough review and assessment of roadside safety (including road design and evaluation of roadside hazards) to reduce deaths and injury on BC roads.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

As a member of the BC Road Safety Strategy 2015, the Ministry fully supports the strategy’s goals of making BC the safest jurisdiction in North America by 2020.

The Ministry monitors safety on all provincial highways, working closely with the road safety community partners that include Police, RCMP, ICBC, Provincial Health Officers, Provincial Coroners, WorkSafeBC and RoadSafetyBC in efforts to reduce deaths and injury on BC roads.

BC on the Move, our 10 year transportation provides \$75 million over the next 3 years in a new Road Safety Improvement Program, doubling funding over previous years, plus \$30 million over the next 3 years focused on intersection safety

Included in this program is our annual road side barrier program that reviews roadside safety and installs roadside barrier to mitigate the risks and severity of off road crashes. The most recent review of Highway 99 was completed in spring 2015 and resulted in the project to install barrier along a one-kilometre section north of Lillooet which was completed in the Fall of 2015.

In addition to road side barrier, the Road Safety Improvement Program delivers a variety of safety projects including:

- Community Safety Projects, focused on intersection improvements, crosswalks, signal and signing improvements and protecting vulnerable road users
- Durable pavement markings in high traffic areas
- Variable speed limit systems to reduce speeds on highways subject to sudden weather changes
- Wildlife detection systems to warn drivers of large wildlife on the side of the road
- Avalanche protection systems to keep our mountain highway safe
- Cattle fencing keep livestock clear of main highways

B11 UPGRADING OF CRITICAL ACCIDENT ZONES ON HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS many section of highways throughout British Columbia are considered critical accident zones;

AND WHEREAS these critical accident zones have serious impacts on the health and safety of the travelling public, enormous economic impacts to the Province, and a significant financial burden on our health care system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments make a long term commitment to increase the level of safety on our highway system by improving proven accident zones as well as highway upgrading to a four (4) lane highway, wherever possible and warranted.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The safety of our highways is a priority for the Province. Highway Safety is fully integrated into the planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance of the highway network. We monitor highway safety and improve high risk locations in consultation with local and regional authorities. Since 2003 we've seen a 27% reduction in serious crashes on our highway system.

In addition, the Ministry carries out a provincial analysis of collision data to identify and rank collision prone sites throughout the provincial highway system. These sites are summarized to support the selection of specific locations for more detailed safety investigations focused on understanding the root causes of the problem and developing cost effective solutions to reduce the frequency and severity of collision.

The Ministry has committed \$75 million over the next 3 years specifically to a safety program which covers a variety of safety projects including:

- Community Safety Projects
- Guardrail installations
- Durable pavement markings
- Variable speed limit systems
- Wildlife detection systems
- Avalanche protection systems
- Cattle fencing

In addition, the Ministry has committed \$30 million over the next 3 years focused specifically on intersection safety.

Safety is a key factor in our selection process for determining expansion projects and the implementation strategy of those projects. The programming of our expansion program considers the following:

- Safety Performance
- Traffic Volumes
- Age of infrastructure
- Reliability/closures

In BC on the Move, our 10 year transportation plan, we've committed approximately \$1 billion over the next three years to ensure our network has the capacity and reliability to meet the future transportation and trade needs.

B12 HIGHWAY SPEED LIMITS

WHEREAS the safety of rural highways in British Columbia is being questioned by many residents living in rural BC since the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure increased the speed limit on many of these highways to 100 km/hr in 2014;

AND WHEREAS speed limits in rural British Columbia do vary from region to region:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be requested to formalize a process to allow for the lowering of the speed limit on certain highways that pass through rural communities and neighbourhoods upon receipt of a Regional Board resolution to that effect.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry will consider requests to evaluate speed limits made by a Regional Board or Municipal Government on a case by case basis.

The Province establishes speed limits using a consistent engineering approach based on standards developed by the Institute of Transportation Engineers. This practice is commonly used throughout North America and allows for consistent and appropriate speed limits. When evaluating speed limits, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Engineers carry out an evaluation that includes:

- An analysis of free flow operating speeds as well as safety history
- Geometric characteristics of the highway
- Consistency of speed limits along the highway
- Land use in the area

Appropriate speed limits encourage driver compliance. Unrealistic speed limits lead to non-compliance and large differences in travel speeds which can decrease safety.

B15 CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS the Islands Trust has successfully implemented a Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) which provides 65% property tax relief for landowners who enter into a conservation covenant to protect important natural features on their property;

AND WHEREAS the NAPTEP complements provincial and local programs and policies and does not result in any loss of tax revenue nor any significant additional costs;

AND WHEREAS regional districts and municipalities may wish to support and encourage landowners to preserve natural areas for current and future environmental benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development be requested to grant local governments the authority to implement a conservation tax incentive program modeled on the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption is specifically modelled for the unique circumstances of the Islands Trust and may not be applicable to municipalities and regional districts generally. Thus, the Province is currently not considering this request for legislative review. However, the Province would be willing to work with an interested regional district to consider both the priority and the policy implications of this request. This process would have to be done in consultation with stakeholders such as other local governments and UBCM.

B16 PROVINCIAL SALES TAX REVENUE REBATES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS local governments depend almost wholly on property taxation to fund municipal services and are currently facing infrastructure deficits of enormous proportions;

AND WHEREAS local governments and their taxpayers are unnecessarily burdened with sales tax charges on the purchase of all goods and services that include emergency equipment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be petitioned to provide local governments full rebates of sales taxes on all purchases made, as are provided by the federal government for the goods and services taxes (GST) paid by local governments, with no commensurate reduction of current revenue sharing programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Local governments pay no more in Provincial Sales Tax (PST) under the *Provincial Sales Tax Act* than they previously paid under the *Social Service Tax Act*. The provincial rebate provided to municipalities under the harmonized sale tax (HST) of 75 per cent was to ensure that, on average, municipalities paid no more in tax under HST than was previously paid under the PST.

Sales tax exemptions complicate the tax system and set precedents that could ultimately reduce the effectiveness of the tax as an important provincial revenue source. The province has traditionally chosen to provide grants and other forms of financial assistance to help local governments meet their objectives.

Local governments are generally eligible for the same PST exemptions as other purchasers. Examples include certain kinds of emergency equipment and services, including work-related safety equipment worn by employees. Local governments are also eligible for PST exemptions specific to local government, such as certain types of emergency communications systems and machinery and equipment to generate electricity or heat and electricity at a co-generation facility.

B17 ROAD RESCUE RESPONDER COSTS

WHEREAS road rescue responders are not compensated by Emergency Management BC for responses to highway accidents within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS road rescue organizations receive no provincial funding toward general operations;

AND WHEREAS ICBC does not currently contribute funding towards any vehicle accident response costs whatsoever;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local governments request the provincial government to reconsider their stance on financing road rescue responders throughout the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province does provide support to road rescue responders that provide services outside of their jurisdiction. Reimbursed response rates are intended to offset costs associated with an out of jurisdiction rescue, as outlined in established policy. The Province also provides for WorkSafeBC coverage and exemption from civil liability under the *Emergency Program Act*.

B18 ELECTRICITY COSTS OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

WHEREAS many communities across British Columbia provide for or help fund many different types of recreational facilities both indoor and outdoor;

AND WHEREAS the provision of a variety of recreational facilities adds a very important element to any small rural community by enhancing the physical and mental health of the citizens, while attracting and retaining a diverse population that helps to maintain a vibrant economy;

AND WHEREAS small communities in BC struggle with limited funds available for the provision of ice arenas, swimming pools and curling rinks to name a few;

AND WHEREAS costs associated with electricity to heat, light and run the necessary equipment for recreational facilities are ever increasing, seriously limiting the funding resources of small and rural communities to continue to provide for the important recreational facilities that keep the communities strong:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be asked to require that BC Hydro and FortisBC (electricity) provide lower electricity service rates for recreational facilities in small rural communities (under 20,000 population) to assist in preventing the loss of such facilities which will have serious negative impacts on small rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

Electricity rate design is the responsibility of the British Columbia Utilities Commission.

One principle used by the British Columbia Utilities Commission is that rates should not discriminate between customers. Where two different users have similar patterns of use, they should have similar bills.

BC Hydro has submitted its 2015 rate design application to the British Columbia Utilities Commission, and it is currently underway. This application will cover the general service rates that recreational facilities are served under. Municipalities are encouraged to participate in this process.

B20 ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS COLLECTED IN LIEU OF PARKLAND CONTRIBUTIONS

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* under section 941(4) allows local governments to collect from an owner of land being subdivided monies in lieu of the provision of parkland, which is not to exceed 5% of the land value being proposed for subdivision;

AND WHEREAS the funds taken for this purpose can only be utilized for the purchase of actual parkland and not for the improvement of parkland;

AND WHEREAS monies collected in lieu of the provision of parkland are often better spent on parkland improvements such as landscaping, playground structures, etc., for new and/or existing parks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government through legislation allow local governments to utilize funds collected in lieu of parkland on subdivision approvals for parkland improvements not just for the purchase of parkland.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

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

The Province fully understands that there is more to a park than land. A park also requires improvements for public use and enjoyment (e.g. trails, playgrounds, picnic tables, playing fields, and parking). However, acquiring improvements is not the purpose of parkland acquisition levy. The parkland acquisition provisions are designed to ensure that sufficient green space is available for public development and use. Because developing improvements on these lands benefits the wider community, the cost of such improvements should be shared by all property owners (not just developers).

Widening the scope of section 510 (revised, RSBC 2015) of the *Local Government Act* has been reviewed in the past by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local government, the Province, and the development community. The DFRC concluded that local governments have other revenue tools to finance the acquisition of park improvements, and therefore they decided against expanding the parkland dedication to a wider range of services.

Local governments have a number of revenue and development tools at their disposal. Some of the revenue tools available to local governments are set out in the following documents:

Development Finance Choices Guide:

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/development_finances_choices00_guide.pdf

Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide:

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/Parkland_Acquisition_BPG.pdf

B21 BROADEN THE ALLOWABLE USES OF PARKLAND DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES

WHEREAS the BC government has determined that Parkland Development Cost Charges (“DCCs”) cannot be used to fund sport-related park infrastructure such as synthetic turf fields, swimming pools and arenas;

AND WHEREAS municipalities can use Parkland DCCs to provide fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, rest-rooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment;

AND WHEREAS there is tangible evidence that new development directly impacts the demand for sport-related park infrastructure through increased attendance at municipal recreation facilities and increased demand for playing time on municipal sports fields:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government be requested to approve an amendment to Section 935(3)(b)(ii) of the *Local Government Act* to include sport-related park infrastructure as an applicable Parkland DCC capital cost.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

As the Province has mentioned in previous responses to similar UBCM resolutions, widening the scope of Parkland development Cost Charges (DCCs) to include major sport infrastructure (like pools, all-season fields, arenas, and gyms) has been reviewed by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC). After this detailed review, all parties on the DFRC (Province, local government and developers) unanimously agreed not to expand the scope of the parkland acquisition DCC.

The DFRC came to this conclusion based on the principle of ‘user pay’. The cost of a core service should be paid by those who benefit from it. New community parks primarily service new development. Thus, the purpose of the Parkland DCC is to acquire land for community parks and provide basic improvements (like fencing, trails and playground equipment). Whereas, major athletic infrastructure (like an arena) benefits the entire community and therefore should be paid by the entire community through the existing tax base.

Determining a reasonably accurate “benefit factor” (i.e. cost allocation between new and existing development) for such athletic infrastructure would be very difficult and highly subjective. This may result in prohibitively high DCCs, which could discourage new development.

Thus, the Province supports the decision of the DFRC and is not prepared to revisit at this time.

B22 INFRASTRUCTURE COST SHARING FORMULA

WHEREAS local governments have historically acknowledged the economic value of transportation infrastructure projects of national and regional importance and participated in cost sharing initiatives with other orders of government (provincial and federal) through a one-third/one-third/one-third formula relationship;

AND WHEREAS the assignment of one-third local cost absorption has greater per capita impact to residents of local regions with smaller populations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments be requested to assess the per capita impact of nationally and regionally valued transportation infrastructure and to revise the current one-third/one-third/one-third formula to reflect the inequities for smaller communities with identified essential projects within their boundaries.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province of British Columbia appreciates local governments' concerns about the challenge with small communities finding adequate financing mechanisms to support regionally scoped transit projects. The Ministry continues to work in delivering funding programs that meet the needs of local governments in British Columbia.

As the Ministry develops, or participates in the development of, capital funding programs, the Ministry is aware of the challenges of small local governments, and as such, analyses the cost-share formula in the development of all programs. With a finite amount of funding available, the Ministry tries to balance not only the financial challenges faced by small local governments, but also the need to maximize the benefits of these capital programs to as many local governments as possible. Changing the cost-sharing formula may equate to fewer communities that ultimately receive funding support.

While the Ministry is not committed to any revision with respect to cost sharing for programs for which the Ministry is responsible, the Ministry is aware of the issues and is committed to developing programs that are fair, practical and meet the various challenges faced by local governments.

With federal-provincial programs, such as the New Building Canada Fund, cost sharing formulas are set by the federal government and must be adhered to. There is not an opportunity to change these formulas which are set in federal-provincial agreements.

The Province signed a renewed Gas Tax Agreement in May 2014, which will see \$2.7 billion flow to local governments over the next 10 years. That is almost 3 times greater than the entire New Building Canada Fund allocation to BC. And under this agreement there is no requirement for matching funding, for either the direct allocation Community Works Fund or the pooled Strategic Priorities Fund.

The Province is awaiting more information on any new federal infrastructure programs from the federal government, including the federal government cost sharing percentage.

B23 COLLECTION OF UNPAID MUNICIPAL BYLAW FINES AGAINST MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAXES

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* under section 258(1) presently allows municipalities to recover special fees as property taxes when the fees are related to “work done or services provided to land or improvements” or when the fees are related to “fire and security alarm systems”;

AND WHEREAS there are significant costs associated with collecting outstanding municipal fines, such as those related to noise, parking and nuisance infractions, and in many cases the collection of these unpaid fines through either a collection agency or small claims court proves unsuccessful in part due to an overloaded court system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government allow municipalities through legislation to collect unpaid municipal bylaw fines through property taxes where the fines are property related.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Property taxes are exactly what their name implies: taxes on the value of a property. As such, unpaid taxes represent a lien against a property. If left unpaid, the property in question can go to tax sale.

Certain types of fees are structurally similar to property taxes because they relate to the delivery of services directly to a specific property (e.g. a water utility fee to a home). Thus, s.258(1) of the *Community Charter*, allows such unpaid fees to be included as part of property taxes in arrears, which represent a lien on a property, and if left unpaid, can go to tax sale.

Tickets for noise, parking, and nuisance violations are not fees at all; they’re fines with little or no relationship to any municipal service to a specific property. Thus, there is no logical basis for assigning them as a lien against a property, which would be eligible for potential tax sale.

The confiscatory authority of government is an extremely significant power, and therefore must be used in a limited and restrained manner and under very strict rules. Going to tax sale on someone’s home because of unpaid parking ticket would be an excessive exercise of government power. There are other reasonable remedies available to government for collecting on ticketing violations.

Thus, the Province is not prepared to examine any expansion of section 258(1) of the *Community Charter* to include fine violations as part of taxes in arrears.

B24 COASTAL DOUGLAS-FIR AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

WHEREAS the UBCM members previously endorsed resolution 2013-B104 requesting that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations adequately resource the Coastal Douglas-fir and Associated Ecosystems Conservation Partnership (the Partnership);

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the Partnership will issue a 30-year conservation strategy for the coastal douglas fir biogeoclimatic zone, the most at risk zone in British Columbia, but has insufficient resources to implement the strategy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to provide core, multi-year funding to the Partnership to assist its members to implement the conservation strategy with the Province, First Nations, local governments, the federal government, stakeholders, and the general public.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Province was instrumental in the creation of the Coastal Douglas Fir Conservation Partnership and supports the goals and objectives of the organization. The partnership's steering committee is currently finalizing its long-term plan and preparing detailed budgets. Once these tasks are complete, we will work with the steering committee to develop a funding model to support this important work.

Through its involvement in the partnership, the provincial government remains committed to raising public awareness and promoting improved stewardship of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem by working more closely with private landowners, local governments and environmental non-government organizations.

B25 MANAGEMENT OF UNGULATE POPULATIONS

WHEREAS the resources, authority and responsibility to manage ungulate populations is with the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the combination of favourable habitats, no natural predators, and the inability to allow hunting have contributed to expanding urban deer populations and exacerbated the problem of human-deer conflict in urban areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide resources, including conservation officers and urban wildlife biologists, and build the necessary partnerships with Health Canada and local governments to address deer over population.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Ministry is committed to partnering with local governments to facilitate the development of scientifically appropriate, humane and socially acceptable urban deer management solutions. Ministry staff assist communities in managing urban wildlife conflicts in a number of ways, including participation on community-based committees, provision of technical advice, issuing permits to manage deer populations in urban areas and loaning available equipment as required.

The Province and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) are working together to pursue a policy of enhanced collaboration on urban deer. In September 2014, a joint Provincial/Municipal clinic was held at the UBCM convention, and in January 2015, an urban deer workshop was held in Richmond. At the January workshop in Richmond, the UBCM and local governments agreed to prepare a set of recommendations on urban deer management for the provincial government's consideration. Our responses to those recommendations were presented at the 2015 UBCM Convention.

In addition, at the September 2015 UBCM convention, the provincial government committed to forming an urban deer advisory committee and has allocated up to \$100,000 for future urban deer management operations. The creation of this committee will help ensure greater collaboration between municipalities and the Province and provide the resources necessary for communities to make informed choices when exploring potential solutions to urban deer issues.

B26 BC CONSERVATION SERVICE CAPACITY

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for managing wildlife through its Conservation Service, and the British Columbia Conservation Service has not been able to adequately address wildlife-human conflict in the town of Princeton due to lack of facility;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Princeton is unable to appropriately respond to wildlife-human conflict, as their role is to educate residents on how to deter wildlife and limit wildlife attractants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to provide adequate funding and staffing in order for the BC Conservation Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing wildlife-human conflicts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Conservation Officer Service sub-divides British Columbia into eight regions. Conservation Officers work out in 46 locations within these regions. Conservation Officers go wherever they are needed, using zone coverage practices for each of the eight regions. This means that Conservation Officers within a given region will be available to visit areas where complaints and concerns occur. This is a common approach used by first responders that serve small communities and remote areas.

Each year the Conservation Officer Service completes in-depth business planning which assists in priority setting and work planning in each region and zone.

Conservation Officers are the first responder to human-wildlife conflicts where public safety may be at risk. Ensuring public safety by preventing these conflicts and reducing their impact is one of the central objectives for the Service. To ensure ongoing effective management of these conflicts the Conservation Officer Service:

1. periodically reviews its risk assessment models for response and makes appropriate amendments;
2. promotes the Bear Smart and WildSafeBC programs in communities across the province;
3. delivers awareness training to RCMP and municipal police forces;
4. participates in community-led initiatives to manage human-wildlife conflicts, such as both the bear and urban deer conflict working groups; and
5. reviews the call centre's response criteria, and makes appropriate changes.

Human-wildlife conflicts will continue to occur as communities expand and wildlife adapt to the urban landscapes throughout our province. Reducing conflicts, co-existing and ensuring communities are safe and wildlife remains wild will require ongoing public education and partnerships with local communities, which are important parts of the work the Conservation Officer Service performs.

B27 RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY REBATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS demand for electricity is expected to increase in the future;

AND WHEREAS renewable technologies such as small scale wind and solar are becoming increasingly feasible:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on BC Hydro and the Province of BC to work together to develop a framework that would provide incentives to residential customers to install grid-interactive renewable generation systems.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

BC Hydro has a net metering program that allows its customers to offset their electricity consumption with renewable generation and receive payments from BC Hydro if they generate more power than they use. Electricity bill savings through the net metering program are similar to what BC Hydro pays for power purchases through the Standing Offer Program. Offering additional incentives would increase costs to ratepayers and taxpayers.

BC Hydro is currently in an energy surplus, and is expected to remain in surplus for some time.

B28 INDEPENDENT BC REVIEW OF TRANS MOUNTAIN EXPANSION PROJECT

WHEREAS the current National Energy Board (NEB) assessment of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project has proven to be deeply flawed and undemocratic;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed the City of Victoria's emergency resolution LR2 in September 2014 calling on the Environmental Assessment Office of the Province of British Columbia to undertake its own environmental assessment process of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and withdraw from the 2010 Equivalency Agreement with the NEB, but no response has been received to date from the Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in response to 2014 UBCM resolution LR2, the Province of British Columbia withdraw from the 2010 Equivalency Agreement with the National Energy Board and undertake its own environmental assessment process of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, with meaningful participation by First Nations, local governments and all interested British Columbians.

RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment Office

The Province is committed to ensuring that the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, if it does go ahead, satisfies the highest standards of environmental protection and protects British Columbia from financial and environmental risk. Any heavy oil pipeline project must satisfy the Province's five conditions before B.C. will consider supporting it.

B.C.'s minimum requirements for any heavy oil pipeline are:

- Successful completion of an environmental assessment;
- Establishment of world-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for BC's coastline and ocean;
- Establishment of world-leading land oil spill prevention, response and recovery systems;
- Legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights are addressed and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources to participate and benefit from the project;
- BC receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits.

The Province was an intervener in the NEB's review of the project and actively represented the interests of the people of B.C. Interveners could submit Information Requests, file written evidence, bring motions and submit final arguments. The Province reviewed the information that was filed by Kinder Morgan, and filed a number of information requests in order to obtain the information it requires. The Province also met regularly with Kinder Morgan to ensure that all aspects of their proposal were understood and to make issues of importance to British Columbians known to the company.

This review was run entirely under the authority of the National Energy Board. The Board set the process for the review.

The assessment for Trans Mountain was subject to the 2010 Equivalency Agreement between the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the National Energy Board, and, as per this agreement, the environmental assessment completed by the Board would be equivalent to the provincial assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Province supports the principle of one project, one assessment, and has therefore sought to reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication. As a result of the Equivalency Agreement, EAO did not conduct an environmental assessment or issue an environmental assessment certificate for interprovincial pipeline projects.

However, in late January 2016 the BC Supreme Court in *Coastal First Nations v. British Columbia (2016)* held that while the Equivalency Agreement remains valid, the Minister of Environment and Minister of Natural Gas Development are required to decide whether to issue a provincial environmental assessment certificate for projects subject to the agreement, must consider whether any provincial conditions should be included in the certificate, and must consult with aboriginal groups.

Therefore, EAO will be conducting the remaining provincial environmental assessment process based on the Board's panel report and any supplemental information provided by Kinder Morgan. In consideration of this information, EAO will be consulting with aboriginal groups and identifying any provincial environmental assessment certificate conditions to recommend to provincial Ministers. If an environmental assessment certificate is issued by provincial Ministers, any conditions they attach would become legally binding requirements for Trans Mountain.

B29 EXPANSION OF OIL TANKER TRAFFIC IN COASTAL BC WATERS

WHEREAS the result of the District of Sooke assent voting opportunity (community opinion) on November 15, 2014 was in the affirmative that the District of Sooke should join other municipalities in renewing and restating its opposition to the expansion of oil tanker traffic through British Columbia's coastal waters:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities continue to petition the provincial and federal governments to stop the expansion of oil tanker traffic through British Columbia's coastal waters.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Please note that marine shipping and navigation falls under the *Canada Shipping Act*. However government is committed to protecting B.C.'s coast from marine spills and, while this is primarily federal jurisdiction, we must ensure provincial interests are protected. In July 2012, our government released a heavy oil policy paper outlining five requirements that must be met for B.C. to consider any heavy oil pipelines. Our five requirements provide certainty, predictability and transparency about our government's position on any heavy oil pipeline project proposal. We have taken a fair and reasonable approach which reflects and defends the interests of British Columbians and our environment.

In the event of a spill, the ministry's highly trained response professionals would immediately begin implementing the province's spill response plan and protocols. The ministry response would be integrated with the Responsible Party and participating federal agencies, local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders. The Canadian Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for ship source oil spills in marine waters.

If an oil spill occurs, it's important to know that in all cases, the spiller is responsible for clean-up and monitoring. The role of provincial and federal agencies is to oversee the response. The Province is encouraged by measures the federal government has taken towards a world class tanker safety system, which act on the recommendations of the tanker safety expert panel and include input from provincial governments, First Nations and other key stakeholders.

In June 2015, B.C. announced new requirements for world-leading land-based spills; however, many of the proposed requirements would apply equally to spills into or affecting the marine environment. Examples include spill reporting, restoration, notification, and geographic response plans. We envision setting standards in both the land and marine settings which will help close the gaps with respect to spill response in the marine environment. We still have work to do and will continue working with Transport Canada to ensure B.C. interests are met on the marine safety front and that public safety and protection of the environment remain paramount.

B30 OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS the oil spill event of April 8, 2015, into English Bay and the Salish Sea, demonstrated a clear lack of capacity to respond to oil spill events in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the long-term viability and economies of BC coastal communities are dependent, in part, upon the protection and preservation of the local marine environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia order an independent audit of the current state of oil spill preparedness in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Coast Guard conducted a review of the English Bay spill that includes 25 recommendations that articulate the need for the Coast Guard to improve spill response capabilities. The Province is committed to working with all of our partners to see the recommendations acted upon. Our ultimate goal continues to be a world-class marine spill regime from the federal government.

The only recommendation that mentions the Province is recommendation #2 – the Coast Guard, Emergency Management BC and the Ministry of Environment should jointly review alerting and notification procedures. This stems from the Province not upgrading the incident to a Code 2 until April 9 at 15:27. The Province has reviewed this specific incident and how the notification system worked and will work to ensure any deficiencies are not repeated in the future. For example, new requirements for land-based spills include improved spill notification which can also be applied to the marine side.

On June 15, 2015 the Ministry announced plans to implement a world-leading land-based spill regime by spring 2017. The Ministry undertook detailed planning and design work on the proposed regime, legislation, regulations, funding model and the Preparedness and Response Organization. This included engagement with First Nations, industry, local governments and other stakeholders through fall and winter of 2015.

On February 29, 2016, government introduced Bill 21 amending *Environmental Management Act* to implement the statutory framework for the province's world-leading land-based spill regime. Bill 21 sets out a new spill preparedness, response and recovery regime, and - if passed - will repeal sections 79 and 80 of the EMA, which set out the current spill prevention and response regime.

Related to the introduction of Bill 21, government recently invited British Columbians to review and comment on a new intentions paper around spill preparedness and response in B.C. Until June 30, 2016, citizens, stakeholders and First Nations can share their thoughts on the newly proposed legislated requirements for spill planning and preparedness through this website: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/spillresponse>. This public engagement period builds on previous stakeholder, industry, First Nations and public consultation on two other spill intentions papers, released in 2012 and 2014.

The requirements for the world leading spill response regime are informed by research commissioned by the province from Nuka Research which assessed the current marine spill preparedness and response capabilities for B.C.'s coastline. Further, the province has sought another report that will identify specific world leading practices.

B31 OILED WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

WHEREAS an oil spill can harm wildlife and have a significant impact on the health and economy of our communities and the natural environment;

AND WHEREAS existing legislative and administrative frameworks do not provide for wildlife response preparedness or remediation, nor require professional wildlife response in the event of oil spills on land or in the marine environment;

AND WHEREAS there are no designated oiled wildlife response services or facilities in BC;

AND WHEREAS UBCM has already put forth resolutions on the need for improved spill response systems, including related to wildlife rescue, and funding mechanisms, but requested action has not been taken:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC urge the federal government to establish adequate oiled wildlife response capacity and capability for marine spills;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government and the Province of BC, in consultation with local governments, enact a mandated and coordinated regime that requires that wildlife response be included in oil spill response preparedness, that wildlife response and recovery, and remediation be part of standard response activities for marine and land-based oil spills and that funds to undertake these activities be collected from industry in accordance with the polluter pay principle.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

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The requirements for the world leading spill response regime are informed by research commissioned by the province from Nuka Research which assessed the current marine spill preparedness and response capabilities for B.C.'s coastline. Further, the province has sought another report that will identify specific world leading practices.

New requirements created in the world leading spill response regime will address oiled wildlife. As part of the design phase of the project, engagement with federal agencies and local governments will inform requirements relating to wildlife response and recovery.

B32 WATERSHED PROTECTION

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

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

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) and the first phase of regulations were brought into force on February 29, 2016. The WSA includes a number of new and updated governance-related provisions. Among them is the provision to create advisory boards as well as the ability to develop regulations to allow entities such as local governments to take on a greater role in decision-making in watersheds.

Government acknowledges the interests of local governments and the public in exploring the alternative governance tools found in the Act.

The current focus of WSA implementation is on maintaining the continuity of government's core water allocation business and the licensing of non-domestic groundwater use.

Governance-related policy work will be part of a subsequent phase of policy and regulation development. Specific timelines have not yet been confirmed, however the Province will be engaging with local government, other stakeholders, First Nations and experts to further explore the range of governance needs and options and ensure government's objectives under the WSA are met.

B33 OWNERSHIP OF ABANDONED TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS transportation corridors are vital to the transportation of goods and people throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS some corridors are being abandoned, especially some rail corridors;

AND WHEREAS these abandoned transportation corridors can become vital and valuable corridors for recreational uses such as hiking, cycling, skiing and snowshoeing;

AND WHEREAS these corridors should be open to all residents of BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government facilitate public acquisition and ownership of abandoned transportation corridors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province work with UBCM to develop a funding mechanism – for example, a province-wide parcel tax similar to the Municipal Finance Authority tax – to assist governments or community groups to purchase and maintain abandoned transportation corridors for public recreational use.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Local governments already possess a broad array of financial tools to acquire land for parks and recreation, including: property tax, development cost charges, parkland acquisition fees, reserve funds, borrowing, leasing, and partnering agreements.

A province-wide property tax is only imposed to support operational and capital costs associated with province-wide services and organizations like the Municipal Finance Authority and British Columbia Assessment. Acquiring local and regional parkland is not a province-wide service. The appropriate funding mechanism for parks lies within each local government's authority to budget, plan, tax, borrow, and enter into agreements.

The Province congratulates the local governments in the Okanagan for creating an Inter Jurisdictional Acquisition Team that facilitated the recent acquisition of the decommissioned rail corridor from CN Rail for development of recreational amenities. The Province supports this process and the positive outcome for the communities involved.

B34 MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES PERMITTING

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy and Mines considers and approves applications for the purpose of “extracting” sand and gravel resources;

AND WHEREAS local governments regulate land uses, such as “processing” of resources, as authorized by the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Minister of Energy and Mines direct the Ministry to require compliance with local government zoning bylaws as a permit condition, and order Ministry staff to cancel any permits and deny any applications that contravene duly authorized local government zoning bylaws.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

The provincial government is committed to working with local governments across B.C. to find workable solutions to issues related to aggregate extraction.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines shares all *Mines Act* permit applications for aggregate operations within municipal boundaries with the relevant local government.

All *Mines Act* permitting decisions are made by Ministry of Energy of Mines Statutory Decision Makers (SDMs) taking into account input from subject matter experts. In circumstances where the local government opposes the application based on zoning, the Ministry’s SDM may consider that opposition and all other relevant information in making a decision.

B35 RECREATION SITES

WHEREAS provincial recreation sites are frequently over capacity during summer months, and have fallen into disrepair;

AND WHEREAS sites are maintained by volunteer groups which are drastically underfunded:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to provide funding for the improvement and maintenance of all provincial recreation sites within British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Since 2006, the Province has made significant investments in upgrades to hundreds of recreation sites across the province. According to user feedback, the conditions and standards at recreation sites across BC are very high.

The Province provides more than \$8.3 million annually to fund the operations, maintenance and management of recreation sites and trails. Approximately \$1 million is leveraged annually for additional investment in recreation sites and trails. An additional \$2 million is collected through user fees by recreation sites and trails partners, which directly supports their maintenance activities or is reinvested in sites and trails. Over the past two years, the Province has provided over \$30,000, as well as materials and supplies, in direct support to the volunteer organization maintaining sites in the Burns Lake area.

B36 RE-EXAMINE LOG EXPORT POLICY

WHEREAS coastal log exports increased 65% by volume from 2010 levels to 6,348,674 m³ in 2013 and the coast represents 90.6% of total log export volume in the province of BC;

AND WHEREAS the coastal forest industry has grown dependent upon log exports with unintended consequences to the manufacturing sector:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government re-examine the Log Export Policy and the impact this policy has on the coastal forest industry, and that the provincial government investigate options for modifying the Log Export Policy in light of the increased coastal log exports over the last several years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The provincial government would prefer for all logs to remain in BC for domestic use; however, permitting limited log exports is a critical component of the coastal forest sector's economic health. All logs are offered for domestic sale first but may be exported when there are no domestic bidders, often at premium prices. This in turn allows more logs to be harvested to meet both domestic and international market demands. BC is the only province to have a domestic surplus test.

Following a severe recession in 2008-09, a low volume of timber was exported in 2010. Since the log export review began in 2011 and policy changes were made in 2013, the coastal harvest has recovered to 2006-07 levels. Domestic mills benefit from the larger harvest volume, and both manufacturing and log exports have been in stable proportions for the last four years.

After a comprehensive policy review, we revised the fee-in-lieu for log exports in March 2013 to a sliding scale that recognizes the difference between the export price and domestic price for a log. In 2014, log exports on the coast were about 31 per cent of the total harvest, resulting in approximately \$30 million in log export fees. Province-wide, the volume of public timber exported as logs constitutes less than ten percent of the annual harvest of public timber.

B37 SUPPORT FOR FOREST INDUSTRY

WHEREAS the forest industry continues to be an economic mainstay of the province, providing stable employment for tens of thousands of families, and contributing \$12.4 billion to provincial GDP and \$2.5 billion in taxes and fees to the three levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the competitive advantage of the British Columbia forest industry has been eroded by cumulative impacts including timber supply declines, uncertainty on the land base, and delays in provincial market pricing processes;

AND WHEREAS these cumulative impacts threaten the economic well-being of communities throughout British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province to deliver the full allowable cut under the BC Timber Sales program, complete a science-based inventory of the available timber supply, and move assertively to increase operating certainty on the working forest land base.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Forestry is a key driver of the provincial economy, and the Province is supportive of actions to ensure its continued competitiveness. We have committed to develop a Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy to maintain and enhance the industry, protect jobs and forest-dependent communities, and extract maximum value from our forestry resources.

As a result of the BC Timber Sales (BCTS) effectiveness review, BCTS now has an objective to sell its full apportionment over its five-year business cycle ending March 31, 2020. As part of its business plan, BCTS sets annual targets for timber volume sold. In 2014/15, BCTS met its target for the program, selling 13.1 million cubic metres of timber. For the business cycle, BCTS is targeting to have each business area sell as close to 100 percent of their apportionment as possible.

In addition, the Province's ten-year strategic forest inventory plan released in 2013 is targeting re-inventory of beetle-attacked areas as a priority. The forest inventories in BC are designed using scientific principles and methods, and are completed to a published statistical standard and are checked through rigorous quality assurance procedures. Allowable Annual Cuts are determined using timber supply projections that use these science-based inventories in conjunction with other available data and information gathered from stakeholders, First Nations and the public. That said, the economic viability of beetle killed stands remains uncertain as it depends on many factors. The availability of stands therefore will remain uncertain and can only be dealt with through frequent re-evaluation. The Ministry will endeavor to do this and provide the most up to date information possible to stakeholders to assess the opportunity in beetle-impacted stands.

B38 FOREST INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS the forest industry has long been the backbone of the Cariboo/Chilcotin economy and a significant contributor to provincial revenues;

AND WHEREAS the effects of the mountain pine beetle, exacerbated by climate change, have resulted in significant reductions in the available fibre supply leading to reductions in the Annual Allowable Cut available for harvesting of up to 60%;

AND WHEREAS remote stands of dead pine that cannot be economically harvested with the normal silviculture requirements means they will be left standing dead for decades to come rather than return to healthy, productive forest land;

AND WHEREAS dead stands returned to healthy, live forests improve air quality by removing carbon emissions, thereby improving our overall environment;

AND WHEREAS implementing the type 4 silviculture plan with adequate funding to ensure that those stands that are uneconomical for industry to harvest and replant are brought back into productive capacity as quickly as possible, through increased funding of the Land Base Investment Funding and the Forests for Tomorrow funding are imperative to the region's continued ability to prosper and support provincial initiatives by keeping secure, well-paying jobs that contribute to the local and provincial economies, and that allow healthy families to remain in rural communities to support community amenities such as parks, libraries and schools:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the provincial government to support the Type 4 silviculture strategies and provide the funding to support those strategies (including planting, spacing, pre-commercial thinning, fertilization, rehabilitation of dead pine stands uneconomical to harvest) by increasing the funding allotment for Land Base Investment and Forests for Tomorrow specifically for those areas impacted by the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Managing for Mountain Pine Beetle recovery through activities such as silviculture remains a government priority. Updated silviculture strategies that consider the Mountain Pine Beetle recovery have been completed or are near completion in all heavily impacted mountain pine beetle timber supply areas. Larger landscape-level integrated silviculture strategies are being piloted in several timber supply areas. These include addressing emerging needs such as drought, habitat creation, and results from multiple users on the land base.

The Province is actively developing a Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy with the primary goals of maintaining and enhancing the forest industry, protecting jobs and forestry-dependent communities, and extracting maximum value from public forestry resources.

Forests for Tomorrow funding is projected to increase in 2016/17 and in subsequent years to \$48 million per year. Approximately \$13 million of the amount is planned to be spent within the Cariboo Region. The program is planning to increase the number of trees planted in 2017/18 to 28 million trees per year, and a target of 10 million trees per year in the Cariboo by 2019/20.

The provincial government is committed to supporting rural communities. Parliamentary Secretary Donna Barnett is working with the Rural Advisory Council to review the needs of rural resource-dependent communities and ensure rural citizens have input on how to promote and foster prosperity in their communities.

B39 TREE PROTECTION BYLAWS IN IDENTIFIED URBAN EXPANSION AREAS

WHEREAS regional districts are prohibited by law from creating tree protection bylaws;

AND WHEREAS unincorporated areas of regional districts include working forests, which are regulated provincially both on public and private land, precluding local or regional regulation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM calls on the Province to permit regional districts to institute tree protection bylaws in identified urban expansion areas.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The *Local Government Act* (LGA) provides for a range of regulatory powers for regional districts.

Regional districts can use development permit powers and tree cutting permits to limit the cutting of trees related to environmental protection and hazard protection issues.

Municipalities have the same LGA development permit powers, but under the *Community Charter*, they have broader powers to regulate, prohibit and impose additional requirements related to trees. For example, some municipal tree protection bylaws require protection, removal, replanting and replacement of trees.

The consideration of expanding regional districts powers to regulate tree cutting in rural areas designated for urban expansion, should be balanced with support for working forests on private and Crown land.

The Ministry recognizes that regional districts can face unique challenges that may require customized solutions. The Ministry has noted that the issue of tree protection is of particular interest for regional districts and will continue to seek to refine legislation for regional districts as issues arise and as legislative priorities warrant.

B40 RURAL TWO TIER HYDRO RATES

WHEREAS BC Hydro has adopted a two tiered rate structure to encourage energy consideration with the lower rate threshold based on approximately 90% of the provincial median household consumption of electricity and this average is weighted from the consumption patterns of two-thirds of BC households that are able to use natural gas for their heating, hot water and cooking energy requirements;

AND WHEREAS the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) reduced the upper price threshold charged by BC Hydro from the requested 1600 kilowatt hours to 1350 kilowatt hours for the bi-monthly billing period and most households in rural and remote communities do not have access to natural gas and cannot reduce their consumption by conservation measures sufficiently to avoid the higher tiered rate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Utilities Commission review the BC Hydro residential electrical tariff structure and increase the amount of kilowatt hours that qualify for the lower rate in all areas that do not have natural gas service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

BC has among the lowest residential electricity rates in North America.

BC Hydro's most commonly-used rates are designed to encourage conservation without increasing revenues to BC Hydro.

At Minister Bennett's request, the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is reviewing the impacts of residential stepped rates in British Columbia, including those on customers without access to natural gas, and will report out in 2016.

Concerned local governments are encouraged to participate in the BCUC process.

B41 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF BURRARD THERMAL PLANT

WHEREAS the City of Port Moody has been informed by the Government of British Columbia that the 900 MW (megawatt) natural gas-fired Burrard Thermal Generating Station in Port Moody is scheduled for closure in 2016, a plant which can provide an essential service by generating electricity to meet peak electrical loads in British Columbia during the winter months, is located in the lower mainland (the load centre of British Columbia) as an important strategic asset and can provide backup electricity in the event of low water levels behind BC Hydro dams or the failure of lengthy transmission lines due to forest fires, ice storms or similar causes;

AND WHEREAS the annual operating cost of Burrard Thermal, which has the lowest nitrogen oxides emissions of any natural gas standby plant in Canada, is approximately \$20 million, as opposed to the \$55 million presently being paid by BC Hydro to keep a smaller 275 MW natural gas-fired plant on standby in the outlying community of Campbell River;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan (2013) indicates a possible shortage of capacity (even in the absence of new electricity-supported Liquefied Natural Gas) as early as 2018, a shortage which is proposed to be met by constructing new natural gas plants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Government of BC and BC Hydro to keep the Burrard Thermal Generating Station open until at the very least a review by the British Columbia Utilities Commission is conducted on the closing of Burrard Thermal and the construction of Site C Dam, with the end goal being that this facility be powered by a renewable energy source.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

Since 2010, Burrard Thermal has been producing less than 100 gigawatt hours per year, which is about 0.2 per cent of BC Hydro's total energy requirement. With the installation of additional hydroelectric units at Mica and completion of the new Interior to Lower Mainland transmission line, BC Hydro will no longer require Burrard as a source of backup generating capacity.

To put Burrard into a fully operating generation facility would cost roughly \$400 million. Even with these investments, Burrard would not operate very efficiently and as a result would be used very little. Shutting down Burrard Thermal as a generating station will save BC Hydro customers \$14 million per year, taking pressure off rates.

B43 ICBC AND WINDSHIELD REPAIRS

WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) has, for some time, discontinued providing financial assistance to BC drivers for windshield rock chip repairs;

AND WHEREAS road and highway maintenance contractors in the North Central and Interior areas of British Columbia regularly apply coarse winter road aggregate instead of finer and less destructive sand, causing damage to windshields, including cracks and rock chips;

AND WHEREAS unrepaired windshield rock chips quickly develop into cracked windshields that impair the visibility of drivers and thereby threaten the safety of themselves, other motorists and their passengers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to direct the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia to resume providing financial assistance for drivers in need of windshield rock chip repairs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In 2001, ICBC discontinued the windshield repair program, which offered customers the option of having damaged windshields repaired for free when possible, instead of replacing them. This program was discontinued because repaired windshields often still needed to be replaced a short time later. This was not convenient for vehicle owners and not fiscally responsible for ICBC and its customers.

ICBC is committed to listening to its customers and providing them with the best coverage at the lowest possible price. ICBC is assessing the effectiveness of windshield repair technology as it continues to evolve and may consider options for customers in the future.

B44 POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

WHEREAS British Columbia has one of the highest rates of poverty in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the price of poverty is borne by all British Columbians through higher justice system costs, greater demands on the health care system, increased pressures on community services and reduced economic productivity;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia is the only province in Canada without a poverty reduction strategy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty in BC by setting concrete targets and timelines to reduce poverty.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development

No government wants to see any child or family living in poverty. The Province is committed to working collaboratively across ministries, non-governmental organizations and communities to find innovative ways for addressing poverty.

Government remains confident that there are only two ways to address poverty - by growing the economy and creating jobs, and by providing targeted supports for the individuals and families who need them.

British Columbia's current commitment and actions to reduce poverty are showing results in the everyday lives of struggling families across the province. Statistics Canada's latest low-income rates estimate that 18,000 people were lifted out of poverty in British Columbia between 2012 and 2013 – a 3.8% reduction from 469,000 in 2012 to 451,000 in 2013.

Through our work with communities and families, we know there is no one-size-fits-all approach to poverty. Every family faces different barriers and challenges, and we will continue to provide the direct supports and opportunities that individuals and families need in order to be lifted out of poverty.

The Province will continue to support communities as they develop and implement their own local poverty reduction efforts and bring together existing community resources and encourage innovative ways of addressing poverty at the local level.

Poverty is everyone's responsibility and we all have a significant role to play in reducing poverty across British Columbia.

B45 SHELTER ALLOWANCES AND RENT SUBSIDIES

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UBCM recognize that homelessness is a national concern requiring long-term solutions;

AND WHEREAS the 2014 Fraser Valley Regional District Homelessness Survey Report recognizes that homelessness in general is directly related to unaffordable rental rates, the erosion of the social safety net, and insufficient social housing inventory;

AND WHEREAS the Fall 2014 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation British Columbia Rental Report identifies the average rent for a one bedroom apartment in British Columbia as \$953 while at the same time the provincial shelter assistance rate for an employable one parent family is \$375 and has not increased since 2007;

AND WHEREAS there is an increased risk of homelessness for households spending over 50% of their income on housing costs:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to increase income assistance shelter allowances and expand and lengthen rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

We understand that people transition out of homelessness in different ways, and provincial rent subsidies are part of the housing programs available that help make that transition.

To respond to local rental markets changes, subsidy limits were increased for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and Rental Assistance Programs (RAP) in April 2014.

- Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) recipients now receive an average subsidy of \$179 per month up from \$150. SAFER helps approximately 20,000 seniors households to pay their rent.
- Rental Assistance Program (RAP) recipients now receive an average subsidy of \$404 per month up from \$370. RAP helps more than 10,000 families in BC.

The BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program is an income- and asset-tested program, intended to assist people temporarily while they find work and support those who are not able to fully participate in the workforce. The payment of assistance is based on ongoing financial eligibility, which includes a number of factors including family size, living situation and the applicant's assets and income from all sources. People on income or disability assistance are eligible for provincially subsidized housing.

We understand that people would like an increase in rates and that is something we continue to look at.

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia face a growing challenge of homelessness and local governments have been forced to deal with homelessness issues that fall under the mandate of the Province of British Columbia, including but not limited to health care, housing and immediate access to support programs, on an ad hoc and fragmented basis;

AND WHEREAS various pertinent ministries, local governments, social service agencies, health authorities, housing authorities, and police forces are allocating significant resources to dealing with homelessness issues, which often stem from mental health and/or substance abuse issues, in an uncoordinated manner, resulting in duplication and overlapping of efforts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia develop a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable province-wide homelessness plan that sets out a series of actions, timelines and financial requirements aimed at ending homelessness in the province, while supporting community-led initiatives on homelessness, in a compassionate, dignified and fiscally responsible manner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM, through FCM, ask the federal government to agree to a federally funded national housing strategy.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

We recognize that affordable housing is key to poverty-reduction efforts and lowering the costs of healthcare, criminal justice services and social services.

The recently updated provincial housing strategy, *Housing Matters BC 2014*, reconfirms the Province of British Columbia's commitment to helping vulnerable people find a way out of homelessness with access to affordable housing and appropriate supports.

Since 2001, we have invested more than \$4.4 billion to provide affordable housing for low income individuals, seniors and families. In addition, the number of provincially-subsidized apartments and shelter spaces available for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness has more than doubled to over 13,200. This year, more than 102,500 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.

WHEREAS housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable in many areas of the province due to a range of factors, including speculation, the rising cost of land and strong demand driven by population growth;

AND WHEREAS rental housing, which provides housing affordable to a wide range of tenants with low or mid-range annual incomes, has not been built in large volume since the end of provincial and federal programs, resulting in record low vacancy rates in many areas;

AND WHEREAS Premier Christy Clark has recently acknowledged the severity of the problem for renters and first-time home buyers, promising to consider options available to make housing more affordable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province develop and implement a comprehensive housing program, including measures to stimulate rental housing construction, maintain existing rental housing, reduce speculation, increase investments in social and non profit housing and expand opportunities for first-time home buyers.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

We fund innovative programs that build affordable rental housing through the private and non-profit housing sectors. Combined with our enhanced rental assistance programs, we are seeing an increase in the rental stock, creating more affordable rental options.

B.C. has a number of programs that help keep homeownership affordable for British Columbians, such as the Homeowner Grant and the First Time Home Buyers' Program.

Through Budget 2016, the Province announced new data collection measures that will also contribute to greater understanding of what drives growth in B.C.'s real estate market.

Budget 2016 also introduced a number of measures designed to stimulate supply of new housing, assist purchasers and invest in affordable housing such as the Newly Built Home Exemption which provides up to \$13,000 in property transfer tax relief to buyers of newly-constructed housing used as a principal residence.

A key aspect to improving housing affordability over the long-term is creating new supply. Government is acting to help the market respond to increasing demand for homes.

Governments at all levels need to work together to ensure there is an adequate supply of affordable new construction, particularly multi-family housing. The Province urges municipal leaders and regional directors, who are responsible for planning, zoning and development regulation, to use the tools at their disposal to support the Province's efforts and further the creation of new housing supply.

B50 FUNDING FORMULA FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS many school districts throughout the Province of BC are struggling to fund and operate facilities and programs within their jurisdiction with the funding formula that has been established by the Ministry of Education;

AND WHEREAS the Province is responsible through its own ministries or crown corporations for the setting of rates for BC Hydro, ICBC and MSP premiums:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to complete an independent review of the funding formula used to fund public education.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

Government works with its education sector partners to review the education funding formula annually. The funding formula ensures a consistent and equitable approach to allocating operating funds to school districts. It is primarily based on the number of enrolled students, but also considers students with unique needs, and unique geographic factors of each district.

Total funding to school districts has increased 32% since 2001, while enrolment decreased by more than 70,000 students in this same period. Over this period, measures of student achievement have improved and the K-12 system continues to deliver some of the best educational outcomes in the world.

Compared to a decade or more ago, the financial position of school districts has dramatically improved – all 60 school districts have an accumulated surplus.

Budget 2016 increased funding for education by \$110 million to a record total of \$5.6 billion.

B51 GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

WHEREAS the Village of Anmore opposes the cultivation of genetically engineered crops, plants and trees in the Village of Anmore:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal and provincial governments to implement a regime of mandatory labelling of all genetically modified organisms for sale in BC and Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal and provincial governments to impose a moratorium on bringing further genetically modified organisms for sale in BC and Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Government understands the concern that has been raised regarding the production, trade and sale of genetically engineered (GE) organisms in British Columbia.

Ministry staff continues to monitor this issue.

The federal government exercises authority nationally over labelling for marketing, import, export and interprovincial trade of agricultural products, including genetically engineered products.

Responsibility for the evaluation of the safety of GE products rests with the Federal Government. BC considers that the federal food safety and environmental evaluation processes for genetically engineered products must be kept current to ensure a safe food supply. The process must be transparent, based on good scientific analysis, and acceptable to independent scientists.

B52 RE-ESTABLISH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AS DIKING AUTHORITY

WHEREAS the Province has designated municipalities as diking authorities, and established a wide range of authoritative powers over them including requirements to fully administer and resource ongoing dike maintenance, flood protection planning, monitoring, inspection, reporting, and other associated work as well as to substantively fund disaster prevention and relief initiatives;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding s. 2(b) of the *Community Charter*, the administrative and financial resources required to undertake these responsibilities are an increasingly unsustainable burden to small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be re-established as the diking authority in all local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for flood protection legislation and has broad powers to establish guidelines, regulations, and flood hazard management plans with respect to flood protection, dikes, and the development of land subject to flooding. The Inspector and Deputy Inspectors of Dikes have the statutory authority to establish flood protection standards and design criteria, monitor the management of works by diking authorities, and approve new dikes and changes to existing dikes. Whenever a new dike is proposed, construction will be approved only if the local government agrees to become the diking authority and become responsible for ownership, operation, and maintenance of the dike.

There are several reasons why local governments are the most appropriate legal entities to assume responsibility for flood protection structures. Local governments are legally required to have an emergency management plan and to be the first responder to flooding. They have much greater access to flood protection funds from senior levels of government than other types of diking authorities. They also have the full legal powers for land use planning, development approval, and expropriation. Local governments typically provide many, if not all, locally available public services, including roads, drainage, water, and sewer. Coordination of public service delivery, including taxation, is facilitated by combining the responsibilities within local government.

B53 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS human trafficking is a real and devastating issue in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS significant work & research has been done as of late to aid in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking throughout Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the RCMP, local police forces, and local governments to continue to work collaboratively in order to implement the recommendations found within the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada's recent report ("NO MORE" Ending Sex-Trafficking in Canada) as well as the Province of British Columbia's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

BC is a national leader in the fight against human trafficking and takes its commitment to combating human trafficking seriously. BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP), is part of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. OCTIP is actively engaged with its partners, including municipal governments, service providers, local police forces and the RCMP to implement actions outlined in BC's *Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2013-2016*.

Representatives from OCTIP and the RCMP were members of the Task Force that developed the *NO MORE: Ending Sex Trafficking in Canada* report and recommendations for the Canadian Women's Foundation. The City of Toronto's initiatives to address human trafficking are highlighted as a model of action within a municipal framework in this report.

BC is making significant progress and continues to implement priorities and actions focussing on preventing and addressing trafficking of youth for sexual exploitation, vulnerable workers, and the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal youth and women. OCTIP is dedicated to working in partnership to assist and protect trafficked persons and has a close working relationship with police, including the Vancouver Police Department's Counter Exploitation Unit and the RCMP's Human Trafficking Coordinator for the BC/Yukon region. The RCMP actively enforces Canada's human trafficking laws and continues to investigate cases of human trafficking in BC.

OCTIP will continue to liaise and collaborate with the RCMP's BC Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator, the RCMP's Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre, municipal police departments, and other stakeholders to address human trafficking in BC. OCTIP welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with UBCM and local municipal governments to further address issues of human trafficking in areas of prevention, awareness raising, training, education and service provision.

B54 PROLIFIC OFFENDERS

WHEREAS crimes perpetrated by repeat or prolific offenders have a negative effect on communities across the province, with repercussions including but not limited to threats to public safety; damage to public and business infrastructure; diminished economic growth; social problems; and increased policing costs, accompanied by consequential increases to local government budgets and strains on all classes that comprise the local government tax base;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government's own Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction recommended, in their Final Report, that "in order to limit the unnecessary recourse to short prison sentences that have little if any effect on crime reduction, measures should be taken to ensure that judges have access to a variety of effective sentencing options, supported by credible and effective programs in all communities":

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for British Columbia undertake the legislative and regulatory changes recommended by the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction necessary to ensure that prolific offenders are sentenced effectively, and supported by credible programs in communities to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

It is important to note that recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction are complex, broad in scope and require further consultation with other ministries and with other branches within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Responsive to recommendation #1, "manage prolific and priority offenders more effectively", BC Corrections' Integrated Offender Management (IOM) program has shown great promise. An evaluation of the program showed that IOM has been proven to reduce reoffending by up to 48% over an 18 month period. BC Corrections continues to evaluate results and plans to expand the program to all of BC's correctional facilities in 2016.

Building on best practices learned from the Prolific Offender Management (POM) pilot project, BC Corrections has also formed a multi-agency working group. The working group is in the early stages of creating unified, provincial strategies and information sharing protocols to support and expand committees to manage offenders throughout BC. Committees to manage prolific offenders continue to exist in the six POM pilot communities and more than 15 additional communities across BC have interagency committees based on the best practices of the POM project.

BC Corrections also plans to enhance its case management and release planning process to further prepare inmates for release back in the community. In an effort to better support re-integration into society, BC Corrections is exploring opportunities to collaborate with other ministries and provincial post-secondary institutions to expand job training options for offenders.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has assumed a leadership role in establishing cross-ministry partnerships to improve services for clients with mental health and addiction needs. To further this endeavour, BC Corrections and the Ministry of Health are leading the Partners in Change: Enhancing Continuity of Care project which will produce protocols to strengthen cross-ministry services delivered to clients with mental health needs at key transition points within the criminal justice system. The Policing and Security Branch has also initiated a joint project with the Ministry of Health to review integrated responses to persons experiencing a mental health and/or substance use (MHSU) crisis. Individuals with a MHSU problem, particularly those who are dealt with repeatedly, have a significant impact on police

resources. The goal of the project is to promote best practices; expand successful information sharing protocols and integrated initiatives; provide clear and practical guidance to police agencies and health authorities on their respective roles and responsibilities; and strengthen the interfaces between health authorities and police agencies across BC.

The ministry is working with other provinces, territories and with the federal government to ensure that the criminal law is effective and meets British Columbia's needs. In some cases, an effective response to low-level crimes committed by chronic offenders will be a non-custodial sentence in the community. These types of sentences, given they are typically longer than periods of incarceration, can also help to address the underlying causes of some offenders' criminal behaviour through extended periods of treatment and counselling. We will continue to advocate for changes to federal criminal law, which provide BC's police, prosecutors and judges with the tools they need to respond to chronic offending and other criminal justice issues of importance to British Columbians.

B55 BC TRANSIT FUNDING FREEZE

WHEREAS direction from the recently announced 2015 provincial budget and BC Transit's 2015/16 to 2017/18 Service Plan is to freeze operating budgets at 2015/2016 Annual Operating Agreement levels;

AND WHEREAS many local governments across British Columbia are building momentum and making great strides in improving access to transit;

AND WHEREAS the freezing of operating budgets may undermine these efforts:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM urge the province of British Columbia and BC Transit to reconsider its funding freeze at 2015/16 levels and renew its commitment to transit by restoring previously projected operating funding for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 fiscal years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Provincial operating funding to BC Transit increased by 45% between 2008 and 2015 and remains the highest per capita in Canada. The provincial government is further increasing its share of operating funding to BC Transit by \$12.7 million over the next three fiscal years, including \$1.6 million to support improved services along the Highway 16 corridor, and will fully meet its share of BC Transit's capital funding requirements over that time frame.

The British Columbia Transit Regulation was amended in 2015 to allow BC Transit to keep savings in provincial funding from one year – for example, from lower fuel prices – to offset cost increases in following years.

Every part of government is looking for ways to be more efficient and to more effectively use taxpayer dollars. BC Transit will also be working with local governments to develop strategies for service innovations, cost savings and increased revenues.

The Ministry of Finance is undertaking a Crown Agency Review of BC Transit to look for opportunities for cost savings and new revenues. BC Transit will be expected to implement recommendations and use any efficiency savings to support improved transit services in our communities.

B57 SUSTAINING CLEAN WATER SOURCES

WHEREAS municipalities from time to time receive groundwater or surface water test reports from certified laboratories indicating contamination results higher than the Canadian safety standards;

AND WHEREAS unsatisfactory test results typically prompt authorities to issue an advisory or restriction on use of that water, but no investigation or plan to remediate the situation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM call on the Province to establish a fund to allow local governments to identify the source of contamination and devise and implement a plan for remediation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

British Columbia's new *Water Sustainability Act* received Royal Assent in May 2014. The new Act will bring greater certainty and security for all users. Our demand for water province-wide is increasing, in part driven by changing climate, expanding resource development and growing communities. The new Act creates more tools to manage BC water resources, which means new business for the provincial government.

The Province recognizes that water is vital to human life and ecosystem health. While source water protection is largely a provincial responsibility, water purveyors in British Columbia are responsible for the quality of potable water. Nationally, there are a number of resources available to jurisdictions that support source water protection. For example, through Health Canada, the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines are developed (for both ground and surface water sources). In 2003, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment also published *From Source to Tap: Guidance on the Multi-Barrier Approach to Safe Drinking Water*. Both resources are used in British Columbia.

Under the new Act, both new groundwater regulation and a number of tools will be enabled that will also support source water protection. For example, Provincial Water Objectives will require that decision makers consider the impacts of individual activities on water quality (including drinking water). Where developed, Watershed Sustainability Plans will consider the impact of land-based activities on water and the watershed.

Local governments are eligible to apply to the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development's Infrastructure Planning Grant Program to assist with assessing their water system and developing remediation options or plan.

B58 HYDROELECTRIC DAM WATER USE PLANNING

WHEREAS hydroelectric dams affect water systems that are a vital resource to communities;

AND WHEREAS many hydroelectric dams lack water use plans, or have water use plans that do not give communities input into decisions that affect local water systems, such as water flows;

AND WHEREAS communities have a strong desire to be included in decisions that affect local water resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia require all hydroelectric dams in British Columbia to have water use plans which recognize values that give communities input into decisions that affect municipalities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

A Water Use Plan (WUP) is intended to clarify how rights to provincial water resources should be exercised and to take account of the multiple uses for those resources.

The Comptroller of Water Rights decides whether a Water Use Plan is required for water licenses for major water control facilities in British Columbia although a WUP process is initiated by the proponent who is also responsible for the plan development.

Every BC Hydro facility with a water license has a Water Use Plan that is in various stages of implementation. BC Hydro receives water rental remissions for the costs it incurs as a result of WUP implementation.

B59 BIO SOLID REVIEW PROCESS

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health are responsible for reviewing and approving bio solid composting facility permits and land application notifications under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation; and the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for administration of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act*;

AND WHEREAS, due to these activities being carried out within the Agricultural Land Reserve, the inter-jurisdictional importation of bio solid waste materials is being authorized and land application and composting facilities are being permitted without a public consultation process in locations where residents and the environment may be adversely affected by the potential health risks, noise and odor nuisances, property value reductions and community well-being:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province form a committee including local government representatives to examine and make recommendations for changes to the Provincial bio solid review process and changes to the content in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and *Agricultural Land Commission Act* that govern the bio solid regulatory process in the Province of British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The preamble of the proposed resolution is not based on an accurate representation of the requirements of the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). The regulation does not require the Ministry to issue permits or approve land application plans or biosolids composting facilities.

The Ministry hosted a UBCM workshop on September 21, 2015 for interested local governments, where the current Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and the ongoing scientific review of biosolids in the Nicola Valley were discussed.

On April 4th, 2016, the Ministry announced British Columbians will have a chance to engage with government as part of a comprehensive review of OMRR to ensure it remains protective of human health and environment. Over the coming months, detailed policy proposals will be drafted with respect to biosolids and other municipal wastewater by-products. A policy intentions paper will then be posted online by fall 2016, for the public to provide comments and feedback. Concurrent with the public engagement, discussions will also take place with First Nations, agriculture producers and local governments.

In advance of the formal review of OMRR, biosolids soil sampling will be completed to assess metal and pathogen levels against current OMRR standards. The ministry will also conduct exploratory sampling of biosolids for selected organic contaminants. Sampling results will support and inform the formal review of OMRR, which is expected to be completed in 2017.

B60 QUAGGA AND ZEBRA MUSSELS

WHEREAS quagga and zebra mussels pose a serious threat to BC's aquatic ecosystems, agricultural irrigation systems, salmon and other fisheries, hydro power stations, in-lake infrastructure facilities and individual farm businesses relying on intake pipe infrastructure, by clogging pipes, increasing maintenance costs for hydroelectric, industrial, agricultural and recreational facilities, causing ecological and economic damage, displacing native aquatic plants and wildlife, degrade the environment and affect drinking water quality;

AND WHEREAS the funding for annual watercraft inspection and decontamination in British Columbia significantly reduces the success rates against the invasive species threat allowing for only 132 inspections in British Columbia compared to 3,747 in the province of Alberta and 49,380 in the state of Idaho:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province establish permanent inspection stations at key points of entry, coordinated with the Pacific Northwest Regional Defence Strategy for invasive species, and also develop a provincial control and containment strategy for regions that become infested, funded by the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Invasive Mussel Defence program was launched in March 2015, consisting of six roving crews moving between high traffic inspection locations along the southern and eastern borders of B.C. While some permanent inspection stations at key locations are likely to be implemented in the 2016 boating season, mobile stations allow greater flexibility to move to the best locations over the course of the boating season, and respond to high risk boats anywhere in the province. Closer collaboration with Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) also reduces the need for permanent inspection stations along all southern border crossings, and instead requires a smaller number of roving inspection crews, able to respond to calls from the CBSA.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Defence Strategy was developed (July 2015) by the Invasive Species Group with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and can be found at: www.pnwer.org/uploads/2/3/2/9/23295822/advancing_a_regional_defense_against_dreisseniids_in_the_pacific_northwestfinal.pdf. B.C. is part of the planning and is collaborating with surrounding jurisdictions, on training, monitoring, education and outreach, and most importantly notification of mussel infested boats. In all cases where B.C. received notification from other jurisdictions of B.C. bound boats coming from mussel infested waters, the communication was effective and timely; allowing our inspection crews to inspect and decontaminate the boat prior to entering BC waters.

The program funding for the 2015 boating season was \$900K with contributions from the Province, BC Hydro, Columbia River Basin Trust, Columbia Power Cooperation, and Fortis BC. On March 30, 2016 the Premier announced a greatly expanded Invasive Mussel Defence Program that includes eight permanent inspection stations and 32 inspectors with auxiliary CO status. Inspectors will provide 7 day-a-week coverage of BC's southern and eastern borders. Inspectors will coordinate closely with the Canadian Border Services Agency to cover the International border. Annual funding support of \$2M has been provided by BC Hydro, the Columbia Basin Trust, Fortis BC and Columbia Power Corporation. The Ministry of Environment will co-ordinate program delivery.

B61 HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS the BC Health Officers Council is calling for Health Impact Assessments to be carried out as part of all Environmental Assessments conducted in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Health Impact Assessment must be considered for all reviewable projects under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*, and that a complete HIA be performed and provincially funded as part of the project review process;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office work with the Health Officers Council and UBCM to develop the necessary guidance documents to support the implementation of HIA in the assessment of reviewable projects.

RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment Office

The BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) manages the assessment of the potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects that may occur as a result of proposed major projects. Some projects are also subject to federal environmental assessments.

EAO sets the requirements for environmental assessments on a project-by-project basis, and project proponents conduct and fund the required studies. Human health risk assessments are commonly conducted as part of environmental assessments. EAO works with technical experts from provincial and federal government agencies to assist in setting the requirements and reviewing studies conducted by proponents. Agencies may include Provincial Health Authorities, Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada and BC Ministry of Environment.

EAO is agreeable to working with other parties to support a consistent approach to health impact assessment across the province.

B62 COMPLIANCE UNDER THE BC RECYCLING REGULATION

WHEREAS the provincial Recycling Regulation renders producers responsible for collecting and recycling the products that they make and sell;

AND WHEREAS the Multi-Material British Columbia (MMBC) product stewardship plan outlines how, acting on behalf of producers, it will increase the provincial recycling rate for packaging and printed paper from approximately 52 per cent to over 75 per cent;

AND WHEREAS MMBC estimates suggest that 400 businesses have yet to discharge their financial obligations under the BC Recycling Regulation - that they are, in effect, non-compliant - thereby limiting MMBC's financial ability to expand collection system capacity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment improve the regulatory compliance of producers under the Regulation, so that MMBC can finance continued expansion of the packaging and printed paper collection system to all communities throughout the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment (the Ministry) fully recognizes that several communities such as Comox do not yet have full producer-funded collection of packaging and printed paper (PPP) through the program being delivered by Multi-Material BC. MMBC has referenced their inability to expand their collection network due to a large number of non-compliant producers 'free-riding' on MMBC's current collection system, and its signed producers being 'over-subscribed' i.e. MMBC is collecting more materials than its signed producers are responsible for under the Recycling Regulation.

Since the introduction of the packaging and printed paper (PPP) program, Ministry resources have been reallocated to undertake one of the largest and most concerted compliance and enforcement initiatives in recent Ministry history – targeting hundreds of PPP producers and already resulting in MMBC recovering more than \$5.8 million of free-riding producer fees.

The Ministry has introduced a new enforcement tool designed specifically for situations of non-compliance where an administrative requirement has not been met (e.g. in the realm of product stewardship, failure to report data or be covered by a stewardship plan). Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) are fines issued by Ministry officials, not the courts – hence they are more immediate and often more effective – and can be up to \$40,000 per offence for this type of non-compliance. The Ministry has now begun to issue AMPs against free-riders operating under the PPP program; these are expected to gain the attention of other free-riders that may be unresponsive or uncooperative to date.

The Ministry has now issued approximately 1,650 advisory letters to possible free-riding PPP producers since 2013, and continues to pursue escalated enforcement action through issuance of warning letters or AMPs themselves as appropriate. The first phase of the Ministry's compliance and enforcement process is now substantially complete, with all known PPP producers having been engaged by the end of 2015. Although the Ministry has had great success with voluntary compliance, there will always be difficult producers that may require additional penalties or legal recourse. However, the Ministry expects in early 2016 to have all larger producers involved in the program.

Ministry compliance work does not translate into immediate MMBC service. There is a lag time of approximately six months between producers signing a membership agreement with MMBC and therefore becoming compliant, and them then calculating and submitting their membership fees. After this time has passed, the Ministry will have a full picture of producer compliance.

The single biggest impediment for MMBC to be able to fully meet its service level objectives and expand service to waitlisted communities is the non-compliant newspaper sector, which represents an estimated \$8.6 million in producer fees – multiple times that of all remaining free-riders combined. With compliant PPP producers currently paying for all free-riders' material, MMBC cannot require them to fund more services/waitlisted communities until this single largest freeriding producer is addressed. Discussions between senior government and the newspaper sector continue in an effort to resolve this situation.

B63 CROWN LAND AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS local governments receive Crown Land Recreational Tenure Application Referrals from the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and often refer them to advisory planning commissions for advice;

AND WHEREAS often local governments and advisory planning commissions are not aware of how specific applications may affect adjacent residents;

AND WHEREAS recreational tenures continue to increase in overlap and intensity adjacent to communities and the newspaper advertisements placed by FLNRO for recreational tenures are difficult for the general public to identify project locations;

AND WHEREAS the public has a genuine interest both financially and environmentally in the areas adjacent to their communities and residents often request local governments to mediate conflict on issues outside of their jurisdiction pertaining to these applications:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations require applicants for Crown Land Recreational Tenure to hold public meetings in the affected neighbourhoods to ensure residents receive pertinent information and have the opportunity to provide local knowledge to the applicant.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Adventure tourism is a significant economic driver in this province, employing tens of thousands of people and generating more than a billion dollars of economic activity each year. Its most significant impact is on remote and rural communities, where it helps diversify local economies.

Provincial adventure tourism policy applies to commercial recreation and tourism operators and educational institutions who provide outdoor recreation and tourism activities on provincial Crown land, non-profit societies that organize public recreation, and special events on provincial Crown land.

Applicants are required to advertise licence of occupation and lease applications. Advertising is generally not required for Temporary Permits for Special Events, but may be required for events with a large number of participants. Advertisements must clearly describe the proposed tenure location, types of activity proposed, and the type of tenure under application. If required, advertising should be consistent with the scale of the proposal and its potential for impacts and conflicts. Based on the scope of the proposed recreation tenure or facility development project, the ministry may also recommend to proponents that a public meeting would be appropriate.

Any activities that take place on Crown land within a municipality or regional district must consider local bylaws, regional growth strategies and community plans. In fact, these recreational activities are often designed to support economic and other goals identified in these strategic planning documents.

B64 REFORESTATION OF PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LAND

WHEREAS the maintenance of a sustainable and vibrant agricultural sector is critically important to the province's economic, social, and sustainable future;

AND WHEREAS the loss of productive agricultural lands to tree planting by companies seeking to offset their corporate carbon emissions is an unsustainable practice which threatens the long term health and viability of the agricultural sector in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia take action to stop the reforestation of productive agricultural land for carbon offset purposes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission are in contact with the company. The company is reviewing their program to ensure that it is meeting its objectives and is supported by local communities and stakeholders. The company has decided not to make any new offers to purchase land, or plant trees on their existing land while they are conducting their review.

The Ministry of Agriculture is working with the Agriculture Land Commission to identify solutions to prevent this type of activity in the future, and ensure that agriculture land be used to support the primary purpose of food production and continue to support the long term viability of the agriculture sector in the Province.

B65 COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS a network of drainage ditches has been constructed in the Lower Mainland to channel storm water, maintain the productivity of agricultural land and protect rural and urban areas from flooding;

AND WHEREAS these ditches, to be effective, need to be cleaned on a regular basis due to heavy vegetation growth and sedimentation, and require approval from the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff who have over exercised unreasonable methods of ditch cleaning creating additional costs for property owners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government (through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) confirm that the maintenance of ditches is recognized as a priority by reducing the time required for *Water Act* adjudication and by improving relationships with local governments, thus ensuring that provincial staff are available for proactive and timely communications during the approval process to reduce operating costs related to ditch and drainage maintenance in order to best improve agricultural production.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

While public safety remains the Province's first priority with respect to flood mitigation, we are also responsible for ensuring drainage and ditch maintenance is environmentally responsible and does not negatively impact endangered species.

The ministry works closely with local municipalities and landowners to get maintenance applications resolved in a reasonable time and has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the District of Kent and key landowners to increase collaboration on drainage maintenance. We will continue to work with Kent and other municipalities to improve the quality and timeliness of applications and approvals for these works.

B66 VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE FUNDING

WHEREAS British Columbia tourism generated \$13.9 billion in revenue, \$7.3 billion in GDP and employed over 132,000 people (2013), and communities across the Province have built and operate visitor centres by relying on annual performance based funding from Destination BC;

AND WHEREAS Destination BC decided in 2014 to eliminate its performance-based grant calculation model, which funded local visitor centres based on the traffic counts generated at each centre;

AND WHEREAS communities with visitor centres that are members of the visitor centre network require assurance of long-term funding based on their specific traffic counts and long term needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province to direct Destination BC to restore its "performance-based" funding model for visitor centres - a model based on actual traffic at local and regional visitor centres - to create a stable funding environment based on particular, local needs and in support of local jobs and economic development across the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Destination BC agrees with the need for predictable funding for visitor centres and, at the same time, Destination BC is making greater efforts to be equitable in the distribution of its finite budget for visitor servicing. Destination BC is also mindful of changes in visitors' expectations and behaviours when planning and undertaking travel.

Destination BC notes that there is no objective, independent way of measuring visitor centre traffic. Therefore, a funding model based on visitor centre traffic count means that the funding of one community depends on how other communities choose to measure and report visitor centre traffic.

Through its funding mechanism for visitor servicing, Destination BC will ensure the stable and equitable distribution among all communities of its finite budget for visitor servicing. Communities will be able to use that funding to meet their particular local needs, including supporting their visitor centres if desired. Destination BC will make additional funds available to help innovative communities adapt to the evolving needs and expectations of visitors including through the use of technology.

B68 HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CRISIS

WHEREAS there is a severe shortage of general practitioners and family physicians in small British Columbia communities causing an imminent health care provider crisis and the inevitable closure of clinics;

AND WHEREAS the current crisis jeopardizes the beneficial health outcomes of patients having a primary care practitioner; eliminates the basic health care needs to which every British Columbian has a right; and places an unfair burden on physicians trying to meet the demands;

AND WHEREAS the criteria used under the Rural Retention Program for ranking eligible communities and determining incentive levels for physicians only considers remote and rural areas and does not value unique circumstances in small urban communities which is a huge disadvantage for attracting new physicians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the criteria and classification system used under the Rural Retention Program be expanded to include incentives for physicians in smaller urban communities facing an imminent health care provider crisis.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province of BC is aware of the challenges faced by small urban, rural and remote communities in recruiting and retaining physicians and has therefore negotiated the Rural Practice Subsidiary Agreement (RSA) with the Doctors of BC to work collaboratively to enhance the availability and stability of services provided by physicians in these communities.

A Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC), which is comprised of representatives of rural physicians of BC, health authorities, the Ministry of Health and the Doctors of BC, has been established under the RSA to develop and oversee the application of a broad range of programs and incentives to help recruit and retain physicians for these communities.

The range of different types of programs available under the RSA is intended to address the differing needs and challenges of communities in attracting and retaining physicians, and the amount of support available under many of these programs is specifically tailored to recognize these differences within the funding that is available.

The Ministry welcomes opportunities to receive feedback from communities such as Lake Country and will take this resolution forward for discussion at the JSC. The Ministry is also in the preliminary discussions with representatives of a number of communities, including Lake Country, regarding development of new health care funding and compensation models that better support access to patient and family-centred primary care homes.

B69 RURAL OUT-PATIENT ACCOMMODATION

WHEREAS health care services for smaller, rural and remote communities witness the transportation of patients to hospitals in larger urban centres by ambulance and those patients, once discharged, must make other arrangements to return to their communities and therefore require temporary accommodation;

AND WHEREAS a broad spectrum of patients from remote communities undergoing chemotherapy treatment, day surgery, child birth, and the like, are also in need of temporary accommodation; and given that BC Ministry of Health goals include the key action to “work with rural communities, including First Nations, to implement a renewed approach to providing quality health care services across rural and remote areas”:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM appeal to the provincial government to make every effort in providing support, whether through direct funding, initiatives or policy, to organizations that are undertaking the development of lands and other hard assets in the establishment of rural out-patient accommodation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) recognizes the challenges that face British Columbians who live in rural and remote areas in accessing health care services, and is committed to improving health outcomes for rural populations. As noted in the Ministry’s policy paper *Rural Health Services in BC: A Policy Framework to Provide a System of Quality Care*, three specific service challenges stand out in the context of rural and remote communities: ensuring access to quality primary care services; ensuring pathways to accessing specialized perinatal, medical, and surgical services when they are required; and, how best to support aging in place.

The Ministry is working with health authorities to structure their services more consistently for the rural and remote areas across the health authorities and to outline pathways for patients that enable access to higher levels of care in larger population centres. The Ministry is also working with health authorities to enable local community level partnerships between local health authority leadership, physicians, health professionals, patients, caregivers and community leaders to design Integrated Primary and Community Care Practices across rural and remote communities.

While it is not feasible to cover all medically related travel costs, there are a number of programs and services that are designed to help patients with their medical transportation and accommodation needs in the region, including:

- The Travel Assistance Program, which helps alleviate some of the transportation costs for eligible BC residents who must travel within the province for non-emergency medical specialist services not available in their own community.
- The BC Family Residence Program, which provides accommodation assistance to enable families to stay together when their child requires medical care at BC Children's Hospital or Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, including premature babies and newborns with other health concerns. Enhanced travel assistance is also provided through ground transportation for children and air transportation for patients of all ages.
- Health Connections, a regional medical travel assistance program implemented by four regional health authorities, which provide transportation options to help reduce costs for rural residents.
- Accommodations made available by a number of charitable and non-profit organizations, such as:

- Canadian Cancer Society Lodges in Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Southern Interior and Prince George;
- Happy Liver Society for accommodation needs to liver transplant patients and their families;
- Kidney Suites offered by the BC & Yukon branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada for renal patients and their loved ones;
- Rest Easy, for the families of heart transplant recipients;
- Ronald McDonald House; and
- Easter Seals House.
- Medical Travel Accommodation Listing, through which a number of hotels in BC provide discounted accommodation rates for individuals and families who must stay away from home overnight to obtain medical care. The BC Government maintains a listing of these hotels as a courtesy to patients and their families.

The Ministry's policy paper *Rural Health Services in BC: A Policy Framework to Provide a System of Quality Care* also notes plans to expand and standardize the usage of telehealth services across rural and remote areas, as well as other ideas to improve access to health services for rural residents. Municipalities are encouraged to join the discussion and work with their health authorities to improve patient experiences, access, and quality of care.

B70 FUNDING FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS' OVERHEAD AND OPERATING COSTS

WHEREAS nurse practitioners are utilized as primary care providers in the delivery of health care services in rural communities across the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Health does not currently provide funding to support the overhead and operating costs for nurse practitioners to be effectively utilized on a long-term, sustainable basis:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to immediately support the funding of overhead and operating costs for nurse practitioners throughout the province in order to effectively utilize this form of primary health care provider delivery service.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) have been a valued and critical part of the BC health care system since 2005.

There are 397 practicing NPs registered with the College of Registered Nurses of BC as of December, 2015.

NPs work in a variety of health care settings from community health centres to acute care hospitals. They perform the full range of advanced nursing roles, as well as some functions similar to family doctors such as diagnosing and managing common acute and chronic illnesses, prescribing most medications, ordering diagnostic tests and referring to specialists.

BC has the ability to train up to 45 NPs per year (University of British Columbia, University of Northern BC, and University of Victoria each have 15 seats).

Government continues to support NPs, doctors, health authorities, communities, and the First Nations, to ensure NPs are an effective part of our health care system. For example, through collaboration with stakeholders, legislation was introduced in the Spring of 2014 on further integrating NPs into the health system by eliminating barriers and providing them with greater opportunities to meet their patients' needs.

As at March 31, 2015, the Ministry has provided total funding of approximately \$162 million to the health authorities for NP positions. Approximately \$17 million of this funding is included within the health authorities' annual base budgets to provide funding for NPs salary, benefits and other costs.

In May 2012, the Government announced \$22.2 million in net new funding for 190 new NP positions over three years through the Nurse Practitioner for BC (NP4BC) program. The NP4BC program began in the Fall of 2012, and was funding over and above the current \$17 million provided annually to health authorities for NPs. The NP4BC program is now concluded and has provided opportunities for existing NPs who have been unable to secure a NP position, as well as creating opportunities for newly qualified NPs, and those graduating in the future throughout BC.

As part of its policy discussion paper on rural health services, the Ministry has committed to working with health authorities and other partners to review incentive programs for non-physician health professionals, such as nurse practitioners, in order to better support rural recruitment and retention.

B71 PROPOSED SITE C HYDROELECTRIC DAM

WHEREAS the proposed Site C hydroelectric dam project on the Peace River has raised issues including the potential impact on BC Hydro ratepayers and provincial taxpayers, as well as the potential impacts on agricultural, environmental, aboriginal and municipal interests;

AND WHEREAS the District of Hudson's Hope and Peace River Regional District have requested a proper review of the project before any construction or development activities proceed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia refer the proposed Site C hydroelectric dam project to the BC Utilities Commission for review and consultation prior to any construction and development activities proceeding.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

Once built, Site C will provide clean, reliable and affordable electricity for more than 100 years.

The decision to proceed with Site C is a major public policy decision, most appropriately made by the elected government, not the utilities commission.

The costs of Site C have been independently reviewed by KPMG and a panel of independent contractors – work that the commission would have contracted out itself regardless.

The project has undergone a thorough and independent federal-provincial environmental assessment, including a Joint Review Panel process. This process took three years to complete and included multiple opportunities for consultation and input from the public, Aboriginal groups, communities and stakeholders.

The decision to build Site C puts ratepayers first and will maintain British Columbia's low-cost power advantage. BC Hydro is committed to working with First Nations, communities and landowners, and will ensure that BC Hydro commitments are met and project benefits are realized.

B72 FUNDING PROGRAM FOR LOCAL POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES

WHEREAS the provincial government is encouraging local governments to collaborate with the community through the Community Poverty Reduction Strategy;

AND WHEREAS UBCM provides administration of various grants through the Local Government Program Services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia, in partnership with UBCM, initiate a grant program to fund local poverty reduction initiatives.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development

No government wants to see any child or family living in poverty. We're committed to working with our partners across government and in communities to find innovative ways to use existing supports and make life easier for low-income British Columbians.

Government is committed to maintaining a balanced budget and is not in a position to offer financial assistance for local poverty reduction efforts under the current fiscal climate.

The Province supports communities and low-income individuals and families by providing the wrap-around supports they need at the provincial level.

Through the Community Poverty Reduction Strategies Initiative, government will continue to offer support to participating communities in the form of a local family consultant. For new communities wanting help with creating a local poverty strategy, the Ministry of Children and Family Development will provide support through a local staff liaison that will work with the community's planning committee.

While the Province continues to support communities with their local poverty reduction efforts, all partners must combine their strengths and available supports and resources in order to best meet the needs of the individuals and families in their B.C. communities.

Government remains committed to continuing to work with communities and local partners throughout B.C. to find innovative ways to address and reduce poverty at both provincial and local levels.

B73 *WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT* PRESUMPTIVE CLAUSE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

WHEREAS first responders will include 9-1-1 operators, paramedics, firefighters, peace officers, police officers, sheriffs and corrections officers; and many first responders have been affected by a mental health injury/disorder - thus replacing "PTSD" with "mental health injury";

AND WHEREAS there is a need to change the *Workers Compensation Act* under Section 5.1 to add a presumptive clause, as it is possible that within first responders' duties, they will encounter horrific acts and develop a mental health injury:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a two month maximum deadline be implemented when making a decision, at any decision point of the claim regarding a mental health injury claim based on one psychologist and/or one psychiatrist report;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of a mental health injury claim, the worker should receive immediate financial benefits and treatment, with the understanding and agreement of the worker, their specialist and WorkSafe BC that if it is proven that the injury was not as a result of their duties of employment, there will be a repayment plan for costs;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when the worker is "fit to return to work or retraining" there will be a follow up plan to be agreed upon by WorkSafe BC, the specialist and the worker;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that under Policy 97.34, Conflict of Medical Opinion, the probable difference of opinion shall be discussed with the physicians (refer to the treating physician or specialists) involved, and if it is concluded that there is doubt on any issues, the board must follow the mandate of s. 99 of the *Workers Compensation Act* and resolve that issue in a manner that favours the worker;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia add new legislative language to Section 5.1 of the *Workers Compensation Act*, adding a presumptive clause for mental health injuries as set forth in this resolution, to ensure the wellbeing of all first responders who have sustained a mental health injury.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour

Government appreciates the time and consideration that was dedicated to drafting this resolution. Government is also keenly aware of difficult circumstances many first responders have faced and cannot imagine the toll this has taken on them. The difficult work that first responders do every day in British Columbia is very much appreciated.

Government and WorkSafeBC certainly recognize that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental disorders are debilitating outcomes for some workplace incidents.

WorkSafeBC is well informed concerning the effects of mental disorders, including PTSD, and takes its role in reviewing such claims and assisting impacted workers, including first responders, very seriously. The assistance provided by WorkSafeBC includes support for returning to work, wage-loss benefits, and health care benefits including treatment by a psychologist or psychiatrist. In addition, employers of first responders have a responsibility to ensure they are provided with the information and training to ensure their health and safety in carrying out their work.

Government amended Section 5.1 of the *Workers Compensation Act (Act)* effective July 1, 2012, in order to expand coverage for British Columbia workers who experience work-related mental disorders, including PTSD. The change in coverage means that all BC workers, including paramedics and other first responders, are covered for mental disorders caused by a larger array of traumatic events or stressors. This coverage includes coverage for a reaction to one or more traumatic events that arise out of the course of the worker's employment.

Since the change in legislation, many more mental disorder claims have been accepted by WorkSafeBC, including PTSD cases for first responders. WorkSafeBC's specialized claims unit for mental disorders thoroughly investigates all mental disorder claims within the scope of the Act.

As the UBCM Resolution Committee correctly notes, this is a complex issue. Different jurisdictions across Canada are addressing this important matter in different ways. The amendments that government made to Section 5.1 of the Act effective July 2012 provide an enhanced framework for addressing mental disorders, including PTSD, in the workplace. At this time, Government has no plans to amend Section 5.1 of the Act. However, Government will ensure that it continues to monitor this important and evolving issue and is prepared to work with WorkSafeBC, the Ministry of Health, first responders and other stakeholders to support the well-being of first responders.

B74 FUNDING FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS road infrastructure, the lifeline to many coastal communities, is not under the care and control of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, but rather entrusted to profit oriented industry;

AND WHEREAS funding levels driven by stumpage and royalties are no longer adequate to sustain and maintain coastal road infrastructure to "community use" standard as expected by the travelling public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia provincial government be required to re-evaluate stumpage rates and apply an increased operating budget to support additional maintenance funding for forest roads accessing communities to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations who is responsible for many of these coastal community lifelines.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Public safety is a government priority, and the Province remains committed to supporting a legislative and regulatory framework that encourages workers and the public to use resource roads safely. We are developing a Natural Resource Roads Act, which aims to streamline and modernize our approach to the management and administration of resource roads.

In times of industrial inactivity, and under exceptional circumstances, the ministry may provide discretionary supplemental maintenance on permitted roads serving communities, rural residents, or high-value recreation sites. Maintenance activities will vary according to the road priority ranking and risk rating analysis. The Zeballos Forest Service Road, as one example, has received over \$5 million in capital improvements in the past five years.

B75 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for maintaining provincial highways;

AND WHEREAS the cumulative effects of climate change has caused many highways to become severely degraded, creating unsafe traveling conditions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide additional funding to address the cumulative effects of climate change on highways.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The safety of our highways is a priority for the Province.

The Ministry is committed to ensuring provincial highways and side roads are safe and will support mobility throughout the province. Whether it be climate change, economic growth or any other pressure on our infrastructure, we are committed to ensuring our highways are funded appropriately to ensure the roads stay open, remain safe and are in good operating condition.

To support this, the Ministry recently released its 10 year transportation plan; B.C. On the Move. In this plan, the Ministry has increased investment in bridge rehabilitation and replacement by 50% to \$180M over 3 years and increased investment in side roads by 33% to \$270M over 3 years among many other commitments. In all, the plan commits to \$890 million to ensure our Highways and Side Roads remain in good condition.

The Ministry is a leader in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, partnering with Engineers Canada and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (at the University of Victoria) to obtain climate projections. This has allowed evaluation of the potential vulnerability of transportation infrastructure in BC to climate changes. The Ministry is an active participant on Engineers Canada's Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee (PIEVC) and our Chief Engineer is Chair of PIEVC's Expert Working Group on Roads and Related Structures

The Ministry has developed directives, practices and is using these climate forecasting models and tools to ensure new and rehabilitated infrastructure is able to respond to changing climate conditions over time. The Ministry requires all new transportation projects to:

- Consider climate change and extreme weather events
- Take into account climate change and extreme weather event projections and analyses, where feasible
- Undertake vulnerability analysis for the design life of components
- Develop practical and affordable project design criteria which takes adaptation to climate change into account

This will ensure transportation infrastructure in the Province of British Columbia continues to be resilient, reliable, effective and efficient into the future.

B77 DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE SEISMIC MITIGATION FUND

WHEREAS in 1921 the Province of British Columbia initiated collection of a tax of 4.4% of gross property and vehicle insurance premiums (Insurance Premium Tax) equal to approximately \$450M per year to offset the cost of administering the *Fire Marshalls Act*, later the *Fire Services Act*;

AND WHEREAS the March 2014 Auditor General's Report concluded that British Columbia was not adequately prepared for a catastrophic seismic event and it is anticipated that seismic upgrading will be one of the included recommendations contained in the report of Henry Renteria, Chair of the BC Earthquake Preparedness Consultation that has been received by the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government:

- establish an Emergency Response Seismic Mitigation Fund;
- allocate \$190,000,000 annually from the Insurance Premium Tax to the fund; and
- make available up to \$1,000,000 of the fund annually to each local government in British Columbia for the purpose of seismic upgrading of local government emergency response buildings including emergency reception centres.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

Mechanisms already exist to support this resolution in that disaster mitigation is a category under both the Gas Tax Agreement Program and the New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF). The Gas Tax category covers infrastructure that reduces or eliminates the long term impacts and risks associated with natural disasters. The objective of the NBCF-SCF category is to invest in disaster mitigation infrastructure that is preventative in nature and contributes to economic growth, a clean environment and stronger communities.

Since 2001, the Province has either committed or already invested over \$17 billion in seismic upgrades. This includes over \$4 billion in new bridge and large highway infrastructure projects, \$2.2 billion in seismic upgrades for 213 high-risk schools and another \$9.1 billion for capital upgrades to B.C.'s hospitals to ensure they're built to the latest seismic requirements.

B78 DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS sections 20(1) and (2) of the *Emergency Program Act* specifically state that:

“The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by regulation, establish criteria by which the eligibility of a person to receive disaster financial assistance is to be determined;

The Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Minister may provide disaster financial assistance in accordance with the regulations to persons who suffer loss as a result of a disaster.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Lieutenant Governor in Council to expand the disaster relief fund making it available to all property owners when such disaster is a result of natural and/or non-human causes.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

The Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation clearly outlines how funding is available to affected property owners in a defined Disaster Financial Assistance eligible event. Natural and/or technical failings are considered in that determination.

B80 RAPE CULTURE IN CANADA

WHEREAS sexual assaults continue to be committed across Canada, and victims are of every age, race, income and gender;

AND WHEREAS sexual assaults are under-reported, and prosecution and conviction rates are low:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate for an intergovernmental task force to be convened to determine the steps needed to erase the “rape culture” that is pervasive in schools, universities, workplaces and elsewhere across Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be mandated to elicit testimony from victims in order to determine the steps needed to improve the reporting, arrest and conviction rates across Canada;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be mandated to determine the steps needed to improve the reporting, arrest and conviction rates across Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government takes the issue of violence against women very seriously. In February 2015, we released the Vision for a Violence Free BC (VFBC) strategy, which combines immediate actions with a long-term vision for ending all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence.

A cross-government leadership committee, chaired by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has been established to ensure that the objectives of VFBC are achieved. A number of actions in VFBC focus on the issue of sexual violence, such as:

- Work with post-secondary institutions to explore best practices and approaches to better prevent and respond to the issue of sexual violence.
- Ensure every hospital in BC has a protocol in place to support local care and response to cases of sexual violence.
- Develop a provincial sexual assault policy.

Some of the actions seek to prevent sexual violence by shifting the attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate it, while other focus on strengthening and better coordinating system responses to sexual assault.

Work is already underway on many of these actions. The government’s 2015/2016 applications process for civil forfeiture grant funding includes two streams focused on developing or enhancing responses to sexual assault.

B81 BC EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

WHEREAS the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) was developed to ensure a coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to any and all emergency incidents;

AND WHEREAS the BCERMS Response Objectives are not being applied to flooding events to ensure residents of BC are ranked first:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia ensure the residents of BC are ranked first during all emergency incidents including flooding events; and further, that the ranking apply to both natural and unnatural (industry) led events.

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

Both the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS), and provincial response plans are already in symmetry with the resolution. Within the BCERMS response goals, the residents of BC are included in both the first and second goals, providing for the safety of all responders and saving lives.

Specific to flooding, and similar to other provincial response plans, the 2013 British Columbia Flood Response Plan (the Plan), aligns with the BCERMS. The Plan describes the methodology the provincial government will utilize for coordinating activities to manage a flood event. The plan clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the ministries involved in flood management during an integrated provincial response event.

The Plan also details at a high level that local authorities will initiate actions to meet the BCERMS goals in response to flooding. Local authorities will activate emergency plans and directly control the resources within their jurisdiction for the purpose of emergency response and recovery from flooding.

B82 INCREASING CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATES

WHEREAS local governments are heavily reliant on property taxes and need to diversify their revenue sources;

AND WHEREAS income tax sharing arrangements are common between senior and local government in other jurisdictions and British Columbia has the second lowest corporate income tax rate of all provinces and territories:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia be urged to increase the corporate income tax rate by 1% on large corporations as defined by the Province and transfer any revenue from that tax increase to the local government level.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The government is committed to maintaining a competitive tax structure for British Columbia businesses.

We also have a shared interest with the Union of BC Municipalities in growing the economy and improving the local government finance system. We have acted upon a number of recommendations in the Union of BC Municipalities' Strong Fiscal Futures report, including; the launch of the New Building Canada program; renewing the federal Gas Tax Agreement; delivering \$2.76 billion to BC's local governments over the next decade; accelerating applications under the Small Communities Fund (part of New Building Canada Fund with the federal government); delivering \$327 million over the next ten years for communities with populations under 100,000; ensuring greater public input over TransLink; and committing to continuation of Small Community Grants, which delivers an average of \$55 million in unconditional grants each fiscal year." The government is not prepared to share provincial tax revenue at this time.

WHEREAS the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) has cost taxpayers \$5.2 million with little evidence of any value for taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of a clear public policy problem that the AGLG is intended to resolve:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province to eliminate the Auditor General for Local Government due to the fact that the requirements of such an office are already met under existing local government legislation and regulations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province is committed to continuing the work of the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) as it provides opportunities for local governments to learn, improve their operations and further their accountability to their citizens.

In October 2015, the Legislature of British Columbia passed amendments to the *Auditor General for Local Government Act* that strengthen and enhance the operations and accountability of the Office. The amendments align with the recommendations from the Audit Council's April 2015 independent review of the Office. These amendments are intended to address the performance concerns regarding the Office expressed during the first three years of its operations.

Subsequent to appointing the acting AGLG, Arn van Iersel and then appointing the new, permanent AGLG, Gordon Ruth, there has been a measurable and substantial improvement in the performance of the Office. As of the end of March 2016 a total of 20 reports had been released by the Office. This included 16 performance audit reports and four perspective series booklets. Of these, 13 performance audit reports and three perspective series booklets were completed in 2015/16.

B86 LAND TITLE FEES

WHEREAS local governments rely on land title records and survey plans from the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC (LTSA) in their day to day operations beyond those searches conducted for assessment or taxation purposes;

AND WHEREAS the *Land Title Act* limits the fee exemption to land title register searches conducted for taxation and assessment purposes only, resulting in significant additional costs to local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province to amend the *Land Title Act* to expand the purposes under which a local government can search the records of the land title office without charge.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

As an independent, not-for-profit statutory corporation, the LTSA operates on a fee-for-service basis. The service fees fully offset the costs associated with delivering the services and continue to support BC's highly sophisticated and reliable land title and survey system. Enabling broad exemptions and unrestricted access for customers to access the LTSA's services is inconsistent with this model. If fees are reduced for one stakeholder, they must be unfairly increased for other clients to ensure revenue neutrality.

The *Land Title Act* authorizes certain exemptions for entities like First Nations, Crown corporations, local governments and improvement districts for the purpose of assessment or taxation and incidental matters. In May 2015, the fee schedule for land title products was simplified, and fees were rebalanced so that they reflect actual costs of delivering services.

B87 FUNDING ALLOCATION TO SMALL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS the Province of BC and Government of Canada offer a range of local government funding programs to stimulate the economy and address infrastructure requirements;

AND WHEREAS the definition of small communities under the New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF) is defined as communities with a population of less than 100,000 people;

AND WHEREAS villages, towns and districts with a population under 5,000 people, make up for more than half of the 162 municipalities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS villages, towns and districts with a population under 5,000 often don't have the financial resources to afford their portion of the funding required under the government grant programs such as the NBCF:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a new category referred to as "micro-community" be introduced when the provincial or federal governments are establishing grant programs tailored to unique needs and financial positions of micro-communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the municipal portion of projects being funded by government grants be lessened for micro-communities to recognize their more limited financial capabilities and financial readiness in comparison to their more populous counterparts.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province of British Columbia recognizes the challenges faced by small communities in finding adequate financing mechanisms to support significant infrastructure projects. The Ministry continues to work in developing and delivering funding programs that are fair, practical and meet the various challenges of local governments in British Columbia.

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development recognizes the challenges faced by small rural and urban local governments. This recognition led to the development of programs such as Towns for Tomorrow and the Community Recreation Program. Both of these programs, had a provincial contribution up to 80 percent, resulting in a local government contribution of 20 percent. Furthermore the Towns for Tomorrow program was designed specifically for communities with populations of 15,000 or less. In addition, the Gas Tax Fund provides funding opportunities of 100 percent in the Strategic Priorities Fun and Community Works Fund.

Unconditional funding programs such as the Small Community and Regional District Grant programs, which focus on communities of less than 5,000, were developed in direct response to the needs of smaller local governments, providing support to over 150 local governments. The Traffic Fine Revenue Sharing program also considers the needs of communities with populations of fewer than 5,000 by providing reductions in the police tax.

As the Ministry develops, or participates in the development of, capital funding programs, the Ministry is always aware of the challenges of small local governments, and as such, analyses the cost-share formula in the development of all programs. With a finite amount of funding available, the Ministry tries to balance not only the financial challenges faced by small local governments, but also the need to maximize the benefits of these capital programs to as many

local governments as possible. With federal-provincial programs, such as the New Building Canada Fund, cost sharing formulas are set by the federal government and must be adhered to. There is not an opportunity to change these formulas which are set in federal-provincial agreements.

In addition, the Province recently announced a Rural Dividend (of up to \$75 million) to assist local communities in reinvigorating and diversifying their economies through building community capacity, expanding learning and skill development, providing economic opportunities for rural youth, and encouraging collaboration between rural communities and First Nations.

This is a pilot program that will provide up to \$25-million per-year for three years (2016-17 to 2018-19), and is only available to rural communities with a populations of 25,000 or less. The eligibility criteria and other program details will be finalized soon and program is set to commence in 2016-17. This program will be administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

B88 CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* require that all public notices be published in a newspaper;

AND WHEREAS printed newspapers are no longer the only or most effective means of giving public notice:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government amend the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* to allow statutorily required public notices to be published using a variety of media channels, including but not limited to: newspapers, social media, web sites and online advertising, as long as reasonably equivalent or better reach than that of solely using printed newspapers can be demonstrated.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The *Community Charter* contains provisions for a degree of flexibility regarding the statutory requirement to publish a notice. Section 94(7) provides the option for a local government to broaden the types of media used to publish a notice – that is, a local government must still publish the notice in a newspaper, but may in addition, publish the notice in another way (e.g. on the internet).

Section 94(4) of the *Community Charter* also addresses situations where publishing a notice in a newspaper is not practical. For example, in a small community without a local paper, a community could set alternative means to satisfy the statutory requirement to publish a notice.

Legislative amendments on the publication of public notices are not being considered at this time.

B89 SETTING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FEES

WHEREAS local governments are faced with difficulties regulating and deterring excessive nuisance complaints which results in a drain on local government staff and RCMP resources;

AND WHEREAS Section 194 of the *Community Charter* challenges local governments' ability to effectively discourage prolific offenders by restricting fees:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to amend the *Community Charter* to allow local governments the power and flexibility to successfully establish and collect fees and penalties.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The *Community Charter* is a flexible piece of legislation that municipalities can use to establish and collect fees as they deem necessary.

Section 194 of the *Community Charter* grants council, by bylaw, the ability to impose a fee payable for the service of a municipality and the use of municipal property, as well as the authority to regulate, prohibit or impose requirements. Municipalities currently have the ability to base the fee on any factor specified in the bylaw and establish different rates or levels of fees in relation to different factors.

With regards to penalties, the *Community Charter* also grants municipality's legislative power to make bylaws that enforce the bylaws of a municipality, and may do so through the use of fines and other penalties. Additionally, a municipal bylaw may establish a penalty of up to \$10,000 that a person convicted of an offence must pay to the municipality. A number of municipalities across B.C. have created bylaws that include a penalty that both single and repeat nuisance offenders must pay.

B91 CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TO RUN IN ONE JURISDICTION ONLY

WHEREAS the simultaneous running for local government office by a candidate in multiple jurisdictions makes a mockery of the election process;

And whereas there is currently no mechanism in local government elections-related legislation to prohibit the simultaneous running for local government office by a candidate in multiple jurisdictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend Part 3 of the *Local Government Act* to add a prohibition on the simultaneous running for local government office by a candidate in multiple jurisdictions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development recognizes there is a concern for candidates running for office in multiple jurisdictions.

In B.C. there have never been restrictions that would limit people from running or holding office in more than one jurisdiction. In fact, in smaller jurisdictions it is not uncommon for a councilor to also be a school board trustee as these are considered separate 'governments'.

To date, the issue is an anomaly: only one candidate ran in 13 jurisdictions in the 2014 general local election.

The Ministry will continue to monitor the issues regarding candidates running in multiple jurisdictions.

B92 WITHDRAWAL, DEATH OR INCAPACITY OF AN ELECTION CANDIDATE

WHEREAS upon the withdrawal, death or incapacity of a duly nominated candidate in a local government election, the *Local Government Act* does not effectively enable the Chief Elections Officer to formally notify voters of withdrawal, death or incapacity of such candidate;

AND WHEREAS under the current provisions of the *Local Government Act*, such candidate in a local government election could conceivably receive a sufficient number of valid votes to be declared elected, thereby necessitating a by-election.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to amend Section 80(1) of the *Local Government Act* to enable the Chief Elections Officer to post a prescribed notice inside each polling booth, or otherwise inform voters at a local government election of the withdrawal, death or incapacity of a candidate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any votes cast for that candidate would not be counted.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province of British Columbia understands and appreciates the concerns that local governments have raised about local elections.

The Province remains committed to ensuring that local government elections are conducted in a timely and fair process. In doing so, the chief election officer (CEO) for each electoral area is granted powers under the *Local Government Act* such as ensuring voting places are supplied with enough ballots, that people do not vote more than once, and he or she is granted responsibility for any additional actions that are necessary for conducting an election in accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* and any bylaws and regulations under the *Local Government Act*.

The Province is aware of the concerns related to the withdrawal, death or incapacity of an election candidate; however these circumstances are a rare occurrence in local elections. In the case of withdrawal, death or incapacity of an election candidate the CEO is officially responsible for notifying the minister.

In practice, at the local level, a CEO is already able to post notices and provide information about a candidate's withdrawal, death or incapacity to the public. The *Local Government Act* does not prevent a CEO from providing notification at a voting place, or anywhere else. It is currently within a CEO's discretion to keep their electors informed of the current candidates, in whatever manner they find most appropriate. Providing CEO's information on alternatives with respect to public notification could be suggested as a part of Local Government Management Associations CEO elections training that takes place during the year of an election.

Due to the limited occurrence of such incidences, as well as the practical solutions already available to a chief election officer, the government is not considering any further action on this item at this time.

B93 RECALL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

WHEREAS the recently extended term of office for local government elected officials in BC negatively affects the ability of the local electorate to vote for change in their local government;

AND WHEREAS there is a potential for local government elected officials to pursue activities that are not supported by, and not in the best interests of their constituents, potentially causing financial, social or operational harm in their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia amend BC's *Community Charter* to include a mechanism enabling voters to recall their local government elected officials, whereby the signatures of more than 50% of registered municipal or ward voters would be required, with the petition being initiated no less than 18 months after the date the local government elected official was sworn in to office, following the same recall timeline currently being used by Elections BC for the recall of Members of the Legislative Assembly.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province recognizes that democratic and accountable local governments depend on elected officials, such as mayors and councillors, who have the legal authority and responsibility to make decisions on behalf of their communities.

Local government elections provide the fundamental democratic framework around which elected officials are ultimately held accountable for their decisions and actions.

The Province supports local governments taking more responsibility for the ethical conduct for representatives. The *Community Charter* already contains provisions including disqualification for ethical conduct and conflict of interest issues, among others. For example, if a municipal council member is disqualified from holding local elected office, but continues to act in office, the municipality, by a 2/3 vote of council, or 10 or more electors of a municipality, may apply to the Supreme Court to have that person declared disqualified. Reasons for disqualification include conflict of interest, failure to take the oath of office, unexcused absence from council meetings, and unauthorized expenditures. In addition, there are various tools local governments can use to support and clarify expected standards of behaviour, such as codes of conduct and oaths of office.

Recall legislation for local governments is not being considered at this time.

B94 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION LEGISLATION

WHEREAS the newly elected NDP government in Alberta has introduced legislation to prohibit political campaign contributions from corporate and union sources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of BC prohibit political campaign contributions from corporate and union sources at the provincial and local government level in the province of BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that limits be placed on the size of individual candidates' contributions and contributions to campaigns.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

In 2014 the Province enacted the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA). This legislation is still relatively new and therefore is continually being monitored for any areas of improvement. LECFA was introduced to increase local elections campaign financing and election advertising accountability, transparency, compliance and enforcement. The Ministry has introduced expense limits legislation through the tabling of Bill 17: *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act, 2016* on February 25, 2016.

The issue of campaign contribution limits has been brought to the attention of the Province in the past and was reviewed by the Local Government Elections Task Force in 2010. The Task Force did not recommend establishing general limits on contribution amounts or sources. The Task Force's view was that political contributions are a way for people to participate in the democratic process; further, they allow participation by those who may not be eligible to vote but are affected by local government decisions.

The candidate is ultimately responsible and accountable to the public for the donations they accept and who those donations are from. Additionally, campaign finance disclosure requirements ensure that the public knows who made donations to candidates and the size of the donation.

The Province is continuing to make amendments and improvements to LECFA in anticipation of the next local election in 2018. The Province is not considering the addition of campaign contribution limits at this time.

B96 GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS environmental impact assessments are undertaken for major infrastructure projects in accordance with the BC *Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 and the Canadian *Environmental Assessment Act*;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of a project may extend well beyond the geographic footprint of the project;

AND WHEREAS this is particularly true for port developments where road, rail and shipping impacts may affect communities that are geographically distant from the marine terminal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government be requested to ensure that the scope of environmental impact assessments for major infrastructure projects includes the wider community and environmental impacts associated with increased road, rail and marine traffic so that a range of mitigation options can be assessed, including the development of inland port facilities.

RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment Office

For each proposed project subject to an environmental assessment (EA), the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) sets out the scope of the EA that is appropriate to that particular project. This includes consideration of potential effects beyond the project footprint, such as increased traffic related to the proposed project. In making the decision on what infrastructure or activities to include in an EA, EAO considers factors such as:

- the potential magnitude, extent, duration, and frequency of environmental, social, health, heritage or economic effects that could be caused by the proposed project;
- whether there are existing regulatory regimes that adequately address those effects, and;
- the province's jurisdiction to address potential effects, including cumulative effects.

To inform this decision, EAO may also seek feedback from the advisory working group for the project, most often comprised of provincial, local, Aboriginal and federal government representatives.

B97 WAIVING ROYALTIES FOR GRAVEL EXTRACTION IN FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

WHEREAS communities situated on flood plains are overshadowed by the potential threat of flooding;

AND WHEREAS the significant rate of gravel aggregation in rivers adjacent to flood plains is well documented and removal thereof would reduce the flooding risk;

AND WHEREAS small local governments lack the financial resources to undertake gravel extraction;

AND WHEREAS there is no provincial or federal program in place for flood reduction or prevention;

AND WHEREAS royalties are required to be paid on all gravel extracted that is not for public works use:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government to waive royalties for all gravel that is extracted by local governments and leaseholders from riverbeds adjacent to flood hazard areas, where qualified professionals confirm that gravel extraction will reduce flooding risk.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Government recognizes that the removal of gravel and sediment from river beds near developed areas can help reduce the risk of flooding in those communities. For this reason, the Aggregates and Quarry Material land use policy includes a provision stating that gravel removed from rivers for flood mitigation purposes is royalty-free. This gravel may be used for public works purposes, such as roads, dykes or other community facilities.

Gravel extracted for commercial purposes is subject to royalty payments. The ministry will consider policy amendments that would allow gravel removed for flood mitigation purposes to be sold by local governments to recover gravel removal costs; however, any gravel removed beyond the cost recovery point would be subject to royalties.

B99 REMOVAL OF LANDS FROM AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE

WHEREAS the Cabinet Order in Council No. 148 excluding land within the Site C reservoir is the largest exclusion in the 43-year history of the Agricultural Land Reserve;

AND WHEREAS historically, there have been other Cabinet Orders for exclusion which were subject to much more public input both for and against prior to a decision being made;

AND WHEREAS this decision was made without public input or application:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be requested to rescind Order in Council No. 148 until there has been adequate public input and respect shown for the legal requirements required to apply for removal of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Under Section 7 of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the authority to exclude lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) on the recommendation of the Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC). The ELUC approved the recommendation to remove the lands in mid-March 2015, agreeing that further review by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) would duplicate the review on the impacts on agriculture that took place as part of the provincial environmental assessment process on Site C, which included a public hearing process by the independent Joint Review Panel (JRP). The impacts of Site C on agricultural lands were thoroughly and publicly reviewed as part of the JRP process that informed the subsequent environmental approval of Site C.

In December 2013, during the JRP process, the Provincial Government made public a letter to the Chair of BC Hydro and the Chair of the JRP of its intention to take appropriate action to ensure the requirements related to ALR lands would not apply to lands potentially affected by Site C should the project receive environmental approval. Further review by the ALC would be a duplication of that process, resulting in increased costs to taxpayers and possible delays to the project.

The JRP had a very comprehensive process in place and was free to seek out information from whomever it thought could offer input. In fact, the JRP asked the ALC for input on the project. The review of Site C impacts on agriculture included a review of loss of agricultural land, effects on individual farm operations, changes to agricultural economies, changes to local food production and consumption, the agricultural mitigation measures proposed by BC Hydro, the views of the participants, and the ALR considerations.

The JRP concluded that permanent loss of the agricultural production in the Peace River Valley bottomlands impacted by Site C is not significant in the context of British Columbia or western Canadian agricultural production. More than 99 percent of Class 1 to 5 agricultural lands (land capable of crop production) in the Peace Agricultural Region will not be affected by Site C. The BC Environmental Assessment Certificate issued for Site C in October 2014 contained as conditions BC Hydro's proposed mitigation measures for agriculture, including the implementation of a \$20 million agricultural compensation fund. The conditions outline a consultation process to be followed regarding the fund, and BC Hydro will work with the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake the consultation. Individual farm mitigation plans will be implemented to manage for project effects and support the continued operations of the majority of farms near Site C.

B103 FINES FOR FAILING TO STOP FOR A SCHOOL BUS

WHEREAS the citizens of British Columbia take the responsibility of protecting their children very seriously;

AND WHEREAS under provincial law, it is prohibited to pass a school bus that is displaying red alternating lights and drivers in both directions must stop and wait for the bus driver to load or off-load children and for the bus driver to disengage the signal lights before proceeding;

AND WHEREAS there are increased reports of drivers failing to stop for school buses;

AND WHEREAS the fine for "Failing to Stop for a School Bus" in British Columbia is \$167 with no graduated penalties for additional offences:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of BC to review the fine amounts for failing to stop for a school bus and to implement a progressive system of fines and stiffer penalties for infractions.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Under the *Offence Act*, the current fine for failing to stop for a stopped school bus is \$167. Under the *Motor Vehicle Act* Regulations, this offence is assigned 3 penalty points. The Province of British Columbia is committed to having the safest roads in North America by 2020, and the safety of children is of utmost importance. The above fine amount, as well as ways to increase compliance of this provision by drivers will be explored to determine ways to better protect children near school buses.

B104 INCREASE PHYSIOTHERAPY ACADEMIC SEATS

WHEREAS physiotherapy is an integral part of a balanced health care program, providing benefit to patients of all ages;

AND WHEREAS there is a shortage of physiotherapists throughout BC, including many communities with no positions and no service due to unsuccessful physiotherapy recruitment efforts which has resulted in the loss of positions;

AND WHEREAS the University of British Columbia graduates 80 physiotherapists annually and is the only physiotherapy school in BC, although the University of Northern British Columbia has space for a 20 seat physiotherapy program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Advanced Education and the BC Treasury Board for the establishment of a physiotherapy program at the University of Northern BC to provide for 20 more physiotherapy academic seats.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Advanced Education

The Ministry of Advanced Education works closely with public post-secondary institutions to align health education program delivery with health human resource (HHR) planning and priorities identified by the Ministry of Health. Capacity to expand health education programs is affected by the availability of clinical placements, physical space on academic and clinical campuses, qualified faculty, student demand and available funding.

In 2011, Advanced Education funded the UBC MPT Northern and Rural Cohort (NRC), where 20 first year and 20 second year students undertake four of six clinical placements in northern and rural locations across the province. The NRC was intended to increase the clinical placement capacity in northern and rural areas as well as establish the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) as a clinical education hub for development and coordination of northern and rural clinical placements and continuing education for northern Physical Therapy professionals.

The NRC demonstrated government's commitment to Physical Therapy training in the North by recognizing the value of MPT students working with Physical Therapy professionals in the region to provide rehabilitation services in underserved communities, and increasing the likelihood they will choose to stay to practice upon graduation.

Ministry staff have undertaken discussions with UBC and UNBC to identify opportunities and challenges associated with distribution of MPT academic training to UNBC. AVED will continue to work with UBC and UNBC to ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of the Physical Therapy Northern and Rural Cohort, as well as work with the Ministry of Health to align health education with provincial HHR priorities.

B105 PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS one in eight men in British Columbia will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime representing the number one cancer risk to men;

AND WHEREAS the economic, family and social costs to our province would be significantly diminished through increased awareness and early detection:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government proclaim September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month to ensure men and their loved ones are aware of the need for early detection

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Government appreciated this request, and shared UBCM's interest in education and increased awareness about prostate cancer and men's health. The Ministry of Health provided \$1 million to the Vancouver General Hospital and UBC Hospital Foundation in 2014/15 to support the Prostate Cancer Supportive Care Program developed through the Vancouver General Hospital.

Government also shared UBCM's interest in having the month of September 2015 proclaimed as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and is pleased to advise that, on September 8, 2015, both the Honourable Suzanne Anton, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor in Council, declared that September 2015 be proclaimed as "Prostate Cancer Awareness Month" in British Columbia.

B106 ACTION ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was created as part of the settlement agreement between the federal government, the churches and survivor parties to the Indian Residential Schools Class Action Settlement Agreement to determine the truth about Canada's Indian residential schools and establish a reconciliation process;

AND WHEREAS over the course of the last six years, the TRC researched official records and visited communities across Canada to hear from thousands of residential school survivors and their families about the impacts of residential schools and colonization;

AND WHEREAS the findings of these investigations are summarized in the TRC's Final Report, released June 2, 2015, and include 94 recommendations for action by all levels of government;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver was the first city in Canada to establish a Year of Reconciliation, starting on National Aboriginal Day, 2013, prompting similar action from other Canadian cities representing millions of Canadians;

AND WHEREAS at the end of the Year of Reconciliation, City Council committed to create a City of Reconciliation to find a new pathway forward that is forged in truth and justice, respect and partnership with our First Nation and Aboriginal communities;

AND WHEREAS the TRC has put a call to action to government stating "that knowing the truth about what happened in residential schools in and of itself does not necessarily lead to reconciliation" and many of the recommendations in the TRC final report are actionable by the City and our local government partners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the governments of British Columbia and Canada respectively, to undertake a review of the recommendations and provide a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on how they intend to move forward no later than December 31, 2015.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

BC takes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action seriously, including reconciliation that addresses objectives in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The BC government has long been committed to reconciliation in partnership with First Nations. With the guidance of First Nations leaders and Aboriginal people, the Province contributes to meaningful reconciliation in areas such as health, education, post-secondary and skills training, revenue and benefit sharing and economic opportunities.

In education, government is working to ensure the history and legacy of residential schools is thoroughly covered in B.C.'s K-12 education curriculum. As well, one professional development day for teachers will be focused on improving Aboriginal student learning.

B109 HOUSING FIRST FUNDING

WHEREAS the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy has recently initiated a significant program shift by placing much greater emphasis on 'Housing First';

AND WHEREAS this program shift has redistributed funds and resulted in tightened eligibility criteria which has served to limit access to programs for those not meeting the criteria;

AND WHEREAS this redistribution is causing funding reductions in housing outreach, referral and advocacy programs to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, including vulnerable seniors, low-income families, and women and children fleeing abuse:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments provide Housing First funding as an enhancement to important community programs and not at the expense of those programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unilateral federal program.

Through the provincial housing strategy, Housing Matters BC, the provincial government is committed to funding a comprehensive range of housing options and support services to help homeless individuals transition out of homelessness.

In Housing Matters BC, the province adopts the Housing First approach by providing housing and support services without treatment expectations, in social housing and the private market.

In 2015/16, British Columbia and Canada will spend \$211.4 million on emergency shelter and housing to assist approximately 13,950 individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

B110 REGISTERED DISABILITY SAVINGS PLAN

WHEREAS the Federal Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) requires Persons With Disabilities (PWD) to be eligible for the Federal Disability Tax Credit (DTC) in order to open a RDSP;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has a rigorous application and review process to grant individuals the PWD designation;

AND WHEREAS the DTC application process is extremely difficult and expensive for PWD requiring significant paperwork and often multiple physician appointments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments work together to simplify the Disability Tax Credit application process or allow individuals with the Persons With Disabilities designation to apply directly for a Registered Disability Savings Plan.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The British Columbia Government fully supports the federal Registered Disability Savings Plan as an important tool in assisting disabled individuals in planning for their long-term financial needs.

The Province will continue to support the federal government in any efforts to make RDSPs more accessible to those most in need.

LR2 APPURTENANCE PROVISIONS IN THE *FOREST ACT*

WHEREAS previous to 2003, the *Forest Act* included a licence requirement to process timber at specific sawmills within a certain area;

AND WHEREAS timber is being shipped from the Canal Flats area as far as the West Kootenays and not the Canal Flats Sawmill;

AND WHEREAS the Canal Flats Sawmill is being closed permanently due to the lack of fibre at other sawmills:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Province to re-examine the appurtenance requirement in the *Forest Act* to help create local or regional economic benefits from the timber that is being logged in an area.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has no plans to restore appurtenance requirements. This outdated legislation gave neither the Province nor forest companies the flexibility to respond to changing market conditions and undermines the spirit of international trade agreements.

The provincial government has taken steps to support workers affected by the Canal Flats mill closure. Canfor has also offered workers jobs at the company's other locations around the province. We are also taking action to support rural forest communities and creating more opportunities for First Nations to become full partners in the forest industry.

LR3 FEDERAL PORT OPERATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL LAND

WHEREAS the *Agricultural Land Reserve Act* and regulations establish the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) as a provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority land use, farming is encouraged, and non-agricultural uses are restricted;

AND WHEREAS the Canada *Marine Act* empowers federal port authorities to undertake port activities including the shipping, navigation, transporting and handling of goods and passengers, including managing, leasing, licensing, acquiring and disposing of lands for the purposes of operating and supporting port operations;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of the Canada *Marine Act* effectively exempt federal port authorities operating in BC from the land use provisions of the *Agricultural Land Reserve Act* and regulations;

AND WHEREAS Port Metro Vancouver, a federal port authority, has purchased land in Richmond, BC that falls within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and which over time it may wish to develop for port operations rather than agricultural use—a situation that could occur in any region of the province where a federal port authority operates;

AND WHEREAS the City of Richmond has expressed opposition to the Land Use Plan that Port Metro Vancouver prepared for the ALR land that it purchased in Richmond specifically, the fact that the plan may contemplate future non-agricultural use of ALR land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to:

- order federal port authorities operating in BC to sell at fair market value any currently held real properties that fall within the Agricultural Land Reserve;
- enact legislative and regulatory changes to prohibit federal port authorities from purchasing land within the Agricultural Land Reserve if the intended use is non-agricultural; and,
- require federal port authorities to establish meaningful consultation processes and a formal dispute resolution process with neighbouring local governments, to address issues arising from federal port operations and activities.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the specific case of Port Metro Vancouver UBCM urge the Board of Directors of Port Metro Vancouver to adopt a policy prohibiting the expansion of Port Metro Vancouver operations onto lands within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture

Port Metro Vancouver has not yet publicly stated whether it will develop land it owns in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) for industrial uses.

Our government has been clear that anyone seeking to have lands removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve should go through the proper process with the local community and the Agricultural Land Commission.

The province is encouraged to hear recent statements by the Port Metro Vancouver's CEO, Robin Sylvester that PMV will work with the Agricultural Land Commission, if it considers changing the use of ALR lands under its control in future.