

## **CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

Councillor Kim Capri, Chair  
Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Vice Chair  
Councillor Barbara Steele  
Councillor Heath Slee  
Councillor Bob Long

## **SCRUTINEERS**

Elsie Lemke, CAO, District of Peachland Chief Scrutineer  
Martin Dalsin, CAO, Village of Chase, Deputy Chief Scrutineer  
Valarie Bissat, CAO, Village of Clinton  
Carl Bannister, CAO, District of Salmon Arm  
Mark Brennan, CAO, Town of View Royal  
Allan Chabot, CAO, City of Fernie  
Patti Ferguson, CAO, City of Armstrong  
Joe Fernandez, Town of Lake Cowichan  
Doug Fleming, CAO, Village of Valemount  
Paul Gipps, CAO, Town of Gibsons  
Isabell Hadford, CAO, District of Clearwater  
Joni Heinrich, CAO, Village of Keremeos  
Grant Loyer, CAO, District of Lillooet  
Fred Manson, CAO, City of Parksville  
Ron Poole, CAO, District of Terrace  
Glen Robertson, CAO, District of Mission  
Deborah Sargent, CAO, Town of Smithers  
Corien Speaker, CAO, District of Elkford  
Phil Taylor, CAO, Town of Golden

## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Mr. Ian Izard, Q.C., Law Clerk, Legislative Assembly of B.C.

## **WELCOME FROM THE CITY OF PENTICTON**

Mayor Jake Kimberley brought greetings from the City of Penticton.

## **FIRST REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE POSITIONS OF UBCM TABLE OFFICERS**

Ms. Brenda Binnie, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the first report with the nominations for Table Officer positions:

For President: Councillor Robert Hobson, City of Kelowna  
For First Vice-President:  
For Second Vice-President: Councillor Kim Capri, City of Vancouver  
For Third Vice-President: Director Harry Nyce, Kitimat-Stikine RD

Ms. Binnie advised delegates that she had received written notification from Mayor Sharon Hartwell that she had withdrawn her name for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. She also advised that she had received written confirmation from Mayor Joe Snopek that he had withdrawn his name for the position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.

## **PRINCIPAL POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS**

The first Resolutions session began with Councillor Sharon Gaetz, Chair of the UBCM Resolutions Committee, in the Chair.

Rules for dealing with resolutions adopted during the Annual Meeting were reviewed by the Chair.



**SR2 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION INITIATIVES**

**UBCM Executive**

WHEREAS the Province has implemented the British Columbia Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax on fossil fuels as part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout BC;

AND WHEREAS local governments have raised concerns that the Carbon Tax is not revenue neutral for local governments, thereby acting as a barrier to funding greenhouse gas reduction initiatives within their communities;

AND WHEREAS local governments have identified concerns over the application of the tax, citing its inequitable impact on some parts of the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia examine the application of the BC Carbon Tax with the intent of creating incentives for local governments and residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a second enactment clause be added requesting “that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to mitigate the carbon tax in areas where residents cannot make choices about their fuel consumption due to distance, climate and resource based livelihoods,” was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia examine the application of the BC Carbon Tax with the intent of creating incentives for local governments and residents to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to mitigate the carbon tax in areas where residents cannot make choices about their fuel consumption due to distance, climate and resource based livelihoods.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**REMARKS BY FCM PRESIDENT**

UBCM President, Director Susan Gimse, introduced Mayor Jean Perrault, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, who addressed the Convention. Mayor Perrault spoke about the current activities of the FCM. Councillor Robert Hobson thanked Mayor Perrault.

**RESOLUTIONS CONTINUE**

Councillor Sharon Gaetz resumed the Chair and continued with consideration of Special Resolutions.

**SR3 NATIONAL DO NOT CALL LIST**

**UBCM Executive**

WHEREAS the federal government has created a Do Not Call List to allow Canadians to register their names to reduce the number of telemarketing calls that they receive, and this list is due to take effect on September 30, 2008;

AND WHEREAS the Do Not Call List exempts only those candidates running for election who are members of registered political parties, and therefore applies to the vast majority of candidates seeking local government election in BC;

AND WHEREAS the Do Not Call List will limit the ability of independent candidates to solicit volunteer or financial support:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal government to immediately adopt an Order in Council to temporarily exempt local government candidates in the November, 2008 election from the provisions of the Do Not Call List;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Parliament be urged to amend the *Telecommunications Act* to include all local government candidates in the list of exemptions to the National Do Not Call List.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **SECTION A RESOLUTIONS**

Councillor Robert Hobson assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section A resolutions.

### **A1 CARE OF "DUALY DIAGNOSED" MENTALLY ILL Vancouver**

WHEREAS it is well-documented that the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and the emergence of a large number of "dually diagnosed" (mentally ill and drug addicted) people have resulted in thousands of mentally ill people living extremely marginalized and tragic lives in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, as well as in other communities in BC;

AND WHEREAS it has been demonstrated that approximately one third of police-attended incidents in the City of Vancouver involve a person whose mental health was a contributing factor to police attendance, that equates to approximately \$9 million per year in police resources consumed because of the lack of capacity in the mental health system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government of BC take all necessary steps to expedite the provision of resources to ensure the mentally ill – particularly those who are dually diagnosed – are provided adequate care in the health system to allow for proper treatment and dignified living circumstances, and to reduce the draw on municipally funded police resources.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **A2 AMENDMENT TO MEAT INSPECTION REGULATION TO Central Kootenay RD ENCOURAGE REGIONAL FOOD PROCESSING FACILITIES/ABATTOIRS**

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has enacted a new Meat Inspection Regulation as of September 30, 2007 stating that anyone who slaughters animals to produce meat for human consumption must have either a Provincial or Federal Licence, which has made it increasingly difficult for small farmers to maintain their herd or flocks;

AND WHEREAS in response to the growing trend to embrace the "One Hundred Mile Diet" throughout all parts of British Columbia for environmental, health and business purposes, there is an immediate need to accommodate the needs of small farms and ranches with regionalized food processing facilities and abattoirs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be called upon to:

- a) amend the Meat Inspection Regulations to actively encourage regional abattoirs throughout British Columbia;
- b) address the need for regionalized Specified Risk Material (SRM) plants in British Columbia;
- c) support the "One Hundred Mile Diet" throughout the Province of BC with marketing programs designed to encourage this important trend;
- d) encourage farmers and ranchers to produce and process food in British Columbia for British Columbians.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a second enactment clause be added requesting "that the UBCM explore with the Province a mechanism for exemptions to the Meat Inspection Regulations for isolated communities such as those with water access only," was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be called upon to:

- a) amend the Meat Inspection Regulations to actively encourage regional abattoirs throughout British Columbia;
- b) address the need for regionalized Specified Risk Material (SRM) plants in British Columbia;

- c) support the “One Hundred Mile Diet” throughout the Province of BC with marketing programs designed to encourage this important trend;
- d) encourage farmers and ranchers to produce and process food in British Columbia for British Columbians.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM explore with the Province a mechanism for exemptions to the Meat Inspection Regulations for isolated communities such as those with water access only.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**A3 CALLING FOR A NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL HOUSING STRATEGY Burnaby**

WHEREAS the 2008 Federal Budget does not provide for funding to sustain existing housing programs or the establishment of a National Housing Strategy;

AND WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing and the incidence of homelessness is a growing and complex problem affecting all British Columbia communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge federal and provincial governments which are responsible for providing affordable housing to:

- urgently work together to prepare a National Housing Strategy, along with a complementary Provincial Housing Strategy, to provide a comprehensive plan to address housing and homelessness issues over the long term through the provision of an adequate continuum of housing, income and support.
- allocate sustained funding, including the use of surpluses and property transfer tax revenue, to support the development and maintenance of affordable housing for those in need, including nonmarket housing units.
- work together to establish incentives for the private sector construction of new rental housing including low income tax credits, GST exemptions, and capital cost depreciation allowances.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**POLICY SESSION – POLICY PAPER**

**FINANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT: ACHIEVING FISCAL BALANCE**

Mayor Terry Lake, UBCM 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, presented the policy paper: *Financing Local Government: Achieving Fiscal Balance*. The policy paper is attached as Appendix C.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the proposed course of action to establish a task force to deliver a set of implementable solutions to restoring local government fiscal balance by spring 2009, was adopted.

**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR THE POSITIONS OF UBCM TABLE OFFICERS**

The Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Brenda Binnie, called for nominations from the floor for positions of Table Officers in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Officer positions were:

- For President: Councillor Robert Hobson, City of Kelowna
- For First Vice-President: Mayor W. J. (Jack) Peake, Town of Lake Cowichan  
Mayor Joe Snopek, Town of Creston
- For Second Vice-President: Councillor Kim Capri, City of Vancouver
- For Third Vice-President: Director Harry Nyce, Kitimat Stikine RD

At the conclusion of nominations, Ms. Binnie declared the positions of President, Second Vice-President and Third Vice-President elected by acclamation and that there would be an election for First Vice-President. She indicated that Candidate Speeches would occur at 1:50 pm.

The Convention adjourned for lunch at 12:00 noon. All Area Associations hosted lunches during this period.

The Convention re-convened at 1:50 p.m.

**Mid-Size Community**

City of Colwood and City of Langford, Jointly Developed Official Community Plans

**Large Community:**

District of Saanich, Municipal Carbon Neutral Reserve Fund

**Regional District:**

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Naramata Water System

**Special for 2008: Community Stewardship Award:**

Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation, Stanley Park Restoration

**PARTNERSHIPS CATEGORY**

**Local Government and First Nations Partnerships**

City of Nanaimo, Newcastle Island Collaborative Management Agreement

The plenary session reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

**SECOND REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

Ms. Brenda Binnie, Chair of the Nominating Committee, gave the second report of the Nominating Committee for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative and Directors at Large. Those nominated were:

For Small Community Representative: No candidates

For Electoral Area Representative: Director Eileen Benedict, Bulkley-Nechako RD  
Director Tom Mann, Central Kootenay RD  
Director Al Richmond, Cariboo RD

For Director at Large: Mayor Christopher Clement, Township of Esquimalt  
Councillor Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack  
Councillor Noreen Guenther, District of Lake Country  
Director Rhona Martin, Columbia Shuswap RD  
Director Rod Sherrell, Mt. Waddington RD  
Councillor Mary Sjostrom, City of Quesnel

**POLICY SESSION – POLICY PAPER**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

Councillor Robert Hobson, UBCM First Vice President, presented the policy paper: *Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy*. The policy paper is attached as Appendix E.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that UBCM undertake the proposed course of action as outlined in the policy paper, was adopted.

**POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS**

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that a resolution to refer the TILMA agreement back to the UBCM Executive for further negotiations, with a full report to be submitted to the next UBCM Convention for ratification, be admitted off the floor for debate, was not endorsed.

## **SECTION B – PART I RESOLUTIONS**

Councillor Mary Sjostrom assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section B resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were: Councillor Sharon Gaetz, Mayor Terry Lake, Mayor Herb Pond and Councillor Robert Hobson.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for Section B – Part I resolutions be adopted, was endorsed.

The resolutions were endorsed as follows:

### **B1 GAS FRANCHISE FEES**

**Nanaimo**

WHEREAS section 22 of the *Community Charter* provides that a council may, by bylaw adopted with the approval of the electors, enter into an agreement that grants an exclusive or limited franchise for the provision of a public transportation system, water through a water supply system, sewage disposal through a sewage system, or gas, electrical or other energy supply system;

AND WHEREAS such agreements traditionally include a service fee with utility companies to compensate for the costly disruption and repair of roads, water, sewer, storm drains and other municipal infrastructure caused by installation of the utility system works;

AND WHEREAS section 7(5) of the *Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act* revoked the ability for municipalities and regional districts on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast to set such rates or charge fees by means of section 22 of the *Community Charter*, thereby passing the infrastructure repair costs onto local taxpayers (including those who will never be connected to natural gas):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) urge the provincial government to amend the *Vancouver Island Natural Gas Pipeline Act* immediately in order to restore equal rights on this matter and provide fair and equal treatment for all local government taxpayers in British Columbia;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM appeal to the Auditor General to undertake a review to determine if the pipeline has been paid for.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **B2 LIABILITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the Provincial Government's Modernization Strategy – Building Regulatory System is advocating:

- clearly defined authorities and accountabilities for the oversight of building construction and
- managing the distribution of liability and risk effectively;

AND WHEREAS the concept of joint and several liability is inconsistent with these principles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the Provincial Government to amend the *Negligence Act* to replace joint and several liability with a system of pure several or proportionate liability (such as now exists in cases of contributory liability) under which defendants are responsible only to the degree to which they contributed to the loss.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

### **B3 POLICE RECORDS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENT (PRIME)**

**Comox**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has legislated that all police forces in British Columbia use the same occurrence records management system, which has resulted in the implementation of a common system called the Police Records Information Management Environment (PRIME);

AND WHEREAS the operation of the PRIME system, throughout British Columbia, has resulted in the need for more support resources than anticipated:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to provide additional support resources to police forces in British Columbia for the operation of the PRIME system.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B4 FUNDING FOR VICTIM SERVICES AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS**

**Nanaimo RD**

WHEREAS Victim Services and Restorative Justice programs provide support to victims of crime and provide counselling and alternative resolution services to many young and first time offenders;

AND WHEREAS these programs save dollars by reducing the need for trained police personnel to attend in court and/or respond to the needs of victims of crime;

AND WHEREAS there is no specific funding for Restorative Justice programs and very limited Provincial funding for Victim Services programs;

AND WHEREAS all communities contribute significant local resources to policing services despite growing surpluses at both the Provincial and Federal levels:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC and Government of Canada provide additional and adequate funding to fully support Restorative Justice and Victim Services programs in BC.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B5 NON-RETURNABLE WARRANTS**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS it is recognized that police officers throughout the Lower Mainland often come into contact with persons wanted on warrants, where the radius of the warrant is outside of their jurisdiction, and unless the jurisdiction issuing the warrant agrees to provide for transportation, these individuals will likely not ever be held accountable for the offence;

AND WHEREAS it is further recognized that police officers are rarely successful in returning these persons to the issuing jurisdiction because the legal procedures for doing so are excessively cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call upon British Columbia's Attorney General and Solicitor General and the Federal Minister of Justice and the Minister of Public Safety to implement a program to assume responsibility for the return of persons wanted on warrants, where the radius of the warrant is outside of their jurisdiction, thereby enabling an operationally practical and cost-effective transportation policy and ensuring these individuals cannot bring the administration of justice into disrepute by simply fleeing to another jurisdiction.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B6 SUMMONS BY MAIL**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS personal service of summonses is time consuming, expensive and often ineffective because many defendants actively evade service or move;

AND WHEREAS it is critical that an alleged offender be properly notified of the offence with which he or he is being charged:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend provincial legislation to allow service by summons by registered mail to the registered owner of a motor vehicle, the owner of real property and the registered office of a business corporation.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B7 REGIONAL DISTRICT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE BYLAWS**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

WHEREAS regional districts are not immune to the problems associated with buildings that have been used for the manufacturing or growing of controlled substances;

AND WHEREAS through the *Local Government Act*, regional districts do not possess the same legislative authority as municipalities to enact Controlled Substance Property Remediation Bylaws and that in order for the municipal legislation to be fully effective, regional districts require the authority to create bylaws that will compliment the municipal partners' legislation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to enable regional districts to enact controlled substance property remediation bylaws.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B8 NUISANCE BOATS**

**Lake Country**

WHEREAS nuisance boats have "engine exhaust cutout devices" that allow them to illegally exhaust above the water;

AND WHEREAS the decibel level of nuisance boats often exceeds the allowable motor vehicle decibel limits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the federal government pass legislation to make it illegal to have a functioning "engine exhaust cutout device" on boats operating on inland waters and increase penalties for first infractions to \$500 and escalate in incremental steps for successive violations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM request support from the Pacific Region Local Marine Advisory Council, the Canadian Maritime Advisory Council, and Recreational Boating Advisory Council.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B9 EQUITABLE POLICE FUNDING**

**Abbotsford**

WHEREAS for more than 50 years, a serious and unjustifiable inequity has existed in many British Columbia communities related to the funding of police resources; and changes in social safety nets and senior government funding have placed an ever growing strain on police forces throughout British Columbia to deal with issues related to gangs, organized crime, addiction, mental health and domestic violence;

AND WHEREAS the existing Federal-Provincial Agreement provides federal contributions for policing costs of 10-30 percent to those municipalities currently served by RCMP services; and 11 municipalities in the province, which collectively are home to over 1.2 million British Columbia residents, to which local policing is provided by a municipal police force instead of RCMP, resulting in the entire cost of policing falling to the local taxpayer with no Federal-Provincial funding subsidy; and for these communities, policing costs are without exception the single largest annual cost to the local tax payer:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the federal and provincial governments to address the issue of equitable police funding by developing an equitable funding program for all British Columbia municipalities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B10 FUNDING FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE PROGRAMS**

**Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS Search and Rescue programs consist of teams of volunteers that provide essential support to the First Responder Agencies to assist with the search and rescue of British Columbia's visitors and residents, both on land and in the water;

AND WHEREAS Search and Rescue programs receive funding from private funding events, grant-in-aid contributions from local governments and other grants, to assist with their operating and capital needs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to seek annual funding from the provincial government that is adequate and predictable to support Search and Rescue organizations throughout the province, with their operating and capital needs, to ensure that the organizations continue to function effectively.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B11 RECOVERY OF HIT AND RUN COLLISION COSTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES Burnaby**

WHEREAS it is desirable for motorists to bear the full cost of travel, including the cost of damage to private and public property caused by collisions through insurance premiums;

AND WHEREAS the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia is required by law to compensate private property owners for hit and run damage to private property, but not local governments for hit and run damage to public infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the regulations to the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and specifically Section 107 (2)(b) of B.C. Regulation 447/83, be amended so that hit and run damage costs incurred by local governments are recoverable from ICBC.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B12 FUNDING FOR FRASER RIVER DREDGING Delta**

WHEREAS dredging of the Fraser River and secondary channels was conducted by Public Works Canada until the late 1990's;

AND WHEREAS the secondary channels of the Fraser River are being filled with sediment, affecting safe access for marine traffic, fish boats and float home safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that senior governments provide adequate long term funding to reinstate the secondary channel dredging program and that the new amalgamated Vancouver Fraser Port Authority be responsible for secondary channel dredging.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B13 FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX Delta**

WHEREAS the cost of providing Fire Services has increased substantially over the past few years with the insurance industry receiving benefit from Fire Services in the form of decreased risk of property damage by fire;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government collects 4% premium annually on all property insurance policies issued under the *Insurance Premium Tax Act* and pays it into the Consolidated Revenue Fund:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 4% Insurance Premium Tax that was originally imposed to cover the costs of administering the Fire Services Act, less costs directly incurred by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, be redirected to offset the costs of providing Fire Services, including the mandatory fire inspections and investigations imposed by the provincial government on local governments.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B14 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING Golden**

WHEREAS the incidence of potential and real states of emergency within local government jurisdictions caused by natural events such as flooding, wildfires, landslides and earthquakes is increasing throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the importance for rural communities to be able to fairly access the means to set in place plans to address preparing for, and dealing with these events is critical to the emergency preparedness of each community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities appeal to the Province to direct Emergency Management BC to develop and implement an application based process for communities to obtain funds for emergency preparedness and mitigation works planning.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B15 TRANSPORTATION**

**Central Coast RD**

WHEREAS the North Coast Ferry Advisory Committee passed a motion at their regular meeting on April 3, 2008, recognizing the critical importance of BC Ferries obtaining an additional 'Blue Water' capable vessel as an essential component of their business continuity plan;

AND WHEREAS a replacement vehicle for the Queen of Chilliwack that currently provides BC Ferries Route 40 'Discovery Coast' service is required by new Transport Canada regulations effective in 2012, and current industry timelines for the construction or procurement of an appropriate vessel for Route 40 dictate that an immediate purchase order is required to meet the 2012 deadline;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that the social and economic benefits derived from BC Ferries Route 40 extend beyond the Central Coast region to include all tourism providers in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby all applicable BC ministries to immediately provide BC Ferries with the resources necessary to procure an appropriate replacement vessel in order to ensure the continued provision of Route 40 Ferry Service to the Central Coast region.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B16 CN LEVEL OF SERVICE**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

WHEREAS the service provided by CN Rail has a significant impact on the viability of sawmills and other companies who use rail as a shipping method;

AND WHEREAS communities are dependent upon CN Rail in promoting growth and economic development opportunities;

AND WHEREAS sawmills and shipping companies are experiencing unsatisfactory levels of service from CN Rail wherein freight cannot be shipped threatening the operations of existing sawmills and other customers moving their goods on the rails, as well as restricting economic development opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial and federal governments to conduct a review of the level of transportation services presently provided by CN Rail to ensure that the level of service meets customer demands.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B17 FUNDING FOR RURAL ROADS**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS roads and supporting infrastructure in rural British Columbia have not received adequate funding for many years:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to make funding of rural roads and supporting infrastructure a priority.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B18 VARYING TAX RATES**

**Lake Cowichan**

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* allows for the establishment of different tax rates for raising municipal revenue from each property class;

AND WHEREAS there is no legislative provision to allow municipalities to impose separate tax rates for each of land and improvements;

AND WHEREAS the current system of property taxation provides little or no incentive for property owners to make significant improvements to their property or provide municipalities the opportunity to reduce the impact of sudden fluctuations in property values by adjusting the tax rates for either land or improvements:

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

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B19 REGIONAL DISTRICT COMPENSATION FOR HYDRO TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES**

**Central Kootenay RD**

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has stated that all Crown Corporations would pay their fair share of property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, municipalities, school districts and First Nation local governments either directly or indirectly are compensated with grants-in-lieu of property taxes from hydro transmission lines and distribution lines:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be asked to intervene on this issue and negotiate a similar arrangement for regional districts.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B20 PROVINCIAL GRANT PROGRAMS**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS a significant number of local governments have signed the British Columbia Climate Action Charter and support the Province of British Columbia in a desire to address the negative impacts of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia provides financial assistance to local governments to implement initiatives to address the negative impacts of climate change primarily through grant programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend grant programs to: standardize the application process; expedite approval times; reduce paperwork; reduce staff time; and provide longer lead times; so that municipalities can better plan their finances around future opportunities, and minimize staff resources to the grant application process in favour of maximizing resources on the related projects.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B21 FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

**AKBLG Executive**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the provincial government to match any federal Community Works Fund infrastructure grants that communities use to meet standards set by health authorities for water quality.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B22 PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING IN NORTHERN BC**

**Kitimat**

WHEREAS the current provincial funding formulas do not treat northern school districts fairly;

AND WHEREAS this inadequate funding has led to cutbacks in services to children in northern school districts;

AND WHEREAS the situation is so severe that northern public school children now receive an inferior education compared to other children in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM make strong representation to the provincial government to ensure that the funding formula is changed to recognize the unique needs of the North and to ensure northern public school children receive public education equivalent to students in other parts of the province.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B23 FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PARKS**

**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* require that funds received at the time of subdivision in lieu of parkland dedication must be used for the acquisition of parklands and for no other purpose;

AND WHEREAS the making of capital improvements to parks and other community properties is often a higher priority than the acquisition of additional parklands:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Province to allow funds collected in lieu of parkland dedication to be used for capital improvements to parks and other community property.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B24 REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS FOR KEEPING OF PROVINCIAL PRISONERS**

**Nanaimo**

WHEREAS federal and provincial prisoners are housed in municipal lockups on a routine basis at a significant cost to the municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial reimbursement for the costs of keeping such prisoners does not reflect the actual costs;

AND WHEREAS discussions between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, initiated by the endorsement of previous resolutions on this matter, has not resulted in changes to the level of reimbursements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities continue discussions with the Province to ensure that municipalities housing federal and provincial prisoners are reimbursed at a level that reflects actual costs.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B25 COST RECOVERY FOR PROCESSING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY REQUESTS**

**West Vancouver**

WHEREAS the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* allows for only limited recovery for request processing costs;

AND WHEREAS many local governments continue to bear unreasonable costs for processing *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* requests;

AND WHEREAS the lack of cost recovery for local government resources required to process these requests impacts their budgets and reduces service levels in respect of other areas of local government service to the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to consider amending the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to provide for the option for recovery of actual request processing costs.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B26 BUSINESS CLASS EXEMPTION**

**Vernon**

WHEREAS the statutory property exemption for business Class 6 assessments is \$10,000, regardless of the property value;

AND WHEREAS the business Class 6 exemption has remained unchanged since implementation in 1984 despite increasing assessments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the business class exemption for Class 6 assessments and consider an increase to \$50,000 for the statutory property exemption, in order to provide small businesses, in the Province of British Columbia, a fair exemption for their increased assessed property value.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B27 PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES AND WATERSHEDS**

**Lake Country**

WHEREAS the requirements respecting the protection of water resources and the treatment of water are becoming more stringent at a time when climate change is affecting hydrological conditions;

AND WHEREAS the development of residential and commercial recreational uses adjacent to drinking water sources reduces water quality and would be a risk to future flooding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia abandon its initiative to sell crown land adjacent to watershed lakes in the Okanagan Valley in order to protect domestic water sources used by thousands of residents.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B28 SALE OF LEASED LOTS ON RESERVOIR LAKES**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands) is considering the sale of Crown owned recreational lease lots located on reservoir lakes;

AND WHEREAS the sale of recreational lease lots creates concerns about community water quality and security, contravention of current land use and building bylaws, compliance with sewage regulations and contravention of riparian area regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to maintain ownership of recreational lease lots located on reservoir lakes and to ensure compliance with land use and building bylaws and codes, sewage regulations and to ensure that water quality is maintained.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B29 ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP**

**Central Coast RD**

WHEREAS the province has implemented several “product stewardship” programs for specific waste materials as part of its commitment to the “Three R’s” of reduce, reuse and recycle;

AND WHEREAS the toxicity of household batteries creates a significant environmental risk in landfills and is a concern for local governments;

AND WHEREAS there is a modest voluntary recycling program for rechargeable household batteries but no program at all for non-rechargeable household batteries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment to require producers to take responsibility for their product by setting up a comprehensive product stewardship program that includes all household batteries and services all communities of the province.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B30 BATTERY RECYCLING**

**Saanich**

WHEREAS batteries are identified as Household Hazardous Waste by British Columbia’s *Environment Act*, as they contain heavy metals that can leach out into the receiving environment;

AND WHEREAS Environment Canada estimates that by 2010, if the current rate of recycling is not increased, landfills in Canada will hold over 495 million used batteries potentially contaminating groundwater through landfill leachate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to implement an accessible and convenient means for the public to recycle batteries.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B31 UNNECESSARY PRODUCT PACKAGING**

**New Westminster**

WHEREAS the provincial government is showing a commitment to sustainability and the environment;

AND WHEREAS packaging of products needs to be addressed, including developing methods for recycling Styrofoam and dealing with small plastic beverage bottles – noting that glass bottles have a proven longer usage lifecycle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request and work with the British Columbia government to develop strategies to reduce unnecessary packaging of all products in British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B32 WILDLIFE RESCUE AND ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY COST ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Burnaby**

WHEREAS financial accountability for wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery during and subsequent to oil spill response procedures is not currently part of the required cost liability for standard spill response costs undertaken by the responsible party in Canadian waters;

AND WHEREAS the recovery and rehabilitation of the detrimental impacts to wildlife and ecosystems following oil spill events require adequate resources;

AND WHEREAS wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery are not currently a requirement of the emergency spill response process;

AND WHEREAS government agency responsibilities for the management of oil spill events and their effects are fragmented;

AND WHEREAS the inclusion of financial accountability for wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery along the US west coast would be familiar both in concept and in business practice to industry;

AND WHEREAS the US Environmental Protection Agency has an Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund which supplies adequate funding for wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery costs in the event that a responsible party is either not identifiable or not able to be held accountable:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments be requested to:

1. enact legislation to require wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery be part of standard oil spill response activities either on land or in water;
2. explore appropriate measures to streamline governmental responsibilities in spill events;
3. enact legislation to require payment of those costs attributable to wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery caused by spill events to be borne by the Responsible Party;
4. explore the feasibility of a Liability Trust Fund to provide funding for spill event remediation when the Responsible Party cannot be identified or held accountable.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B33 CONTAMINATED AND VACANT SITES**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS UBCM Resolutions 2007-B29 and 2007-B70 were passed at the 2007 Convention and no concrete action has been taken:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM strongly urge the provincial government to take immediate steps to implement the previously adopted resolutions 2007-B29 and 2007-B70 in response to contaminated and vacated sites.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B34 LOGGING PRACTICES ON PRIVATE FOREST LANDS AND WATERSHED PROTECTION**

**Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

WHEREAS the rate of logging on the private forest lands within the E & N Land Grant on Vancouver Island have been dramatically accelerated:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation requiring private managed forest lands to be regulated and managed to the same standards as crown managed forest lands.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B35 WATERSHED CONTROL**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS a number of resolutions have been endorsed by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities over the years requesting that the Province acknowledge and correct the anomaly that regional districts have an obligation to provide potable water and yet do not have the authority to determine what activities can take place within their watersheds;

AND WHEREAS no action has been taken by the Province to provide regional districts with such authority:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province to provide regional districts with greater authority to determine what activities take place in their watersheds.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B36 COMMUNITY FORESTS**

**Tahsis**

WHEREAS the Province has eliminated Community Forest License extensions in favour of Community Forest Agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Community Forest Licenses have served the communities (where they are in place) effectively:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province work with existing Community Forest License holders on renewal in a manner that meets the needs of the affected communities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B37 FOREST TENURE LICENCES**

**Mackenzie**

WHEREAS, traditionally, timber that has been harvested in a Timber Supply Area has been required to be processed in that area;

AND WHEREAS many communities affected by the recent downturn in the forest industry are facing dire economic challenges;

AND WHEREAS recent mergers and shutdowns provide a threat that wood harvested in one area will be transferred to another for processing, thus jeopardizing local operations and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be lobbied to ensure that sufficient harvested timber remain to be utilized in local processing facilities within the Timber Supply Area.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B38 TRANSMISSION LINES ASSOCIATED WITH IPPS**

**Powell River RD**

WHEREAS private interests are proposing an inordinate number of run-of-river Independent Power Projects (IPPs) throughout the Province, with each project requiring a corridor for its transmission line;

AND WHEREAS collectively, these transmission lines have the potential to reduce the forestry value of a large expanse of crown land and to negatively impact recreation and tourism values in their vicinity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly urge the provincial government, together with the BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro, to initiate a process which will require the pre-planning and coordination of IPP transmission line routes and capacities with the objective of having companies share this infrastructure in order to reduce its extent and to minimize its impact on other crown land resources and users.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B39 PRIVATE POWER PROJECTS**

**Powell River**

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Powell River supports the benefits of green power and recognizes the significant employment and economic benefits that Plutonic Power Corporation and Catalyst Paper Corporation bring to the Powell River area with regard to their green energy projects – including the partnership between Plutonic, School District 47 and their First Nations partners – and in particular, Council recognizes Plutonic’s and Catalyst’s efforts in addressing community concerns and needs with regard to their Powell River area projects;

AND WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has granted numerous water licenses, environmental permits and land tenures to private power developers without addressing environmental impacts, community land use planning and First Nation territorial concerns:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia be urged to take a leadership role when granting environmental permits and land tenures within British Columbia relating to the development of private power projects by conducting a comprehensive regulatory, environment and community review process, to examine the cumulative impacts of proposed private power projects in regard to both generation and transmission.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

**B40 SURFACE LAND OWNERS AND SALES REQUESTS FOR SUB-SURFACE PARCELS**

**Hudson’s Hope**

WHEREAS UBCM resolution 2007-B46 called on the provincial government to notify and provide surface land owners the opportunity to comment at the time of the provincial government’s receipt of an industry request for sub-surface parcels to be posted for sale, but the provincial Pilot Surface Owner Notification Project notifies surface land owners only after the government has decided to post relevant sub-surface parcels for sale, and information about surface land owners’ activities and concerns is made available only after the sale, to the successful bidder;

AND WHEREAS the notification and opportunity for surface land owners to comment on industry requests to post sub-surface parcels for sale would allow surface land owners to provide prospective bidders with information about current surface activities that might affect access to sub-surface resources, and early exchange of such information would support improved relations between surface land owners and industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province amend the Pilot Surface Owner Notification Project to notify and provide surface land owners the opportunity to comment at the time of an industry request for sub-surface parcels to be posted for sale, in order to facilitate early exchange of information and allow surface owners to inform prospective sub-surface bidders of surface activities that might affect access to sub-surface resources.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B41 OCEAN ENERGY STRATEGY**

**Campbell River**

WHEREAS British Columbia seeks to diversify electricity generation in order to meet self-sufficiency goals and zero-net greenhouse gas emissions by 2016 in cooperation with provincial and local governments;

AND WHEREAS the coast of British Columbia has been identified as having significant opportunity for ocean energy created through conversion of wave and in-stream tidal current for the clean creation of electricity that meets the goals of the BC Energy Plan:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the Provincial Government on a strategy for wave and in-stream tidal current technologies with the objective to encourage the development and implementation of environmentally feasible projects that will enable economic and viable power generation so that British Columbia will become a global leader in this emerging sector.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

**B42 COALBED METHANE DEVELOPMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SACRED HEADWATERS**

**Prince Rupert**

WHEREAS to date there has been no commercial extraction of coalbed methane gas in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS coalbed methane extraction in other North American jurisdictions has caused significant harm to water, wildlife and rural economies;

AND WHEREAS the Skeena, Nass and Stikine rivers support three of North America's richest wild salmon fisheries, which in turn contribute to Northwest British Columbia's vibrant cultures and economy;

AND WHEREAS the headwaters of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine rivers is home to robust populations of large mammals including stone sheep, grizzly bears, and Osborne caribou, which have been shown to be sensitive to landscape fragmentation caused by linear developments such as roads and pipelines;

AND WHEREAS Shell Canada Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, is planning to drill exploratory coalbed methane wells at the headwaters of the Skeena and Stikine rivers, for the purpose of determining the extent and feasibility of the resource:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia government

- (1) Immediately suspend coalbed methane exploration in the Klappan-Groundhog tenure area;
- (2) Engage in comprehensive consultations with all residents of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine watersheds and estuaries; and
- (3) Not proceed with coalbed methane development in the Klappan-Groundhog area until there is compelling evidence of environmental safety, such that the majority of residents in the region are satisfied such development does not jeopardize their values and existing economic activities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B43 AGRICULTURAL LAND REVIEW**

**Smithers**

WHEREAS the BC Government has instituted the Agricultural Land Reserve in 1973 to protect the most valuable agricultural lands in the province from development;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are continuing to grow and are having difficulties with smart development because of the agricultural land restrictions;

AND WHEREAS the Province has jurisdiction over regional districts and municipalities with regards to land in the Agricultural Land Reserve:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government for a review (with consultation from local government) of the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries to ensure they accurately capture agricultural land.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B44 SUPPORT FOR BILL M202 BRITISH COLUMBIA RAIL CORRIDOR SAFETY ACT, 2008**

**Quesnel**

WHEREAS the safety and security of livestock owners in B.C. whose grazing lands run adjacent to publicly owned rail corridors is of utmost importance;

AND WHEREAS that safety and security is at risk from factors including inadequate fencing and rail crossings, inadequate invasive plant management, and inadequate notification and compensation for livestock that have been struck by trains:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the provincial government to support Bill M202 *British Columbia Rail Corridor Safety Act, 2008*.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B45 HIGHWAY 37 ELECTRIFICATION**

**Smithers**

WHEREAS electrification of the Highway 37 corridor is critical to the economy of all northwest communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS a portion of this electrification cost is to be borne by the Galore Creek project (currently in review), however there are other projects proceeding that require this power transmission line, e.g. Imperial Metals, "Red Chris" project, the large Copper Fox (Schaft Creek) project now in environmental review as well as the Forest Kerr Hydro project:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government and the BC Transmission Corporation, urging the continuance of the proposed environmental programs and projects, with a focus on the Northwest Transmission Line, namely the Terrace to Bob Quinn portion of the 287 kV line.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B46 RETRAINING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Quesnel**

WHEREAS the provincial community colleges have a vital role to play in supporting regional economic, social and human resource development;

AND WHEREAS B.C. is experiencing significant economic change as a result of the decline in the forest products industry, coupled with the need to support growth and diversification of other economic sectors (e.g. mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, transportation and logistics, tourism, etc):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government make increased investments (capital and operating funding) in educational institutions and facilities, in order that they will be able to provide the retraining programs and services needed to enable individuals to make labour force transitions, as well as provide access to the skilled workers employers will need to work in new and emerging sectors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to establish a new funding framework to ensure the ongoing long-term sustainability of the community college system in B.C.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B47 SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES**

**Lake Country**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia ranks tenth of all the provinces in its financial support of agriculture, measured as a percentage of Agriculture and Agri-Food GDP's;

AND WHEREAS amid growing public interest in the ability to feed ourselves locally and provincially, the agricultural industry is experiencing increasing challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia increase its funding of agricultural initiatives that will help to increase the productivity and efficiency of our diverse agricultural sectors.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B48 LABELLING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS it is a fundamental right of the citizens of Canada to make choices regarding what we eat and what we feed our children;

AND WHEREAS genetically modified organisms in our food chain are biologically altered substances often containing the genes of completely unrelated species with no testing of the long-term health implications;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada does not currently require food producers to label their products as containing genetically modified organisms, thereby eliminating the ability of Canadians to make fully informed choices with respect to the food we eat:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request of the federal government that any such food containing genetically modified organisms be labelled as such, including which ingredients are genetically modified organisms.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B49 TRAINING SPACES FOR DOCTORS AND OTHER MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

**Powell River RD**

WHEREAS there is a nation-wide shortage of doctors and other medical professionals and this shortage is particularly acute in rural areas, which comprise much of this province;

AND WHEREAS this shortage has resulted in large part, from the lack of training opportunities available at our post-secondary institution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Minister of Health to substantially increase funding provided to universities and other medical training facilities so they can supply the larger number of graduates who will be required to rectify the increasingly critical shortage of medical personnel available to attend to the health care needs of BC residents.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B50 SMALL COMMUNITY WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS**

**Tahsis**

WHEREAS the regulatory requirements for water distribution and sewage disposal systems are the responsibility of local government;

AND WHEREAS the training and development of water distribution and sewage disposal system operators has become a financial and logistical burden to small communities;

AND WHEREAS the ability to meet the standards for local operators may put the community at risk in maintaining water quality and safety of treated sewage on the environment in small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Province develop and fund a program to educate and certify water and sewer system operators in small communities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B51 COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT**

**Metchosin**

WHEREAS the Capital Regional District Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has developed an integrated identification, diagnosis and mental health management service Pilot Projects to be delivered to children and youth at Rock Heights Middle School (S.D. #63) and Belmont Secondary (S.D. #62);

AND WHEREAS the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed resolution B153 in 2006 to encourage the development of mental health services along the lines of the Pilot Projects proposed by the Capital Regional District Family Court and Youth Justice Committee:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the Ministries of Education, Health and Children and Family Development work together to fund the Community Based Mental Health Pilot Projects.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

**B52 MANUFACTURED HOME PARK TENANCY ACT**

**Nanaimo**

WHEREAS the Province, through the BC Housing and Policy Branch commissioned a study on the redevelopment of manufactured home parks and the displacement of tenants who lived in these parks;

AND WHEREAS the study recommended that the Province amend the *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act* in order to increase the base level of compensation for displaced manufactured home tenants from a 12-month pad rental, which is currently required:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province to amend the *Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act* in order to increase the compensation for displaced manufactured home park tenants.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B53 ELECTORAL SEATS IN THE NORTH ELECTORAL DISTRICT**

**Smithers**

WHEREAS currently eight members of the B.C. Legislative Assembly represent more than 50% of the provincial land base;

AND WHEREAS the Electoral Boundaries Commission was clear that the present statutory requirement of representation by population will continue to produce fewer rural Members of the Legislature:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities support the overall increase in elected representatives, but also a reinstatement of the three elected representatives, one each for Northern British Columbia, the Kootenays and the Cariboo-Thompson as being necessary for equitable, accessible and effective representation.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

**B54 CELLULAR PHONE COVERAGE**

**Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS there are numerous areas throughout the Province where members of the public travelling on major transportation corridors are unable to access cellular phone service for emergency and safety purposes for more than 30 minutes of driving time;

AND WHEREAS cellular phone service is an immediate and effective communication safety tool used by the public as a means to alert and access emergency services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to undertake a provincial mandate to work collaboratively with major cellular phone providers to improve cellular communications and connectivity along all major transportation corridors in British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, with amendment as recommended, was ENDORSED**

**B55 YOUTH CENTRES AND YOUTH SERVICES**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS it is desirous to recognize the positive role that youth in British Columbia can make in their communities;

AND WHEREAS it is acknowledged that this positive contribution needs to be cultivated, encouraged and fostered through activities in facilities provided in each community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to create incentives and funding opportunities that will allow small communities to create youth centres that can better deliver and coordinate youth services;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to research and catalogue proven strategies used by small British Columbia municipalities to support and encourage youth.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B56 NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE AND PROSPERITY AGREEMENTS**

**Trail**

WHEREAS negotiations on trade and prosperity agreements between provinces or countries are not being conducted in an open, public forum;

AND WHEREAS privately negotiated trade and prosperity agreements between provinces or countries have the potential to impact negatively on local government objectives:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities petition the provincial and federal governments to conduct an open and accountable public debate of any proposed trade and prosperity agreements being negotiated.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B57 PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

WHEREAS public libraries are a very important resource to help improve the day-to-day lives of people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds;

AND WHEREAS public libraries are essential in educating our children and increasing literacy to give British Columbians the tools to pursue their goals and achieve their dreams no matter where they live in our province;

AND WHEREAS public libraries are a critical resource for people wanting to start small businesses, thereby helping to diversify our economy;

AND WHEREAS eight of the nine other provincial governments provide vastly more financial support to public libraries as a percentage of library operating costs than the Government of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to increase its operating grants for public libraries to at least the average level of the other provinces.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

***SECTION B – PART II RESOLUTIONS***

Mayor Herb Pond assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section B – Parts II and III resolutions.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that all Section B, Parts II and III resolutions be admitted for debate, was endorsed.

**B58 PROVINCE-WIDE CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

WHEREAS the administration of Crime Stoppers Programs has historically been funded by local governments;

AND WHEREAS Crime Stoppers Programs have proven to contribute significantly to the success of police investigations, benefit all residents of British Columbia and have full support of the RCMP:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to fund the administration of the Crime Stoppers Program on a province-wide basis.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B59 WILDFIRE FUEL MODIFICATIONS ON CROWN LAND**

**Valemount**

WHEREAS the provincial government has provided positive revenue programs to support the local governments with their efforts in undertaking urban interface fuel modification projects;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government would become even more effective in resolving wildfire threat in British Columbia by accelerating its involvement in the protection of homes, businesses and communities throughout the Province by expanding the use of Forestry Protection and Initial Attack Fire Suppression Crews to provide pre fire season and post fire season fuel modification projects on Crown Lands located adjacent to rural and urban developments within British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to initiate a major emphasis and to target a significant portion of Provincial funding to have Forestry Protection and Initial Attack Fire Suppression Crews deployed to undertake major wildland forest fuel modification projects on Crown Lands located adjacent to or in close proximity of developed rural and urban areas throughout British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B60 FIRE UNDERWRITERS SURVEY**

**Trail**

WHEREAS the Fire Underwriters Survey conducts field reviews and prepares Fire Protection Assessment Reports for local governments for the purpose of fire insurance grading that is then utilized by insurance underwriters when determining the level of risk assumed in any given community;

AND WHEREAS a Fire Protection Assessment Report prepared may not accurately reflect the conditions in the subject community with respect to fire protection delivery, water supplies for public fire protection, fire prevention and fire safety control, and/or emergency communications:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities advocate for an appeal process to be implemented as part of the Fire Underwriters Assessment reporting procedure, with the appeal process to be adjudicated by an independent authority.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B61 TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

**Burns Lake**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has recognized the significant economic impact that is to be achieved by developing the Port of Prince Rupert into a container port;

AND WHEREAS the container port will increase truck traffic through communities along Highway 16 and beyond:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to work with senior levels of government to ensure that where increased truck traffic poses a risk to citizens' safety, that the provincial government provide the necessary leadership and support to facilitate alternate goods routes or other appropriate measures.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B62 BC HYDRO AND TELUS GRAFFITI REMOVAL**

**Saanich**

WHEREAS the current level of response by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) and TELUS to the increasing and unsightly graffiti on their utility kiosks is unacceptable;

AND WHEREAS research shows that the most effective method of deterring graffiti is quick and consistent removal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recommend the provincial government encourage BC Hydro and TELUS to accept their corporate social responsibility and establish province-wide graffiti clean up programs in consultation with local governments.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “utilities and federal and provincial crown corporations” replace “BC Hydro and TELUS” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities recommend the provincial government encourage utilities and federal and provincial crown corporations to accept their corporate social responsibility and establish province-wide graffiti clean up programs in consultation with local governments.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B63 BREACH OF RECOGNIZANCE OFFENCE**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS the consequence of a breach of a recognizance imposed when someone is unable to pay a fine is imposition of the original fine;

AND WHEREAS the consequences of a breach are not sufficient to promote widespread compliance with recognizance orders:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend the *Offence Act* to create an offence for breaching a recognizance.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B64 EVIDENCE BY CERTIFICATE**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS it is difficult to schedule witnesses for court and considerable court and officers time is required to give evidence in court;

AND WHEREAS the *Offence Act* already permits the use of evidence by Certificate in the prosecution of Provincial Violation Tickets as long as the fairness trial is not jeopardized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend provincial legislation to allow evidence by Certificate in municipal bylaw prosecutions.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B65 AUTHORITY TO ISSUE APPEARANCE NOTICES**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS requiring that a summons be personally served in order to get a bylaw offender to court for bylaw infractions prosecuted under the *Offence Act* is expensive and time consuming for the Province, police and municipalities;

AND WHEREAS police officers have the power to issue appearance notices for a variety of provincial offences:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to amend the *Offence Act* to allow police to issue appearance notices for bylaw offences.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B66 DRUG, PARTY AND CRACK HOUSES**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS small communities face impacts of properties in neighbourhoods which generate activities involving parties and illegal substance exchange;

AND WHEREAS these activities tend to diminish the quality of life in these neighbourhoods and in these small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to develop a model for small communities to deal with the negative effects of illegal substance exchange and offensive parties in neighbourhoods in small communities.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “in small communities” be removed from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to develop a model for small communities to deal with the negative effects of illegal substance exchange and offensive parties in neighbourhoods.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B67 FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL FORCES’ BEAT OFFICERS**

**North Vancouver**

WHEREAS the federal government has committed to putting more police on the beat of municipalities across Canada;

AND WHEREAS \$53 million over 5 years has been allocated to British Columbia for more police on the beat;

AND WHEREAS in 2007 and 2008 the City of North Vancouver has provided additional funding to the North Shore RCMP detachment to provide for a City Core Response Unit;

AND WHEREAS the function of the City Core Response Unit is essentially to provide foot-patrol in the Lower Lonsdale area of the City;

AND WHEREAS the city does not have sufficient and permanent financial resources to provide for the constant presence of the City Core Response Unit but rather can only fund the unit during a few months of the year;

AND WHEREAS the city crime statistics demonstrate that the presence of beat officers through the City Core Response Unit has had a good impact on crime prevention:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province make the new funding provided in the 2008 Federal Budget specifically to increase the number of beat officers in municipal police forces available to all municipalities in British Columbia who have or wish to have such a program.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B68 CANADIAN JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS the Canadian Justice System fails to process court proceedings in a timely manner;

AND WHEREAS defendants in criminal court cases are able to delay court proceedings through various means, which creates a back log in the justice system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM and the FCM lobby the Federal Minister of Justice to amend Section 11(b) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* to define “reasonable time”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the “reasonable time” be defined as “ready for trial” within six months of a charge being laid on any indictable offence with the exception of murder.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

## **RESULTS OF ELECTION FOR FIRST VICE- PRESIDENT**

At 9:30 a.m. Ms. Brenda Binnie, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the election results for:

First Vice President: Mayor Joe Snopek, Town of Creston

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to destroy the ballots, was endorsed.

## **RESOLUTIONS CONTINUE**

Mayor Herb Pond resumed the Chair and continued with consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

### **B69 FLOOD PROTECTION FUNDING Delta**

WHEREAS flood protection works are deficient in many areas throughout the Province of British Columbia and, in many areas, critical links in the national transportation network do not have adequate flood protection;

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

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has committed to \$10 million annually for the next 10 years to improve the level of flood protection:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request the federal government to match the funds being expended by the Province of British Columbia and other provincial governments that implement similar flood protection improvement programs.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **B70 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS energy efficiency rebates offered by BC Hydro are applied based on the product manufacturer rather than the product specification, resulting in only certain manufacturers’ products being eligible for rebates despite the fact that competitors’ products meet the same energy efficiency standards;

AND WHEREAS consumers are being strongly urged to purchase energy efficient appliances and products to reduce greenhouse gas emissions only to find out that doing so restricts their choice of manufacturers or discovering after the fact that they are ineligible for the rebates despite the fact that the materials used met the energy efficiency standards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial and federal governments to ensure that they and their Crown corporations offer energy efficiency rebates based on products’ specifications, rather than on select manufacturers.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **B71 SALE OF INVASIVE PLANT SEEDS Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS local governments have instituted programs to control invasive plants and a Provincial Invasive Plant Management Strategy has been developed to prevent the spread of invasive plants;

AND WHEREAS private companies grow invasive plants and harvest seeds for retail distribution to gardeners and commercial producers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal and provincial governments to prevent the cultivation and sale of invasive plants.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B72 UNREGULATED WOOD-BURNING EMISSIONS**

**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS certain types of wood-burning appliances such as outdoor boilers and wood-burning furnaces that produce harmful smoke and pollutants are not required to meet the Canadian standard for emissions;

AND WHEREAS recent events such as the increasing cost of fossil fuels and the availability of bug killed timber for use as fuel in these unapproved units is making their use more attractive for many British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the Solid Fuel Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation or other regulations to require outdoor boilers and wood-burning furnaces to comply with CAN/CSA-B415.1 "Performance Testing of Solid Fuel Burning Stoves, Inserts and Low Burn Rate Factory Built Fireplaces", being the Canadian Standard for wood stove emissions.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B73 EMISSIONS TRADING**

**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS the BC Government has not disclosed plans for a regional system to trade greenhouse gas emissions with the States of New Mexico, California, Oregon and Washington;

AND WHEREAS the trading system has implications for the economies of our communities, and the public and businesses, for the most part, have been excluded from consultation and submissions to the cabinet committee on climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, urge the Cabinet Committee On Climate Change to enter into consultations on the direction taken by the Province on emissions trading and its implications to the economies of the communities affected.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the term "carbon credit" replace "emissions" in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, urge the Cabinet Committee On Climate Change to enter into consultations on the direction taken by the Province on carbon credit trading and its implications to the economies of the communities affected.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B74 REPORTING OF GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS all industrial undertakings are required to obtain emissions permits from the Ministry of Environment;

AND WHEREAS these permits outline the maximum output of contaminants into the environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, request the Province of British Columbia to require the reporting of Green House Gas Emissions for all point source emitters.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B75 PM 2.5 SOURCE PERMITS BASED ON CANADIAN WIDE STANDARDS**

**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS all industrial undertakings are required to obtain emissions permits from the Ministry of Environment;

AND WHEREAS these permits outline the maximum output of contaminants into the environment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, request the Province of British Columbia to use the British Columbia air quality objective of 25 micrograms per cubic metre for PM 2.5 to apportion point source permits and utilize this in the accurate modelling of individual source contribution to the airshed.

**ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

**B76 GAS-FIRED ELECTRICITY GENERATING FACILITY EMISSIONS**

**Powell River RD**

WHEREAS the BC Energy Plan states that:

- Achieving electricity self-sufficiency is fundamental to our future energy security and that BC shall achieve electricity self-sufficiency by 2016; and that
- As part of its commitment to ensure that BC's electricity sector remains one of the cleanest in the world, the province will require zero greenhouse gas emissions from any coal thermal electricity facilities to be met through capture and sequestration technology; but that
- For existing and new electricity plants the government policy will provide for reaching zero net emissions through carbon offsets from other activities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS WestPac LNG is soliciting interest to build an LNG import facility and an associated 600MW gas-fired electricity generating plant on Texada Island, which are inconsistent with the Province's goals of energy self-sufficiency and clean power and are potentially harmful to the health of citizens throughout the surrounding regions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government, as part of achieving the BC Energy Plan, to require zero greenhouse gas emissions from new gas-fired electricity generation stations.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B77 CONTINUED OPERATION OF BURRARD THERMAL GENERATING STATION**

**Port Moody**

WHEREAS the Burrard Thermal Generating Plant (BTGP) in Port Moody has the capacity to generate approximately 10% of the total electricity demand supplied by BC Hydro, is a firm source located within the region that consumes approximately 50% of BC Hydro's capacity and thus is strategically located to supply electricity during emergency conditions such as ice storms which could affect transmission lines;

AND WHEREAS pollution from the plant is not a reason to close the plant given that a number of improvements in recent years have significantly reduced emissions of smog-producing pollutants, there is no significant negative impact from the plant on water quality in Burrard Inlet, BTGP releases only a small fraction of the green house gases (GHG) emitted from vehicles in Metro Vancouver, has been well maintained and thus continues to have a reasonable life span well beyond 2014 and particularly given that BTGP operates primarily during the winter months to meet peak energy demand when the generation of smog-producing chemicals is of least concern;

AND WHEREAS using Burrard Thermal rather than purchasing electricity from coal-fired sources outside British Columbia is consistent with provincial energy policies to promote self-sufficiency and reduce GHG production and thus could avoid anticipated electricity shortages that will occur in the absence of a continued reliance on BTGP:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the BC provincial government not close the Burrard Thermal Generating Plant in 2014 which, according to the Provincial Energy Plan would result in an electricity shortage, but rather keep BTGP in operation and fully maintained as a firm, reliable and relatively clean energy source to help meet the Province's electricity needs during high demand periods, such as the winter months, or emergency conditions as well as providing ongoing voltage regulation.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B78 GROUNDWATER**

**Fraser-Fort George RD**

WHEREAS there appears to be a direction from the provincial government to protect groundwater resources for the long-term benefit of all users; and there are provisions in the *Water Act* to protect and guide the use of surface water;

AND WHEREAS there is not protection for existing or future groundwater users from the potential impacts of groundwater extraction for commercial purposes, or for high volume single-point extraction facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government be requested to develop regulations and programs that would identify, gauge, document and monitor a groundwater resource data base in populated areas of the Province;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the BC government create a development review process and regulations for the analysis of proposed, and existing commercial water extraction operations or other high volume extractors for the purpose of measuring, delineating and protecting the groundwater resources of British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

At 10:00 a.m. Ms. Brenda Binnie, Chair of the Nominating Committee, called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative and Directors at Large. Those nominated at the close of nominations were:

For Small Community Representative: Mayor Dave McIntosh, Village of Tahsis  
Mayor Christ'l Roshard, District of Lillooet  
Mayor Roland Stanke, Village of Clinton

For Electoral Area Representative: Director Eileen Benedict, Bulkley-Nechako RD  
Director Tom Mann, Central Kootenay RD  
Director Al Richmond, Cariboo RD

For Director at Large: Mayor Christopher Clement, Township of Esquimalt  
Councillor Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack  
Councillor Wesly Graham, District of Creston  
Councillor Noreen Guenther, District of Lake Country  
Director Rhona Martin, Columbia Shuswap RD  
Director Rod Sherrell, Mt. Waddington RD  
Councillor Mary Sjostrom, City of Quesnel

Ms. Binnie declared there would be an election for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative and Director at Large.

**CANDIDATES' SPEECHES**

The delegates heard two-minute presentations from each of the candidates for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative and Director at Large.

## **ADDRESS BY CAROLE JAMES, MLA, LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION**

President Susan Gimse introduced Ms. James, who then addressed the delegates. Ms. James's address is annexed to these minutes as Appendix F. Councillor Robert Hobson thanked Ms. James.

### **POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS**

Consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions resumed with Councillor Sharon Gaetz assuming the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Herb Pond, Mayor Terry Lake, Councillor Mary Sjostrom and Councillor Robert Hobson.

#### **B79 INTEGRATED RECOVERY OF RESOURCES IN MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL WASTE SYSTEMS Saanich**

WHEREAS the BC government has established a priority on climate change and has set an aggressive target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to at least 33 percent below current levels by 2020;

AND WHEREAS local governments have opportunities through the development process to seek innovative opportunities to capture onsite sewage, create new sources of energy and the reuse of water, all off the grid of municipal systems;

AND WHEREAS sewage and organic waste can be turned into biofuels, and integrated resource recovery can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle the challenge of climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities ask the provincial government to provide financial assistance and legislative tools that will help communities integrate recovery of resources, in municipal and regional waste systems as part of local and regional plans.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

#### **B80 SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BEETLE KILLED TIMBER Lake Country**

WHEREAS large scale disposal of beetle killed timber by open burning may result in air quality deterioration;

AND WHEREAS the extent of the beetle kill and air quality impacts reach beyond the boundaries of individual municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to fund the purchase of air curtain burners or other technologies on a regional basis that will enable the sustainable management of beetle kill timber.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

#### **B81 PROVINCE-WIDE BAN OF COSMETIC PESTICIDES Kamloops**

WHEREAS residents of the Province of British Columbia are increasingly requesting their local governments to ban the use of cosmetic pesticides within their boundaries in order to mitigate concerns that these pesticides present a threat to the environment, children, pets and personal health. As these bylaws are being implemented in some municipalities, it has been found that community bans have little effect on overall pesticide sales. This is in sharp contrast to the Province of Quebec which has seen a fifty percent drop in pesticide use since their legislated ban in 1994;

AND WHEREAS the *Community Charter* does not give communities the legislative authority to ban the sale of pesticides, only to regulate their use:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia enact provincial legislation that will ban the sale and use of cosmetic pesticides province-wide.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B82 CONTROL OF PESTICIDE USE**

**Comox**

WHEREAS the application of pesticides contributes to the cumulative chemical load absorbed by the natural environment;

AND WHEREAS pesticides cannot be necessarily confined to a single location, but move through the environment in the air, land and water and may have an impact on non-target organisms and plants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to control pesticide use by mandating sales and retail display restrictions across BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to amend the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdictions – Environmental and Wildlife Regulation to allow local governments to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to the use of cosmetic pesticides on all private lands.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**POLICY SESSION – POLICY PAPER**

**HOME SUPPORT**

Mayor Ella Brown, Chair of the Healthy Communities Committee, presented the policy paper: *Home Support*. The policy paper is attached as Appendix G.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that UBCM undertake the proposed course of action as outlined in the policy paper, was adopted.

**POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS**

**B83 NON-REFILLABLE 15L PET CONTAINERS**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS the Province has made a commitment to the ‘Three R’s’ of reduce, reuse and recycle;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of 15 litre non-refillable PET containers will increase the amount of waste entering landfills:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be urged to ban 15 litre non-refillable water containers from use in British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B84 TWINE AND AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS RECYCLING**

**AVICC**

WHEREAS agricultural plastics and twine are recyclable materials generated by the agriculture industry and often sent to municipal solid waste landfills for disposal;

AND WHEREAS diverting agricultural plastics and twine to recycling facilities will reduce the volume of non-biodegradable materials at the landfill;

AND WHEREAS the BC Agricultural Council’s Agriculture Environmental Partnership has a pilot to encourage farms and agri-businesses in BC to look to industry funded, environmentally sound and sustainable options for managing and recycling twine and agricultural plastic:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities provide information on the Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative pilot and the issue of agricultural plastic and twine disposal to its member municipalities and regional districts;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ask the provincial government to consider adding agricultural plastics and twine to the slate of product stewardship initiatives developed by the Ministry of Environment.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B85 RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS IN PARKS  
AND PUBLIC SPACES**

**Richmond**

WHEREAS the City of Richmond supports and encourages recycling in its City operations and throughout the Richmond community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Richmond has recently made it a practice to require that recycling servicing be provided for all Special Event bookings:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage its members to require recycling when a group wants to book a park or hold an event.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B86 AMERICAN BULLFROG MANAGEMENT**

**Capital RD**

WHEREAS the American Bullfrog is an invasive non native species that poses a serious threat to British Columbia's aquatic ecosystems and native species, including the provincially blue-list Red-legged frog and the nationally endangered Pacific Coast population of the Western Painted Turtle;

AND WHEREAS American Bullfrog populations have invaded multiple jurisdictions on Vancouver Island, in the Lower Mainland, and in the Okanagan Valley and are rapidly increasing their range, and may compromise water quality in community water supply watersheds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial Ministry of Environment take a lead role in coordinating American Bullfrog management efforts throughout the Province and provide funding to assist municipalities and regional districts to protect native species and aquatic ecosystems from American Bullfrogs.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B87 SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION**

**Comox Valley RD**

WHEREAS the province of British Columbia has the richest biodiversity of all Canadian provinces, with 76 per cent of Canada's bird species, 70 per cent of its freshwater fish species, 66 per cent of its butterfly species and 60 per cent of its conifer species;

AND WHEREAS B.C. is one of only two provinces in Canada that lacks stand-alone endangered species legislation, the province choosing instead to rely on a fragmented legislative and policy framework that provides insufficient protection for biodiversity, proven by the fact that 87 per cent of known threatened and endangered species in B.C. are unprotected and more than 1,300 species are currently at risk in B.C.:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to enact a strong *Species and Ecosystem Protection Act* to safeguard British Columbia's exceptional biological richness – in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change – recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B88 BAN ON THIN FILM SHOPPING BAGS**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS the proliferation of free thin plastic bags has created negative impacts such as the need for expensive and inefficient waste management, the pollution of natural and human environments, the release of

greenhouse gasses that increase our society’s carbon footprint and an overall encouragement of inefficient single use consumption:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the provincial government ban thin film plastic grocery bags.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B89 NET ZERO BUILDING POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

**Dawson Creek**

WHEREAS British Columbia municipalities are determined to advance solutions of sustainable community design and development in order to meet the challenges associated with climate change, rising costs of energy and infrastructure and to meet the goals set out in the BC Energy Plan;

AND WHEREAS homebuilders in Canada are demonstrating leadership in advanced energy efficient building design and construction leading to near net-zero energy and net-zero energy homes, defined as homes that generate sufficient energy to offset their annual energy use:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the research, development and deployment of community scale net-zero energy housing, to urge federal and provincial governments to provide financial support for the projects and to incorporate a net-zero energy home standard into the provincial building code.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B90 CARBON CALCULATOR**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS many local governments have an interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their communities, and citizens are increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of their activities on their community;

AND WHEREAS the creation of a single carbon calculator available to all local governments would save money and confusion and result in an increased confidence level among users of the information:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to provide free-of-charge a carbon calculator for both lifestyle-based and travel-related carbon footprint calculations, that municipalities could host and promote on their own websites.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the term “local governments” replace “municipalities” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to provide free-of-charge a carbon calculator for both lifestyle-based and travel-related carbon footprint calculations, that local governments could host and promote on their own websites.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B91 LAWN MOWER REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE**

**Keremeos**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has enacted the *Climate Action Charter* and is committed to drastically reduce the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and thrive for carbon neutrality;

AND WHEREAS individual British Columbians are responsible for 30% of GHG emissions in British Columbia and gas powered lawn mowers have been identified as a significant contributor of GHG emissions and other pollutants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of British Columbia provide financial assistance for a rebate program that would serve as an incentive to trade in old gas powered lawn mowers for nonmotorized (push reel) lawn mowers, electric or battery driven mowers.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B92 FUNDING FOR FILM COMMISSIONS**

**Campbell River**

WHEREAS film and television production are growing economic sectors on Vancouver Island and in other regions throughout British Columbia, offering a high economic return, low environmental impact industry, consistent with British Columbia's increasing attention to sustainable economic initiatives;

AND WHEREAS promotion through qualified regional film commissions, key to growth and development in this sector, requires consistent, stable and adequate funding to maintain professional international standards for film commissions and commissioners, yet provincial requirements to qualify for and receive core operating funding are beyond the scope of current funding provided by the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to provide annual core operating funding matching funds granted from municipal and regional governments.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B93 MANDATORY PREPAYMENT FOR FUEL**

**Kitimat-Stikine RD**

WHEREAS *Grant's Law* was conceived as a mandatory prepayment system for fuel purchased at night from service stations in urban areas, but has been implemented by WorkSafe BC as section 4.22.2 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, which applies to all fuel outlets throughout the province, 24 hours a day;

AND WHEREAS mandatory prepayment:

- can require a complicated series of transactions to fill vehicles, especially larger vehicles when \$100 transaction limits are imposed automatically by pay at the pump dispensers
- can impose credit strain and card security concerns on customers
- has caused difficulties for operators in rural or remote areas where they are challenged to respond to the requirements of the regulation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Provincial Government to enact regulatory changes to section 4.22.2 of the WorkSafe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, in order to make prepayment for fuel optional at non-urban service stations and to provide flexibility so that non-urban service stations may develop and implement procedures more appropriate to their operations.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**ADDRESS BY JANE STERK  
LEADER OF THE GREEN PARTY OF BC**

President Susan Gimse introduced Ms. Sterk, who then addressed the delegates. Ms. Sterk outlined the key policies of the Green Party of BC and urged the delegates to vote for the single transferable vote in the forthcoming referendum. Councillor Robert Hobson thanked Ms. Sterk.

**DELEGATES' LUNCH**

The Annual Delegates' Lunch was held in Salon A/B/C of the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre. The lunch was sponsored by Credit Union Central of BC.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Councillor Kim Capri introduced ICBC Representative Mark Nelson, Director of Claims Field Services who introduced Ms. Marnie McBean the keynote speaker. Mr. Nelson of ICBC thanked Ms. McBean.

## PICTURE BC

UBCM President Susan Gimse, in the Chair, began the panel presentation by introducing the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Arts who outlined the Province's vision for Picture BC, its \$1 million funding contribution and how this investment is tied in with other provincial initiatives. Rudy Buttignol, President and CEO of Knowledge Network, spoke briefly about how the partnership with UBCM reflected the new mandate of Knowledge Network and the significant in kind contribution Knowledge Network has made to promote Picture BC.

Richard Taylor, General Manager, Victoria Operations, then presented a preview of the Picture BC website and its various features including a provincial overview video, regional BC Moments videos, professional images available for all communities, the community self managed pages and the search capabilities of the site.

UBCM President Susan Gimse closed the session with a call to action by members to complete their contributions so the site would be ready to launch on December 2008.

## POLICY SESSION – POLICY PAPERS

Director Susan Gimse, UBCM President, presented the policy paper: *2008 BC Communities Agenda*. The policy paper is attached as Appendix H.

On motion, duly moved and seconded the policy paper, *2008 BC Communities Agenda*, was adopted.

## POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions session began at 9:30 a.m. with Councillor Sharon Gaetz in the Chair.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were Mayor Herb Pond, Councillor Mary Sjostrom, Mayor Terry Lake and Councillor Robert Hobson.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Councillor Sharon Gaetz presented the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE

N/A

B. REFER TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

LR1 Lack of Funding for Services Municipalities Provide

C. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE  
(Issues known before the June 30 deadline for resolutions)

LR2 Private Moorage Wharf Tenure

LR3 License Plate Transferability to Reduce Green House Gases

LR4 Vancouver Island E & N Right of Way

LR5 Province-wide Refrigeration Appliance Fee

LR6 Enabling Legislation to Allow Municipalities to Create Blanket Speed Zones

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline be considered, was endorsed.

## **RESULTS OF ELECTION FOR SMALL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE, ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

Ms. Brenda Binnie, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the election results for:

Small Community Representative: Mayor Roland Stanke, Village of Clinton

Electoral Area Representative: Director Al Richmond, Cariboo Regional District

Director at Large: Councillor Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack  
Councillor Wesly Graham, Town of Creston  
Councillor Noreen Guenther, District of Lake Country  
Director Rhona Martin, Columbia Shuswap RD  
Councillor Mary Sjostrom

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to destroy the ballots, was endorsed.

## **POLICY SESSION – RESOLUTIONS**

Councillor Sharon Gaetz resumed the Chair and continued with consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

Reporting for the Resolutions Committee were: Councillor Robert Hobson, Mayor Herb Pond, Mayor Terry Lake and Councillor Mary Sjostrom.

### **B94 COMMUNITIES RELIANT ON FORESTRY**

**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS forestry remains the back bone of the Province’s export economy, responsible for 40% of the total export earnings which support more than 80,000 direct jobs outside the lower mainland and Victoria regions, and is the leading source of income and taxation for local communities;

AND WHEREAS outside the lower mainland and Victoria regions, forestry is the leading source of income and property taxation for smaller to medium sized communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, urge the Province of British Columbia to create a special grant funding to support municipal services for all communities that may be impacted by mill closures and pine beetle infestation.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the term “local government” replace “municipal” in the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, urge the Province of British Columbia to create a special grant funding to support local government services for all communities that may be impacted by mill closures and pine beetle infestation.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

### **B95 ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED WESTERN PINE BEETLE COMMUNITIES**

**Grand Forks**

WHEREAS the Western Pine Beetle is devastating Ponderosa Pine stands in Southern Interior Communities;

AND WHEREAS there is a lack of assistance for communities affected by the Western Pine Beetle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province of British Columbia to allocate funding from the Community Development Trust to communities impacted by

the Western Pine Beetle, in an effort to assist in dealing with damage caused by the Western Pine Beetle within local government lands and privately owned lands.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B96 SNOWMOBILE PARKING ACCESS**

**Mackenzie**

WHEREAS the need to diversify northern communities to ensure economic sustainability and growth has never been as evident as it is at this present time in our history;

AND WHEREAS the snowmobile industry offers a viable economic enhancement by attracting snowmobiling enthusiasts to our areas and promotes our importance as preferred snowmobile destinations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Transportation to identify and prioritize the cleaning of snowmobile parking and staging areas along the highway corridors.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “consult with communities in order to” be added to the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Transportation to consult with communities in order to identify and prioritize the cleaning of snowmobile parking and staging areas along the highway corridors.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B97 CORPORATE VOTING CATEGORY FOR NON-RESIDENT BUSINESS OWNERS**

**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS business people who operate businesses within municipalities and choose to live outside the municipal boundaries have lost their ability to vote and to have some influence in local decision making;

AND WHEREAS business people have a real and permanent interest in the welfare of the municipality as well as the region and contribute to the local economy through their taxation and licenses payable to the municipality, the economic benefit of their existence, their effect on making the community a more desirable place for existing and new residents, and the expertise and energy they offer to community events:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities encourage the Province of British Columbia to reinstate a Corporate Voting Category so that non-resident business owners can vote and participate in the business of the community as full-fledged taxpayers.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**B98 ADDITIONAL HOME OWNER GRANT**

**Sooke**

WHEREAS many senior residents of British Columbia have owned and lived in their home for more than twenty years, paid property taxes and intend to continue to live in their home;

AND WHEREAS senior residents have experienced an extraordinary rise in their property assessments over the past twenty years;

AND WHEREAS due to the high assessed value of their property, some senior property owners do not meet the requirements for additional Home Owner Grant and it is a hardship for them to pay their property taxes without the grant:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to amend the *Home Owner Grant Act* to allow all senior property owners to claim the full additional Home Owner Grant.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B99 PROVINCIAL HOME OWNER GRANT ELIGIBILITY**

**Coquitlam**

WHEREAS the provincial Home Owner Grant Program is in place to provide tax relief for individuals at their principle residence;

AND WHEREAS the eligibility criteria includes an administrative policy to claim a grant for only one tax year after a home is destroyed by fire or other natural disaster;

AND WHEREAS the property at 1200 Pacific Street in Coquitlam is under permit to be remediated following a fire on July 20, 2006;

AND WHEREAS it is highly unlikely that a remediation project for 40 apartment units would be completed within the next tax year;

AND WHEREAS the construction market in British Columbia puts further strain on property owners' ability to complete major remediation projects within the next tax year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial Home Owner Grant Program be amended to include criteria for the next two tax years following a fire or natural disaster.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

Mayor Terry Lake assumed the Chair and continued with consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

**B100 UTILITY COMPANIES GRANT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

**Port Coquitlam**

WHEREAS municipalities provide critical services such as policing, fire protection, roads, water, sewer, garbage and recycling, parks and recreation services and consistently receive demands for increased service;

AND WHEREAS section 353 of the *Local Government Act* was intended to require utility companies to pay the tax rate on all revenues generated within the municipality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to pass legislation enabling municipalities to levy a tax of up to 5% on the gross operating revenues earned by a utility from all sources of their operation within the municipality.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrases "or regional districts" and "or regional district" be added to the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to pass legislation enabling municipalities or regional districts to levy a tax of up to 5% on the gross operating revenues earned by a utility from all sources of their operation within the municipality or regional district.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B101 TAX BENEFITS FOR AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND**

**AKBLG Executive**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urges the provincial government to increase the tax benefit for those who are using their land for agriculture.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B102 MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTION**

**100 Mile House**

WHEREAS under Section 197 (1) (b) of the *Community Charter* municipalities must, by bylaw, impose property value taxes for the year by establishing tax rates for the amounts to be collected for the year to meet its taxing obligations in relation to another local government or other public body;

AND WHEREAS the proportion of municipal taxes collected may be considerably less than the taxes collected for other local governments or other public bodies such as school districts, regional districts, improvement districts, and any other local government overlapping municipal boundaries, creating inequitable work load demands on those municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review its tax collection formula so municipalities collect only those taxes that they are in direct receipt of, and do not collect taxes for other local bodies.

**ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

**B103 EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL SERVICE**

**100 Mile House**

WHEREAS under Section 197 (1) (a) of the *Community Charter* municipalities in British Columbia must, by bylaw, impose property value taxes for the year based on the annually assessed value of land and improvements provided by the B.C. Assessment Authority each year;

AND WHEREAS properties assessed at higher values pay more for municipal services than properties assessed at lower values:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review its tax collection methodology for each property classification so that there is equality established; that is, equal pay for equal service.

**ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

**B104 UNIVERSITY PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS**

**Port Alberni**

WHEREAS in 1996 the *University Act*, RSBC 1979, c.419 was amended to add the following paragraph:

(t. 1) to pay to a municipality incorporated by or under an Act a grant in a year not exceeding the lesser of

(i) the amount that would be payable as general municipal taxes in the year on the property of the university within the municipality if the property were not exempt from these taxes; and

(ii) the amount specified by the minister or calculated in the manner specified by the minister.

AND WHEREAS British Columbia municipalities are suffering considerable loss of municipal taxation due to amounts levied under section (ii) above:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to appeal to the Province of British Columbia to amend the *University Act*, RSBC 1979, c. 419 to apply a more equitable method of municipal taxation as follows:

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

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B105 MINIMUM TAXATION ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES**

**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS in British Columbia, residents are provided with access to many government services through property taxation;

AND WHEREAS both the demand for services and the cost of providing these services is continually rising:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the provincial government to call for the minimum taxation on residential properties to be increased from \$100 to \$250.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**B106 REDUCING EMPLOYEE TAXES FOR HYBRID VEHICLE CARPOOLING PROGRAMS**

**Delta**

WHEREAS the threat of climate change has prompted municipalities to undertake action to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS to reduce emissions some municipalities have created carpooling programs which allow municipal employees to commute to and from work in municipal fleet vehicles provided that they pay a taxable benefit based largely on the vehicle purchase price;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have been encouraged to purchase hybrid electric vehicles which may cost up to twice as much as conventional fuel vehicles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request senior government to restructure the municipal vehicle taxable benefit policy so that municipal carpoolers using hybrid vehicles are not charged any more tax than users in a comparable conventional fuel vehicle.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B107 RESPONSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS AND COMMODITIES**

**Peace River RD**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has demonstrated leadership in making a significant difference in reducing our carbon foot print;

AND WHEREAS the majority of local community consumer goods are transported and delivered by highway tractor trailer units;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has a significant interconnected railway infrastructure operated primarily by two national freight companies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government, CN Rail and CP Rail to design and develop a 'community rail freight delivery system' that would encourage the use of long-haul rail.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B108 SAFER CYCLING CONDITIONS**

**Comox Valley RD**

WHEREAS getting people out of their cars and onto bicycles reduces global warming, decreases air pollution and creates a healthier population;

AND WHEREAS unsafe cycling conditions are a major deterrent to getting people onto their bicycles;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation provide additional resources for year round, regular sweeping of road shoulders and cycle lanes in order to remove gravel and debris and thus create safer cycling.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B109 POORLY PERFORMING INTERSECTIONS**

**Pitt Meadows**

WHEREAS many municipalities are facing increased traffic pressures as populations increase and some intersections are performing at a Level of Service (LOS) of E or F which represents a failing intersection;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are often unable to finance improvements that would relieve the congestion at failing intersections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to work with local governments to identify key intersections that are at major regional intersections of E or F and provide funding for improvements to these failing intersections.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “performing at LOS” be added to the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to work with local governments to identify key intersections that are at major regional intersections performing at LOS of E or F and provide funding for improvements to these failing intersections.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B110 HEARTLAND CONNECTOR**

**Quesnel**

WHEREAS the British Columbia Transit Plan is focused primarily on the Lower Mainland with some benefit allocated to Kelowna and no indication of any consideration given for a proposed Heartland Connector commitment;

AND WHEREAS any British Columbia Transit Plan should consider the importance of Highway 97 as the major thoroughfare between the residents and resources of Northern British Columbia and the Lower Mainland, as well as a vital economic link in the Asia Pacific Corridor joining the Prince Rupert and Vancouver ports:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to take immediate steps to fulfil its commitment to the completion of the Heartland Connector to ensure the efficient and safe movement of people and goods and to solidify the economic opportunities of the Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B111 NAV CANADA CONSULTATION**

**Surrey**

WHEREAS the Aeronautical Study’s changes implemented by Nav Canada on May 7, 2007 have negatively impacted many residents in the Lower Mainland;

AND WHEREAS the impacted communities and residents were not consulted during the Aeronautical Study;

AND WHEREAS Nav Canada’s governance model does not require consultation with communities or affected municipalities where air traffic changes take place;

AND WHEREAS there is not currently a requirement for an environmental impact study to take place when considering airspace changes;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Transportation will only exert authority on issues concerning air safety:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) call upon the federal government to revisit the legislative framework of Nav Canada to ensure that proper consultation takes place with affected communities and residents;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM call upon the federal government to ensure that environmental impact studies take place prior to any airspace changes.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B112 FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS local input from Coastal Communities to the operations of BC Ferries is essential to the Ferry Authority’s ability to respond to local needs and the system of local government appointments to the Ferry Advisory Committees has worked well for coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS the ability of local governments to appoint representatives to Ferry Advisory Committees has been removed and replaced with appointments by the BC Ferry Authority:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government and the BC Ferry Authority to adhere to the democratic system of local government appointments to Ferry Advisory Committees.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B113 ENHANCED MONITORING AND REPORTING OF HIGHWAYS  
MAINTENANCE**

**Greenwood  
Golden  
Trail**

WHEREAS the quality of highways road and bridge maintenance services provided by the Ministry of Transportation has a significant impact on the safety of our publicly owned highways;

AND WHEREAS the provision of quality highways road and bridge maintenance services not only ensures safe road conditions for those travelling our highways but also ensures that the maximum life span of our highways infrastructure can be realized, and the Ministry of Transportation has introduced a self-regulatory model by contracted services providers to assess compliance with required work standards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation be called upon to ensure that contracted highways road and bridge maintenance providers fulfil their contractual obligations through enhanced monitoring and audits of work performance of contractors conducted by the Ministry of Transportation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation provide regular accident reports for the service area, conduct comprehensive contractor performance assessments and report any findings semi-annually to key community stakeholders such as local governments, school boards, emergency services, chambers of commerce and other relevant stakeholders in the service area.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B114 HIGHWAYS, ROAD AND BRIDGE MAINTENANCE JOINT  
AWARENESS INITIATIVE**

**100 Mile House**

WHEREAS the quality of highways, road and bridge maintenance services provided by the Ministry of Transportation has a significant impact on the safety of our publicly owned highways;

AND WHEREAS the provision of quality highways, road and bridge maintenance services not only ensures safe road conditions for those travelling our highways but also ensures that the maximum life span of our highways infrastructure can be realized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation, BCGEU and the province's road maintenance contractors undertake a joint initiative to prepare educational materials that promote public safety and awareness.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B115 DOCKS**

**Sicamous**

WHEREAS Mara and Shuswap Lakes, adjacent to and within the District of Sicamous, have been inundated with a proliferation of private buoys and docks over the summer seasons of 2006 and 2007, absent of Provincial and/or Federal authority or approvals;

AND WHEREAS, given the potential life saving impacts of such activity, the District has requested enforcement and intervention by the Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Integrated Land Management Bureau representatives, to no avail;

AND WHEREAS, effective October 2007 municipalities and regional district were advised by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lands (Land Program Services Branch) that the Ministry proposes changes to the Crown Land Private Moorage Program to eliminate Provincial requirements (license of occupation) for placement of privately owned small and seasonal lake docks up to 20m sq. in size:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urges the Province of British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to retain administration of water leases and licenses for all docks, to ensure control and management of its waterways and public life safety; and provide adequate

funding for increased staffing resources to appropriately administer enforcement and compliance, except where local government may enter into a cooperative arrangement with the Province of BC to do otherwise.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B116    RETAINING RIVERVIEW LANDS**

**Coquitlam**

WHEREAS the Riverview Lands are significant to British Columbia’s heritage and history, in that the Lands were set aside over 100 years ago to be a sanctuary and residential treatment facility for the mentally ill and to be the site for a provincial botanical garden;

AND WHEREAS the Riverview Lands are valued throughout the province as the home to British Columbia’s primary mental health care facility, as an important heritage site, as a treasured botanical garden/arboretum and as a sanctuary for all;

AND WHEREAS they represent an unique opportunity for economic development, that will benefit all citizens, through undertaking initiatives which are congruent with the original long-term vision for the property – e.g., a campus focussed on research and development concerning physical and mental health and welfare;

AND WHEREAS by working together, there are tremendous opportunities to create a future plan for Riverview that reflects the goals and priorities of local residents, the region, and numerous interest groups from across the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the provincial government to retain the Riverview Lands in public ownership, that its ongoing use as a mental health facility be respected, that they be managed in a manner that is consistent with the original long-term vision for the property – and not as a site for market housing, and that the heritage buildings, landscapes, and arboretum be protected and preserved for the benefit of all British Columbians.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B117    INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR FIRE HALLS**

**Nanaimo RD**

WHEREAS all local governments are legislated to prepare and maintain active emergency plans for their communities;

AND WHEREAS communities expect fire departments to play a key role in responding to emergency events;

AND WHEREAS fire halls in many communities are aging and many would suffer long term damage in the event of an earthquake;

AND WHEREAS fire departments contribute to the safety of all persons and property in the Province of BC;

AND WHEREAS there are no designated categories in current provincial or federal infrastructure programs to assist with constructing fire halls or to address seismic upgrades:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC and Government of Canada include seismic upgrading and construction of fire halls as eligible for funding in both current and future infrastructure grant programs.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B118    MANUFACTURED HOME PARKS**

**Cowichan Valley RD**

WHEREAS Manufactured Home Parks are a unique form of affordable housing that offer a lifestyle for residents who enjoy a community atmosphere, yet the infrastructure in many of the older Manufactured Home Parks is failing and in need of significant upgrades to meet present day environmental standards;

AND WHEREAS there are various restrictions placed on Manufactured Home Park owners with respect to raising funds to pay for upgrades to infrastructure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide incentives to new and existing manufactured home park owners so that this form of affordable housing will attract new investment dollars and permit the upgrading of existing manufactured home park infrastructure.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B119 LOTTERY CORPORATION REVENUE SHARING**

**Port Coquitlam**

WHEREAS municipalities provide critical services such as policing, fire protection, roads, water, sewer, garbage and recycling, parks and recreation services and consistently receive demands for increased service;

AND WHEREAS all residents of the province contribute to the profit of the British Columbia Lottery Corporation and the provincial government is forecasting a profit of \$1.0 billion from the British Columbia Lottery Corporation for their 2007/08 year:

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

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Mary Sjostrom assumed the Chair and continued with consideration of Section B – Part II resolutions.

**B120 MUNICIPAL PENSION RETIREES GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS**

**Langford**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government and the Union of BC Municipalities be requested to increase funding of 1/2 of 1% of payroll for an account specifically designated for Group Health Benefits to assist Municipal Pension retirees to continue with their efforts to maintain and support good health.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B121 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION**

**Rosland**

WHEREAS small communities, with limited resources rely heavily on voluntary, non-profit organizations to sponsor or host community events which are supported by the Municipal Council;

AND WHEREAS small non-profit, voluntary organizations do not have adequate resources to acquire the ever increasing required insurance coverage for their hosted or sponsored events:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipal Insurance Association provide through the municipality, insurance coverage to small, non-profit voluntary organizations for local government approved community events.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B122 FEDERAL GAS TAX AGREEMENT FUNDING CRITERIA**

**Thompson-Nicola RD**

WHEREAS electoral areas within regional districts have access to Federal Gas Tax funding based on a limited set of eligible project criteria that are more applicable to municipalities and not to electoral areas who may not have the same types or levels of infrastructure systems (i.e. no public transit, community energy systems, water or wastewater systems, etc.);

AND WHEREAS not only start-up but ongoing costs of operating environmental sustainable infrastructure projects such as solid waste transfer stations and or curbside pickup services may be more applicable as an electoral area priority given their limited number of eligible projects:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to lobby the federal government to amend the Federal Gas Tax Agreement by adding more flexible project criteria aligned to electoral area priorities such as covering project operating costs thereby increasing the ability of electoral areas to access and utilize said funding.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**B123 EXPAND THE USE OF GAS TAX FUNDING**

**Squamish**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal and provincial governments to allow local governments to expand the use of Gas Tax money beyond the current parameters to include operational costs of public transportation.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**B124 SMALL COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL DISTRICT GRANTS FUNDING FORMULA**

**Thompson-Nicola RD**

WHEREAS the purpose of unconditional Small Community and Regional District Grants is to assist municipalities with basic services and regional districts with basic administration costs;

AND WHEREAS the Small Community Grant formula factors in a base amount, population and assessment values and Regional District Grants utilize a different formula based solely on regional district population thereby creating an inequity in funding distribution between small communities and regional districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Community Services be requested to modify the unconditional Small Community and Regional District Grants funding formula so that funding is distributed equitably between small communities and regional districts.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the REGIONAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE**

**B125 NEW ASSESSMENT CATEGORY FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

**New Westminster**

WHEREAS the BC Ministry of Small Business and Revenue, as part of Bill 11-2008, is proposing to create a new assessment category for supportive housing under Section 19 of the *Assessment Act*. Under this new assessment category, land and improvements would be assessed at a nominal rate, which would essentially mean that they would have no value, and therefore the properties in question would pay no property taxes;

AND WHEREAS the City of New Westminster is concerned about the property tax implications associated with this legislation. It is also concerned that this legislation may act as a major disincentive to the creation of new supportive housing targeting vulnerable populations, including the homeless:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested not to enact the new assessment category for supportive housing targeting vulnerable populations under Section 19 of the *Assessment Act*.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B126 NEW TAX CLASSIFICATION**

**Kaslo**

WHEREAS small rural municipalities are experiencing significant impacts from resort style development; with decreasing availability and affordability of residential property; and, through increased costs on permanent residents through greater infrastructure and service demands;

AND WHEREAS these small rural municipalities have very limited resources to directly offset these financial impacts directly through revenue generation or taxation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government create a new tax classification: Residential Property – Occupied by Permanent or Full-Time Resident(s).

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B127 TRAINING FOR AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS – PARAMEDICS**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS there have been recent changes to training opportunities for paramedics, and there has been a loss of sufficient trained personnel to maintain staff at certain remote stations;

AND WHEREAS attendants on call in a remote ambulance station receive only \$2 per hour, and it is unrealistic to expect persons to put forward \$5000 in training money for a position that is in effect, a volunteer position:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request the provincial government to provide training for paramedics at a minimal cost to the trainee, such personal cost to be sufficient only to indicate commitment to service.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B128 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION FUND (CHPF) PROJECTS**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS many small rural community volunteers and local governments have partnered to conceive and deliver beneficial community health initiatives otherwise unavailable through local health authorities providing proactive and reactive programs germane to community health;

AND WHEREAS while UBCM has provided a positive mechanism to fund such initiatives through CHPF, the “pilot project” nature of fund allocation prohibits the ability to create sustainability over time, resulting in the unproductive collapse of such initiatives following the achievement of short-term goals as approved by fund administrator:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM develop an evaluative component to the CHPF that may permit extended funding to approved, successful initiatives in order to ensure their eventual long-term viability under a variety of funding sources.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B129 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

**Burns Lake**

WHEREAS aging infrastructure at health care facilities, particularly in the rural areas of the Province of British Columbia, is an ongoing concern for recruitment and retention of medical professionals, access and quality of care, economic development investment, and rapidly escalating replacement costs;

AND WHEREAS the existing funding mechanism where capital replacement costs are shared by both the Hospital Districts and the Province of BC is not legislated and discriminates based on the taxation capabilities of those Hospital Districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to recognize the fiscal imbalance amongst Hospital Districts and assume more fiscal responsibility in the timely replacement of these facilities.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B130 TEN YEAR FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR BC HOSPITAL FACILITIES**

**Vernon**

WHEREAS the hospitals in British Columbia are in a state of crisis, and drastic changes are needed to address financial issues related to these facilities;

AND WHEREAS, it would be fiscally prudent for British Columbia Hospitals to commit to ten year financial planning:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to require British Columbia hospitals to commit to ten year financial planning.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B131 PHASED OUT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

**Vernon**

WHEREAS Regional Hospital Districts and local tax payers cannot be expected to carry the full burden of addressing the massive capital costs required to upgrade neglected and aging hospital facilities in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be urged to phase out contributions from Regional Hospital Districts toward the cost of health care capital expenditures.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B132 HEALTH CAPITAL FUNDING**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

WHEREAS Regional Hospital Districts are required by law to adopt a five year financial plan including capital requirements by March 31 for each year ending December 31 and the Ministry of Health budgets on a yearly basis for each year ending March 31;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Health provides capital funding targets to Health Regions and Health Regions must present their requirements to Regional Hospital Districts for consideration and Regional Hospital Districts must consider and respond to requests for funding within a limited timeframe:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the Ministry of Health to implement a multi-year budget system enabling Regional Hospital Districts to plan for future funding requirements on a five year basis that would enable residents to access quality health care in a fiscally responsible manner.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B133 REGIONAL DISTRICT POWERS**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS the current legislation that Regional Districts operate under does not serve the rural residents of British Columbia and creates a two class system;

AND WHEREAS at the time the Community Charter was created the Province of British Columbia promised that Regional Districts would be brought into the legislation expeditiously:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that considering seven years have passed, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urges the provincial government to grant the same powers to Regional Districts as Municipalities under the Community Charter.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the REGIONAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE**

**B134 MINISTER OF STATE FOR REGIONAL DISTRICTS**

**AKBLG Executive**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urges the provincial government to appoint a Minister of State responsible for Regional Districts.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the REGIONAL DISTRICT TASK FORCE**

**B135 MUNICIPAL SOIL REMOVAL FEES INCREASE**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS Municipal Soil Removal Bylaws approved by the Province of British Columbia have set fees that have remained largely unchanged over the past two decades;

AND WHEREAS the costs associated with addressing the impacts of aggregate related truck traffic has increased over that period of time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government consider approving an increase to soil removal fees to reflect the true cost of the impacts of aggregate removal on municipalities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B136 UNBUNDLED PARKING REQUIREMENT**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS the Provincial *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Targets Act* requires a GHG emission reduction of 33% from 2007 levels by 2020 and a reduction of 80% from 2007 levels by 2050 with legislated targets for 2012 and 2016 to be put in place by December 31, 2008;

AND WHEREAS sixty British Columbia (BC) local governments signed a *Climate Action Charter* with the Province and with the Union of BC Municipalities in 2007 to develop strategies to become carbon-neutral by 2012 and to create compact energy efficient communities by making environmentally responsible choices;

AND WHEREAS BC municipalities have jurisdiction over land use and parking regulations to achieve community goals such as GHG emission reductions;

AND WHEREAS BC municipalities do not currently have the authority to require developers to provide unbundled parking (i.e. the separation of the sale price for a parking space from the sale price for a freehold or leasehold property or strata lot) in new developments, which would provide home-buyers with purchasing flexibility and greater transparency regarding the cost of parking and would lead to more informed decision making about vehicle ownership and usage;

AND WHEREAS if the authority is provided to BC municipalities to require developers to provide unbundled parking they have the option to exercise that authority as they deem appropriate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities requests the Province to make the necessary legislative changes to provide BC municipalities the authority to have the option to require unbundled parking in new developments, in support of sustainability commitments.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B137 PRIORITIZING AND TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

**AKBLG Executive**

WHEREAS there are hundreds of resolutions being debated and voted on at the annual Union of B.C. Municipalities Convention;

AND WHEREAS there is no clear method of tracking the resolutions to determine the outcome of our concerns after our resolutions have been presented to the appropriate party:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that each Area Association be requested to prioritize their top five resolutions from within their Area Association for consideration by the UBCM;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM Executive bring forward a maximum of 25 resolutions of province-wide importance for debate at the UBCM Convention;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UBCM develop a tracking system and report back annually as to the progress made on resolving the concerns brought forward by UBCM member local governments through resolution.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B138 PROVINCIAL SANCTIONING BODY FOR PROFESSIONAL COMBAT SPORTS**

**Vancouver**

WHEREAS combat sports has been growing in popularity and now includes ultimate fighting and mixed martial arts contests and there is no provincial regulation authority to regulate those sports;

AND WHEREAS there are concerns about unregulated fight cards taking place without proper supervision, medical checks, referring or judging which places participants in serious jeopardy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia establish a provincial body for the purpose of regulating and supervising professional boxing, kick-boxing, wrestling, ultimate fighting and mixed martial arts contests and exhibitions.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B139 PARTICIPATION OF FIRST NATIONS AT UBCM**

**Powell River**

WHEREAS all municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia are situated within the traditional territories of First Nations, and First Nations are an integral part of society; economically, culturally and socially;

AND WHEREAS in order to achieve a sustainable future for British Columbia it is imperative that the three governing bodies, Regional Districts, Municipalities and First Nations, move forward together;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities is constantly having discussions, forming committees and passing resolutions regarding First Nations issues without the meaningful participation of First Nations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities enables full participation of First Nations in meaningful discussions and the opportunity to have full membership on all standing and select committees of the Union of BC Municipalities.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B140 SEWERS**

**Sicamous**

WHEREAS the rate and amount of development in the District are increasing significantly every year;

AND WHEREAS the area of the District served by sanitary sewer is increasing incrementally in concert with development and population growth such that the District is obligated to augment its sewer local service area routinely by conducting local service area petition and initiative processes in new areas twice or three times per annum;

AND WHEREAS the cost and staff time associated with each petition or counter-petition process are disproportionate to the cost of each expansion and place an unreasonable burden of the District's budget and staff;

AND WHEREAS the District and other growing municipalities in British Columbia would like to have the power to establish a large local service area further to a petition or Council initiative in which owners are not liable for tax payments until they apply for the community sewer system to extend to their parcel, such that they become liable in respect of the capital cost and maintenance of their portion of the community sewer system automatically on application for extension of the system to their parcel, without any additional petition or Council initiative:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the Minister of Community Services to take forward to the Legislative Assembly a Bill to amend the Community Charter to empower a municipality to establish a large local service area further to a petition or Council initiative in which owners are not liable for property value or parcel tax payments until they apply for the community sewer system to extend to their parcel, such that they become liable for the tax in respect of the capital cost and maintenance of their portion of the community sewer system automatically on application for extension of the system to their parcel, without any additional petition or Council initiative.

**ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

***SECTION B – PART III RESOLUTIONS***

Councillor Robert Hobson assumed the Chair and called for a motion to consider the Section B – Part III resolutions as a block due to a shortage of time.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution B143 be withdrawn from the Section B – Part III block for consideration by Convention, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution B149 be withdrawn from the Section B – Part III block for consideration by Convention, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution B153 be withdrawn from the Section B – Part III block for consideration by Convention, was endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution B154 be withdrawn from the Section B – Part III block for consideration by Convention, was not endorsed.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the remaining Section B – Part III resolutions be adopted (noting that those resolutions for which “no recommendation” was recorded would be automatically referred to the UBCM executive), was endorsed.

The recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for disposition of the remaining Section B – Part III resolutions were adopted as follows:

**B141 VISUAL FIRE ALARMS Comox Valley RD**

WHEREAS hearing impaired people may not be able to respond to audio fire alarm systems:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government require visual alarm systems be installed in all places where audio alarm systems are currently required.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B142 INEQUITIES IN CANADIAN BORDER SERVICE COSTS Kamloops**

WHEREAS the provision of Customs and Immigration services is a function solely of the Government of Canada that serves to facilitate the flow of goods and people across the border, an essential component of the economic health and development of certain regions across Canada. The lack of provision of Customs and Immigration services can have a dramatic effect on regional economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the provision of Customs and Immigration services at certain regional centres, like Kamloops, BC, is provided on a full cost recovery basis as compared to other regional centres, like Kelowna, BC, where the service is provided on a cost allocation to all citizens of Canada:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provision of essential federal government services must not discriminate against the legitimate development aspirations of a region and the Government of Canada move immediately to remove the discriminatory cost recovery mechanism for Customs and Immigration services and provide these services on the same basis as are provided in other areas of the country and at the same cost to all Canadians;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that where new or expanded services are required in any region of Canada, the provision of such services should meet a legitimate business case.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B144 KIDNEY DIALYSIS Smithers**

WHEREAS kidney dialysis treatment for the entire northwestern area of British Columbia is currently conducted out of the cities of Prince George and Terrace;

AND WHEREAS those who are in need of dialysis must move from their communities in order to be treated, causing disruption within the family and disruption in the lifestyle:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby Northern Health as well as the Ministry of Health to ensure that services for kidney dialysis are available in local communities.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the phrase “Northern Health as well as” be removed from the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Health to ensure that services for kidney dialysis are available in local communities.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B145 BASIC DENTAL HEALTH CARE**

**Terrace**

WHEREAS access to basic dental health care in the Province of British Columbia and government funding for basic dental health care is inadequate for low income individuals and families;

AND WHEREAS there is a discrepancy between the coverage provided by existing government dental programs and the actual costs charged by dentists:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to take immediate steps to remove access barriers to dental health care, allocate more funding for basic dental health care insurance for low income individuals and families in the Province, and work with the BC Dental Association to resolve the discrepancy between the BC Dental Fee guide and the actual fees charged by dentists.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B146 WARNING LABELS ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

**Courtenay**

WHEREAS warning labels on alcoholic beverages may assist in preventing health problems and reduce the risk to the public:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government require the following warning labels on all alcoholic beverages sold in British Columbia:

1. Women should avoid alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects;
2. The consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to operate machinery and over consumption may cause health problems.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the warning labels contain graphic information similar to that shown on cigarette packages.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B147 INTEGRATED OCEANS MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS**

**Alert Bay**

WHEREAS the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding respecting the implementation of Canada's Oceans Strategy on the Pacific Coast of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the process of integrated planning for the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management area (PNCIMA) appears to have stalled due to lack of commitment and adequate funding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia to immediately commit to increased engagement and collaboration in the integrated Oceans Management Planning Process for the Pacific Coast of Canada.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B148 ENCOURAGEMENT OF FUEL-EFFICIENT SMALL EQUIPMENT  
MANUFACTURING**

**Delta**

WHEREAS the provincial government has encouraged municipalities to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated through the delivery of municipal operations including those emissions produced through the use of small and large equipment;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are encouraged to purchase energy efficient small and large equipment;

AND WHEREAS the selection of energy efficient equipment is limited, and the cost still prohibitively high for many municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request the federal and provincial governments to encourage industry, through the use of financial incentives, to develop and manufacture more affordable energy efficient small and large equipment so that municipalities can have more choice with regard to green purchasing.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B150 REGULATORY CONTROL FOR GAS PRICING**

**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS gas prices throughout the province of British Columbia have been steadily reaching record highs, and are creating hardships for industry and residents;

AND WHEREAS British Columbians will be required to pay an additional carbon tax of 2.5 cents per litre effective July 1, 2008, and thereby causing further strain on an already taxed economy as a result of the downturn in the forestry industry and the effects of the Mountain Pine Beetle;

AND WHEREAS oil and gas corporations have been gloating record profits for their last financial reporting period through the media:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to develop regulatory pricing controls for oil and gas corporations to allow industries and residents throughout British Columbia to continue to operate essential services and businesses, and to keep our industries alive in these time of economic uncertainty;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portion of profits on fuel sales be redirected from the shareholders to environmental initiatives rather than at the expense of the consumer.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED automatically to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B151 INCLUSION OF BC FERRIES IN OMBUDSMAN'S MANDATE**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the provincial government has exempted BC Ferry Services from the oversight provisions of the *Ombudsman Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Ombudsman Act provides British Columbians an important avenue by which to register complaints of administrative unfairness by a public agency and BC Ferry Services receives substantial public funds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be urged to include BC Ferry Services in the oversight provisions of the *Ombudsman Act* to allow an avenue for impartial investigations of complaints about the administrative actions of the agency.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B152 DEREGULATION OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

**AVICC**

WHEREAS the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is considering that "it might be appropriate to eliminate the regulatory requirement that a community channel, if offered, be distributed as part of the basic service (Ref. 2007-10, Paragraph 73);

AND WHEREAS community programming is an important asset to our communities and one that supports our citizens in a variety of ways by giving them access to local news, events and views and is an important element of communications in our communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission be informed as soon as possible that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities is not in favour of the proposal to deregulate community programming, but is in favour of the CRTC continuing to protect community programming by maintaining the current regulations which mandates that a community channel, if offered, be distributed as part of the basic cable service.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**B154 HUMANE EGG PRODUCTION PRACTICES**

**Pitt Meadows**

WHEREAS the vast majority of egg production by hens under current British Columbia practices require battery cages which result in appalling conditions already banned in many European countries and North America;

AND WHEREAS there are alternative methods of production being used worldwide, that result in greatly improved conditions for hens, such as free-run:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to enact measures to ban battery caged egg productions and urge alternate egg production practices that provide humane conditions for laying hens.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED automatically to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B155 FAMILY DAY**

**Fort St. John**

WHEREAS three provinces in Canada have a recognized Family Day on the third Monday of February to allow a day for families to spend together;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia does not have a provincially recognized Family Day:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to petition the Province of BC to enact Family Day in February of each year in British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED automatically to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B156 LINKING OF LITERACY VOLUNTEER WORK TO FORGIVENESS OR REDUCTION OF GRADUATE DEBT LOAD**

**Chetwynd**

WHEREAS the number of persons with serious literacy challenges affecting their ability to work, move about, parent their children, and enjoy that quality of life that we assume is a right in British Columbia approaches 40% of the population;

AND WHEREAS many of our post-secondary graduates enter the workforce burdened with enormous student loan debt that also affects their ability to make important life decisions in a timely manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the British Columbia government be requested and urged to find a workable mechanism for linking volunteer work in reducing illiteracy to forgiveness of or a reduction of the graduate debt load.

**ON MOTION, was REFERRED automatically to the UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**B143 LNG TANKER TRAFFIC BAN IN GEORGIA STRAIT**

**Powell River RD**

WHEREAS the waters of Georgia and Malaspina Straits provide a vital habitat for diverse bird and fish species, a corridor for commercial and recreational marine traffic and an attraction for upland settlement;

AND WHEREAS WestPac LNG is soliciting interest to build an LNG import facility and associated 600MW gas-fired electricity generating plant on Texada Island, which will involve the passage of a significant number of LNG tankers in the Georgia Strait, which will interfere with existing marine traffic, put at risk these ecologically important and sensitive inland waters, and negatively impact upland development along this route:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal government to ban the passage of LNG tankers in the waters of the Malaspina and Georgia Straits.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Haro Strait, and Boundary Pass be added to the enactment clause, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the federal government to ban the passage of LNG tankers in the waters of the Malaspina , Georgia, Juan de Fuca and Haro straits, and Boundary Pass.

**ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

**B149 MANDATED USE OF BIO FUELS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS the provincial government has recently tabled legislation requiring that a percentage of all fuel in British Columbia be "bio fuel";

AND WHEREAS many bio fuel products are derived from food crops;

AND WHEREAS the increased use of food crops as bio fuel has led to the increased price of essential grains to the detriment of the food supplies of the citizens of the world's poorest nations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government prohibit in British Columbia the use of bio fuels made from food grains in consideration of the poorest people on the planet.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

**B153 PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REFORM**

**Cariboo RD**

WHEREAS British Columbia, with its diverse population clusters and vast regional interests, cannot be adequately represented by a single legislative chamber;

AND WHEREAS a proposal for the creation of a bicameral provincial legislature with a lower house representing population and an upper house representing the distinct regions of the province has been submitted by Mr. James Douglas Roy, former Research Officer to the Electoral Boundaries Commission:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be petitioned to endorse the findings and recommendations of the James Douglas Roy report to move to a bicameral legislative structure in time for the 2013 provincial elections.

**ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

## **ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE GORDON CAMPBELL PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

President Susan Gimse introduced Premier Campbell, who then addressed the delegates. Premier Campbell's address is annexed to these minutes as Appendix I. Councillor Robert Hobson thanked the Premier.

### **INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Councillor Robert Hobson outlined his priorities for the coming year.

## **CONVENTION CLOSING**

Director Susan Gimse closed the Convention. The Convention adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Certified Correct

Gary MacIsaac  
Executive Director