



Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

to the Resolutions of the 2016

Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Convention

ADDENDUM

FEBRUARY 2018

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B129 CIGARETTE BUTT DEPOSIT RETURN PROGRAM

WHEREAS cigarette butts are a significant source of litter in many local communities;

AND WHEREAS cigarette butts are non-biodegradable and leach toxic organic chemicals and heavy metals into the environment impacting soil, fresh and saltwater, and have a significant negative impact on the aquatic and land-based organisms that ingest them;

AND WHEREAS a cigarette butt deposit-return program offers a promising solution to significantly reduce cigarette butt litter and improve environmental health:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Ministry of Environment implement a province-wide cigarette butt deposit-return program for the elimination of cigarette litter.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Action Strategy

The Province's long term policy regarding waste management and recycling is to shift the onus of responsibility for managing products at their end of life from local governments and the general taxpayer to industry and consumers, through the approach known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). In BC, we now have province-wide recycling programs for packaging and printed paper (PPP), beverage containers, electronics, tires, pharmaceuticals, paint, oil, pesticides and other household hazardous wastes.

The Ministry of Environment prioritizes new product categories to be added to the Recycling Regulation by aligning with the schedules in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility (CCME CAP-EPR). For example, the Regulation was amended in May 2011 to include Packaging and Printed paper (PPP) as a product category. This means that producers of PPP, including producers of cigarette packaging, had to be part of a product stewardship plan by May 2014.

Construction and demolition waste, textiles and mattresses have been identified by the CCME as future priorities for regulation. Many of these waste types are significant in volume, problematic to recycle and costly to manage. Local governments across BC have also echoed their support for regulation of several of these product categories.

The Ministry is currently focusing on full implementation and continuous improvement of its existing programs before further pursuing new EPR programs. As a result of the Ministry's current focus on continuous improvement of its EPR programs and the fact that tobacco product waste, specifically cigarette butts, is currently not part of the CCME CAP-EPR, the addition of tobacco product waste to the Regulation is not being considered at this time.

As the Ministry recognizes the issues caused by cigarette butts, it is suggested that adoption of pole-mounted collection container programs that are proving successful in other BC jurisdictions be as a means to collect these problematic items. An alternative or additional measure may be to approach industry to assist in piloting and/or funding these programs.

B130 REINSTATEMENT OF PST EXEMPTION FOR ELECTRONIC BICYCLES

WHEREAS cycling has become an integral part of local government transportation systems across the province of British Columbia and an important method for reducing community greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS electric bicycles have become increasingly popular for their capacity to support people from a range of ages and abilities to incorporate cycling into their daily activities;

AND WHEREAS PST exemptions are already in place for standard bicycles, transportation fares, as well as financial incentives for clean energy vehicle purchases:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to reinstate the PST exemption for electric bicycles to help ensure the environmental and health benefits of cycling are accessible to a wider range of British Columbians.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

A temporary exemption from provincial sales tax for certain electric bicycles was in effect from February 20, 2008 to July 1, 2010. With the re-implementation of the provincial sales tax on April 1, 2013, temporary exemptions, including for certain electric bicycles, were not re-instated.

Generally, the purpose of a temporary exemption from provincial sales tax is to increase awareness and promote market demand. The temporary exemption for certain electric bicycles fulfilled this purpose.

The exemption for non-motorized bicycles was re-instated with the re-implementation of the provincial sales tax to fulfill the commitment to re-implement all exemptions other than temporary exemptions.

Using the tax system to deliver such programs has several drawbacks, including that they do not always effectively target the benefit to those who need it most. Many exemptions from provincial sales tax, while intended to benefit those with lower incomes, actually confer the greatest benefit on higher-income earners who pay the most tax and tend to reward decisions which would have been made in any case rather than specifically incent behavioural changes. Moreover, such exemptions add complexity and reduce the efficiency of the tax system.

Through BC on the Move, the government has committed more than \$20 million over three years to the BikeBC program. Twenty-six communities throughout BC will receive \$9.25 million in funding for cycling infrastructure.

The government has also provided funding for local governments for cycling infrastructure, among other local government priorities, through the 2007-2014 \$68.5 million Towns for Tomorrow program, the 2007-13 \$40 million Local Motion program, and the 2012-2015 \$30 million Community Recreation Program.

Since 2001, the government has committed more than \$230 million for cycling infrastructure, creating new bicycles lanes and trails in over 100 communities throughout the province.

B131 ADULT EDUCATION

WHEREAS adult basic education provides adult learners with access to courses and skills training from basic literacy to adult high school graduation, but in 2014 the provincial government announced \$6.9 million in cuts to adult basic education programming in BC and, at the same time, introduced provisions to allow the charging of tuition fees for adult basic education;

AND WHEREAS charging tuition fees for adult basic education reduces enrolment and negatively impacts current and prospective adult learners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government reinstate long-term, dedicated funding for adult basic education in British Columbia, in order to provide adult learners with continuing opportunities to develop literacy, numeracy and computer skills, as well as social skills and self-confidence.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

The Provincial Government is committed to ensuring that British Columbians have equitable access to the Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs that help them gain the literacy and numeracy skills to meet their education, employment and societal goals.

In August 2017, the Premier announced reinstatement of the tuition-free policy for domestic students accessing ABE and English Language Learning (ELL) programs in the public post-secondary system, effective September 1, 2017.

During the Fall of 2017, the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training engaged with post-secondary institutions, staff, students and other partners to discuss policies that will ensure domestic students in ABE and ELL programs are successful in their studies, and that these tuition-free programs remain sustainable within institutions and across the sector.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Education

There are two categories of adult learners (age 19 and older) in British Columbia's K-12 system. Non-graduated adults take courses towards their high school graduation. These students were already not paying tuition.

Graduated adults are those who have completed a dogwood or high school diploma and are seeking to upgrade their qualifications, either by repeating a course for a higher grade or taking a new course needed for post-secondary entry. Prior to the reinstatement of tuition free upgrading courses, these students were paying tuition fees, unless they were taking Foundations courses, which are popular with graduated immigrant adults with English language learning needs.

A policy change instated on September 1, 2017, has now enabled all adult learners to take tuition-free ABE academic upgrading courses in the K-12 sector.

School districts have welcomed the restoration of tuition-free upgrading courses for graduated adults and have been able to respond to this policy change through gradual expansion of existing capacities

across BC regions. A complete list of tuition-free courses for graduated adults currently available in school district programs is provided below:

Tuition-free ABE Courses for Graduated Adults in K-12	
Foundations Courses	Upgrading Courses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English Levels 1/2: Companion Reading 2. LF English Level 1/2: Companion-Speaking & Listening 3. English Level 1: Core 4. English Level 2: Core 5. English Level 3/4: Companion – Reading 6. English Level 3/4: Companion – Writing 7. English Level 3: Core 8. English Level 4: Core 9. English Level 5/6/7: Companion -Writing 10. English Level 5: Core 11. English Level 6: Core 12. English Level 7: Core 13. Information & Communications Technology 14. Math Level 1 15. Math Level 2 16. Math Level 3 17. Math Level 4 18. Math Level 5 19. Math Level 6: Apprenticeship & Workplace 20. Math Level 6: Math Foundations 21. Math Level 7: Apprenticeship & Workplace 22. Math Level 7: Math Foundations 23. Science: Biology 24. Science: Chemistry 25. Science: Physics 26. Social Studies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First Peoples English 12 2. Communications 11 3. Communications 12 4. English 11 5. Français langue première 11 6. English 12 7. Français langue première 12 8. Biology 11 9. Biologie 11 10. Biology 12 11. Biologie 12 12. Chemistry 11 13. Chimie 11 14. Chemistry 12 15. Chimie 12 16. Physics 11 17. Physique 11 18. Physics 12 19. Physique 12 Math 11 20. Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 11 21. Mathématiques pour les métiers et le milieu de travail 11 22. Foundations of Math 11 23. Fondements mathématiques 11 24. Pre-Calculus 11 25. Pré-calcul 11 Math 12 26. Applications of Math 12 27. Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 12 28. Mathématiques pour les métiers et le milieu de travail 12 29. Essentials of Math 12 30. Foundations of Math 12 31. Fondements mathématiques 12 32. Pre-Calculus 12 33. Pré-calcul 12 34. Principles of Math 12 35. Calculus 12 36. Calcul différentiel et intégral 12

B133 ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF CARE

WHEREAS youth in the care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development often lose significant access to services when they age out of care at age 19;

AND WHEREAS youth in care have been shown to struggle with this transition and be at risk for homelessness, and mental health and addictions issues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to develop transition services for youth in care that extend services to the age of 24.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Government agrees that every young person needs a helping hand into adulthood. That is why BC's priorities are to increase funding for Agreements with Young Adults (AYA) in order to offer supports to all youth aging out of care who need it, not just a few; and for us to work with the Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to expand the tuition fee waiver program and provide enhanced supports for former youth in care who pursue post-secondary education.

The AYA program is the only legislative program that allows the Ministry to stay connected and continue to support young adults who have transitioned from government care. It provides support and financial assistance for up to 48 months, and helps young adults to finish high school, learn job skills from a vocational program, attend college or university, and/or complete a life skills or a rehabilitative program in order to successfully transition to adulthood. Helping more young adults access AYA is a clear priority for our government. Barriers will be addressed to increase program uptake and provide more supports so no young adult is left behind.

Government has shown its commitment to helping young people from care as they transition to adulthood as there is already progress made towards these priorities. BC has expanded the tuition waiver program so that former youth in care from BC, have the opportunity and financial support to attend post-secondary education or training.

B136 FOREIGN INVESTORS IN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS it is well known that Vancouver has become one of the least affordable places to live in the developed world, and that the housing situation in Metro Vancouver has reached a crisis point;

AND WHEREAS speculation in residential real estate, particularly by foreign investors, is having a significant impact on housing prices and affordability for those living and working in the Metro Vancouver area;

AND WHEREAS housing is a necessity for all residents, and not simply a commodity of trade;

AND WHEREAS unaffordable housing results in lost productivity as workers commute longer distances, it impacts economic growth as more household income is devoted to housing costs and as skilled workers leave Vancouver, and it negatively affects the diversity of our communities;

AND WHEREAS it has been suggested that foreign investors avoid paying the applicable taxes on real estate investments through various means:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government, and the federal government through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to take immediate action to discourage speculation in real estate, particularly by foreign investors, and to ensure that foreign real estate investors pay a fair share of provincial and federal taxes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The BC Government's top priority is to make life more affordable for British Columbians, and steps are being taken to address affordability problems for renters and buyers.

Through Budget Update 2017, capital funding has been increased to make sure more families have access to housing and to address the rising issue of homelessness. New spending will support construction of 3,700 new units for people in need of affordable housing. This is in addition to about 6,700 units that are currently in development or under construction throughout the province.

The Finance Minister is reviewing the tax system to improve housing affordability, close real estate speculation loopholes, and reduce tax evasion, fraud and money laundering in the BC real estate marketplace. The Province also is working with the federal government to identify strategies to strengthen information sharing and help ensure that all taxpayers pay the appropriate amount of tax. The 15 per cent Additional Property Transfer Tax on foreign entities buying residential real estate in Metro Vancouver continues to diminish foreign demand while new homes are being built to meet local needs.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is working with local governments to address the housing and affordability problems impacting people in BC.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing also worked with the Federal Government and provinces and territories to help develop a new National Housing Strategy.

B137 TENANT EVICTIONS THROUGH RENOVATIONS

WHEREAS the practice of “renovictions,” by which some landlords evict their tenants under the guise of performing major renovations and then significantly increase the rent of those units, is on the rise in our province;

AND WHEREAS this practice is very disruptive to those impacted, including the elderly, low-income families and new immigrants, and contributes to housing unaffordability and homelessness;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are limited in their ability to address this issue and many tenants are unaware of their rights or are reluctant to exercise them:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to allow renters the right of first refusal to return to their units at a rent that is no more than what the landlord could lawfully have charged, including allowable annual increases, if there had been no interruption in the tenancy.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government knows that not enough has been done to help renters in BC. A key priority of our government is to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to provide stronger protection for renters. This issue is a growing problem as tenants face challenges finding new accommodation because of the low vacancy rate and the high cost of rental housing.

Government is committed to building 114,000 units of affordable housing through partnerships which should increase vacancy rates.

Ministry staff are hard at work developing options so the Province can deliver on this commitment and to mitigate the impact on renters being evicted due to renovations and ensure that landlords are following the law.

The *Residential Tenancy Act* strives to strike the right balance between the rights of landlords and tenants. Our government will continue to do all we can to ensure that the *Residential Tenancy Act* protects renters without discouraging investment in rental housing.

B138 DESIGNATE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY AS STATUTORY HOLIDAY

WHEREAS June 21, National Aboriginal Day, recognizes and celebrates the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada;

AND WHEREAS it is considered a statutory holiday for people working in Aboriginal organizations, but not for most Canadians, meaning most Canadians are not able to participate in the recognition and celebration of First Nations' cultures:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the provincial and federal governments to designate June 21, National Aboriginal Day, as a statutory holiday for all Canadians.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The now named, National Indigenous Peoples' Day, is an important day to recognize and celebrate the heritage, diverse cultures and contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit. In British Columbia, we committed to acting on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action as a way of making life better for all British Columbians.

Declaring National Indigenous Peoples' Day as a statutory holiday is one of way of addressing the TRC's call for a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. BC also wants to change how we work with Indigenous people, so while we support the concept in principle, we also recognize that establishing National Indigenous Peoples' Day as a statutory holiday in BC would require significant collaboration with Indigenous peoples, Canada and other stakeholders.

Currently, the Northwest Territories is the only jurisdiction in Canada where National Aboriginal Day is a statutory holiday.

The Government of Canada has committed to implement the 94 Calls to Action arising from the TRC final report, and these actions include the recommendation to create a new, national, statutory holiday: the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The TRC's recommendations also call for participation in reconciliation from the business and corporate sector. In this broad context, establishing National Indigenous Peoples' Day as a statutory holiday across Canada is something that would understandably require significant collaboration with the federal government and extensive consultation with stakeholders.

B141 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS providing safe and well-maintained highways, roads and bridges is the responsibility of the Province of BC;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has privatized the maintenance of BC's highways, roads and bridges;

AND WHEREAS the request for proposals is open to the current companies that hold contracts and new bidders who are under no obligation to retain the current contractor's professional, skilled, and trained employees or maintain successorship rights;

AND WHEREAS loss of jobs in local communities will have negative impacts on those economies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government retain these skilled jobs by awarding maintenance contracts for highways, roads, and bridges to companies that will maintain the employment and successorship rights which will benefit local economies; subject to the Province meeting its existing domestic and international trade agreement obligations, specifically recognizing procurement thresholds.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government recognizes the benefit in keeping skilled local labour in communities and has reached a tentative agreement with the BC Government and Service Employees' Union and the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association for labour succession rights in 27 highway maintenance service areas, ensuring job security and improved maintenance service levels on the highway network.

This agreement provides labour stability for the 2000 workers in the 140 communities across the province and means that these well-trained, experienced workers who are familiar with their local highways will continue to keep the public safe throughout the province.

The province will also reinvest savings from the agreement to increase maintenance standards across the province, including enhanced winter maintenance, increased sweeping along cycling routes and more communication with the public as to rapidly changing road conditions during severe weather events and other incidents.

B143 ASBESTOS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REMOVAL

WHEREAS:

- asbestos exposure is the leading cause of work related deaths in BC;
- WorkSafe BC found 43 per cent of all hazardous material surveys done by contractors renovating or demolishing homes were inadequate;
- WorkSafe BC lacks the tools for enforcement and monitoring of existing hazardous material regulations;
- there is currently no provincial certification or licensing in BC of asbestos abatement professionals to ensure standards and allow for the suspension of non-compliant contractors; and
- mandatory provincial certification and licensing of demolition and environmental remediation contractors would allow local governments in BC to require these licenses from contractors as a condition for issuing demolition and renovation permits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government require mandatory licensing, certification and enforceable compliance in safely handling asbestos and other hazardous material for all demolition, renovation and environmental remediation contractors.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Labour

Asbestos safety is a matter of significant concern to the Government of British Columbia.

Given the dangerous nature of asbestos, the safe use, handling, abatement and disposal of asbestos-containing materials is important from several perspectives. This includes worker safety, safety during home and apartment renovations, consumer and public awareness, and environmental protection.

The Ministry of Labour is actively engaged with other provincial ministries and agencies that have important roles in ensuring the safe management of asbestos.

Specifically, a cross-ministry Asbestos Working Group is working to ensure that British Columbians and our environment are adequately protected from the dangers of asbestos. This Working Group is chaired by the Ministry of Labour, and it includes senior officials from the ministries responsible for environment, housing, health and local government issues, along with WorkSafe BC.

In Fall 2017, the Working Group consulted with stakeholders and organizations to see their ideas regarding the safe management of asbestos. The question of whether the provinces should require mandatory licensing and certification formed part of these consultations.

The Working Group expects to report out to the Minister of Labour with the results of its consultations and its recommendations by early 2018.

B146 GRADUATED LICENSING FOR MOTORCYCLES

WHEREAS many changes and improvements have occurred regarding the operation of motorcycles including; increased fines for dangerous behavior while riding, mandatory approved helmet laws, and new seating regulations which require that the passenger's feet must remain on the foot pegs to prevent children who are too small from riding as passengers;

AND WHEREAS motorcycles make up 3% of BC's insured vehicles, yet they are involved in approximately 11% of all road fatalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government implement the final phase of the graduated licensing program for motorcycles including power restrictions and mandatory training.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

While British Columbia has experienced an overall downward trend in motorcycle fatalities over the last decade, government continues to work with stakeholders to further improve motorcycle safety in the province and reduce the over-representation of motorcyclists in road fatalities.

The ministry continues to consider the development of a motorcycle Graduated Licensing Program as just one of a number of initiatives to improve road safety across the province. In the interim, the ministry has been engaged in an education campaign intended to highlight motorcycle safety to youth. This campaign has been presented at secondary schools in British Columbia communities and was developed in collaboration with Ms. Denise Lodge, whose 21 year old son Corey died in 2005 after losing control of a high-powered motorcycle.