

# 2020 UBCM Resolutions Book



# **Resolutions to be Considered at the 2020 UBCM Virtual Convention**

## **Broadcast from the Victoria Conference Centre Victoria, BC**

The resolutions session is presently scheduled for:

**Wednesday, September 23**

**9:00am to 12:00pm**

Extraordinary Resolution

Special Resolutions

Endorse Block of Resolutions

Not Endorse Block of Resolutions

No Recommendation Resolutions (time permitting)

All times are subject to change—please check the Convention Program to confirm date and times.

# Report of the 2020 Resolutions Committee

Two hundred resolutions were received by the June 30 deadline and have been printed in the Resolutions Book. They are indexed by both resolution number and sponsor.

## New Format and Rules for 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 UBCM Convention will be held virtually. The Province of BC issued a Ministerial Order on May 22 which provides UBCM with the authority to establish new rules and processes to accommodate holding a virtual Convention in 2020. That authority extends to resolutions. As such the groupings of resolutions and the rules and procedures that govern their handling have been revised for 2020.

Also, due to the pandemic, the Area Association Spring Conventions were cancelled. Resolutions submitted to the Area Associations were given to UBCM for inclusion in this Resolutions Book. The Resolutions Committee has identified those resolutions that were submitted to the Area Associations by their deadlines with a notation that follows the text of each resolution. There is a different notation for those resolutions that were submitted directly to UBCM, not via the Area Associations.

In order to maximize the number of resolutions to be considered by the membership in the three-hour resolutions session, the Resolutions Committee re-examined the No Recommendation resolutions. They sought those resolutions that could reasonably be reassigned from No Recommendation into either the Endorse or Not Endorse Block, for the membership to consider. The Committee identified eleven resolutions where the issue raised and the request made in the resolution is sufficiently close, or sufficiently contrary, to current UBCM policy to justify reassigning the resolution from No Recommendation to either the Endorse or Not Endorse Block, respectively. These eleven are noted with a special notation, where they appear in either the Endorse Block or Not Endorse Block of resolutions.

## Advance Preparation

The Resolutions Committee is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate in the three-hour window allotted to resolutions. Resolution sponsors

should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide information that clarifies the request made by the resolution. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate as many resolutions as time permits.

## Order of Debate

Debate will begin with the individual consideration of one Extraordinary Resolution (ER) and ten Special Resolutions (SR), followed by the consideration of an Endorse Block (EB) of resolutions and a Not Endorse Block (NEB) of resolutions. If there is time remaining, then debate will continue with the individual consideration of the No Recommendation (NR) resolutions in the order in which they appear in this book.

If time constraints prevent all resolutions from being considered, policies ensure that resolutions not considered by the Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action. Please refer to the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions for the details of these policies.

Resolutions in Section C will not be considered during Convention. They refer to similar resolutions in other sections in this book, or will be referred back to the Area Association.

Resolutions received after the deadline are considered late resolutions and will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention. Late resolutions will not be considered during Convention.

Any resolution not included in this book is considered an off-the-floor resolution. Off-the-floor resolutions are not permitted in 2020.

## 2020 UBCM Resolutions Committee

Councillor Claire Moglove, Chair  
Director Roly Russell, Vice-Chair  
Mayor Jack Crompton  
Councillor Brian Frenkel  
Councillor Pete Fry

## Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

Section	Description	Handling
<b>ER</b>	Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the <i>UBCM Act</i>	Considered individually
<b>SR</b>	Special resolutions on priority issues	Considered individually
<b>ENDORSE BLOCK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions that support established UBCM policy</li> <li>Recommendation: Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.</li> </ul>	Considered as a block
<b>NOT ENDORSE BLOCK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions that are contrary to established UBCM policy</li> <li>Recommendation: Not Endorse</li> </ul>	Considered as a block
<b>NO RECOMMENDATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New issues</li> <li>Recommendation: No Recommendation, or No Action Required</li> </ul>	Considered individually
<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions referred to similar resolutions found elsewhere in the Resolutions Book</li> <li>Resolutions to be referred back to the sponsor or Area Association</li> </ul>	Not admitted for debate

# Classification in the Resolutions Book

Outlined below are the subject area classifications used in the Resolutions Book.

## **Legislative**

Resolutions that focus on the *Community Charter*, the *Local Government Act*, or other legislation that sets out local government jurisdictions and authorities.

## **Community Safety**

Resolutions focused on legal matters; provision of court services; police services and associated costs; as well as the general administration of justice, protective and emergency services.

## **Elections**

Resolutions that request changes in the election process, dates, voting, or procedures outlined in the *Local Government Act* or related statutes.

## **Transportation**

Resolutions that request changes to issues related to transportation (e.g. trucking, highways, roads, off road vehicles, bicycles).

## **Taxation**

Resolutions focused on charges and taxes levied by local governments, revenue from which supports their operations.

## **Finance**

Resolutions of broad financial impact to local government. These may include federal grants-in-lieu, federal sales tax, fuel tax, infrastructure funding, or provincial funding (e.g. health care, tourism).

## **Assessment**

Resolutions that relate to property assessment, market value, and changes to the current assessment system. The *Assessment Act*, BC Assessment, or assessment appeal boards may be referenced.

## **Environment**

Resolutions on environmental issues of direct interest to local government, that impact local government operations. These may include product stewardship, recycling, solid waste management, water and air quality, and streamside protection.

## **Land Use**

Resolutions regarding planning issues such as parkland, development cost charges, siting, Agricultural Land Reserve, Crown lands, and matters falling under Part 14 of the *Local Government Act*.

## **Community Economic Development**

Resolutions regarding regional sustainability and economic development opportunities for local governments, including concerns of resource-focused communities.

## **Regional Districts**

Resolutions that raise issues or propose changes to the statutory authorities and jurisdictions of regional districts.

## **Health and Social Development**

Resolutions that relate to health policy and health services (e.g. capital projects, access and level of service, home support, ambulance service, hospitals, internationally trained doctors).

## **Housing**

Resolutions that address housing legislation and regulation such as *Residential Tenancy Act*, *Strata Property Act* and BC Building Code. These resolutions also address housing issues, such as renters rights, secondary suites, homelessness and BC Housing.

## **Selected Issues**

Resolutions of a general nature that are not easily classified in the above sections, or that are of interest to local governments, but might not affect them directly. Resolutions addressing Indigenous issues are also found here.

# Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions

## General Rules

1. One three-hour session will be held to consider resolutions in 2020. The session will begin and end promptly at the scheduled hours.
2. All elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations attending the Annual Convention of the Union shall be delegates, entitled to participate in debates and to vote on any matter before the Convention. Non-elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations may attend a Convention as guest delegates and shall not be entitled to the privilege of the floor unless authorized by the Convention and in any case shall not be entitled to vote. Guest speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive.

## Voting Rules

3. Only elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations are entitled to vote.
4. Voting on resolutions shall be conducted through the online system provided in 2020. Registered delegates must be online during the resolutions session in order to vote. No vote by proxy is allowed.
5. The results of an online vote are final.
6. In all cases, where the votes of delegates, including the vote of the Chair, are equal for and against a question, the question shall be negated, and it shall be the duty of the Chair to so declare.

## Rules of Procedure

7. The fundamental principles of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Union so far as they may be applicable without coming into conflict with the rules and procedures set out for 2020.
8. The Chair shall enforce order and strict observance of the rules and procedures for 2020. The Chair shall have the right to decide all questions of order and the Chair's rulings in this regard shall be final.
9. A delegate wishing to move, second or speak to a motion shall enter a phone queue and shall wait until they are recognized by the Chair before speaking. The delegate must announce their name, elected position, municipal, regional district or First Nation office, or other qualifications each time they speak.
10. Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. The introducer of a motion is permitted three minutes.
11. No delegate may speak more than once on any one question unless and until all other delegates

desiring to speak have been heard.

12. Should discussion continue on any resolution for an undue length of time without reasonable agreement being reached, the resolution may be cleared from the floor by the Chair to refer the resolution to the UBCM Executive for further consideration and report.

13. Motions to vary the agenda will not be considered in 2020.

## Resolutions by Section

14. EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed "ER" and are printed in the first section of the Resolutions Book. Extraordinary Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership. Extraordinary Resolutions are seeking membership approval to amend UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the *UBCM Act*.

Proposed amendments for Extraordinary resolutions will not be permitted in 2020.

15. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed "SR" and are printed in the second section of the Resolutions Book. Special Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership. Special Resolutions are sponsored by the UBCM Executive. Special Resolutions can also be sponsored by a member municipality, regional district and First Nation, and are selected by the UBCM Executive to be assigned as an SR. Special Resolutions address priority issues of the membership. These resolutions will be considered by the membership following all Extraordinary Resolutions.

Any member municipality, regional district and First Nation may, in advance of Convention, submit a proposed amendment for an SR Resolution. Proposed amendments must be received **by 4:00pm on Tuesday, September 22, 2020**. All proposed amendments received will be reviewed by the Parliamentarian to ensure they are in order. Those deemed in order will be announced during the resolutions session, at the time of consideration of each SR resolution.

Proposed amendments must be moved and seconded prior to consideration. Once moved, discussion and then a vote on the amendment can take place. If the proposed amendment is endorsed by a simple majority, then the SR as amended will be considered. If the amendment is not endorsed, then the original,

unamended SR will be considered.

16. ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- previously considered and endorsed resolutions; or
- resolutions in keeping with the UBCM policy, including previously approved policy papers or other documents.

These resolutions are in-line with existing policy positions and are all recommended as Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. These are prefixed “EB” and are printed in the third section of the Resolutions Book. They will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate as a block. A block is comprised of a group of resolutions to be considered together. The Endorse Block of Resolutions will be considered in one vote by the membership, following consideration of all Special Resolutions.

17. NOT ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- resolutions with proposed policy positions that contradict current policy positions; or
- previously considered but not endorsed resolutions.

These resolutions are contrary to existing policy positions and are all recommended as Not Endorse. These are prefixed “NEB” and are printed in the fourth section of the Resolutions Book. They will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate as a block. A block is comprised of a group of resolutions to be considered together. The Not Endorse Block of Resolutions will be considered in one vote by the membership, following consideration of the Endorse Block.

Both the Endorse Block of Resolutions and the Not Endorse Block of Resolutions will be shared with the membership prior to Convention. Any member municipality, regional district and First Nation may, in advance of Convention, may attempt to pull a resolution from either block for individual consideration, by following these steps:

- Endorse a motion at a Council or Board meeting requesting removal from the block;
- Send the motion, along with the reason(s) for wanting to pull a resolution from a block, to the UBCM Executive **by noon on Friday, September 18, 2020**;
- Executive will consider and determine which requests are approved;

- Executive approval to pull a resolution will result in an amended block being presented at Convention; and
- Any amendments will be announced during the resolutions session, prior to the amended block being considered.

Any resolutions pulled from either block for individual consideration will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following the Convention. Resolutions pulled from either block will not be considered during Convention.

18. NO RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- resolutions on topics not previously considered;
- resolutions where there is no action required; or
- resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with current UBCM policy position.

These resolutions are neither in exact alignment with existing policy, nor contrary to existing policy positions and are all recommended as No Recommendation. These are prefixed “NR” and are printed in the fifth section of the Resolutions Book.

No Recommendation resolutions will not be considered individually, nor as a block during Convention, unless there is additional time remaining following the consideration of:

- Extraordinary Resolutions;
- Special Resolutions;
- Endorse Block of Resolutions; and
- Not Endorse Block of Resolutions.

If there is remaining time, the No Recommendation resolutions will be considered individually in the order in which they are printed in the Resolutions Book. Member motions to proposed amendments for No Recommendation resolutions will not be permitted.

Advanced requests and motions to bring a No Recommendation resolution forward for debate at Convention will not be accepted. Any NR resolutions that are not considered during Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention. Sponsors will be notified of the decision made by Executive regarding their resolution.

19. C RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions which have been:

- consolidated or grouped and referred to a similar resolution in an Endorse Block or Not Endorse Block;

- consolidated or grouped and referred to a similar No Recommendation resolution;
- referred to a Special Resolution to be put forward at Convention; or
- deemed too regional in nature and will be referred back to either the sponsor or the Area Association.

These are prefixed “C” and are printed in the sixth section of the Resolutions Book and cross-referenced for delegates’ information. Sponsors will be notified of the action taken regarding the resolution with which their resolution was consolidated and cross-referenced.

C resolutions will not be considered individually, nor as a block during Convention. Advanced requests and motions to bring a C resolution forward for debate at Convention will not be accepted. Motions made during the resolutions session at Convention to bring a C resolution forward for debate will not be accepted.

### **Handling of Resolutions: Step-by-Step Rules for Extraordinary Resolutions**

20. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the Extraordinary Resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

21. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the Resolutions Committee’s recommendation.

22. The resolution, after reading, will require a mover and a seconder.

23. The Chair shall then call on a representative of the UBCM Executive, as sponsor, to introduce the resolution.

24. The sponsor is permitted three minutes to introduce the resolution.

25. The Chair will then call for discussion from the elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations who are entitled to vote.

Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes.

26. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Voting shall be conducted through the online system provided in 2020.

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A super or three-fifths majority is required to endorse an Extraordinary Resolution.

### **Step-by-Step Rules for Special Resolutions**

27. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the Special Resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

28. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the Resolutions Committee’s recommendation.

29. The resolution, after reading, will require a mover and a seconder.

30. The Chair shall then call on the sponsor, to introduce the resolution.

31. The sponsor is permitted three minutes to introduce the resolution.

32. The Chair will then call for discussion from the elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations who are entitled to vote.

Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes.

33. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Voting shall be conducted through the online system provided in 2020.

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A simple majority is required to endorse a Special Resolution.

### **Step-by-Step Rules for both the Endorse and Not Endorse Blocks of Resolutions**

34. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt:

- as an Endorse Block (EB), all resolutions recommended Endorse and Endorse with Proposed Amendment; or
- as a Not Endorse Block (NEB), all resolutions recommended Not Endorse.

35. If there was no motion made by a member prior to Convention to pull a resolution from either block, or if the Executive rejected a motion made by a member to pull a resolution from either block, then the blocks as originally presented in the Resolutions Book will be considered.

There will be no further debate on either block.

The Chair will call the question and each block will be voted on.

36. If there was a motion made by a member prior to Convention, to pull a resolution from either block, and the motion was approved by the Executive, then the

Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the block as Amended. The Chair will detail which resolution(s) was pulled from the block for individual consideration by the Executive following Convention.

There will be no further debate on either amended block.

The Chair will call the question and each block will be voted on.

37. Voting shall be conducted through the online system provided in 2020.

A simple majority is required to endorse either block.

### **Step-by-Step Rules for No Recommendation Resolutions**

38. Time permitting, individual consideration of the No Recommendation resolutions will begin, in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book. The NR resolutions will be debated until the three-hour session for resolutions has concluded. Those NR resolutions not considered individually will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention.

39. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the No Recommendation resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

40. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the Resolutions Committee's recommendation.

41. The resolution, after reading, will require a mover and a seconder.

42. The Chair shall then call on the sponsor, to introduce the resolution.

43. The sponsor is permitted three minutes to introduce the resolution.

44. The Chair will then call for discussion from the elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations who are entitled to vote.

Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes.

45. If there are no speakers opposed to the motion, the Chair may call the question.

Voting shall be conducted through the online system provided in 2020.

Voting is on the resolution, NOT on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee.

A simple majority is required to endorse a No Recommendation resolution.

### **Resolutions Not Printed in the Resolutions Book**

46. LATE RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions received after the submission deadline of June 30. Late Resolutions will not be considered at Convention in 2020. Rather these Late Resolutions will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention. Sponsors will be notified of the decision made by Executive regarding their resolution.

47. OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that would be brought off-the-floor during an in-person Convention will not be permitted at Convention in 2020.

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## **Section ER Resolutions**

Section ER resolutions are Extraordinary Resolutions and they seek to amend the UBCM Bylaws or the provincial *UBCM Act*. They require a super three-fifths majority support of the membership.

## Section ER

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### ER1      **Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Provide the UBCM Executive with the Authority to Enable a Virtual Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention**      **UBCM Executive**

Whereas the 2020 UBCM Convention and Annual General Meeting are being conducted in a virtual format as a result of the provincial state of emergency being declared due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the prohibition on mass gatherings that was issued by the Provincial Health Officer;

And whereas the special Ministerial Order #168 authorizes the holding of the UBCM Convention and the Annual General Meeting in a virtual format and allows the Executive to:

- hold a virtual AGM and Convention; and
- amend existing rules, procedure and processes and establish new ones to permit UBCM to conduct voting and other “in person” processes in a virtual setting; (the “Order”);

And whereas the Order will expire following the 2020 Convention and given the uncertainty with respect to the length of the state of emergency and prohibition on mass gatherings, the Executive is considering how to conduct future Conventions:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM Bylaws be amended to provide the UBCM Executive with the authority to hold a virtual Convention and AGM in the future should the same or similar state of emergency situation arise, making it impractical for UBCM members to meet in person; by adding the following new sections 10. (j), (k), (l), (m) to the UBCM Bylaws as follows:

#### 10. DUTIES AND POWERS OF EXECUTIVE

(j) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these bylaws or any policy, rule, or procedure adopted by UBCM, if a situation arises, such as a state of emergency, that prevents the Annual Convention from being held as an in-person event at a physical location, the Executive may mandate that the Annual Convention be held as a virtual convention conducted and attended via alternative communications medium (a “Virtual Convention”).

(k) Should the Executive elect to hold the Annual Convention as a Virtual Convention, it will notify members in accordance with these bylaws.

(l) A Virtual Convention will, where possible, be conducted in accordance with the requirements of these bylaws and any applicable policy, rule, or procedure adopted by UBCM. However, where the Executive determines that adhering to a requirement, policy, rule or procedure at a Virtual Convention is either impossible or would, in the Executive’s sole opinion, be very difficult or impractical, the Executive may provide an alternative requirement, policy, rule, or procedure suitable to the Virtual Convention’s format.

(m) Notwithstanding the foregoing subsection, the Executive will conduct the following business at a Virtual Convention:

- publish the previous fiscal years’ financial audit and report thereon;
- appoint an auditor or auditors to hold office until the next Annual Convention;
- elect Officers and the Executive;
- vote on Annual Resolutions; and
- such other business as the Executive in its sole opinion deem necessary.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The UBCM Executive is bringing forward this Extraordinary Resolution to amend the UBCM Bylaws to ensure that, if required, the UBCM Executive would have the authority to call for a virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) and*

*Convention, and amend current rules and procedures to accommodate holding the AGM/Convention in a virtual format.*

*Presently, under UBCM's current Bylaws the Executive do not have this authority and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UBCM had to ask assistance from the provincial government to prepare a special Ministerial Order to permit UBCM to hold the 2020 Convention in a virtual format. That Ministerial Order is temporary and will expire following the UBCM's 2020 Convention. The Executive wish to ensure that if the association finds itself in a similar situation next year or any future year, with endorsement of this ER, the Executive would have the discretion and authority to make the decision to conduct its AGM and Convention in a virtual format.*

*A broader governance review has been recommended by legal counsel to address these and other updates within UBCM Bylaws, but in the interim, this ER will provide the authority that the UBCM Executive requires to ensure it has the ability to make decisions in the best interest of its membership.*

*Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_*

# Section SR Resolutions

Section SR resolutions are Special Resolutions and they address priority issues identified by the UBCM Executive, of concern to a broad range of UBCM members around the province.

Included in Section SR are resolutions numbered:

**SR1 – SR10**

## Proposing an Amendment to an SR Resolution

In advance of Convention, members who wish to propose an amendment to a Special Resolution may do so by taking the following steps:

- Submit the proposed amendment to a Special Resolution in writing.
- Proposed amendments must be received by the UBCM Executive **by 4:00pm on Tuesday, September 22\***.
- If more than one amendment to an SR resolution is received, the amendments will be dealt with in the order in which they were received.
- UBCM's Parliamentarian will review all proposed amendments, as per past practice.

\*Proposed amendments to an SR should be submitted via email to:

**UBCM Executive, c/o Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst**

Email address: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

## Timing

If the allotted time elapses and debate of all Section SR resolutions has not been completed, those not yet considered will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

# Section SR

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## Community Safety

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### SR1 New Emergency Management Legislation

### UBCM Executive

Whereas the provincial government is in the process of modernizing its emergency management legislation, with many proposed changes—such as new mitigation and recovery duties—are likely to create financial and resource pressures for local governments;

And whereas Emergency Management BC has acknowledged the need to support local governments in responding to these proposed changes, but has yet to outline any specific support mechanisms:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government, as part of the process to modernize BC's emergency management legislation, implement the following measures:

- Develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities;
- Confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments to address emergency management capacity issues; and
- Consult with UBCM and local governments in the development of these and other necessary measures to address challenges resulting from new emergency management legislation.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting ongoing sustainable funding and provincial support services to address new emergency management responsibilities and capacity issues; and, that the provincial government, for lands and facilities under its jurisdiction, be required to assume the same emergency management responsibilities as those being proposed for local governments.*

*In 2019, Emergency Management BC began a review with the intention of amending and modernizing BC's emergency management legislation. The UBCM Executive, in response to proposed provincial policy shifts, has conveyed recommendations to EMBC requesting that support and funding be provided to address any new local government responsibilities.*

*Proposed changes to BC's emergency management legislation have the potential to create new costs and responsibilities for local governments. UBCM's members have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial and/or federal assistance with the provision of emergency services, including but not limited to 2019-B11, 2018-B95, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B50, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-B44.*

*See also resolutions NR14 and C1.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

#### **Background:**

*The Emergency Program Act (EPA) provides the framework for emergency and disaster management in BC. Legislation outlines the responsibilities of local governments, provincial authorities and crown corporations and the Province's emergency management program. It grants the authority to declare a state of emergency, in addition to requiring local governments, provincial ministries, crown corporations and other government agencies to develop emergency management plans and programs to respond to disasters, emergencies and catastrophes in British Columbia. First introduced in 1993, the EPA has undergone minimal change.*

In 2019, Emergency Management BC began a process to amend and modernize the Act. This included the release of a discussion paper, "Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation", for stakeholder input.<sup>1</sup> Included in the paper are more than 60 recommendations (including 29 key policy shifts) for consideration.

Understanding that the current Act includes gaps related to mitigation and recovery, the discussion paper proposes that new legislation encompass all four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery); and, an 'all-of-society' approach in sharing responsibility for disaster risk reduction. It also includes many policy shifts that if implemented would add new obligations and/or responsibilities (e.g. financial, human resources) to local governments.

**UBCM Policy Position:**

As part of this legislative review, the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee has been consulting directly with EMBC, while UBCM made a submission to EMBC, providing government perspectives in response to the discussion paper.<sup>2</sup> The UBCM submission included four broad recommendations on emergency management:

- That EMBC develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities;
- That EMBC confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments, to address emergency management capacity issues;
- That EMBC provide local governments with clarity around key terms and policy shifts contained in its discussion paper; and
- That EMBC continue to consult local governments, including UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee, to address local government concerns (including technical issues and changes to draft legislation).

The most widespread concern among local organizations relates to the lack of adequate provincial funding to undertake new responsibilities proposed by EMBC. This is a long-standing issue for UBCM's members, who have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial and/or federal assistance with the provision of emergency services.

**Current Status:**

Although the Province has acknowledged that local governments will require provincial support, the type and level of support has not yet been identified or discussed.

The EPA review is likely to result in a full repeal and replacement of legislation. New emergency management legislation is likely to be drafted with consideration towards climate change, the 2017/18 flood and wildfire seasons, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (adopted by BC in October 2018), and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province has delayed tabling legislation until 2021. Until that time, EMBC will continue to engage with the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee to address local government concerns and other relevant issues (e.g. lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic).

**Conference decision:** \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup>[https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2019/10/modernizing\\_bcs\\_emergencymanagement\\_legislation.pdf](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2019/10/modernizing_bcs_emergencymanagement_legislation.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Safety/Emergency~Program~Act~Review/2020-02-18 percent20UBCM percent20Overview percent20of percent20LG percent20Feedback percent20Re percent20EPA percent20Modernization percent20FINAL.pdf](https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Safety/Emergency~Program~Act~Review/2020-02-18%20UBCM%20Overview%20of%20LG%20Feedback%20Repercent20EPA%20Modernization%20FINAL.pdf)

Whereas BC local governments have yet to receive a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue, despite the federal government's decision to increase the provincial share of cannabis excise tax revenue by 25 per cent in recognition of the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments;

And whereas the provincial government continues to decline UBCM's requests to negotiate a cannabis taxation revenue sharing agreement, notwithstanding the growing body of evidence and local government support for an agreement, including but not limited to:

- consistent requests for revenue sharing, with UBCM members endorsing resolutions on this topic each year for the past four years;
- development of short- and long-term options for revenue sharing, as endorsed by the UBCM membership and presented to the Minister of Finance on multiple occasions; and
- findings from UBCM's 2019 cannabis cost survey, indicating substantial one-time and ongoing incremental costs incurred by local governments, associated with the legalization of non-medical cannabis:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government commit to negotiating a cannabis taxation revenue sharing agreement with local governments that honours the intent of the federal excise tax revenue sharing scheme and addresses local government short- and long-term costs associated with the legalization of non-medical cannabis.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking an equitable share of cannabis taxation revenue for local governments to address costs and responsibilities resulting from the legalization of non-medical cannabis (2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3). In response to resolution 2019-A2, the provincial government expressed interest in working with local governments to understand cost pressures, but would not commit to a revenue sharing agreement.*

*The Committee understands that several taxes are applied to cannabis sold in BC: the federal excise tax, GST, PST, and a further 15 percent provincial mark-up on the landed cost of cannabis. The Province has not yet shared any portion of its cannabis taxation revenue with local governments.*

*See also resolution C2.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

*Under the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Cannabis Taxation (expiring December 2020), the federal government retains 25 percent of excise tax revenue up to \$100 million per year, with the remaining 75 percent going to provinces and territories. This reflects a federal share that was reduced by 25 percent in recognition of the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments. Provinces and territories were not required to document their cannabis-related costs and revenue streams; they receive their share of federal excise tax revenue regardless.*

*The federal government declined to provide revenue to local governments directly, instead leaving that responsibility to provinces and territories to disburse federal excise tax revenue to local governments. The British Columbia government has disbursed none of the federal excise tax revenue it received to BC local governments. Alberta, Ontario, and Québec, on the other hand, have each committed a specific portion of excise tax revenue to local governments. Notably, the Ontario government allocated \$40 million of its projected \$100 million cannabis excise tax revenue to local governments as part of a 2-year agreement; with any revenue exceeding \$100 million over the 2-year period, to be shared 50-50 with Ontario local governments.*

*Revenue and Cost Projections*

*Cannabis sold in British Columbia is subject to the federal excise tax, GST, PST, and an additional 15 percent provincial mark-up on the landed cost of cannabis.*

## **Federal Excise Tax: BC Projections and Actual Revenue**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>February 2020 Projection</b>	<b>Actual Revenue</b>
2018-19	--	<b>\$5,002,141.57</b>
2019-20	\$6,000,000	<b>\$10,662,404.03*</b>
2020-21	\$50,000,000	<b>TBD</b>
2021-22	\$70,000,000	<b>TBD</b>
2022-23	\$70,000,000	<b>TBD</b>

Source: BC Government

\* As of July 2020, BC had not received tax revenue for March 2020.

As noted in the table above, in the 2019-20 fiscal year cannabis excise tax revenue has already surpassed the Province's \$6 million projection, with one month still to be reported. The Province predicts \$17.4 million in cannabis-related costs over the same time period.

For fiscal year 2020-21, the Province expects that it will:

- earn \$40.9 million in revenue from the 15 per cent provincial mark-up on the landed cost of cannabis; and
- receive \$50 million in revenue from the federal excise tax, for a combined total of \$90.9 million from these two cannabis-related revenue sources.

According to Statistics Canada, the amount of non-medical cannabis sold in British Columbia rose significantly in 2020, with the Province averaging \$22.03 million in monthly sales for the first four months, compared to \$8.10 million per month in 2019. If cannabis-related costs remain consistent year over year, then provincial projections suggest that starting in 2020-21, the provincial government's cannabis-related tax revenue will begin to exceed these costs by a large margin.

### **UBCM Policy Position:**

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking an equitable share of cannabis taxation revenue to address costs and responsibilities resulting from the legalization of non-medical cannabis (2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3). Resolution 2018-SR1, in particular, proposed short- and long-term revenue sharing frameworks that would, among other things, allocate 40 percent of projected provincial cannabis excise tax revenue to local governments.<sup>3</sup>

However, the provincial government has repeatedly declined UBCM's request to negotiate a cannabis tax revenue sharing agreement. The Province, in its responses, has been preoccupied with local costs and revenue streams associated with cannabis legalization.

### **Current Status:**

The provincial government has requested evidence to support the assertion that local governments will incur tangible one-time and ongoing costs related to cannabis legalization. In 2019, UBCM surveyed BC local governments to quantify these costs, and shared its findings with the provincial government.<sup>4</sup> The survey data, when extrapolated, averaged \$11.5 million per year in local government incremental costs for the three years following cannabis legalization. With the provincial government receiving greater than \$15.6 million in federal excise tax revenue since the legalization of non-medical cannabis, transferring 40 percent to BC local governments would have provided access to \$6.3 million to offset a portion of cannabis-related costs and responsibilities.

<sup>3</sup> UBCM's proposed short- and long-term strategies for cannabis taxation revenue sharing:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Safety/Marijuana~Regulation/01-SR1percent20FINALpercent20Augpercent207.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Findings from UBCM's survey:

<https://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Policy/Community~Safety/Marijuana~Regulation/2019-09-20percent20UBCMpercent20Reportpercent20topercent20Ministerpercent20Jamespercent20Repercent20Cannabispercent20Taxpercent20Revenue.pdf>

Recognizing that provincial cannabis excise tax revenue has been lower than originally expected, UBCM has expressed interest in securing funding that would grow with provincial revenue. This was communicated during a September 2019 meeting to review the findings of UBCM's cannabis cost survey.

Notwithstanding a provincial retail market that continues to grow, and projected revenue that outweighs projected costs, the Province remains unwilling to commit any cannabis-related revenue to local governments. UBCM continues to call on the Province to comply with the intent of the federal excise tax revenue sharing scheme, and recognize the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments by negotiating an equitable cannabis taxation revenue sharing agreement.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Elections

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### SR3 Local Government Election Financing

### UBCM Executive

Whereas the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA) only applies to elector organizations and candidates during an election year for the specific purpose of campaigning;

And whereas, third-party advertising sponsors are only required to include sponsorship information on election advertising in the last 28 days leading up to General Voting Day;

And whereas in order to ensure fairness in the local government election process:

- all financial transactions, both during a campaign and outside of campaign periods, should be reported; and
- there should be full and transparent reporting of financial contributions to elector organizations and candidates, including reporting by third party entities that engage in significant campaign activities in support of candidates or endorsed candidates:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend LECFA to:

- require all elector organizations, as defined under the *Local Government Act* to register with Elections BC, similar to how provincial political parties are registered with Elections BC;
- require real time disclosure of in-kind support and financial contributions made to local government election candidates in election years, as well as to sitting elected officials in non-election years;
- apply contributor and contribution limits to operating accounts of elector organizations and candidates for operational purposes at all times, and to require that annual disclosure reports of contributions received in operating bank accounts, in election years and non-election years; and
- establish a pre-campaign period during which time all election advertising must include sponsorship information.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the City of Vancouver submitted two resolutions in 2020 (C5 and C6) requesting amendments to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA) to: establish greater oversight of elector organizations; address financial contributions made in non-election years; better tracking of third party advertising; and generally, greater transparency around election finance reporting.*

*The Committee would note that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking campaign contribution limits: 2013-B95 (Vancouver only request) and in 2015-B94. The 2015 resolution asked that the Province prohibit political campaign contributions from corporate and union sources at the provincial and local government level and that limits be placed on the size of individual candidates' contributions and contributions to campaigns.*

*More recently in 2017 members endorsed A1 that requested: "...as the provincial government makes changes to provincial campaign finance regulations to limit and restrict campaign donations, the Province also implement reforms to campaign finance regulations for local government, in consultation with UBCM."*

In 2017 members also endorsed resolution B78 which requested that LECFA be amended to recognize that requirements to run a campaign in a community of 2,000 voters is considerably different than those required for a large centre and asked that changes to LECFA be in place prior to the 2018 general local election.

See also resolutions C5 and C6.

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

The UBCM Executive recognizes that concerns were raised during the 2018 local elections about the above referenced issues identified in the Special Resolution. Instead of putting forward the two resolutions submitted by the City of Vancouver the Executive has chosen to develop a Special Resolution that would address the areas of concern identified by the City.

And while UBCM members have supported the introduction of contribution limits, smaller communities have also expressed concern about the complexity of rules and procedures that local elected officials must now follow under LECFA. The endorsement of B78 in 2017 signals the challenges for smaller communities as they asked for changes to LECFA, even before both expense and contribution limits could be implemented for the first time during the 2018 local election.

**UBCM Policy Position:**

As noted in the Resolutions Committee comments UBCM members have specific policy supporting the establishment of campaign contribution limits: 2013-B95 (Vancouver only request) and 2015-B94.

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

It is recognized that many candidates run very simple and small election campaigns, while others have very complex election campaigns, most notably those candidates that are part of an elector organization. The challenge is to find that balance that ensure fairness amongst candidates while not making the financial reporting process so onerous it deters candidates from running.

**Current Status:**

The Executive wishes to address the challenges that have been identified by those communities that have elector organizations operating within their communities. The purpose of the Special Resolution is to seek a means to ensure fairness and transparency in the election financing process. It is not our desire to create more complexity for candidates from smaller communities but to address the problems that occurred in 2018.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation

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**SR4 Recovery and Rebuild of Public Transit in BC**

**UBCM Executive**

Whereas transit is an essential service critical for providing mobility to support the social and economic recovery of transit communities and the Province, as part of the BC Restart Plan;

And whereas transit communities have incurred, and will continue to incur, significant financial losses due to the costs of responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic – costs which should not be downloaded onto regressive revenue sources like property taxes or transit fares which will hinder economic recovery:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC work with TransLink, BC Transit, UBCM and BC local governments to:

- a. Deliver a **Provincial Transit Recovery Strategy** to address the 2020 and 2021 financial impacts that TransLink and BC Transit have already incurred and will continue to incur due to the COVID-19 crisis so that both can continue delivering the services and mobility the province needs to rebuild and prosper in the coming months and years.
- b. Develop a **Provincial Rebuilding Strategy for BC's Transit and Transportation Sector** in 2021 that will strengthen BC Transit's and TransLink's funding models by expanding transit revenue tools to reduce reliance on transit fares so that both agencies can:
  - Sustain, improve and grow transit as the economy and population grows; and
  - Rebuild transit ridership and provide mobility alternatives to support economically competitive, sustainable and livable communities.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that when UBCM reached out to local governments in the early days of the pandemic to identify their financial challenges (late March / early April 2020) transit was quickly identified as a problem area. Recognizing the need to keep transit operating as an essential service, communities were continuing to provide the service without any fare recovery until fares were re-instituted on June 1. UBCM has been advised that the costs for some BC Transit communities have ranged anywhere from \$100,000/month to projected revenue losses reaching \$2.5 - 3 million by the end of 2020.*

*In response to member concerns, UBCM held a Transit Forum on June 16th bringing together both TransLink and BC Transit communities to share their concerns, discuss collective action and how best to represent their interests to the Province.*

*This Special Resolution reflects the key elements of a draft Principles and Recommendations document that was shared with Forum participants. There was overwhelming support for the direction proposed in the draft document so the Executive have put forward they key elements within this Special Resolution. Recognizing that the Mayors' Council is advocating for TransLink communities to the Minister responsible, the Honourable Selina Robinson, UBCM has been actively engaging the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Claire Trevena as the Minister responsible for BC Transit. UBCM has written to Minister Trevena offering to facilitate engagement with BC Transit communities to ensure transit remains sustainable during the crisis. UBCM also notes that there is a need for all parties, Province, BC Transit, TransLink, UBCM and local governments to work together and address recovery of fare losses and rebuilding the funding model to remove the reliance on fares. UBCM also recognizes that with the recent \$14 Billion federal funding announcement there may be an opportunity to work with the Province to secure a share of BC's allocation to support transit at a critical time in the Province's economic recovery.*

*See also resolution C7.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

*The UBCM Executive is bringing this resolution forward to seek support from the Province, transit providers and affected communities to address both fare recovery and longer-term solutions to address the challenges of the funding model that is reliant on fares, and increase resiliency to help make transit systems more responsive in crisis situations.*

*In late March/early April, UBCM reached out to local governments to identify their financial challenges in the early days of the pandemic. Transit was quickly identified as a problem area. Recognizing the need to keep transit operating as an essential service, communities were continuing to provide the service without any fare recovery until recently, when fares were re-instituted on June 1. BC Transit communities have advised that the financial impact ranges anywhere from \$100,000/month, to projected revenue losses reaching \$2.5 - 3 million by the end of 2020.*

**UBCM Policy Position:**

*Transit funding and sustainable transit service have surfaced as priorities for UBCM members. It appears that the current pandemic has served to heighten those concerns for transit communities. For instance, in 2012, UBCM members endorsed resolution B65 which specifically urged "the provincial government to provide a permanent and appropriate long term funding model for TransLink."*

And prior to that in 2003, members endorsed B65 that:

- sought consultation with local governments prior to any decisions being made about funding and governance of public transit by the Board of BC Transit to government;
- requested the Province to maintain the current funding envelope to public transit as set out in the Transit Regulations until such time as a new governance model is negotiated; and
- the Province redirect one cent of the collected gas tax in BC (excluding Greater Vancouver) towards a “Public Transit Stabilization Fund” to address the funding shortfalls caused by two years of frozen budgets and escalating costs, and to grow the system as part of an integrated transportation system.

**Current Status:**

In response to current member concerns, UBCM held a Transit Forum on June 16th bringing together both TransLink and BC Transit communities to share their concerns, discuss collective action and how best to represent their interests to the Province.

This Special Resolution reflects the key elements of a draft Principles and Recommendations document that was shared with Forum participants. There was overwhelming support for the direction proposed in the draft document so the Executive have put forward they key elements within this Special Resolution.

Recognizing that the Mayors’ Council is advocating for TransLink communities to the Minister responsible, the Honourable Selina Robinson, UBCM has been actively engaging the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Honourable Claire Trevena as the Minister responsible for BC Transit. UBCM has written to Minister Trevena offering to facilitate engagement with BC Transit communities to ensure transit remains sustainable during the crisis and beyond COVID-19. UBCM also notes that there is a need for all parties - the Province, BC Transit, TransLink, UBCM and local governments - to work together and address recovery in terms of fare losses and rebuilding the funding model to remove the reliance on fares. UBCM also recognizes that with the recent \$14 Billion federal funding announcement there may be an opportunity to work with the Province to secure a share of BC’s allocation to support transit at a critical time in the Province’s economic recovery.

The Committee notes that a similar resolution from Squamish will be placed in the C category, numbered C7, as it asks the Province and BC Transit to work together in 2020 to build on the current municipal/provincial cost sharing model to include a three-way cost-share funding model (drivers, fares, and provincial/municipal taxes) for sustainable public regional transit and make this new model available to all local governments in time for 2021 budget cycles. This resolution proposes one model for future cost sharing that could be brought forward as part of a broader engagement/consultation with the Province.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Economic Development

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**SR5 Recovery Through Infrastructure Stimulus Funding UBCM Executive**

Whereas communities have incurred, and continue to incur, significant losses due to the costs of responding to the pandemic including lost revenue and job losses;

And whereas the provincial government is shifting its focus from restarting the province to recovery from the pandemic, including an allocation of \$1.5 billion for an Economic Recovery Fund;

And whereas infrastructure funding has historically generated significant economic returns for local communities, through increased employment, the flow through of dollars to local businesses, and the creation of community assets:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call for an infrastructure stimulus framework from the Province which maximizes local government choice and flexibility in ensuring funds are invested in the areas with the greatest need and economic return;

And be it further resolved that such an infrastructure stimulus framework includes:

- Flexibility on project category, eligible costs, procurement and timelines;

- Provides 100 percent funding for any recovery program and/or current infrastructure program;
- Supports shovel worthy projects over shovel ready projects and removes existing federal stacking rules; and
- Employs the current Gas Tax funding model.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolution Committee notes that UBCM reached out to a wide of range of local governments in the early days of the pandemic to gather information on the immediate and projected long-term financial pressures facing local governments, their residents, and local businesses. As part of this outreach, UBCM sought to identify measures that could address the financial pressures local governments faced, as well as support the economic recovery following the pandemic. Local governments identified infrastructure stimulus funding from the federal and provincial government as a key measure for supporting economic recovery in communities.*

*The Committee also notes that UBCM has long-standing support for infrastructure funding programs that build critical infrastructure, advance community priorities, and generate local economic spin-offs.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

*In late March 2020, UBCM reached out to a wide of range of local governments to gather information on the immediate and projected long-term financial pressures facing local governments, their residents, and local businesses as a result of the pandemic. Many local governments identified infrastructure funding as a key concern, as local governments re-evaluated capital spending, shelved discretionary projects, or diverted funds from capital projects to operations. As part of this outreach, UBCM also sought to identify measures that could help address the financial pressures local governments faced, as well as support the economic recovery following the pandemic. Local governments identified infrastructure stimulus funding from the federal and provincial government as a key measure for supporting economic recovery in communities.*

*In early May, UBCM wrote Minister Selina Robinson and called for an infrastructure stimulus framework to support a post-pandemic recovery. UBCM noted that infrastructure stimulus has historically generated significant economic returns for local communities, through increased employment, the flow through of dollars to local businesses, and the creation of much needed community assets. UBCM acknowledged that its members are broadly supportive of securing an infrastructure stimulus framework which maximizes flexibility on project category, eligible costs, procurement and timelines; provides 100 percent funding for any recovery program and/or current infrastructure program; and which ensures administrative ease and efficiency in recognition of local staff capacity.*

*In addition, UBCM called for an infrastructure stimulus framework that supports shovel worthy projects over shovel ready projects, expedites BC announcements in the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), and removes existing federal stacking rules. UBCM acknowledged that the current Gas Tax funding model is the appropriate model for any infrastructure stimulus framework, as it maximizes local choice and flexibility to ensure funds are invested in the areas with the greatest need and economic return.*

**UBCM Policy Position:**

*UBCM has long-standing support for infrastructure funding programs that build critical infrastructure, advance community priorities, and generate local economic spin-offs.*

*In particular, UBCM supported the creation of, and is a partner in, the Gas Tax Fund through the Gas Tax Agreement that ran from 2005 to 2014, as well as the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Agreement that took effect on April 1, 2014. This tripartite Agreement between Canada-British Columbia-UBCM replaced the 2005-2014 Agreement and provides the administrative framework for the delivery of federal Gas Tax funding to local governments and other recipients in British Columbia over ten years (2014-2024).*

*The Gas Tax fund provides predictable, long-term and stable funding to local governments in British Columbia for investment in infrastructure and capacity building projects. The Gas Tax fund is guided by three national program objectives, which include productivity and economic growth, a clean environment and strong cities and communities. In British Columbia, the Gas Tax fund is delivered through three program streams: Community Works Fund; Strategic Priorities Fund; and Greater Vancouver Regional Fund.*

The membership has also welcomed joint federal-provincial capital programs for local governments including the New Building Canada Program, Community Culture and Recreation and the Small Communities Fund; CleanBC Communities Fund, the Rural and Northern Communities Program, and the Clean Water & Wastewater Fund.

**Current Status:**

The provincial government has turned its attention to restarting the province and has allocated \$1.5 billion for an Economic Recovery Fund. The Province is currently consulting on the allocation of the funding. UBCM has advocated for an infrastructure stimulus funding framework in meetings with Minister Robinson and discussions with provincial staff as a measure to support economic recovery. In June, Minister Robinson responded to UBCM's request for additional support measures and noted ongoing infrastructure discussions with the federal government, the importance of infrastructure projects in supporting an economic recovery, and the value of selecting shovel worthy projects in infrastructure programs going forward.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**SR6 Broadband Internet**

**UBCM Executive**

Whereas the 2019 BC Connectivity Report – produced by KPMG for the Northern Development Initiative Trust to assess broadband Internet connectivity available to rural and Indigenous communities in BC – identified significant challenges with both access and affordability, challenges which have become glaring in the current pandemic and economic recovery environment;

And whereas existing provincial funding focuses on completion of last-mile local network infrastructure or new, upgraded, or expanded backbone infrastructure; and federal government funding programs in development seem to focus on backbone infrastructure without requiring the completion of last-mile local networks; while none of the funding programs address the issue of existing, dormant backbone and last-mile infrastructure that either lacks an Internet service provider to make use of it, or is owned by an existing Internet service provider that declines to activate and use it:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments, in their efforts to make broadband Internet access universally available, to implement measures to address access and affordability challenges particularly in rural and remote areas;

And be it further resolved that provincial and federal government funding programs for universal broadband Internet should – in addition to requiring Internet service providers to complete installation, upgrading, or expansion of both backbone and last-mile network infrastructure – require Internet service providers or the owners of network infrastructure to activate and make use of existing, dormant network infrastructure to help achieve universal broadband Internet access.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for federal and provincial government action to ensure that broadband Internet is available in all communities, especially underserved rural and remote areas (2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).*

*In 2020, the Committee understands that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many local governments in BC have moved to support their staff to work from home, and elected officials to attend meetings online. Local governments from areas where the available Internet access is not high-speed have shared with UBCM the challenges of trying to work remotely. For communities in many parts of the province, this is the reality.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

*The Northern Development Initiative Trust engaged KPMG to research and assess the broadband Internet connectivity available to rural and Indigenous communities in BC. In the resulting 2019 BC Connectivity Report, KPMG identified significant challenges for these communities with access and affordability of broadband Internet. These challenges include:*

- restrictive data caps on Internet service in rural communities, which limit the quantity of Internet available;
- compared with other provinces, only a small percentage of broadband Internet plans in BC are available without data caps;
- with limits on the quantity of Internet available, it is difficult for users to access the full range of Internet experiences, such as video conferencing and video streaming;
- in BC, the costs of Internet access increase at a much faster rate than in other provinces, and this rate of increase outpaces the rate of inflation; and
- a significantly higher cost of Internet access in rural BC, compared to urban areas, especially Internet plans with a less restrictive data cap.

#### Canada-wide Challenges to Accessing Broadband Internet

Lack of access to broadband Internet is a problem for communities across Canada. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has highlighted section 7(b) of the Telecommunications Act, which states that amongst Canadian Telecommunications Policy objectives the federal government must “render reliable and affordable telecommunications services of high quality accessible to Canadians in both urban and rural areas in all regions of Canada.” FCM further emphasized the importance of “access to reliable, high-quality, broadband internet services to ... rural and remote communities,” and has called for federal departments and agencies to apply a “rural lens” to telecommunications policy decisions that affect rural communities.

FCM proposed several objectives towards which the federal government should work in order to close the broadband gap:

- reduce lag-times and bring faster broadband Internet speeds to rural and remote communities across the country;
- develop an ambitious, comprehensive and long-term national broadband strategy, in consultation with federal departments and agencies including the CRTC; provinces and territories; local governments; Indigenous communities; the private sector; and civil society;
- apply a rural lens while developing and delivering a national broadband Internet strategy and infrastructure;
- follow through on implementing High Speed Access for All: Canada’s Connectivity Strategy and associated investments announced in the 2019 federal budget;
- ensure that any increase in the rates for broadband Internet brings, from the carriers, real and commensurate increases in reliable, high-quality, broadband services in rural and remote areas; and
- put in place mechanisms to ensure that promises to accelerate investments in rural areas are fully realized, in the event that wholesale rates for aggregated high-speed access are increased at the outcome of this process.

#### **UBCM Policy Position:**

For the better part of two decades, our members have supported resolutions that call for improved broadband internet access for all communities in BC. The need for improvement is most keenly felt in rural and remote areas of the Province that are particularly underserved. As a result, many of the resolutions endorsed by the membership called for improvements to rural and remote broadband internet access.

#### **Current Status:**

To protect the health and safety of local government staff, elected officials, and the general public during the COVID-19 pandemic, most local governments in BC have moved to holding board, council, and committee meetings online; as well as staff working remotely wherever possible. Local governments have begun to use a range of online and telephone services to conduct meetings and engage the public in consultation processes.

In nearly every regional district, at least some of the elected officials and staff experience a lag and slow Internet speed, making it particularly difficult for them to use videoconferencing and other online productivity and collaboration tools. This means that during the pandemic—and before the pandemic, to be clear—selected staff, elected officials, and members of the public are unable to complete their work, attend meetings, represent their residents, provide input or feedback or otherwise participate in the administration and operation of local government.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas recovery from COVID-19 will require international, federal, provincial, local and First Nations governments to work collaboratively to address the devastating health, safety, social and economic impacts;

And whereas UBCM serves as the collective voice and advocacy body for BC local governments, which are:

- recognized as orders of government under s. 1 of the *Community Charter*;
- continuing to incur significant revenue losses as a result of deferred property taxes, reduced tourism, lost transit fares, casinos revenues, as well as recreation and other user fees; and
- closest to the citizens of BC and best able to determine the needs of their residents, small businesses and non-profit organizations:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant global impact affecting all orders of government and every citizen in every community around the world. As the order of government closest to citizens, local governments have been integral provincial partners in responding to the pandemic.*

*UBCM members endorsed SR1 in 2019 that specifically asked the Province to “ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation, as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter are adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives.” Recognizing that local governments are key players in COVID-19 restart and recovery, this resolution is seeking to ensure that Province acknowledges the important role that local governments have played, and will continue to play, to support residents and communities as the BC government continues to move forward with its recovery effort. Local governments have lost variable revenue streams, deferred property tax payments and put off capital projects, but have continued to provide essential services to their residents.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

*The UBCM Executive is bringing this resolution forward to:*

- *highlight the importance of UBCM engagement and consultation as the Province moves to restart its economy; and*
- *ensure that local governments are financially supported as they continue to provide essential services to support their residents and communities, and compensated for financial losses incurred to date.*

*Over March – May 2020, UBCM reached out to a segment of its membership to gather information on the immediate and projected long-term financial pressures facing local governments, their residents, and local businesses as a result of the pandemic. Many local governments identified a loss of variable revenue (casinos, transit fares, parking and other fees), the shelving of capital projects, a re-evaluation of property taxes, new costs of supporting vulnerable populations, and concerns over reserve restrictions and looming financial deadlines.*

*UBCM conveyed local government concerns through to Minister Robinson who responded by introducing provincial measures, but many local governments still had to re-evaluate their budgets and make extremely difficult decisions and adjustments on capital spending, service levels, staffing, and proposed property tax increases, to ensure continued operation and delivery of critical services. Many local governments also engaged in layoffs of casual, temporary and facility related staff in early April, with the possibility of future layoffs.*

*While many local governments indicated that they might be able to financially weather a few months, our members expressed particular concern about their finances in coming year(s). The following specific concerns were noted:*

- *risk of delinquencies amongst residential and commercial property taxpayers remains high;*
- *continued loss of non-taxation revenue will hinder the ability of local governments to advance capital projects; and*



UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Specifically, the resolutions called for:

- A long term, multi-faceted strategy to address mental health and addictions issues including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing;
- Adequate level of resourcing and facilities for providing mental health and addiction services;
- Changes to WorkSafe BC procedures to allow faster approval for mental health services for first responders;
- Funding for a child and youth mental health and substance use collaborative;
- Additional funds for mental health and addictions services on the Riverview lands;
- Spaces for observed inhalation sites for overdose prevention; and
- Additional rehabilitation facilities and beds in every local government in BC.

As well, resolution 2019-B171 noted that persons with opioid use disorder in BC are subject to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and require safer alternatives to reduce the risk of overdose harm.

The increasing demand on police services responding to mental health and addictions issues was addressed in resolution 2015-A2. This resolution sought a long-term multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from mental health and addictions issues, as well as an increase in resources and facilities for providing provincial mental health and addictions services. The UBCM Executive prioritized this issue during 2015 Advocacy Days meetings with the provincial government.

See also resolutions EB79, NR62 and NR63.

**UBCM Executive comments:**

**Background:**

Healthcare, including mental health and addictions, falls within the jurisdiction of the provincial government. However, police and fire departments are increasingly utilized to deal with mental health and addictions issues across the province, resulting in increased costs borne by local government budgets.

In April 2016, the provincial health officer declared a public health emergency due to the significant rise in opioid-related overdose deaths reported in BC since the beginning of 2016.

The Province then created the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions in 2017 to build a seamless, coordinated network of mental health and addictions services and lead the response to the overdose crisis.

In June 2019, the Ministry published a 10-year mental health strategy, called “A Pathway to Hope: Better access to mental health and addictions care”, and committed to reporting annually on their progress. Initial priority actions include:

- Increasing access to affordable counselling and support;
- Launching integrated child and youth teams connected to schools;
- Opening more Foundry centres;
- Expanding First Nations-run treatment centres;
- Expanding intensive services for children and youth; and
- Supporting early childhood social emotional development.

The Province also released a toolkit<sup>5</sup> for police agencies and health authorities in 2018 to guide the two groups in working together to address the needs of people with mental health and/or substance use issue. That same year, a

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/police-interface-report.pdf?bcgovtm=CSMLS>

*CBC report found that over 70 percent of people who died during a police intervention in Canada (2000-2017) suffered from mental health and substance abuse problems.*

*The provincial report noted models of collaboration between police and health authorities, including Health/Police Crisis Mobile Units that pair a nurse with a police officer in a police vehicle in RCMP detachments in Surrey (Car 67), Kamloops and Prince George.*

**UBCM Policy Position:**

*As noted in the Resolutions Committee comments, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province.*

*The resolutions have also called for a safer alternative to the unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply to reduce the risk of overdose harm (2019-B171); and for a long-term, multi-faceted strategy with appropriate resourcing for mental health and addictions services and facilities (2015-A2). The latter resolution acknowledged the increasing demands being placed on police resources and hospital emergency services by people with mental health and addictions issues.*

*Mental health and policing was also one of three priorities raised during UBCM's 2015 Advocacy Days to the provincial government.*

**Current Status:**

*In recent months, there has been a significant increase in the number of unintentional illicit drug toxicity deaths in BC.<sup>6</sup>*

*According to data from the BC Coroners' Service, in May 2020, there were 170 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This represents a 93 percent increase over the number of deaths seen in May 2019 (88) and a 44 percent increase over the number of deaths in April 2020 (118). The reports also states that the number of deaths in each health authority is at or near the highest monthly total ever recorded; however, Island Health has surpassed its highest number by 36 percent (38 deaths in May; previous high was 28 deaths in Jan and Mar 2018).*

*The First Nations Health Authority notes overdose deaths among First Nations people have surged dramatically and disproportionately in BC since the COVID-19 pandemic, with a 93 percent spike in First Nations overdose deaths from January to May in 2020 as compared to the same months in 2019.*

*As a result, police and fire departments are responding to increased mental health and addiction calls.*

*And despite concerns over recent incidents between law enforcement and citizens, one Health Authority stated in July 2020 that they will not be expanding their Policy and Crisis Team (PACT) program which pairs a nurse with a specially trained RCMP officer to patrol the streets and respond to calls, as it was felt that the model was not the most effective use of health care resources.*

*On July 11, 2020, the provincial government announced \$16 million to support new treatment and recovery beds, and support existing services that have been challenged by COVID-19.*

*On June 12, 2020, the Province announced its intention to reform the Police Act. Although the full scope of the review is not yet known, part of the focus will be on ensuring the Act is consistent with the Province's approach to key issues such as harm reduction and mental health. This announcement comes only days after protests throughout Canada and the world called on governments to, among other things, consider systematic changes to policing.*

*UBCM has delivered correspondence to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, seeking representation on the provincial review committee.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/statistical/illicit-drug.pdf>

# Housing

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## SR9 Multi-Residential Insurance Rates

UBCM Executive

Whereas over the past year stratas and non-profit housing providers have experienced substantial increases to insurance premiums and/or found it difficult to secure an insurer for their buildings;

And whereas multi-residential housing constitutes a large portion of British Columbia's housing stock;

And whereas the BC Financial Services Authority's "BC Strata Property Insurance Market – Interim Findings" report identifies several "fundamental issues" straining the strata insurance market that are not addressed in the Province's proposed amendments to the *Strata Property Act* and *Financial Institutions Act*, including a lack of capacity in the strata insurance market to support future expected demand:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province to take further evidence-based actions to address rapidly increasing insurance costs for multi-residential housing.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to address rapidly increasing insurance costs for multi-residential housing.*

*However, membership has endorsed wide-ranging resolutions aimed at supporting housing affordability including 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56 and 2017-A2. As noted by the sponsor, current rapid increases in strata insurance rates have the potential to significantly contribute to the current affordability crisis. Taking actions to stem these increases is therefore consistent with UBCM policy.*

*In addition, this resolution is consistent with UBCM's support for evidence-based approach to housing policy, as articulated in the UBCM Housing Report, "A Home for Everyone".*

*See also resolutions C12 and C13.*

**UBCM Executive comments:**

### **Background:**

*As documented in the "BC Strata Property Insurance Market – Interim Findings" report by the BC Financial Services Authority (BCFSA), strata insurance premiums have risen on average by 40 percent across the province over the past year, while deductibles have increased up to triple digits over the same period. Further, 6 percent of properties saw strata insurance premiums increase in excess of 100 percent compared to last year. Rising insurance costs create substantial cost pressures for stratas and non-profit housing providers, and risk further exacerbating the ongoing affordability crisis.*

### **UBCM Policy Position:**

*Our members have been clear in their support for resolutions seeking greater housing affordability (2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-A2). As well, UBCM's 2018 Housing Report, "A Home for Everyone" made 31 recommendations aimed at improving housing affordability. As such, it is important that UBCM put forward this resolution that seeks to address the high cost of insurance for stratas and non-profit housing providers, as rapidly increasing insurance rates will only add to housing affordability pressures.*

### **Current Status:**

*The Province has introduced legislation as "first steps" to address rising insurance costs for strata owners, focusing on:*

- *ending referral fees between insurers or insurance brokers and strata property managers;*
- *setting out guidelines for what strata corporations are required to insure;*
- *requirements for strata corporations to inform owners about insurance coverage; and*
- *protecting strata owners against lawsuits from strata corporations when owners are responsible for damage through no fault of their own.*

*While these changes may help attenuate price increases, they largely fail to address the underlying structural issues that the BCFSA has identified (described as “fundamental issues” in the interim BCFSA report), including the use of Best Terms Pricing by the insurance industry, and lack of industry capacity. On the latter point, for example, the BCFSA interim finding report notes that “There is not enough capacity in the strata insurance market to support future expected demand”, and points towards further pressures on the industry, including the likelihood of increasing reinsurance costs due to the global increase in the frequency and amount of losses from catastrophic events and from new earthquake risk research.*

*In concluding the interim report, the BCFSA describes the current state of the strata insurance market as “unhealthy”, and unprofitable for the insurance industry. The measures undertaken by the Province to-date focus on strata operations and thus will do little to address insurance industry profitability.*

*The Province has indicated that they will review the final report from the BCFSA, which is scheduled for release in the fall, and consider further changes to lower strata insurance costs at that time. This resolution is intended to emphasize the importance of such further actions, as part of an effective, evidence-based approach to ensure that insurance rate increases do not adversely impact affordability.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SR10 Minimal Barrier Shelter Standards**

**Terrace**

Whereas in 2017 service providers were mandated by BC Housing to operate all shelters as minimal barrier (aka low barrier);

And whereas this is a deterrent to accessing shelters for those individuals who are trying to maintain a clean and sober lifestyle, or for women and children fleeing violence, as they are forced to share shelter space with individuals dealing with active addictions under this policy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to direct BC Housing to ensure that its policies support adequate shelter space throughout the province for those individuals needing to be sheltered in a safe, clean and sober environment.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to direct BC Housing to ensure that its policies support adequate shelter space throughout the province for those individuals needing to be sheltered in a safe, clean and sober environment.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31).*

*Membership has in the past endorsed a balanced approach to support services that includes support for low-barrier programs (2018-B142) while also addressing negative impacts of these programs (2019-B88).*

### **Additional comments:**

#### **Background:**

*While low or minimal barrier shelters play an important role by being as inclusive as possible for those experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues, their sole provision may present challenges for those seeking alternate forms of shelter. High barrier shelters may play an important role as part of the continuum of shelter types.*

#### **UBCM Policy Position:**

*UBCM does not have policy explicitly addressing this issue, but members have endorsed wide ranging resolutions in support of adequate and affordable housing in communities, and supports for homeless and vulnerable people (2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46).*

**Current Status:**

*BC housing currently specifies that in single shelter communities, shelter sites need to adhere to minimal barrier shelter standards, including the provision of harm reduction supplies and shelter services for those who are experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues. As noted on [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org), "People who stay at emergency shelters can be diverse, with a range of needs and abilities. Staff require appropriate behaviour, but each shelter's requirements can be different. All of these shelters reduce barriers to ensure the most vulnerable people are brought inside and connected to support services."*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section EB Resolutions Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy**

Section EB are the Endorse Block of resolutions. Resolutions in the Endorse Block support existing policy, and are recommended as Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

EB Resolutions are:

- resolutions previously considered and endorsed;
- resolutions in keeping with UBCM policy; or
- resolutions in keeping with other major previously approved policy papers or documents.

Included in Section EB are resolutions numbered:

### **EB1 – EB87**

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

- I move that the resolutions in Section EB be considered as a block.

If the motion is endorsed by delegates, then the resolutions in Section EB will be considered as a block.

The spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the motion:

- Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section EB be adopted?

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Section EB resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

### Pulling a Resolution for Individual Consideration

In advance of Convention, members who wish to pull resolutions from the Endorse Block of resolutions for individual consideration (individual consideration because members want to amend the resolution or do not agree with its recommendation) will need to take the following steps:

- Endorse a motion at a Council or Board meeting requesting removal from the Endorse Block;
- Send the motion, along with the reasons for wanting to pull the resolution from the Block, to the UBCM Executive to be received **by noon on Friday, September 18\***;
- The UBCM Executive will decide which requests are approved;
- Executive approval to pull a resolution will result in an amended Endorse Block of resolutions being presented at Convention; and
- Any amendments to the Endorse Block will be announced during the resolutions session.

Resolutions pulled from section EB for individual consideration will be Referred to Executive, and not considered during Convention.

\*Requests to pull a resolution from the Endorse Block should be submitted via email to:

**UBCM Executive, c/o Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst**

Email address: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

### Timing

If the allotted time elapses and debate of Section EB has not been completed, the resolutions in the EB block will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

## Section EB

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### Legislative

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#### **EB1 Regulation of Soft Plastics and Other Packaging Materials North Cowichan**

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear the appeal of a BC Court of Appeal decision in *Canadian Plastic Bag Association v. Victoria (City)*, a decision which effectively limits the ability of local governments to regulate the use of soft plastics and other plastic packaging within their geographic jurisdictions;

And whereas some local governments see the need for such regulation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia amend Section 9 of the *Community Charter* to expressly allow local government regulation of plastics and other packaging substances that may be considered environmentally deleterious.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a similar resolution, 2019-B148 which calls on the Province to allow local governments to regulate or restrict single-use items by the Province's agreement, by regulation, or by approval of the Minister.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions seeking the reduction of single use plastic items, such as:*

- *a Provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as a part of a Provincial Zero Waste Strategy (2019-B42, 2018-B126);*
- *the Province to engage with retailers, manufacturers and industry to implement an environmental fee for all single use plastic products and packaged goods (2019-B147); and*
- *the Province to work with local governments and retailers to introduce uniform, province-wide business regulations in relation to disposable plastic packaging (2018-B29).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### Community Safety

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#### **EB2 Police Based Victim Services Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has primary responsibility for funding Police Based Victim Services programs and local governments are being requested to cost-share funding programs in communities that contribute to policing costs;

And whereas the existing funding structure may create instability and capacity challenges for Police Based Victim Services programs reliant on a level of funding certainty in order to adequately plan, deliver and sustain programs that support the safety needs of victims and communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General fully fund Police Based Victim Services programs to ensure they are adequately funded on an ongoing basis to support and sustain the need for victim services in communities throughout BC.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that provincial government funding for victim services programs is a long-standing issue. Members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to increase funding for victim services programs, including 2019-B6, 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2016-B83, 2015-B4, 2014-B4, 2011-B14, 2010-B12.*

*Endorsed resolution 2019-B6 requested that the Province increase its funding contribution towards police-based victims services. In response, the Province noted a recent decision to increase its funding contribution by \$5 million starting in 2018/19 with an additional \$3 million increase in \$2020/21. The Ministry also committed to continued work with those agencies and programs facing financial pressures.*

*See also resolution C3.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB3 Restorative Justice Funding**

**Colwood**

Whereas between the years of 1999 and 2018, there have been 15 resolutions to UBCM from 11 local governments throughout BC, with 12 resolutions having been endorsed;

And whereas Public Safety and Solicitor General's community consultation process in 2018-2019 identified core and stable funding as the primary requirement for the success of restorative justice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request core, stable provincial government funding of at least \$50,000 per year to each provincially-recognized restorative justice program operating in BC for long-term professional administrative staff support.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

Whereas between the years of 1999 and 2018, there have been 15 resolutions to UBCM from 11 local governments throughout BC, with 12 resolutions having been endorsed;

And whereas Public Safety and Solicitor General's community consultation process in 2018-2019 identified core and stable funding as the primary requirement for the success of restorative justice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request core, stable provincial government funding of at least \$50,000 per year to each provincially-recognized restorative justice program operating in BC for long-term professional administrative staff support.

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province deliver core, stable funding of at least \$50,000 per year to provincially-recognized restorative justice programs for the purpose of providing long-term professional staff support.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that ask the Province for a sustainable funding source for restorative justice programs, including 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2010-B2, 2009-B7, 2008-B4 and 2007-B3.*

*While UBCM doesn't have specific policy asking for \$50,000 per organization, the membership has consistently asked for core, stable funding for restorative justice. As such, the Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to remove the reference to \$50,000.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB4 Costs of Keeping Prisoners****Nanaimo RD**

Whereas Corrections BC has a fixed quarterly budget to reimburse RCMP detachments for all provincial prisoners kept in local government owned RCMP buildings;

And whereas this funding allocation per prisoner fluctuates in accordance with the number of prisoners kept each quarter, but does not reflect the true operating cost to the local government for keeping these prisoners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to fully fund the costs to keep prisoners in locally owned RCMP buildings.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting an increase in the Keep of Prisoners program reimbursement rate (2013-B23, 2011-B8, 2008-B24, 2004-B5, 2003-A4). The Province has typically responded by defending the Keep of Prisoners program, and the reimbursement rate offered to local governments.*

*UBCM administered surveys to its members in 2011 and 2014 regarding the keep of prisoners. Results showed a large discrepancy between the provincial and federal reimbursement rates and the actual local government costs of holding a prisoner.*

*See also resolutions C4 and C15.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB5 Police Services Model of Funding****Lantzville**

Whereas for local governments under the 5,000 population threshold, approximately 33 percent of local government policing costs are recovered by the Province via police taxes, and as soon as the population hits 5,000, the local government is required to fund 70 percent of the total cost for policing as described in the policing agreements;

And whereas this can create sudden, large increases in the amount of funding required to address policing costs which can be an incredible, sudden and immediate financial shock for small local governments that are already struggling:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to review the current model of funding police services for local governments reaching 5,000 population with consideration to establishing a graduated annual increase, once the 5,000 population has been reached, in policing costs from the 33 percent Police Tax to 70 percent of policing costs over a five-year period.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B75 that sought for the current RCMP police funding model for emerging local governments (near the 5,000 population threshold) to be reviewed with consideration towards an incremental increase for policing costs based on gradual population growth.*

*Under the BC Police Act, municipalities must assume responsibility for policing services when their population, according to the Canada Census, reaches or surpasses 5,000 people. Municipalities under 5,000 in population and unincorporated areas are required to pay the Police Tax, which acts as a means for the Province to recover up to 50 percent of the estimated cost of providing enforcement services to these areas.*

The Province has developed a process to engage emerging local governments that utilize RCMP services (i.e. those nearing the 5,000 in population threshold). This involves providing these local governments with early notice and an information package in preparation for new policing responsibilities.

See also resolution NR7.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB6 Funding for Rural Community Policing Resources**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas the RCMP are overworked and understaffed when it comes to rural and remote areas of the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government and the Solicitor General provide more resources to allow the RCMP to increase staffing resources in rural British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase the authorized strength/staffing for the provincial police force to a sufficient level (2019-A3, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-B1). In response to endorsed resolution 2019-A3, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General acknowledged that despite consistent funding increases to the provincial police force, front line policing resources have not increased in recent years.*

*In 2018, UBCM delivered correspondence to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, requesting that RCMP provincial detachments be adequately resourced.*

*The provincial government has recently approved the addition of 40 new provincial policing positions. Of these, 28 positions will be added to provincial detachment units.*

*See also resolutions NR8 and NR10.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB7 Funding for Rural Crime Reduction/Prevention Group**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas the RCMP are overworked and understaffed when it comes to rural and remote communities;

And whereas, many rural BC residents are frustrated with the level of services that the RCMP is currently able to offer:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government provide regular, ongoing and sustainable funding to support the development and growth of rural safety and crime reduction/prevention groups.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide funding to support the development and growth of rural safety and crime reduction/prevention groups.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2011-B15, which called for the Province to include funding for crime prevention and community policing programs from its proceeds of crime revenue.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions related to police resource allocation in rural areas and/or the need to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force (2019-A3, 2018-B88, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-A4, 2012-B1). Endorsed resolution 2019-A3 called on the*



And whereas other emergency services attending vehicle crashes on Provincial Highways such as RCMP, BCEHS (Ambulance) and Coroner's service are fully funded by provincial and federal funding agreements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to commit additional annual funding for highway rescue services, to provide a more fair funding model that will ensure the continuation of these services that are vital for people travelling on provincial highways.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.*

*In response to endorsed resolution 2019-B9, the Province indicated that it is "committed to developing a sustainable, fair funding model." To address this issue, Emergency management BC and the Office of the Fire Commissioner are developing options for provincial consideration.*

*EMBC currently provides an all-found reimbursement rate of \$340/hour for road rescue services. This applies to any of the 146 recognized road rescue service providers, including search and rescue groups, volunteer fire departments and societies.*

*If BCEHS invites a local fire department or society to act as a first responder, the local government has the ability to reject the request based on lack of staff, risk, etc.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial and/or federal assistance with the provision of emergency services, including 2019-B11, 2018-B95, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B50, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-B44.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB10      Abandoned Vehicles**

## **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the RCMP and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have authority for enforcing parking regulations outside of municipal boundaries, including the removal of abandoned or unlicensed vehicles that may be illegally parked on rural roads, which is time consuming, costly, and takes away resources from other important community priorities;

And whereas regional districts have no authority for parking enforcement or removal of abandoned vehicles from rural roads but, as the representative local government with a direct connection to the community, must address resident concerns about abandoned vehicles that may be illegally parked or impacting the safe movement of pedestrians, traffic, or emergency vehicles in areas such as accesses to docks, boat launches, roads near waterfront parks, or areas where parking is limited:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide additional funding resources to support rural RCMP detachments or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in responding to time consuming and costly removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles from rural roads, and to ensure that community safety concerns are prioritized and adequately attended to.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has recently endorsed resolution 2019-B57, which requested that the Province review rural parking enforcement regulations, and either grant regional districts the authority to enforce parking regulations or provide additional policing resources to rural RCMP detachments to*

address illegal parking issues. In response, the Province indicated a willingness to further examine parking and enforcement regulations on provincial roads within regional districts.

The Committee notes that the membership has also endorsed resolution 2014-B102, which called for regional districts to be granted the authority to enforce parking regulations within their boundaries. In response, the Province acknowledged that the Motor Vehicle Act does not provide regional districts the same authority as municipalities to regulate parking within their boundaries. It was noted that further research was required to determine if there is a specific reason for excluding regional districts.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force to a sufficient level (2019-A3, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-B1).

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB11 Extending Life of Fire Apparatus**

**Peace River RD**

Whereas the Fire Underwriters Survey requires that in order to receive credit for fire insurance grading purposes, all first line fire apparatus in small and rural communities should be replaced after 20 years of service and may only be extended up to 25 years when fire apparatus is tested and proven to be in excellent mechanical condition;

And whereas small and rural local governments often are financially challenged to replace high cost and minimally used fire apparatus on a 20-25 year rotational basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to advocate to the Fire Underwriters Survey to consider providing credit for fire apparatus that is 25 years or older and in sound working condition in order reduce costs to taxpayers.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services, including those in small and rural communities (2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60, 2017-B11).*

*Following the endorsement of resolution 2019-B5, UBCM delivered correspondence to the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS), requesting a meeting to discuss equipment requirements for local fire departments. FUS did not respond to the letter; and, has previously shown reluctance to engage in substantive discussion with UBCM regarding equipment standards.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB12 Collaborative Wildfire Mitigation**

**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas local governments and First Nations have for more than ten (10) years taken leadership of wildfire risk reduction activities through accessing various provincial funding opportunities, to reduce our communities' wildfire risk including through the UBCM Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative, UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Program, and Forest Enhancement Society of BC;

And whereas local governments and First Nations are on the front line for community engagement through educating the public regarding wildfire risk reduction and providing concerns and input into proposed plans (e.g. Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuel prescription or implementation); this work can take months for staff to ensure local governments are aligned with science, best practices and community context.

And whereas the Province has recently changed the delivery model for fuel treatments adjacent to communities, but the new Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program has not clearly identified the role of local governments and First Nations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to commit to establish and support regional wildfire mitigation planning tables that include local governments and First Nations, provincial agencies (FLNRORD, BC Wildfire Service), licensees including Community Forests, water user groups, Fire Smart committees, and BC Parks, and other interested groups;

And be it further resolved that the regional planning tables will:

- Identify priorities for planning and implementation of wildfire risk reduction activities;
- Align funding from CRI and other sources;
- Coordinate public engagement;
- Ensure collaborative communication between all stakeholders;
- Ensure effective sharing of techniques, methods and processes between regions;
- Monitor the effectiveness of activities, and foresight and maintenance of treatments.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to commit to establish and support regional wildfire mitigation planning tables that include, in part local governments, First Nations and provincial agencies, and that those tables will plan and implement wildfire risk reduction activities.*

*However, the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions requesting funding for local wildfire mitigation efforts (2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B97) and improved collaboration for risk reduction activities (2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2018-B96, 2018-B99).*

*The FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program, administered by UBCM under the Community Resiliency Investment program, supports the development and oversight of local committees and planning tables. It is expected that this will continue to be an eligible activity under the 2021 program and that additional guidance will be available to communities that wish to form or participate in local or regional planning tables.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB13      Regional Geo-Hazards**

**Pemberton**

Whereas the landscape of many rugged outdoor areas of BC face exposure to multiple hazards with potential for natural disaster, such as forest fires, landslides and flooding which impact residents as well as the traveling public;

And whereas the majority of provincial funding that is available is for response-related activities after an event has occurred:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province allocate funding to support more pro-active measures for risk management of regional geo-hazards through the establishment of consistent and regular monitoring.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allocate funding for proactive measures for risk management of regional geohazards through the establishment of consistent and regular monitoring.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that seek improvements to safety for transportation corridors, including:*

- 2019-B76 - which sought to establish a multi-agency approach to fire-smarting transportation corridors; and

- 2007-B168 - which sought more resources for slope stability around highways.

In 2019, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee has been engaged as part of this process, which included the October 2019 release of a discussion paper for stakeholder feedback. In examining the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery), the discussion paper notes that "there are significant gaps when it comes to mitigation (pre-emergency activities)." It is expected that new emergency management legislation will include a more balanced focus on all four pillars, including mitigation/proactive measures.

While the EMBC discussion paper acknowledges that all four pillars of emergency management (including mitigation) must be supported through funding, it does not outline any specific mechanisms. In its response to EMBC, UBCM identified the need for ongoing and sustainable provincial funding.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB14 Provincial Funding for Dike Upgrades**

**Pemberton**

Whereas diking infrastructure is crucial to flood mitigation for the protection of residents and the general public;

And whereas the provincial government will only allocate funding for dike upgrades which meet high-cost seismic standards;

And whereas neglecting dike upgrades while trying to facilitate designs that are to seismic standards could leave residents vulnerable to flooding disasters and exposed to massive and inevitable response costs in the interim:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government consider applications for funding for dike upgrades which may not meet seismic standards, but would allow for essential and cost-effective minor upgrades.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to consider applications for funding "essential and cost-effective" minor dike upgrades that may not meet seismic standards.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing dikes, including:

- 2018-B33 - which, among other things, called on the Province to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local governments in relation to dike upgrades and climate change, and provide long-term funding to support municipal dike corridor upgrade strategies;
- 2017-B85 - which called on the Province to revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to reflect predicted local ground settlement conditions with the primary goal of community flood protection;
- 2015-B52 - which called on the Province to be re-established as diking authority in all local governments; and
- 2014-B75 - which called on the Province to be re-established as diking authority in local governments under 20,000 in population and rural areas.

The Resolutions Committee also advises that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that request funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2019-B12, 2018-B94, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3).

See also resolution EB15.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB15 Dike Improvement District**

**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas the Province had previously established Dike Improvement Districts and has now designated local government as a diking authority, removing these powers from Improvement Districts who are unable to access

funding for repair and maintenance of dikes, without adequate consultation with both Improvement Districts and local governments;

And whereas the Province has not provided an overall assessment of the dikes or identified sustainable funding associated with the full capital cost of repair and on-going maintenance of dikes under the jurisdiction of Improvement Districts, and dikes with no local authority, of which 20 percent in the Province are located within the Regional District of Central Kootenay:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to engage in further consultation with Improvement Districts and local government to discuss the overall impact of this decision on rural BC communities with populations under 20,000.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

Whereas the Province had previously established Dike Improvement Districts and has now designated local government as a diking authority, removing these powers from Improvement Districts who are unable to access funding for repair and maintenance of dikes, without adequate consultation with both Improvement Districts and local governments;

And whereas the Province has not provided an overall assessment of the dikes or identified sustainable funding associated with the full capital cost of repair and on-going maintenance of dikes under the jurisdiction of Improvement Districts, and dikes with no local authority, of which 20 percent in the Province are located within the Regional District of Central Kootenay:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to engage in further consultation with Improvement Districts and local government to discuss the overall impact of ~~this~~ **the decision to designate local governments as diking authority** on rural BC communities with populations under 20,000.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution encouraging the Province to consult with improvement districts and local governments regarding the removal of diking authority from improvement districts, and the impacts of this decision on communities under 20,000 in population. However, based on subsequent feedback received by UBCM, it is understood that further consultation would be beneficial, in order to address key issues (e.g. funding, knowledge, capacity) resulting from this provincial decision.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions related to diking authority in BC:*

- *2015-B52 - Requests that the Province be re-established as the diking authority in all local governments;*
- *2014-B75 - Calls on the Province to be re-established as the diking authority in local governments under 20,000 in population and rural electoral areas; and*
- *2011-B12 - Requests that the Province undertake an assessment of diking districts to determine the most appropriate and cost effective delivery of flood protection; and, if local governments providing flood protection is deemed the best option, that they be provided adequate funding from the Province.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures, including 2019-B12, 2018-B94, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3.*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to clarify what the decision is referring to in the enactment clause.*

*See also resolution EB14.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas the federal *Cannabis Act* controls the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada, including the application and licensing of personal and commercial medical cannabis production, which should be compliant with local bylaws according to criteria set out for applicants in the process administered by Health Canada as the agency responsible for approval of cannabis production facilities;

And whereas local governments have responsibility for the enforcement of local bylaws and ensuring life-safety compliance with fire and building code regulations, but Health Canada has no process in place to share licensing information with local authorities about the location of medical cannabis production facilities in BC communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for an expanded legislative framework that provides options for local authorities to oversee building and fire safety requirements for cannabis production facilities from the outset of the license application process and prior to the commencement of construction of cannabis production facilities in local communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocate for federal and provincial collaboration with local governments to develop information sharing agreements, so local governments are informed of the locations and licensing particulars of personal and commercial medical cannabis production in their communities and can thereby ensure enforcement of local bylaws to mitigate safety risks within BC communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for:*

- *An expanded legislative framework that provides options for local authorities to oversee building and fire safety requirements for cannabis production facilities from the outset of the federal licensing process; and*
- *Information sharing agreements between federal, provincial and local governments, so local authorities are informed of the locations and licensing particulars of personal and commercial medical cannabis production in their communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions, which in part, sought more local government involvement over medical cannabis production (either personal or commercial), to ensure respect for local bylaws and zoning. These include:*

- *2018-B7 - called for local governments to be notified of locations with medical cannabis personal production licenses to ensure the safety of first responders who may attend these locations;*
- *2018-B93 - called for mandatory ventilation systems in all commercial and personal production sites, and the ability for Health Canada inspectors to enter these sites to ensure compliance; and*
- *2012-B111 - called for medical cannabis producers (personal and commercial) to be required to obtain a municipal license or permit to ensure compliance with local bylaws and all electrical, fire, health, building and safety regulations.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Transportation**

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Whereas there is limited to no public or non-emergency medical transportation services provided to many small, rural and remote communities in BC;

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

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure work with BC Transit, local hospital boards, citizen and local government transit committees and private businesses to provide access to transportation hubs located in small, rural and remote communities in BC.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work specifically with BC Transit, and local organizations and businesses, to provide access to transportation hubs in small, rural and remote communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit in small, rural and remote communities (2017-B8, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB18      Secondary Rural Road Maintenance**

## **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas there is growing concern about the state of secondary roads in rural communities that are in need of safety improvements such as more frequent refreshment of pavement lane markings which are essential to ensuring the safe flow of vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, especially in more remote areas where street lighting may be minimal or non-existent;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as the responsible authority for the public road network in rural areas, oversees rural road maintenance through highway maintenance service contracts according to terms set out by the Province that define levels for maintenance standards and a budget for each specific service area:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review service level standards and increase funding for the upkeep of secondary roads in the provincial road network to ensure safe and accessible transportation options for rural communities who depend on them for day-to-day personal and business transportation needs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to improve service level standards and increase funding for maintenance of secondary roads in the provincial road network (2017-B10, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17, 2003-B7, 2001-B13).*

*Most recently, resolution 2017-B10 asked the provincial government to:*

- *communicate information about road maintenance standards and performance measures more clearly to the public, as well as whether the road maintenance contractors are meeting those standards; and*
- *enhance the funding for administration and monitoring of highways and road maintenance contracts on rural roads.*

*In response to resolution 2017-B10, the Province indicated that it would be reviewing its highway maintenance contractor assessment program (CAP) as part of the next contract renewal process. The provincial government did not address the request for increased road maintenance funding.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB19 Public Highway Designation for Resource Roads**

**Tahsis**

Whereas many rural and remote communities throughout British Columbia rely on resource roads for food, fuel and medical services;

And whereas the lower maintenance standards for these roads compared with other provincial roads have contributed to motor vehicle injuries and fatalities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish a new public highway designation for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities which would have clearly defined standards for construction, maintenance, enforcement and be funded/resourced similarly to the public highway system.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

Whereas many rural and remote communities throughout British Columbia rely on resource roads for food, fuel and medical services;

And whereas the lower maintenance standards for these roads compared with other provincial roads have contributed to motor vehicle injuries and fatalities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish ~~a new public highway designation~~ clearly defined standards for construction, maintenance, **and** enforcement for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities, ~~which would have and be funded /resourced~~ similarly to the public highway system.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a new public highway designation for resource roads that provide primary or secondary road access for communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional funding and improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2017-B59, 2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17, 2001-B13). Resolution 2017-B59 in particular proposed re-evaluation and increase of stumpage rates in order to generate additional revenue to fund provincial maintenance of forest roads accessing communities.*

*The Committee would observe that resolution 2017-B59 was predicated on the assumption that the provincial government assigned revenues from royalties and stumpage fees directly to fund forest road maintenance. In its response to the resolution, the Province indicated that it did not allocate revenue from royalties and stumpage fees in this manner. Rather, the Province acknowledged that in “times of industrial inactivity, and under exceptional circumstances,” it might choose to fund “discretionary supplemental maintenance on permitted roads serving communities, rural residents, or high-value recreation sites.” The provincial government clarified that maintenance activities would vary “according to the road priority ranking and risk rating analysis.”*

*From the Committee’s perspective, the sponsor of the 2020 resolution has not clearly demonstrated why a specific “new public highway designation” would be the best policy instrument to support improved maintenance of resource roads. However, the desired outcome of sustainable funding for resource roads, accompanied by clearly defined standards for construction, maintenance, and enforcement, is supported by existing UBCM policy on rural and resource roads. For this reason, the Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment so that the resolution focuses on this desired outcome while leaving available a range of potentially appropriate policy tools.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB20 Practical Measures for Resource Roads**

**Squamish**

Whereas the changing role of natural resource roads for communities (due to population growth, diversified commercial and recreational uses) and various emerging issues (safety, search and rescue, evacuation planning) are not being adequately addressed by the current management framework;

And whereas opportunity for stakeholders including the local public and local government to participate in collaborative road use planning and decision making can be frustrated by lack of information exchange and confusing or inadequate protocols, classifications and definitions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to implement certain immediate practical measures to facilitate integrated resource road use management and planning including, as recommended in the 2010 UBCM/Province of BC Joint Resource Roads and Communities Committee report:

1. To explore by policy the ways and means and criteria to distinguish resource road classes defined as high community or public use resource roads, along with flexible, result-oriented definitions for their maintenance (including deactivation); and
2. To initiate, through collaboration, local platforms for information exchange and dialogue on road management matters between public, commercial and resource industry parties with an interest in resource roads.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B58, which asked the Province to identify resource roads no longer required for industrial use, and designate these roads as recreational roads under provincial oversight, with accompanying provincial funding for ongoing maintenance. Members also endorsed resolution 2017-B59, calling on the provincial government to continue to maintain certain forest service roads no longer required for industrial use, in cases where those roads were part of tourism-related circle routes. The aim was to support back country recreational and regional tourism, as well as other critical agricultural, commercial, educational, and emergency uses.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional funding and improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17).*

*In the 2010 report, "Resource Roads and Communities," a joint committee of cabinet ministers and UBCM representatives recommended improvements for the way that resource roads work for communities. The report proposed in part that the provincial government should explore:*

- *policy that recognizes the evolved role that resource roads play in our economy and society;*
- *establishing a "High Public Use" class of resource road, with a new funding model;*
- *without reducing environmental standards, minimize road deactivations to keep them open for non-industrial users;*
- *applying the Corporate Results-Based Model for Access Management for conflict resolution, balancing planning processes for all participants, with outcomes grounded fully in sound science;*
- *for resource road management matters, establishing a "one-window" platform for information exchange and dialogue between public, commercial, and resource industry stakeholders; and*
- *establishing industrial road user committees across BC, bringing together industrial and community users to develop locally appropriate, collaborative solutions to resource road issues.*

*See also resolution EB22.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB21 Access to Provincial Parks**

**Slocan**

Whereas the British Columbia provincial parks system represents an invaluable public asset to remote and rural communities, supports the integrity of our economic and social structure, promotes the physical well-being of our citizens, and presents a healthy and diverse natural environment;

And whereas the diminishing road access to our communities' provincial parks is currently disabled by abandoned, closed, or un-maintained logging and forest service roads:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to enable access to provincial parks and that access roads be designated as public roads and maintained as such.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that a similar resolution from Slocan, 2013-B128, called on the Province to designate, improve, and maintain as public highways the access roads to all provincial parks. Due to time constraints, resolution 2013-B128 was not debated at Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution.*

*In response to resolution 2013-B128, the provincial government suggested that “maintaining roads to provincial public highway standards is not appropriate for provincial parks access in all circumstances.” Some recreation areas, observed the Province, are “intentionally rustic,” with the risk that increased vehicle access might “negatively impact the natural values which parks are designated to protect.”*

*The provincial government indicated that its Forest Service Road maintenance budget focuses on “high public use roads—notably, roads providing access to community and rural residences and established high-value recreational areas in coordination with BC Parks.”*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB22 Maintenance of Forest Service Roads**

## **Cariboo RD**

Whereas for years the provincial government has approved the establishment of private land parcels that are only accessed by way of forest service roads, which are maintained by and at the discretion of the forest companies that use them;

And whereas the current and expected to worsen downturn in logging activities in BC is resulting in forest companies withdrawing their activities from the bush and ceasing maintenance of those forest service roads, which leaves residents stranded with no access to their properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to undertake a review of the province’s many forest service roads to determine which ones are critical for the public’s access/egress and develop a plan to maintain them as public roads.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review forest service roads that have been decommissioned by forest companies, identify which of these roads provide sole access to private land parcels, and take on maintenance of these roads as public roads.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional funding and improved maintenance of rural and resource roads, in order to preserve public access for back country recreation, agricultural, commercial, educational, and emergency uses (2017-B598, 2017-B59, 2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17).*

*UBCM would acknowledge that in 2008, the provincial government drew together a joint committee of cabinet ministers and UBCM representatives, chaired by the provincial government, to examine and make recommendations to improve the way that resource roads work for communities. Based on its findings, the joint committee released a staff report, “Resource Roads and Communities,” in 2010.*

*Summarized at a high level, the recommendations from “Resource Roads and Communities” in part propose that the provincial government should explore the following:*

- *Adopt policy tenets that recognize the evolved role that resource roads play in our economy and society;*
- *Within the larger resource road network, consider establishing a “High Public Use” class of resource road, and for such roads, develop a new funding model;*

- *Without reducing environmental standards, minimize road deactivations, so that non-industrial users may realize the social and economic benefits of resource roads;*
- *When necessary, to resolve serious conflict, apply the Corporate Results-Based Model for Access Management. The provincial government must balance these planning processes for all participants, with outcomes grounded fully in sound science;*
- *For resource road management matters, establish a “one-window” platform for information exchange and dialogue between public, commercial, and resource industry stakeholders; and*
- *Encourage establishment of Industrial Road User Committees in all parts of the province. These committees would focus on developing locally appropriate, collaborative solutions to resource road issues, between and amongst industrial users and community users of resource roads.*

See also resolution EB20.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB23 Funding for Local Government Infrastructure Upgrades as a Result of Highway Construction Chase**

Whereas local government infrastructure must often be upgraded when highway construction projects occur adjacent to communities;

And whereas many small local governments cannot fund expensive infrastructure upgrades that must be done when highway improvements are constructed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure that funding is provided for local government infrastructure improvements that are required to be constructed as a result of highway upgrades.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide funding to local governments specifically for infrastructure improvements that are required to be constructed as a result of highway upgrades.*

*However, the Committee would note that members endorsed resolution 2009-B83, which asked the provincial government to reinstate funding to local governments for improvements to major roads that intersect the provincial highway system. In response to the resolution, the Province suggested that local governments should apply to federal/provincial infrastructure programs for this type of project.*

See also resolution NR23.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB24 Active Transportation Infrastructure – Highways Projects Chase**

Whereas the Province of BC as part of Clean BC has developed an Active Transportation Strategy under the leadership of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve active transportation networks that connect British Columbians from the places they live to the facilities they use;

And whereas BC Healthy Communities provides funding to local governments to develop local Active Transportation Plans supported by the BC Physical Activity Strategy;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure constructs highway improvements that connect to and integrate with local government infrastructure and residential developments in communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to include the construction of Active Transportation infrastructure such as safe, separate walking pathways, bicycle lanes, and safe connections to existing and future trail network infrastructure, into highway upgrade projects adjacent to populated areas.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the development of active transportation infrastructure (2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99). Resolution 2019-B16 in particular sought increased provincial infrastructure for low carbon alternative modes of transportation on roads that connect communities.*

*In response to resolution 2019-B16, the provincial government referenced its Move. Commute. Connect. active transportation strategy, which in part committed to “integrate active transportation in the design and construction of provincial highways.” Move. Commute. Connect. further committed to enhanced road shoulder cleaning on provincial roads, and encouraging all governments to use the BC Active Transportation Design Guide for infrastructure and planning.*

*The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57, 2012-B63, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B110, 2006-B140).*

*See also resolution NR24.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB25 Continued Expansion of Trans-Canada Highway #1**

**Abbotsford,  
LMLGA Executive**

Whereas the Province of BC has identified the Fraser Valley as a growth and innovation corridor as part of a framework for improving British Columbians’ standard of living to restore the British Columbia Dream;

And whereas the critical congestion and safety challenges along the Trans-Canada Highway through the Fraser Valley and toward Hope continue to impact the provincial movement of goods and services and access to the Asia–Pacific gateway, undercut the economic viability of a region with the province’s highest population growth, undermine public safety and quality of life for residents and travelers, and create significant environmental and greenhouse gas emission impacts for BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province prioritize funding toward the continued expansion of the Trans-Canada Highway through the Fraser Valley and toward Hope in order to support HOV, Electric Vehicles, Autonomous Vehicles, Rapid Transit and Truck transportation (HEARTT);

And be it further resolved that this funding be made a high priority of the government of British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting priority funding for the expansion of Highway #1 in the Fraser Valley.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB26 Increase Zero-Emission Vehicle Act Interim Targets**

**Langley Township**

Whereas the BC *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* 2025 target for light-duty vehicle sales is 10 percent and actual sales reached 9 percent in 2019, yet there is still significant unmet demand for zero-emission vehicles across BC, and the purpose of the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* is to require industry to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable and available to British Columbians;

And whereas the Township of Langley, Metro Vancouver and many of its member municipalities have committed to achieving carbon neutral communities by 2050, requiring drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles starting today:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* interim sales targets above the currently stated 10 percent in 2025 and 30 percent in 2030, to targets that accelerate the availability of zero-emission vehicles in BC beyond the current rate of adoption.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

Whereas the BC *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* 2025 target for light-duty vehicle sales is 10 percent and actual sales reached 9 percent in 2019, yet there is still significant unmet demand for zero-emission vehicles across BC, and the purpose of the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* is to require industry to make zero-emission vehicles more affordable and available to British Columbians;

And whereas the Township of Langley, Metro Vancouver, and many of its member municipalities **local governments across BC** have committed to achieving carbon neutral communities by 2050, requiring drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles starting today:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* interim sales targets above the currently stated 10 percent in 2025 and 30 percent in 2030, to targets that accelerate the availability of zero-emission vehicles in BC beyond the current rate of adoption.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Zero-Emission Vehicle Act specifically to ensure that interim sales targets for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) are greater than the current rate of adoption of ZEVs.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing the shift to, and sales of, ZEVs, including:*

- *2019-B142 - which in part called on the provincial government to increase sales targets for ZEVs;*
- *2019-B143 - asking the provincial and federal governments to shift investment “from higher to lower-emitting types of transportation”; and*
- *2018-B131 - which asked the Province to require that by 2030, ZEVs comprise at least 30 per cent of passenger vehicle sales.*

*To reflect that carbon neutral communities and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles are desired across the province, and not solely in Metro Vancouver, the Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to the second preamble. The proposed amendment would replace the phrase “many of its member municipalities” with the phrase “many local governments across BC”.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB27 Zero-Emission Vehicle Mandate for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles**

**Langley Township**

Whereas medium- and heavy-duty vehicles produce over 30 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions from road transportation in BC and the Province of BC has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 and Metro Vancouver has committed to becoming a carbon neutral region by 2050;

And whereas the Province has enacted the *Zero-Emission Vehicle Act* which recognizes the importance of zero-emission vehicle sales requirements as a critical action to accelerate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the transportation sector; yet there is currently no legislation or targets in place to increase the adoption of zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to enact zero-emission vehicle sales requirements for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales requirements for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing the shift to, and sales of, ZEVs, including:*

- *2019-B142 - which in part called on the provincial government to increase sales targets for ZEVs;*
- *2019-B143 - asking the provincial and federal governments to shift investment “from higher to lower-emitting types of transportation”; and*
- *2018-B131 - which asked the Province to require that by 2030, ZEVs comprise at least 30 per cent of passenger vehicle sales.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB28      Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

## **Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas the Province has, through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, established an initiative to build out an electric vehicle (EV) fast charging station network that includes expanding the network north of Prince George along the Highway 97 corridor and into the Peace region and directed BC Hydro to build out this network;

And whereas communities along the Highway 97 corridor, including the District of Mackenzie, and into the Peace Region, and across the province will benefit from increased tourism in providing travellers with electric vehicles the knowledge that there is an established level 3 EV fast charging stations network:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to continue to work with BC Hydro to ensure that level 3 electric vehicle charging stations be established across the province.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with BC Hydro to install level 3 electric vehicle charging stations in communities across BC.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132) and increasing sales of electric vehicles (2018-B130, 2018-B131).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB29      Clean Vehicle Initiatives**

## **New Westminster**

Whereas a key part of the CleanBC program is “Move. Commute. Connect.”, an active transportation strategy with the goal to make it easier for people to commute to work or school using active transportation methods in order to cut down on carbon pollution and help improve the liability of our communities;

And whereas the CleanBC program also includes the “CEVforBC” program that provides rebates of up to \$8,000 for the purchase of a new electric or plug-in hybrid automobile, recognizing that incentives to alternatives to gasoline vehicles reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and makes our communities cleaner, safer, and more livable;

And whereas recent advances in technology have resulted in a new generation of electric-assist cycles that make cycling more accessible to more people for their daily commutes and shopping and recreation trips, allowing people to make more efficient, GHG-free and healthy transportation choices;

And whereas there is no public policy or community benefit to incentivizing the purchase of electric automobiles that is not achieved in a greater extent by incentivizing the purchase of electric-assist cycles:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to expand the clean energy vehicle program to include financial incentives for the purchase of electric-assist cycles in scale with the incentives provided for the purchase of electric automobiles.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the clean energy vehicle program to include financial incentives specifically for the purchase of electric-assist bicycles.*

*However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolutions 2019-B44 and 2016-B130, seeking a PST exemption for the purchase of electric bicycles.*

*In response to resolution 2019-B44, the provincial government gave no indication that it might consider a change in the taxation of electric bicycles, and instead emphasized that its tax approach to electric assisted bicycles is “consistent with the rest of Canada.”*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB30        Emissions Reduction for Ride Hailing Fleets**

**Vancouver**

Whereas Clean BC states that the Province will prioritize reducing climate pollution by shifting vehicles, homes, industry and business off burning fossil fuels and toward greater use of clean BC electricity and other renewable energies, with a target of a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over 2007 levels by 2030;

And whereas approximately 40 per cent of GHG emissions in BC are due to vehicles, and shifting to zero-emission vehicles will not only help the provincial and local governments meet GHG emission-reduction targets, but also strengthen the economy, improve air quality and public health, and reduce fuel costs for drivers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to design and implement a BC *Clean Kilometre Act* for ride hailing fleets (transportation network services) and taxi fleets (passenger directed vehicles) that supports the targets set in Clean BC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and requires ride hailing fleets and taxi fleets to reduce their emissions accordingly and that this act be developed in consultation with the ride hailing industry and local government representatives, recognizing there may be differences in regional requirements based on availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

Whereas Clean BC states that the Province will prioritize reducing climate pollution by shifting vehicles, homes, industry and business off burning fossil fuels and toward greater use of clean BC electricity and other renewable energies, with a target of a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over 2007 levels by 2030;

And whereas approximately 40 per cent of GHG emissions in BC are due to vehicles, and shifting to zero-emission vehicles will not only help the provincial and local governments meet GHG emission-reduction targets, but also strengthen the economy, improve air quality and public health, and reduce fuel costs for drivers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to ~~design and implement a BC Clean Kilometre Act for~~ **consult with local government**, ride hailing fleets (transportation network services), and taxi fleets (passenger directed vehicles) **and implement requirements for these fleets to meet** that supports the **emissions** targets set in Clean BC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report ~~and requires ride hailing fleets and taxi fleets to reduce their emissions accordingly and that this act be developed in consultation with the ride hailing industry and local government representatives~~, recognizing there may be differences in regional requirements based on availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement a BC Clean Kilometre Act that would require ride hailing and taxi fleets to reduce their emissions to meet Clean BC and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change targets.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to reduce emissions, most recently 2019-B118, 2019-B142, 2019-B143, 2019-B151, 2016-B68, 2014-B33. Resolution 2019-B142 in particular called on the provincial and federal governments to promote and enable greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction through the following measures:*

- 1. make available all local government fleet vehicle km/make/model/fuel economy information;*
- 2. continue development and implementation of world-class low carbon fuel standards;*
- 3. invest fully in delivering the Clean BC zero-emission vehicles sales targets; and*
- 4. continue progressive and direct funding programs and partnerships for local government low-carbon initiatives, including building retrofit, transportation, waste management and other priority and shared GHG reduction programs.*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to both the enactment clause and title, that focus the request on reducing emissions of ride hailing fleets, rather than requesting a new piece of provincial legislation to seek emissions reduction.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB31 Accessibility Guarantee for Passenger Directed Vehicles**

**Vancouver**

Whereas Bill 55, the BC *Passenger Transportation Amendment Act* which took effect September 16, 2019, imposes a \$0.30 fee for each non-accessible vehicle trip, but otherwise does not oblige passenger directed vehicles (PDVs) to a timeline or otherwise mandate a percentage of all fleet vehicles be accessible;

And whereas according to statistics from the Passenger Transportation Board, about 14 per cent of taxis in the province and about 19 per cent in Metro Vancouver are accessible and in other jurisdictions transportation network services (app-based ride hailing services) have demonstrated an ability to provide accessible vehicles as part of their fleet and business model:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to work in consultation with the passenger directed vehicle industry, disability community, and local government representatives in order to design and implement a wheelchair accessibility guarantee for all PDV fleets that support a minimum percent of all fleets are guaranteed to be wheelchair accessible, sufficient to ensure that transportation options for persons with disabilities are equal to those provided to non-disabled persons in all PDV fleets.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement a wheelchair accessibility guarantee for all passenger directed vehicle (PDV) fleets, requiring a minimum percentage of vehicles in each fleet to be wheelchair accessible.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions on accessible transportation:*

- *2016-B69 - which called on the Province to legislate the requirement for every taxi service company to operate at minimum one accessible vehicle per fleet;*
- *2010-B70 - proposing provincial and federal statutory requirements for public transportation providers to provide physical access for disabled passengers; and*
- *2008-B157 - which asked the provincial government to increase funding for accessible transportation.*

*In response to resolution 2016-B69, the provincial government referenced its commitment in the BC on the Move transportation plan to increase “the number of wheelchair-accessible taxis in communities throughout BC.” The Province further pointed out that since 2008, all applications to the Passenger Transportation Board “for new taxi licenses or adding vehicles to existing licenses, have required applicants serving communities with eight or more taxis to have wheelchair-accessible vehicles.”*

*See also resolution EB32.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB32 Accessibility Funding for Passenger Directed Vehicles**

**Vancouver**

Whereas Bill 55, the BC *Passenger Transportation Amendment Act* which took effect September 16, 2019, imposes a \$0.30 fee for each non-accessible vehicle trip, but otherwise does not determine how or when those funds will be deployed to support accessibility of passenger directed vehicles (PDVs);

And whereas the disability community has identified a number of PDV accessibility concerns, including but not limited to a lack of accessible vehicles or central dispatch for accessible vehicles, accessible booking or payment processes or compulsory driver training:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to work in consultation with the passenger directed vehicle industry, disability community, and local government representatives in order to design and implement an accessibility funding strategy for all PDV fleets that ensures that transportation options for persons with disabilities are equal to those provided to non-disabled persons in all PDV fleets, and specifically that all fleets have sufficient numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles, and accessible booking, dispatch and payment processes.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement an accessibility funding strategy for all passenger directed vehicle fleets, to support sufficient numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles; and accessible booking, dispatch, and payment processes.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions on accessible transportation:*

- *2016-B69 - which called on the Province to legislate the requirement for every taxi service company to operate at minimum one accessible vehicle per fleet;*
- *2010-B70 - proposing provincial and federal statutory requirements for public transportation providers to provide physical access for disabled passengers; and*
- *2008-B157 - which asked the provincial government to increase funding for accessible transportation.*

*In response to resolution 2016-B69, the provincial government referenced its commitment in the BC on the Move transportation plan to increase “the number of wheelchair-accessible taxis in communities throughout BC.” The Province further pointed out that since 2008, all applications to the Passenger Transportation Board “for new taxi licenses or adding vehicles to existing licenses, have required applicants serving communities with eight or more taxis to have wheelchair-accessible vehicles.”*

See also resolution EB31.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Taxation

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### **EB33 Speculation and Vacancy Tax**

**West Vancouver**

Whereas housing affordability is a key challenge in many communities facing high median home prices, including a number of homes that are vacant;

And whereas the Province reported that in 2018, \$58 million was collected under the Speculation and Vacancy Tax program;

And whereas the Province gave the City of Vancouver the power to impose its own vacancy tax, which has provided Vancouver with approximately \$40 million in additional revenue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide local governments with the power to levy their own Speculation and Vacancy Tax, so that they too can address housing affordability and other community effects of vacant homes.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2018-A3 that calls on the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties and to require local governments that choose to impose such a levy to invest the revenues in non-market housing.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions:*

- *2017-B91 - which requests the authority for local governments across BC to introduce a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties to address affordability and safety; and*
- *2017-A2 - which supports the introduction of measures to discourage speculation, rapid-resale of properties, commodity investment and other market distortions that contribute towards housing price escalation.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB34 Request to the Government of BC for Dedication of One percent of PST to Local Governments**

**Port Moody**

Whereas due to downloading of responsibilities, local governments are increasingly reliant on granting systems that are not reliable in the long term and unequitable due to staff resources for small local governments compared to larger local governments;

And whereas increased predictable revenue sharing arrangement reflects shared interests between local governments and the Province, including policing, recreation, transit, and the environment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to allocate an amount equivalent to 1 percent of BC's Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to local governments across British Columbia as part of ongoing cost-sharing agreements.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2012-B11, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).*

*Resolution 2012-B11 in particular calls on the Province to dedicate 1 percent of the PST to be distributed to local governments on a per-capita basis to provide a more steady and predictable revenue stream for communities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Finance

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### **EB35 Gas Tax Funding**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas local governments continue to use their outdated infrastructures and tools to maintain and enhance community services since the user demand is ever increasing to renew or add new local government infrastructure to support community quality of life;

And whereas, the 2019 doubled Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF) transfer paid directly to each local government empowers them to deliver thousands of infrastructural projects, from roads and bridges to transit, water, waste and energy systems thereby proving to be the most efficient, reliable and cost effective way to empower local governments and ensure that the correct tools and infrastructure is secured by local leaders who understand their local needs best:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM and FCM respectfully lobby the federal government to continue to support grass root community quality of life by permanently doubling the Gas Tax Fund transfer to support local infrastructures.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the federal government to double the Gas Tax Fund transfer to support local infrastructure.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:*

- *2018-B109 - Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access;*
- *2018-B111 - Grant Funding;*
- *2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants;*
- *2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;*
- *2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria;*
- *2012-B69 - Local Government Funding; and*
- *2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB36 Gas Tax Funds**

**Capital RD**

Whereas the federal government distributes gas tax funds to municipalities and electoral areas throughout Canada based on population;

And whereas the provincial government allows gas tax funds to be used as a municipal or electoral area contribution towards some provincial grant applications:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate with the provincial and federal governments that gas tax funds should not be considered stacking under all federal and provincial grant programs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed 2017-B18 and 2006-B84, both of which called on the federal government to allow communities to use federal gas tax funds in conjunction with other grant funding for projects.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB37      BC Gaming Grant**

**Hazelton**

Whereas communities under 10,000 in British Columbia have limited opportunities to access funding for programs and services related to arts and culture, sport, public safety, environment and social services;

And whereas larger communities are able to access gaming revenue from gambling facilities;

And whereas residents of smaller communities utilize and participate in the British Columbia Lottery Corporation without benefit to their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Provincial Government to make available gaming grant funding for those communities under 10,000 for programs and services related to arts and culture, sport, public safety, environment and social services.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to share a portion of lottery revenue with:*

- *all BC local governments (2019-B131, 2011-B28, 2008-B119);*
- *communities under 25,000 (2018-B112); and*
- *host communities who should receive an increased percentage return (2013-B100).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB38      Ongoing Sustainable Grant Funding Model**

**Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas the Provincial government has an interest in local governments actively participating in, or delivering, many of its initiatives, priorities, and programs, and has developed a broad range of grant programs to provide funding assistance to local governments to facilitate such work;

And whereas, grants provide a valuable source of revenue for capital projects and other major one-time expenditures, but discretionary grant programs constitute an insecure funding stream for on-going program work undertaken by local governments, such as emergency management and fire protection programs, requiring a significant administrative commitment relating to application submissions and financial reporting;

And whereas, both local and the Provincial governments benefit from having more secure, less administratively onerous Provincial funding streams available to facilitate local government participation in Provincially supported programs, such as the existing, ongoing funding that is provided through annual operating agreements for BC Transit partnerships and Victim Services partnerships;

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial government to review its funding model to local governments to consider moving away from one-time, grant-based funding models for ongoing local government programs, such as emergency management and fire protection, to a more secure on-going and sustainable funding model based upon annual operating agreements in support of Provincial initiatives, priorities, and programs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to review its funding model to local governments to consider moving away from one-time, grant-based funding models for ongoing local government programs, such as emergency management and fire protection, to a more secure on-going and sustainable funding model based upon annual operating agreements in support of Provincial initiatives, priorities, and programs.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking consistent, ongoing funding from the Province for programs such as:*

- *emergency management (2018-B95, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-B44);*
- *disaster recovery (2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75);*
- *supporting volunteer fire departments (2018-B20);*
- *supporting fire departments (2017-B3, 2015-B3, 2012-B10);*
- *restorative justice programs (2018-B9, 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2010-B2, 2009-B7, 2008-B4, 2007-B3);*
- *victim services programs (2019-B6, 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2016-B83, 2015-B4, 2014-B4, 2011-B14, 2010-B12, 2008-B4, 2006-B9); and*
- *road rescue services (2019-B9, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB39 Access to Infrastructure Grant Funding for Improvement Districts**

**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas The United Nations have declared that access to clean drinking water is a Human Right and in British Columbia, some Rural and Remote Communities served by Improvement Districts are still not able to provide clean potable water to its residents;

And whereas the current BC Government Policy restricts Improvement Districts access to water Infrastructure Grant funding by recommending the financially prohibitive and challenging process of conversion to a Regional District Service as the only solution;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to establish a process for Improvement Districts to have access to Provincial and Federal Infrastructure Grant funds, and still maintain their autonomy.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed 2019-B130 that called on the provincial government to change the Improvement District Governance Policy to allow citizens residing in improvement districts equal access to provincial and federal infrastructure grant monies.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed 2017-B74 that calls on the provincial government to provide access to grant funding for water improvement districts similar to the access provided to regional districts.*

*However prior to the 2017 resolution, the UBCM membership has repeatedly considered, and each time did not endorse, resolutions requesting that the provincial and federal governments allow improvement districts to access the infrastructure funding programs available to local governments (2001-B58, 1994-B41, 1986-A7).*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that eligible applicants for infrastructure programs have traditionally been local governments defined generally as municipalities and regional districts. Under current federal/provincial programming, improvement districts are eligible, providing there is agreement to dissolve, and be taken over by a local government. This remains consistent with provincial policy.*

*It should also be recognized that infrastructure funding is limited. If funding was extended to improvement districts the dollars available to municipalities and regional districts would be eroded. It would also require senior government to amend current eligibility requirements.*

*Further, under the Gas Tax Fund, improvement districts are considered an eligible recipient and under the program, improvement districts are not required to dissolve if they receive program funding. Local governments may choose to apply on behalf of an improvement district under the Strategic Priorities Fund, or provide them with direct funds under the Community Works Fund.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB40 Recreation Infrastructure Funding**

**Chase**

Whereas all communities in British Columbia directly provide, or provide financial support for some level of, recreation services to their residents;

And whereas many communities in British Columbia have aging recreation infrastructure built by volunteers or through borrowed funds;

And whereas recreation services are an essential component of all vibrant communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to reinstate funding programs that assist local governments in rehabilitating or rebuilding existing aging recreation infrastructure to ensure small community sustainability and promote physical activity for all residents of small communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

Whereas all communities in British Columbia directly provide, or provide financial support for some level of, recreation services to their residents;

And whereas many communities in British Columbia have aging recreation infrastructure built by volunteers or through borrowed funds;

And whereas recreation services are an essential component of all vibrant communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to reinstate funding programs that assist local governments in rehabilitating or rebuilding existing aging recreation infrastructure to ensure ~~small~~ community sustainability and promote physical activity for all residents of ~~small communities~~.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reinstate funding programs to assist local governments to rehabilitate or rebuild existing aging recreation infrastructure.*

*The Committee notes that in 2012 members endorsed B12 which requested that “support be expressed to the provincial government for the reactivation of the Towns for Tomorrow funding program and the Community Recreation Program”; the latter of which focused on recreation infrastructure.*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to reflect broad member support for addressing aging recreation infrastructure, not just for small communities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB41 Restoring Sustainable Provincial Library Funding Levels****Nelson**

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local government, and where Provincial library funding has remained virtually stagnant for the past 30 years;

And whereas libraries in British Columbia provide open and equal public access to vital resources, including the internet, public computers, digital library tools and in-person service from expert staff to provide opportunities for all British Columbians to access knowledge and information and increase literacy in our communities and present informative programs, including First Nations programs and material which advance public understanding and reconciliation;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly encourage the Government of British Columbia to give urgent attention to funding for BC public libraries by adding \$20 million to the BC Provincial Budget for 2021 for allocation to public libraries throughout BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province be requested to ensure that BC Libraries will henceforth receive Provincial Government financial support at a sustainable level in subsequent years following the 2021 Budget.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).*

*See also resolutions C8 and C9.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB42 Re-Examining Municipal Pension Plan Divestment****Vancouver**

Whereas since 2016, when the UBCM report, Primer on Fossil Fuel Divestment and the Municipal Pension Plan noted that “Divestment may compromise our investment strategy, increase risks and costs, and negatively affect our clients’ investment returns”, there have been major shifts in global climate science and investment strategies. The October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report verified that global warming is accelerating, with a window of little more than a decade to drastically reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to avert catastrophic climate change impacts. Since 2016, divestment has accelerated. In 2014, global funds committed to fossil fuel divestment was \$52 billion. In 2018: \$8 trillion. In 2019: \$11 trillion, including pension funds such as Caisse, Quebec, Quebec’s equivalent to B.C.’s pension fund manager, whose CEO stated: “There are going to be stranded assets associated with climate change...we think it’s good risk management to, over time, exit those”;

And whereas evidence is growing that fossil fuel-free funds are outperforming fossil fuel investments. The 2019 return on the BC Government Employees Union’s fossil fuel-free investments, for example, was 21.7 percent:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM re-examine and update its 2016 Primer on Fossil Fuel Divestment and the Municipal Pension Plan report in light of globally changing investment and divestment strategies and inform BC Investment Management Corporation, as the provider of investment management services for BC’s Municipal Pension Plan, of the concerns of the UBCM regarding the growing financial risks related to investing in fossil fuels and its support for a plan, built on leading practices related to fossil fuel-free investment portfolios, to fully divest Municipal Pension Plan funds from fossil fuels.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

Whereas since 2016, when the UBCM report, Primer on Fossil Fuel Divestment and the Municipal Pension Plan noted that “Divestment may compromise our investment strategy, increase risks and costs, and negatively affect our

clients' investment returns", there have been major shifts in global climate science and investment strategies. The October 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report verified that global warming is accelerating, with a window of little more than a decade to drastically reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions to avert catastrophic climate change impacts. Since 2016, divestment has accelerated. In 2014, global funds committed to fossil fuel divestment was \$52 billion. In 2018: \$8 trillion. In 2019: \$11 trillion, including pension funds such as Caisse, Quebec, Quebec's equivalent to B.C.'s pension fund manager, whose CEO stated: "There are going to be stranded assets associated with climate change...we think it's good risk management to, over time, exit those";

And whereas evidence is growing that fossil fuel-free funds are outperforming fossil fuel investments. The 2019 return on the BC Government Employees Union's fossil fuel-free investments, for example, was 21.7 percent:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM re-examine and update its 2016 Primer on Fossil Fuel Divestment and the Municipal Pension Plan report in light of globally changing investment and divestment strategies and inform BC Investment Management Corporation, as the provider of investment management services for BC's Municipal Pension Plan, of the concerns of the UBCM regarding the growing financial risks related to investing in fossil fuels and its support for a plan, built on leading practices related to fossil fuel-free investment portfolios, to fully divest Municipal Pension Plan funds from fossil fuels.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advised that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to re-examine and update its 2016 Primer on Fossil Fuel Divestment and the Municipal Pension Plan report in light of globally changing investment and divestment strategies and inform BC Investment Management Corporation, as the provider of investment management services for BC's Municipal Pension Plan, of the concerns of the UBCM regarding the growing financial risks related to investing in fossil fuels and its support for a plan, built on leading practices related to fossil fuel-free investment portfolios, to fully divest Municipal Pension Plan funds from fossil fuels.*

*However, the Committee notes that the upon referral to the UBCM Executive, that the Executive endorsed resolution 2015-B120 that called on UBCM to work with the BC Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC) and the Municipal Pension Plan to prepare a report that provides a 'primer' on the MPP, its board and governance structure as well as its role and that of others with respect to responsible investing that can be shared with the broader UBCM membership as well as other Plan partners as required.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse resolution 2018-B113 that called for the Municipal Finance Authority to, in part, divest all investments from the fossil fuel-related companies and endeavours.*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to remove the reference to the IPCC report in the first whereas clause, and to remove the reference to the concerns being those of UBCM's in the enactment clause.*

*Conference decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB43 Grant-in-Lieu of Taxes Revision**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas senior governments are exempt from property taxation under s. 125 of the *Constitution Act*,

And whereas provincial grant-in-lieu amounts are determined under the *Municipal Aid Act* and federal payment-in-lieu amounts are determined under the *Payment In Lieu of Taxes Act*,

And whereas grant-in-lieu revenues from exempted provincial and federal government properties are significantly lower than those revenues that would be collected through property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to review, support and implement changes to the determination of grant-in-lieu and payment-in lieu of property tax amounts under the *Municipal Aid Act* and *Payment In Lieu of Taxes Act*.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions relating to Crown Corporation assets and the payment of either grants-in-lieu of property taxes, or full property taxes based on assessed property values (2011-B23, 2009-B44, 2005-B96, 2001-B21, 2001-B24).

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Assessment

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### **EB44 Tax Land and Improvements Separately**

**Victoria**

Whereas unaffordable housing generally reflects high land values that are driven up by speculation, which makes ownership very expensive to buy, but profitable for sellers and developers, and puts rental housing at a disadvantage when competing for buildable sites;

And whereas a lower property tax rate on improvements and a higher rate on land value could be made to keep taxes the same or lower for most properties, but would reduce the speculative gain from ownership and make rental housing developments more competitive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Community Charter* to grant municipalities the option of setting different property tax rates for land and improvements.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to grant municipalities the option of setting differing property tax rates for land and improvements (2017-B14, 2011-B24, 2008-B18, 2007-B72). The Committee would observe that the 2011, 2008 and 2007 resolutions were focused more on the issue of vacant and derelict buildings, rather than housing affordability.

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

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB45 Reassignment of Residential Based Short-Term Rentals to Class 6: Business and Other**

**Rosland**

Whereas a dwelling unit (or secondary dwelling unit located on the same property) that is used as a commercial enterprise for short term rentals and does not serve as the primary residence for the owner, or other person.

And whereas tourist overnight accommodation uses such as motels, hotels, BnB's with four sleeping units or greater, and resorts are classed and taxed as businesses;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to assign a dwelling unit (or secondary dwelling unit located on the same property), offered and used as a whole for short term rentals for 50 percent or more in the calendar year, to the appropriate tax class and be redefined as "Class 6: Business and Other";

And be it further resolved that where the dwelling unit or secondary dwelling unit located on the same property is also used for a residential purpose, that this assignment be in respect to the total percentage of the property used for commercial "Class 6: Business and Other" purposes.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed a resolution seeking to have the tax class for short term rentals be classified as Class 6 (2019-B34).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB46      Brownfield Taxation**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas brownfields littered in prime locations create loss of economic value in affected communities and draw unattractive attention to visitors and prospective investors;

And whereas brownfields' owners settle with paying the cheap cost of annual property taxes rather than remediation of the property for the economic development and revitalization of the community:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to empower local governments by amending the BC *Assessment Act* to tax brownfields in a separate property class in order to encourage revitalization of brownfields for the economic benefits and commercial development of the community.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create a new, separate tax class for brownfield sites so that local governments can tax these sites accordingly (2019-B41, 2018-B25, 2017-B21, 2016-B104).*

*The Committee also notes that prior to 2016 other resolutions related to brownfield sites have previously focused on either expediting the remediation of contaminated properties (2013-B33, 2012-B26, 2011-B99, 2008-B33, 2007-B29, 2007-B70); or fine-tuning the criteria applied by BC Assessment when assessing contaminated properties (2013-B26, 2011-B37, 2005-B21).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**Environment**

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**EB47      Forest Harvesting Plans**

**Thompson-Nicola RD**

Whereas in past years forest licensees were required to present their forest harvesting plans to the local communities affected;

And whereas there has been a breakdown in communications between the BC Forest Service, Forest Companies, and Contractors to the detriment of recreational and other legitimate crown land users resulting in usage conflicts and loss of income:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask BC Forest Service to compel tenure holders and harvesting contractors to present their harvesting plans to local communities prior to the commencement of logging activities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a direct and effective role for local governments in forest resource policy, planning and management decisions (2019-B37, 2018-B40, 2018-B41, 2018-B44, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2015-B24, 2015-B39, 2015-B63, 2015-LR2, 2013-B80, 2013-B105, 2013-B112, 2013-B116, 2011-B57, 2011-B167, 2010-B91, 2010-B98).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB48 Private Managed Forest Land Program Environment Values Cumberland**

Whereas the Province reviewed the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program in 2019 to inform the government's consideration of future policy options;

And whereas local governments strongly indicated that key public environmental values in the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* are insufficient:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia proceed with amendments to the management objectives and regulatory framework for Private Managed Forest Lands to better protect drinking water quality and riparian areas, and to require alternatives to slash pile burning where feasible to protect air quality.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the Province to regulate private land logging in the same manner as crown land and to ensure that local governments are consulted in advance of harvesting to prevent damage to watersheds and other infrastructure (2019-B49, 2019-B38, 2018-B42, 2011-B50, 2010-B26, 2009-B41, 2008-B34, 2006-B102, 2005-B27).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB49 Invasive Species Funding Burns Lake**

Whereas the spread of invasive species on provincial public lands results in the adverse effect on the economic wellbeing of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas effective management of invasive species requires long-term stable funding before the invasion is irreversible:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to fund and engage in management of invasive plant species on provincial land in BC (2014-B22, 2013-B66, 2011-B44, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25).*

*The membership has also endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to promote awareness and education, increase funding, and establish vigilant monitoring for quagga and zebra mussels (2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).*

*See also resolutions EB50 and NR57.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB50      Protection of British Columbia Watercourses from Invasive Aquatic Species      Chase**

Whereas currently the very dangerous Zebra and Quagga mussels have not yet been identified as having invaded watercourses (lakes, rivers, streams) in British Columbia;

And whereas these invasive aquatic species are devastating to all aspects of watercourses by altering the ecosystem of the watercourses, negatively affecting spawning areas which harm the survival of fish eggs, seriously reducing the availability of food for native aquatic species, damaging essential infrastructure and negatively affecting recreational activities;

And whereas all these negative affects of the Zebra and Quagga mussels if invasion occurs in British Columbia watercourses will cost the taxpayers of British Columbia millions, if not billions of dollars in lost tourism, loss of economic development opportunities, damage to critical infrastructure, and other unknown costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC provincial government to lobby the federal government to provide more financial, educational and enforcement support for the protection of British Columbia watercourses from aquatic invasive mussels.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to lobby the federal government to provide more financial, educational and enforcement support for the protection of British Columbia watercourses from aquatic invasive mussels.*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to promote awareness and education, increase funding, and establish vigilant monitoring for quagga and zebra mussels (2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).*

*See also resolutions EB49 and NR57.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB51      Sustainable Funding for Watershed Stewardship      Vanderhoof**

Whereas effective stewardship of watersheds is critical for the sustenance, health, and wellbeing of current and future generations of British Columbians;

And whereas the lack of water-use plans hinders the feasibility of maintaining healthy aquifers, stable riverbanks, and the prevention of ice dams for the safety and security of neighbouring communities:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC fund the cost of hydrologists to determine an accurate measurement of beds in major rivers across BC, as well as provide stable funding to groups with projects relating to advancing watershed sustainability.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fund the cost of hydrologists to determine an accurate measurement of river beds as well as provide stable funding to groups with projects relating to advancing watershed sustainability.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32,*

2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB52 Timely Review and Approvals - Section 11 Water Sustainability Act**

**Columbia Shuswap RD**

Whereas works within and adjacent to watercourses are often necessary and prescribed to mitigate risks to life, businesses and properties associated with riparian protection, flooding and debris flows;

And whereas the waiting time for necessary Section 11 approvals under the *Water Sustainability Act* to undertake such improvement works is significant and approaching several years, thus contributing to these risks:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Forests, Land, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to allocate greater resources to the processing of these Section 11 approvals under the *Water Sustainability Act*,

And be it further resolved that the Ministry initiate a process in order to provide more rapid and timely approvals in cases of urgent situations.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2019-B153 that sought adequate funding and staffing in order to reduce the wait time for change approvals under Section 11 of the Water Sustainability Act.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB53 Harmonize BC Plastics Action Plan and Strategy on Zero-Plastic Waste Nanaimo RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Plastics Action Plan Policy Consultation Paper requested feedback regarding bans on single-use packaging, reducing and recycling more plastics, and higher returns of plastic bottles;

And whereas harmonization of the BC Plastics Action Plan and Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic waste regulations regarding reduction of single-use plastics shifts the costs and responsibility of restricting single-use plastics from local governments to producers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to collaborate with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to ensure consistent regulations across Canada to reduce single-use products and increase producers' responsibility for end-of-life management of single-use products.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to collaborate with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to ensure consistent regulations across Canada to reduce single-use products and increase producers' responsibility for end-of-life management of single-use products.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2019-B42 which called on the Province to develop a provincial single-use reduction strategy. The membership also endorsed 2018-B126 which called on the Province to*

*engage the packaging industry to develop a provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as part of a provincial Zero Waste Strategy.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB54 ICI Packaging and Paper Products Recycling Regulation Amendment Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas resolution 2018-B68 'Packaging and Printed Paper Recycling Regulation Amendment' was previously endorsed by the UBCM membership;

And whereas the Province responded it would consider expanding BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for future inclusion of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) packaging and paper products as part of their commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility;

And whereas BC's EPR programs have yet to be expanded to include ICI packaging and paper products which is having a disproportionate impact on remote and rural communities where access to private or commercial services is limited and often unavailable:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to take action on amending the Recycling Regulation to expand BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs to include product categories for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional packaging and paper products.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions 2019-B146 and 2018-B68 which, in part, sought to include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector in the requirement for Extended Producer Responsibility plans for Printed Paper and Packaging.*

*See also resolutions NR55 and C10.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB55 Amend Recycling Regulation to Include Mattresses and Bulky Furniture Nanaimo RD**

Whereas the inclusion of mattresses and bulky furniture in an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program ensures the costs associated with recycling and disposal are borne by manufacturers;

And whereas an EPR program for mattresses would create jobs, divert materials that are difficult to manage at disposal facilities, save landfill space, reduce GHG emissions and save energy through recycling:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to include mattresses and bulky furniture in an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program to shift the cost and responsibility of recycling and disposing of these materials from local governments to manufacturers.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed 2014-B97 that asked the Province to require industry to develop a product stewardship program to adequately address end-of-life management of waste mattresses.*

*See also resolution EB56.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB56 Extended Producer Responsibility**

**Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas the Province has adopted recycling regulation of the *Environmental Management Act*,

And whereas BC's Industry-led product stewardship programs require producers of designated products to take extended producer responsibility for the life cycle management of their products;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province include a regulation for producers of child car seats, mattresses and upholstered furniture ensuring the producers' responsibility for the life of the product and reducing local government waste disposal costs, the amount of garbage in landfills and a reduction in illegal dumping.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed 2014-B97 that asked the Province to require industry to develop a product stewardship program to adequately address end-of-life management of waste mattresses.*

*See also resolution EB55.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB57 Expand Extended Producer Responsibility Programs**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas eighteen Regional Districts met with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy at the 2019 UBCM Convention to petition the Ministry to amend the Recycling Regulation to include packaging and printed paper from the ICI sector;

And whereas Minister Heyman issued a letter December 18, 2019 responding to the request and noting that the Province recently undertook research and focused engagement concerning additional products that might prove suitable to manage under the Recycling Regulation, and that any work to explore regulatory amendments involving ICI materials would be accompanied by further consultation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province commit to further consultation on the issue of amending the Recycling Regulation to include packaging and printed paper from the ICI sector.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed 2019-B146 and 2018-B68 both of which asked the Province to expand the scope of the Recycling Regulation for Printed Paper & Packing to include the Industrial Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB58 Provincial Tools for Building Energy Benchmarking**

**Vancouver**

Whereas the Province of BC has communicated support for a 2017 UBCM motion requesting that the Province develop an energy benchmarking program requiring that buildings above a size threshold benchmark their energy performance and report this information to the province annually and that the resulting data be available to local governments to inform their climate policy and programs, but not yet acted on that motion—leaving room for additional direction;



Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the BC government require ICBC to collect mileage data when drivers renew their vehicle insurance and then share the data of kilometres driven and fuel and vehicle type annually with local governments.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on ICBC to collect mileage data when drivers renew their vehicle insurance and then share the data of kilometres driven and fuel and vehicle type annually with local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2010-B83 which made a similar request, calling on ICBC to collect and release aggregate data (e.g. the estimate of vehicle kilometers traveled by vehicle class) that local governments can use to implement and measure the success of transportation-related climate action initiatives.*

*See also resolution NR35.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB60      Mandatory Signage for Bear Traps**

**Maple Ridge**

Whereas dogs are accidentally killed yearly across British Columbia when they are unintentionally lured into a baited bear trap often resulting in a gruesome death;

And whereas people are unable to avoid bear traps because there is no requirement for signage to be posted warning of said traps:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to impose a mandatory requirement for trappers to post signage warning of active bear traps in the area to prevent accidental harm to those in the area.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions 2012-B124 and 2011-B171, both of which, in part, requested signage to warn of animal traps in the area.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Land Use**

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### **EB61      Cumulative Effects of Land Use Decisions**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas communities of British Columbia are dependent on healthy, ecologically diverse, functioning ecosystems upstream from Official Community Plan areas for services such as drinking water, stormwater management, erosion control, pollinator protection for food systems, infrastructure / asset management and climate resilience;

And whereas provincial ministries often consider applications to make private or industrial use of provincial public land independently of each other and do not have or apply sufficient regulatory frameworks for ensuring long term ecological resilience such as integrated multidisciplinary land use planning or cumulative effects analysis before authorizing applications for use:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to develop and implement integrated, multidisciplinary / multi-ministry land use planning and cumulative effects analysis tools to be applied to long term planning at the watershed scale and to individual applications to

make private use of provincial public lands, with the goal of restoring and mitigating further damage to ecological resilience and protecting public infrastructure assets for the long term.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions that seek better land use planning that ensures decision making takes into account the cumulative effects on the environment, such as watersheds (2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB62      Stormwater Management**

## **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas stormwater run-off and drainage related problems such as flooding, erosion, and slope instability are becoming increasingly prevalent in rural areas due to development pressures and are being exacerbated by the effects of climate change which results in more variable, intense, and frequent storm events;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as the subdivision approving authority, is primarily responsible for the design and maintenance of drainage works related to public roads in rural areas, and does not enforce or regulate stormwater and drainage related problems from one property to the next once development has been approved:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for increased collaboration between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, regional districts, and municipalities to develop and implement management strategies that:

- recognize the need for an integrated stormwater management approach that plans at the watershed level as well as at the individual development level;
- are responsive to ongoing development pressures and challenges associated with climate change;
- increase provincial oversight of the implementation of stormwater related components of subdivision approvals on an ongoing basis;
- increase the Province’s ability to address concerns from residents on an ongoing basis about property damage and safety issues that arise from stormwater and drainage related problems; and
- incorporate the impacts of planned upstream forestry activities in their drainage assessments.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the development of management strategies for stormwater management, responsiveness to the pressures of climate change, oversight of the implementation of stormwater components of subdivision approvals, address concerns about property damage from stormwater and drainage problems, and incorporate impacts of upstream forestry on drainage.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B90 that was not as prescriptive, but did call on the Province to improve their approach for the effective management of stormwater and drainage in electoral areas of the province.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB63      Accretions**

## **Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas creation of the Kootenay Lake Stewardship Partnership was designed to coordinate a common approach among First Nation, federal, provincial and local governments as a means to ensure protection of riparian habitat and various fisheries;

And whereas actions and decisions of the office of Land Title Survey Authority in granting controversial accretions being seen as undermining that common approach and can lead to a further destruction of riparian habitat by a minority of property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Attorney General to review the actions and decisions of the Land Title Survey Authority to ensure that granting of accretions meets legislation, prior court decisions and does not result in destruction of riparian habitat and damage to spawning areas and fish populations.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Attorney General to review the decisions of the Land Title and Survey Authority to ensure that granting of accretions meets legislation, prior court decisions and does not result in destruction of riparian habitat and damage to spawning areas and fish populations.*

*However the Committee notes that members did endorse 2005-B58 which appealed to the provincial government to change the definition section of the Land Act to disallow accretions if the shoreline changes are due to upstream water control.*

*For background information, accretion is defined as the process of growth or enlargement by a gradual buildup such as:*

- *increase by external addition or accumulation (as by adhesion of external parts or particles); and*
- *the increase of land by the action of natural forces.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB64        New Agricultural Land Commission Regulation**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas the Ministry of Agriculture made legislative changes in regards to Bill 15 and Bill 52 which implemented restrictions that affect residences in Agricultural Land Reserve;

And whereas the changes that limit land parameters and inhibit construction of additional residences does not fit the agricultural need of most BC rural communities as it removes the possibility of multi-generational homes on family farmland thus discouraging young farmers from taking over their family farm and impeding sustainable agricultural businesses through lack of agricultural succession planning, farmland housing for families, and farm workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Agricultural Land Commission that the January 28, 2020 signed amendment to section 32 (3) (c) and (d) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation, BC Reg. 30/2019 remain permanently in effect and not expire on December 31, 2020.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions in support of farm family residences on ALR land, including:*

- *2019-B168 - which asked the Province to reinstate the previous provisions of the legislation which facilitated the construction of additional dwellings for farm help, manufactured homes for immediate family members, accommodation above an existing farm building, or a second single family dwelling;*
- *2017-B139 - which asked, in part, that the ALC allow the siting of other moveable dwellings on ALR land; and*
- *2014-B115 - which asked the ALC to allow permanent secondary residences to be built on ALR land.*

*As of July 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture is continuing to determine revised options for residential flexibility in the ALR, including the consideration of garden suites, guest houses or carriage suites; accommodation above an existing building; manufactured homes; and permitting a principal residence to be constructed in addition to a manufactured home that was formerly a principal residence. It is expected that the current grandfathering of manufactured homes will be replaced when the final options for residential flexibility are identified by the Ministry.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB65 Private Land Logging**

## **Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas over the past two decades multiple local governments of British Columbia have repeatedly requested regulation of private land logging by resolution to UBCM;

And whereas there has been little change in the requirement to conserve our natural physical assets such as water, wildlife habitat, and soil stability when harvesting trees and building roads on large tracts of private land;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM prioritize and work with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development to resolve the issues surrounding logging on large parcels of private land in BC when volumes to be harvested are over 600 cubic meters;

And be it further resolved that the province change legislation to allow regional districts to implement tree cutting bylaws.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*In regards to the first enactment clause, the Resolutions Committee can advise that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to regulate private land logging in the same manner as crown land and to ensure that local governments are consulted in advance of harvesting to prevent damage to watersheds and other infrastructure (2019-B38, 2019-B48, 2018-B42, 2011-B50, 2010-B26, 2009-B41, 2008-B34, 2006-B102, 2005-B27).*

*The Committee notes that the Province has completed a review of the Private Managed Forest Land framework; and a summary of the feedback is now available on line at: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/privatemanagedforest/>*

*The report is now with the Province to determine what, if any, changes are to be made to the Private Managed Forest Land Program.*

*In regards to the second enactment clause, the Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed other resolutions calling on the Province to grant regional districts the authority to enact tree protection bylaws (2019-B58, 2015-B39, 2003-B41).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Community Economic Development**

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### **EB66 Working Forest Reserve**

### **Port Alberni**

Whereas many BC communities are considered ‘forest dependent’ and rely on the stability and growth of the forest industry for continued employment and economic growth;

And whereas the majority of employment provided by the forest industry is in the manufacturing sector, and therefore, requiring security in the allocation of fibre to continue its operations and positive contributions to the communities in which they operate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM membership urge our federal and provincial governments to implement measures to prevent the mass export of timber from private managed forest land, considering the detrimental social

and economic impacts to those BC communities which are considered ‘forest dependent’ should mass export of timber continue;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government designate land reserves that enable forestry entities to commit to long-term investments in forestry, working forest management methods and manufacturing in an effort to achieve the maximum value from our forests.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to work with local governments and First Nations to improve the community benefits of forest resources (2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-B63, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that call on the Province to prohibit, re-examine and/or create more robust policy around timber and raw log exports (2018-B46, 2015-B36, 2013-B143, 2012-B33, 2007-B179, 2007-B44, 2003-B27). UBCM members have also sought action to establish similar legislation, regulations and policies for private forest lands as those that currently apply to crown lands (2018-B41, 2011-B50). The results of a public consultation on Private managed forest land have been released and UBCM awaits the response of the Province.*

*In regard to the second enactment, the sponsor has asked that land reserves be designated; and while UBCM supports getting maximum value from the forests, is not clear how the ‘land reserve’ will be established and who will oversee it and if, or how, it would differ from the existing crown tenures process. The sponsor may wish to clarify this element of the enactment.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB67      Forestry Economic Downturn**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas curtailments of local sawmills in BC have exhibited the potential of creating a significant economic downturn to the residents of BC, the local government’s tax base, and extending to the province;

And whereas limited access of local forestry industries to timber continues to incite more aggravated downturn on the wellbeing of BC rural communities:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal government to provide significant support to rural British Columbians by reviewing the selling of Timber Licenses and requiring that timbers be kept within the designated Timber Supply Area in order to maintain economic stability and forestry longevity in BC rural communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions addressing timber licenses and maintaining timber supply, including:*

- *2016-B42 - which addressed the distribution of existing timber supply, provision of the “Right Log To The Right Mill,”;*
- *2015-LR2 - which called on the provincial government to re-examine the appurtenance requirement in the Forest Act to help create local or regional economic benefits from the timber that is being logged in an area; and*
- *2008-B37 - which asked the Province to ensure that sufficient harvested timber remain to be utilized in local processing facilities within the Timber Supply Area.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB68 Ranching Concerns**

**Peace River RD**

Whereas Range Tenure holders are concerned with the lack of service that is offered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, including a lack of staff with experience or training in ranching related issues, high turnover, and unreasonable delays in communications and approvals;

And whereas ranchers are faced with numerous delays in approvals for fence installation due to the removal of natural boundaries by third party operators;

And whereas ranchers are facing hardships and are unable to properly manage their tenures due to a lack of qualified staff who can assist ranchers with range burning applications:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to bring up staffing levels in the range department so that grazing tenures or license issues are dealt with more timely and efficiently to prevent entire grazing seasons being lost.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase staffing levels at the range department of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development in order to deal with grazing tenures, fence installations, range burning applications and license issues in a more timely and efficient way.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B106 which called on the Province to assume the responsibility of fencing agricultural/residential interface areas.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB69 Funding for High Speed Internet Services in Small Communities**

**Chase**

Whereas many communities under 10,000 population in British Columbia are critically underserved for connectivity;

And whereas in 2020, there are so many opportunities for economic development in small and remote communities if connectivity were provided to a suitable level;

And whereas the federal government launched a connectivity strategy called, “High-Speed Access for All”, with the goal to achieve universal 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload speeds for 90 per cent of Canadians by 2021, 95 per cent of Canadians by 2026, and the hardest to reach Canadians by 2030, such download and upload speeds considered to be adequate for the average Canadian, which does not take into consideration the needs of businesses and entrepreneurship:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to seriously commit to funding and lobbying the federal government to fund the installation of connectivity with download and upload speeds that encourages economic development for communities under 10,000 population in British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of high speed internet and cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2011-B78, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2006-B54, 2005-B5, 2004-B9, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).*

*Resolution 2019-B54 in particular asked the federal government to establish a timetable for implementation of affordable broadband internet service in rural communities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB70 Internet and Cell Phone Service**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas access to fast, affordable broadband internet and cell phone service is essential in today's digital world;

And whereas broadband internet and cell phone service in many rural and remote communities across British Columbia is either non-existent or too slow and unreliable to access many services necessary for economic and social well-being;

And whereas during an emergency where social interaction is limited or traditional communications infrastructure is compromised, it is imperative that citizens have reliable broadband internet and cell phone service to access health care, education, online meeting platforms, emergency information, and other programs relating to health and wellness;

And whereas while fees charged for broadband internet and cell phone service in rural and remote communities are among the highest in Canada and the world, the quality of service has in many instances declined in recent months:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to establish an infrastructure framework to ensure that equal access to internet and cell phone service is available to all British Columbians.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of high speed internet and cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2011-B78, 2010-B50).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB71 BC Hydro Service Provisions**

**Fort St. John**

Whereas BC Hydro is responsible for connecting newly constructed infrastructure to its power lines;

And whereas there are lengthy wait times for BC Hydro to install services for projects that result in an excessive delay in service provision, additional expenses and/or a loss of revenue for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved UBCM lobby the provincial government to address lengthy wait times for BC Hydro connections so that projects can be connected in a timely fashion.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2012-B86 that asked the Province to encourage BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission to institute policy changes designed to reduce connection times and to establish fair and equitable connection costs for all transmission customers.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB72 Geothermal Exploratory Drilling Regulations**

**Valemount**

Whereas in alignment with section 2 of British Columbia's *Clean Energy Act*, geothermal energy is capable of providing British Columbian municipalities, Indigenous Peoples, residents, and businesses with emissions-free, renewable, and baseload heat and electricity, for the health and socio-economic benefit of the Province;

And whereas shallow exploratory drilling to determine temperature, stratigraphic, or hydrologic information – a fundamental tool in the exploration for geothermal resources, is now regulated by the Oil and Gas Commission under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* as per the 2017 amendment of the *Geothermal Resources Act*, which unnecessarily increases shallow exploratory drilling costs by as much as ten (10) times as compared to the previous versions of the *Geothermal Resources Act*.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government and its relevant ministry – the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources, to amend the *Geothermal Resources Act* and/or direct the Oil and Gas Commission to allow for the cost-effective use of shallow exploratory drilling for geothermal energy development in British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the *Geothermal Resources Act* and/or direct the Oil and Gas Commission to allow for the use of shallow exploratory drilling for geothermal energy development.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for development of alternative energy sources, including geothermal power (2014-B32, 2010-B99, 2009-B45, 2009-B107, 2009-B131, 2009-B137, 2009-B166, 2008-B41, 2008-B79, 2007-B129, 2007-B131, 2006-B26, 2006-B124, 2006-LR14).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Regional Districts**

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### **EB73      Business Licensing Authority for Regional Districts**

### **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the *Community Charter* provides municipalities the authority to regulate businesses through a business licensing structure, while regional districts have not been granted business licensing authority and must undertake a lengthy legislative application process in order to be granted that authority through provincial regulation;

And whereas municipalities may utilize business licensing as a tool to assist with the enforcement and compliance of local bylaws such as the regulation of cannabis and short-term rentals, while regional districts with similar bylaw enforcement challenges do not have that option readily available to them:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to explore options to amend the *Local Government Act* to provide regional districts legislative authority for business licensing similar to the authority provided to municipalities in order to ensure fair and equal access for all local governments wishing to utilize business licensing as a tool to support compliance with local bylaws.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2018-B139 which called on the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to provide business licensing powers to regional districts.*

*The Province's response to 2018-B139 was as follows: "(G)iven the diversity and range of priorities of regional districts in the province, historically business licensing and other additional authorities have been granted by regulation on a case by case basis. Central Okanagan Regional District (CORD), the only regional district currently with business license authority, received the authority to regulate business in 1996.*

*There are a number of implications that regional districts need to consider when requesting business licensing authority and developing a business licensing scheme. This includes: administrative fairness (the Board would receive the general power to regulate all business, the authority would not be specific to any particular type of business); enforcement capacity; and an analysis of the regional challenges the proposed scheme is intended to address. Ministry staff would need to consider the same implications and analyze the challenges at the broader provincial level.*

*Historically there has been limited interest from regional districts to receive business licensing authority, given the many implications and complexity of developing and implementing the business licensing scheme. Currently, Ministry staff are actively working with some regional district partners to identify their regional business issues and reviewing specific regional district requests for business licensing authority.”*

*The Committee notes that the sponsor has requested the Ministry “to explore options to amend the Local Government Act...” so there is the flexibility within the request noting that options are to be explored and assume that regional districts would have the ability to determine whether or not they wish to undertake this as a new authority.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Health and Social Development**

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### **EB74 Ambulance Services**

**Chetwynd**

Whereas ongoing labour shortages are prevalent in most small rural communities in ambulance halls throughout British Columbia, leading to increased response times and reducing patients’ access to possibly lifesaving treatment;

And whereas BC Emergency Health Service (BCEHS)’s ambulance service is a vital component of life safety and access to healthcare for those who live and work in small rural communities, which are often a significant distance from fully-equipped hospitals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to provide more resources along with a commitment to finding a long-term solution to staff shortages for small rural community ambulance services.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions to improve and increase ambulance service in BC, including in small, rural communities.*

*The membership has supported resolutions seeking better and more equitable standby pay for paramedics (2006-B48, 2017-B134); better coordination for pre-hospital health care (2019-SR3); more solutions to ensure medical specialists and services are available in rural BC (2019-B63); and for more advanced care and critical care paramedics in rural ambulance stations (2017-B133).*

*The Committee would note that the Province has provided \$8 million to the Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund which provides bursaries to advanced care and primary care paramedic students in BC, with a focus on educating paramedics who live and work in rural areas. UBCM chairs the Advisory Committee for this Fund.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EB75 Increased Funding for Health Connections Patient Transport**

**Sparwood,  
Creston**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia introduced the Health Connections Patient Transport Program in 2004/05 for Interior Health Authority to connect patients to enhanced services at Regional Hospitals with annual targeted funding of One Million Dollars, with no additional targeted funding since the program began;

And whereas location to access tertiary (i.e. Cancer, Cardiac) services is changing for Kootenay residents from Alberta to Kelowna:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase targeted funding for the Health Connections Patient Transport Program within the Interior Health Authority, to provide a patient transportation option for those requiring enhanced services.

And be it further resolved that the provincial government allocate funding to BC Transit to explore options to provide Health Connections Services on an integrated province wide system.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

Whereas the Province of British Columbia introduced the Health Connections Patient Transport Program in 2004/05 for Interior Health Authority to connect patients to enhanced services at Regional Hospitals with annual targeted funding of One Million Dollars, with no additional targeted funding since the program began;

And whereas location to access tertiary (i.e. Cancer, Cardiac) services is changing for Kootenay residents from Alberta to Kelowna:

~~Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase targeted funding for the Health Connections Patient Transport Program within the Interior Health Authority, to provide a patient transportation option for those requiring enhanced services.~~

~~And be it further resolved that the provincial government to allocate funding to BC Transit to explore options to provide Health Connections Services on an integrated province wide system.~~

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions to address the transportation of medical patients from rural areas to regional centers to access health care services. (2018-B16, 2014-B9, 2012-B38).*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to the enactment clause, because it is very regional in nature and requests specific funding for a program within one health authority.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB76      Provide Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception                    Victoria**

Whereas cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities;

And whereas providing free prescription contraception has been shown to improve health outcomes for parents and infants by reducing the risks associated with unintended pregnancy, and is likely to reduce direct medical costs on the provincial health system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to make all prescription contraception in BC available at no cost under the Medical Services Plan.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a related resolution 2015-B115 which asked the Province to investigate a model of publicly funded birth control similar to those offered in European countries.*

See also resolution EB77.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB77 Provision of Free Prescription Contraception in BC**

**Burnaby**

Whereas cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities;

And whereas providing free prescription contraception has been shown to improve health outcomes for parents and infants by reducing the risks associated with unintended pregnancy, and is likely to reduce direct medical costs on the provincial health system;

And whereas contraceptive methods targeted at men and those with penises (i.e., condoms or vasectomies) are available at low cost, no cost, or are covered by BC's Medical Services Plan;

And whereas contraceptive methods for people with uteruses (i.e. birth control pills, intra-uterine devices, or hormone injections) have high up-front costs, making access to contraception unequal and gendered:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to make all prescription contraception in BC available at no cost under the Medical Services Plan.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a related resolution 2015-B115 which asked the Province to investigate a model of publicly funded birth control similar to those offered in European countries.*

*See also resolution EB76.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB78 Provincial Action to Enhance Food Security During Emergencies**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas food security and food supply issues are essential to all emergency response and recovery efforts;

And whereas the status and consideration of food security and supply issues are not adequately addressed within the provincial emergency management system and structures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide greater consideration of food security and supply, including localized knowledge, within the provincial emergency management structure and provide guidance and resources to local governments and their emergency operations centres for this purpose.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide greater consideration of food security and supply within the provincial emergency management structure.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions calling for greater food security, most recently, 2019-B66 and 2019-B69.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB79 Mental Healthcare Services**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas mentally vulnerable children, youth and adults in BC rural communities are left to face many life-threatening obstacles during a mental health crisis as they wait to obtain services in larger communities due to its absence in their localities;

And whereas very few rural communities were declared eligible for Community Action Team through the recently disbursed \$3.5 million provincially received by the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction to provide funding for additional beds and facility expansion in major mental health and addiction service centres throughout rural BC.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

Whereas mentally vulnerable children, youth and adults in BC rural communities are left to face many life-threatening obstacles during a mental health crisis as they wait to obtain services in larger communities due to its absence in their localities;

And whereas very few rural communities were declared eligible for Community Action Team through the recently disbursed \$3.5 million provincially received by the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Mental Health and Addiction to provide funding for additional beds and facility expansion in major mental health and addiction service centres throughout **particularly in rural areas of BC.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial funding for mental health and addiction services; expansion of existing facilities and establishment of new facilities; and funding for related social service and housing programs (2019-B60, 2017-B44, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B60, 2013-B36, 2013-B52, 2010-B44, 2010-B143, 2010-B145, 2008-A1, 2007-B51, 2007-B153, 2006-B8, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-A1, 2005-B43, 2000-B61).*

*The Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment that makes the resolution less exclusively focused on rural areas.*

*See also resolution SR8.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB80 Supportive Housing for Complex Needs**

**Kelowna**

Whereas existing provincial and regional health providers and housing programs and associated funding models aren't in alignment to meet the complex mental health and housing needs of our communities.

And whereas the local governments have acknowledged the need for specialized housing resources allocated to clients with complex and unique needs as the current programming model for housing units is not equipped to house those individuals with these types of challenges.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to invest in a new supportive housing model, along with an integrated approach to housing supports and regional health services, to address the needs of individuals with the most complex and unique needs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B68 which called for social services to be available to individuals housed in homeless housing at the housing site or within a short walking distance. As well, the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B153 which called for an increase in funding for supportive housing and wrap around services.*

*In addition, membership has consistently called for services to address addiction, mental illness, and other supports for vulnerable populations including the homeless (2017-B52, 2015-A2, 2013-B52, 2010-B42).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EB81 Housing Supports for Adults with Developmental Disabilities**

**Delta**

Whereas adults with developmental disabilities receive only \$375 a month for shelter (housing) which is inadequate to allow them to live independently;

And whereas adults with developmental disabilities are not eligible for BC Housing subsidies, and BC Housing refers them to Community Living BC for additional support;

And whereas Community Living BC provides support to address disability-related housing needs, but cannot fund the actual cost of housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to ensure that the totality of supports available for adults with developmental disabilities is adequate to support long-term independent-living, or semi-independent living with minimal supports, within their communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions in support of more funding and housing options for persons living with developmental disabilities.*

*For example, the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B43 which asked the government to end funding cuts and supports for adults with developmental disabilities. This includes the closure of group homes and other services. Other endorsed resolutions that request the creation of additional supportive housing units and funding include (2011-B67, 2009-C28, 2007-B153, 2005-B47, 2005-B48, 2005-B49, 2004-B129, 2002-B64, 1998-A31).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Housing**

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### **EB82 Provincial Government Funding Increase for BC Housing**

**Courtenay**

Whereas adult supportive housing funded by BC Housing provides accommodation for people with a history of severe trauma, often resulting in difficult behaviours that can have significant impact on surrounding neighbourhoods and requiring skilled caregivers to manage;

And whereas government funding for BC Housing does not include adequate levels to either provide neighbourhood outreach services or assure skilled staff and minimal turnover:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase funding levels to BC Housing in order to mandate and assure that community outreach services and the stability of an adequately skilled staff are components of supportive housing developments that are vital in local communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that membership has endorsed resolutions 2019-B68 and 2007-B153 that call for more funding for social assistance services or wraparound services to be available at supportive housing or homeless housing sites.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for improved support services for at risk populations more broadly, including 2019-B61, 2018-B52, 2017-B52.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB83 Coordinated Strategy to Address Liveboards**

**Islands Trust**

Whereas affordable housing pressures are leading to a growing population of liveboards along the British Columbia coastline;

And whereas there are cumulative impacts on the marine environment and inadequate access to public services for liveboard communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to work with First Nations, and federal, provincial, and local government stakeholders, to develop a coordinated strategy to study and address the environmental and social impacts associated with liveboards on the British Columbia coastline.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has considered and endorsed resolutions to address the issue of liveboards.*

*Resolution 2012-B78 asked the federal and provincial governments to provide local governments with the power to enforce hazardous structures along public waterways, and enforce the eviction of float homes and house boat squatters.*

*Resolution 2009-B173 also asked for the local government authority to remove structures, boats, and houses on water that have become unsightly or hazardous to the environment.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB84 Supporting Tenants and Local Governments in the Delivery of Tenant Assistance**

**Burnaby**

Whereas local governments have limited authority to require enhanced protections for tenants, except in limited instances, such as rezoning applications;

And whereas the benefits provided to tenants under local government tenant assistance policies often help vulnerable individuals and families in the community, including those receiving income assistance from senior levels of government;

And whereas even when local government tenant assistance policies may apply, implementation and enforcement of local government tenant assistance plans are challenging due to overarching provincial mandates, jurisdiction, and processes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review the *Residential Tenancy Act* and other provincial legislation to:

- Allow local governments the ability to require tenant assistance, such as financial compensation and supports to tenants above those required in the *Residential Tenancy Act*, for additional types of permits and applications,

and provide local governments greater enforcement powers to ensure compliance and delivery of tenant assistance benefits secured by local governments;

- Ensure monthly rental supplement payments received during displacement as benefits under local government tenant assistance policies are not considered income, which may inadvertently affect an individual's ability to qualify for income and disability assistance programs and other financial assistance; and
- Have the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia create guidance documents for local governments and landlords on the collection of personal information for the purpose of tenant assistance policies.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the province to:*

- *allow local governments the ability to require tenant assistance for additional types of permits and applications and give the local government greater enforcement powers;*
- *ensure monthly rental supplement payments received during displacement as benefits under local government tenant assistance policies are not considered income; and*
- *have Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC create guidance documents for local governments and landlords on the collection of personal information for the purpose of tenant assistance policies.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking more protections for tenants, including:*

- *2017-B126 - which called for tenants to have the first right of refusal to return to their units at a rent increase that is no more than what the landlord could lawfully have charged; eliminate fixed-term tenancy agreements to prevent significant rent increases upon renewal; and allow one tenant or applicant to take on collective action on behalf of all tenants in a building; and*
- *2016-B12 - which called for provincial amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act to standardize tenant assistance, particularly "tenancy dissolution and/or relocation as a result of building demolition."*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB85      Expanded Authority to Notify Renters Impacted by Renovations                    Vancouver**

Whereas renters are facing the risk of displacement and housing insecurity as a result of renovations to existing rental buildings;

And whereas the *Residential Tenancy Act* does not currently require landlords to provide proof of permits or a description of the scope of work for renovations where tenancies are likely to be terminated, and local governments have limited authority to require notification related to tenancy issues as a condition of issuance of certain permits;

And whereas existing renters facing evictions due to renovations could benefit from information on the type and extent of renovations being undertaken to their buildings in order to support potential cases with the Residential Tenancy Branch:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to clarify and broaden the conditions that can be imposed on building or development permit applications submitted for renovations or redevelopment of an existing building that contains rental housing units including, but not limited to, requiring applicants to provide information on existing tenancies and communicating the proposed work related to the requested permit.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Endorse, following Resolutions Committee scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that this same resolution was submitted to UBCM in 2019, but was not considered at Convention due to a lack of time. The UBCM Executive referred it back to the sponsor who chose to re-submit it for consideration during the 2020 resolutions cycle.*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Local Government Act to require applicants wanting to renovate or redevelop a property with tenants to provide information on existing tenancies and communicating the proposed work related to the requested permit.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions looking to protect tenants' rights when facing eviction due to renovations (2017-B53, 2017-B126, 2016-B137).*

*The Resolutions Committee also notes that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has announced a series of actions to address renter rights including further public education on rules around renovations and the creation of a local government liaison position to address illegal renovations.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB86 Home Owner Grant Program in Electoral Areas**

**Capital RD**

Whereas the British Columbia Home Owner Grant related to property tax is larger if a person(s) lives in a rural area;

And whereas the five Southern Gulf Islands of Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Saturna, North and South Pender Islands and the Juan de Fuca do not receive the 'rural' grant because the Capital Regional District (CRD) is excluded from the rural grant. This is unfair and inequitable for the taxpayers of the Southern Gulf Islands whose living conditions are no different than those in neighboring jurisdictions such as the electoral areas of the Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Regional Districts who are eligible for the rural grant:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the province officially designate the Capital Regional District electoral areas as 'rural' for the purposes of the British Columbia Home Owner Grant.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to designate the Capital Regional District electoral areas as 'rural' for the purposes of the British Columbia Home Owner Grant.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2016-C26, which called for the recognition of "the rural nature of the Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas", and their inclusion "in all future government programs and grants offered to British Columbia electoral areas."*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**EB87 Assistance with Step Code Implementation**

**Smithers**

Whereas the Building Code is being changed to include higher energy standards in accordance with the Energy Step Code, and successful implementation of the Energy Step Code requires:

- Preparedness of the building community;
- Energy advisors that are readily accessible;
- Availability and affordability of required materials;
- Staff capacity within local governments;

And whereas discussion with local governments and the building community in rural, remote and northern regions have identified the following barriers to successful implementation:

- Lack of local training opportunities for the building community;

- Lack of qualified Energy Advisors, and the possibility that some small and remote communities will not have an adequate workload to entice an Energy Advisor to do business in the area;
- Lower availability of materials and higher material costs in rural communities leading to concerns of affordability among residents;
- Lower capacity within small local governments;

And whereas local governments want to be a part of the solution in implementing the Energy Step Code, but often lack required resources, leading some jurisdictions to consider seeking exemptions from the Step Code:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to assist communities with Energy Step Code implementation in an equitable way by working with communities to address barriers.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to assist communities with Energy Step Code implementation in an equitable way by working with communities to address barriers.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B187 addressing lack of qualified building officials and has broadly supported policy addressing unique rural, remote and northern community needs and capacity constraints (2019-B43, 2019-B183, 2019-LR1).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section NEB Resolutions Resolutions Contrary to Existing Policy**

Section NEB are the Not Endorse Block of resolutions. Resolutions in the Not Endorse Block support existing policy, and are recommended as Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

NEB Resolutions are:

- resolutions previously considered and not endorsed; or
- resolutions contrary with UBCM policy.

Included in Section NEB are resolutions numbered:

### **NEB1 – NEB16**

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

- I move that the resolutions in Section NEB be considered as a block.

If the motion is endorsed by delegates, then the resolutions in Section NEB will be considered as a block.

The spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the motion:

- Shall the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for the resolutions in Section NEB be adopted?

If the motion is approved by delegates, then the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Section NEB resolutions will be endorsed as a block.

### Pulling a Resolution for Individual Consideration

In advance of Convention, members who wish to pull resolutions from the Not Endorse Block of resolutions for individual consideration (individual consideration because members want to amend the resolution or do not agree with its recommendation) will need to take the following steps:

- Endorse a motion at a Council or Board meeting requesting removal from the Not Endorse Block;
- Send the motion, along with the reasons for wanting to pull the resolution from the Block, to the UBCM Executive to be received **by noon on Friday, September 18\***;
- The UBCM Executive will decide which requests are approved;
- Executive approval to pull a resolution will result in an amended Not Endorse Block of resolutions being presented at Convention; and
- Any amendments to the Not Endorse Block will be announced during the resolutions session.

Resolutions pulled from section NEB for individual consideration will be Referred to Executive, and not considered during Convention.

\*Requests to pull a resolution from the Not Endorse Block should be submitted via email to:

**UBCM Executive, c/o Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst**

Email address: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

### Timing

If the allotted time elapses and debate of Section NEB has not been completed, the resolutions in the NEB block will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

# Community Safety

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## NEB1 Online Gaming

Vernon

Whereas municipalities are limited by the "*Community Charter*, Part 7, Division 1, Paragraph 192" to specific types of revenue sources;

And whereas local governments imposing fees for services have seen significant declines in revenues, including casino gaming revenues, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting Provincial State of Emergency;

And whereas online gaming revenues increased significantly since 2017/2018;

And whereas local governments with gaming facilities rely on gaming revenues to offset costs for operating, infrastructure and capital projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to allocate revenues generated by online gaming to replace lost casino gaming revenues for host local governments experiencing shortfalls due to the closure of gaming facilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    ***Not Endorse, following Resolutions Committee Scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to allocate an unspecified portion of its online gaming revenue to casino host local governments, to compensate hosts for lost casino revenue resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*However, the Committee notes that over the past 10 years the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking changes to how provincial net gaming revenue is redistributed (e.g. increased funding, expanded eligibility) (2019-B131, 2018-B112, 2016-B54, 2016-B55, 2013-B100, 2011-B28, 2011-B70, 2010-B62, 2010-B115).*

*Endorsed resolution 2019-B131 requested that the Province distribute 10 percent of net gaming revenue earned through lotteries and online gambling to all local governments on a per capita basis. The resolution did not seek to amend the formula for distributing casino revenue to host local governments. In its response, the Province specifically stated that it was "not considering a change in the distribution of net revenue."*

*The Committee also advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2012-B135, which asked the Province to:*

- *redistribute gaming revenue based on the residence of the patron at the gaming facility and the amount played; and*
- *share a percentage of gaming revenue with all local governments on a per capita basis while maintaining existing arrangements with casino host local governments.*

Although UBCM's members have previously sought for the Province to increase the amount of net gaming revenue distributed to local governments and non-profit organizations, this resolution asks that only casino host local governments receive a portion of online gaming revenue, which is generated throughout British Columbia.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEB2 School Bus Safety

New Westminster

Whereas motor vehicle seat belt laws have been fundamental to improved road safety in Canada over the past 40 years;

And whereas the US National Transportation Safety Board is now recommending three-point seat belts in all new school buses and 37 states are now either requiring three-point seat belts for school buses or have started down the legislative pathway towards this requirement;

And whereas Transport Canada recognizes that seat belts on school buses can offer added protection for school-age children, have created technical requirements for their installation and use, and allow provinces, territories and school bus operators to decide whether to install seat belts;

And whereas the Ministry of Education has the authority to set standards to protect the safety of public school students in British Columbia, and the Ministry of Public Safety and the Office of the Solicitor General are responsible for regulating road safety in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the BC Ministry of Education and the BC Ministry of Public Safety to mandate that all buses transporting students in British Columbia be equipped with seat belts that meet Transport-Canada regulatory standards and institute programs to assure those belts are used safely.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM Executive recently considered, but did not endorse referred resolution 2019-B194, calling on the Province to mandate that all buses transporting students in British Columbia be equipped with seatbelts.*

*In consideration of this resolution, UBCM's Executive examined research conducted by the federal Task Force on School Bus Safety, including its February 2020 report, Strengthening School Bus Safety in Canada. Despite a mandate to "identify opportunities to further strengthen school bus safety, with an emphasis on seatbelts," the Task Force did not recommend that seatbelts be made mandatory on school buses. The Task Force arrived at this conclusion in part through identifying a number of ongoing concerns and risk factors, including the misuse of seatbelts, driver liability/responsibility, emergency evacuation procedures, and funding challenges. An upcoming federal pilot project will seek to address some of the existing issues.*

*However, the UBCM Executive did endorse referred resolution 2019-B195, which requests that the provincial government adopt and fund the implementation of all recommendations proposed by the federal Task Force on School Bus Safety.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has consistently supported resolutions that seek to improve road safety (2018-B12, 2017-B90, 2016-B10, 2015-B10, 2015-B12, 2012-B63, 2009-B64, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B102).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Elections

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### NEB3 Election Finance Tax Credits

### Vancouver

Whereas the Canada Revenue Agency cites the *Income Tax Act* for the deduction from tax otherwise payable of a portion of the total eligible amount of monetary contributions to a registered party, a provincial division of a registered party, a registered association, or a candidate, as those terms are defined in the *Canada Elections Act*. The maximum annual tax credit an eligible individual may claim is \$650 Contributions to a Registered Party, a Registered Association or to a Candidate(s) in a federal election;

And whereas "Political Contributions Regulations" in BC's *Income Tax Act* allows for eligible individuals to make contributions to BC political parties, registered BC constituency associations and/or candidate(s) in a provincial election. Eligible individuals may claim credit on a T1 income tax return calculated as the lesser of 75 percent of contributions up to \$100 or 50 percent of contributions between \$100 and \$550 or 33 1/3 percent of contributions in excess of \$550;

And whereas Bill 15, *Local Elections Campaign Financing Amendment Act*, 2017 received Royal Assent on November 30, 2017, resulting in many changes to the financing provisions of the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*. The rules applied to the 2018 General Local Elections and are retroactive to October 31, 2017. In local election

in BC, an eligible individual may contribute up to \$1,200 per year per campaign to an unendorsed candidate or \$1,200 in total to each campaign of an elector organization and its endorsed candidates:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province support personal income tax credits, for contributions made in compliance with the BC *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, as is similar to the rules and requirements in BC's *Income Tax Act*, for personal income tax credits for provincial political contributions;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the provincial government make necessary amendments to BC's *Income Tax Act* to allow eligible individuals to claim credit on a T1 income tax return for political contributions made in accordance to the BC *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2019-B123 that similarity requested the Province to amend the Income Tax Act to issue tax credits for campaign contributions made to candidates in local government elections.*

*This decision is likely due to the fact that the Province indicated in its response to an earlier 1994 resolution on this topic that: "the way political tax credits work is that tax credits offered by one level of government are only applicable to contributions made to political activities at that same level of government. So each government pays for its own tax credits separately through reduced tax revenue. This means that potential tax credits offered for contributions in a particular local jurisdiction would have to come out of the revenues of that local government, not the income tax revenues of either the Provincial or Federal Governments." When a similar resolution was considered in 2000-B47 it was not endorsed by the membership. The 1994 provincial response may have contributed to the 2000 resolution not being endorsed.*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the issue of tax credits was considered by the Local Government Elections Task Force in 2010. Recognizing the scope of campaign finance the joint UBCM-Province Task Force decided to give priority to ensuring the financial costs of implementing the recommended changes can be met rather than exploring public financing in local elections. As a result the following recommendation was included in the joint UBCM-Province Task Force report: "Do not implement public financing (tax credits or rebates for campaign contributions or campaign expenses)."*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation

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### NEB4 #AllOnBoardCampaign

### New Westminster

Whereas youth across British Columbia and all people living in poverty deserve safe, easy, and affordable commutes;

And whereas a lack of affordable transportation is a significant barrier to social connection, access to services and labour market inclusion for low income adults and youth;

And whereas direct harm can be brought to low income adults and youth due to punitive fare evasion ticketing, which can impact credit ratings and further entrench poverty;

And whereas the #AllOnBoard campaign has been endorsed by business, labour, and advocacy organizations across British Columbia in their call to remove the barriers to public transit for youth and those experiencing poverty;

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work to make transit access more equitable by supporting free public transit across BC for youth under 19 years of age;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government support a sliding scale monthly pass system based on income;

And be it further resolved that BC Transit and TransLink proactively end the practice of fare evasion ticketing of minors, and introduce community service and restorative justice options for adults as an alternative to fare evasion tickets.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2019-B113, which asked the Province to eliminate or reduce fine levying for those under 18 years of age, and investigate restorative justice and community service options for settling fare infraction tickets by low-income individuals. The request found in 2019-B113 is very similar to the requests made in the first and third enactment clauses of this resolution.*

*The Committee also advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to establish a sliding scale monthly transit pass system based on income. This is the request made in the second enactment clause of this resolution.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2019-B114, which asked the Province to provide free or further subsidized transit passes to all British Columbians receiving income assistance or disability assistance.*

*In response to resolution 2019-B114, the provincial government clarified that people receiving disability assistance may choose either a transit pass (paid in full by the Province), or a transportation supplement of \$52 per month. Low-income seniors not otherwise receiving provincial assistance may pay a \$45 annual fee for a transit pass, but do not have the option to choose a \$52 transportation supplement.*

*The Province also referenced the employment-related transportation supports that it provides to people receiving income assistance or disability assistance. These supports may include a confirmed job supplement; or transportation supports to help attend job interviews, participate in WorkBC Employment Services, or start a new job.*

*The Province further observed that under the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program, administered by UBCM for the provincial government, a local government could apply for funding of a pilot project offering low-income transit passes.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Taxation**

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### **NEB5 Broadband Infrastructure Taxation**

### **East Kootenay RD**

Whereas the cost to deploy broadband infrastructure to support connectivity services is significant and revenue opportunities in rural areas are often not adequate to provide a return on investment that would attract private investment, resulting in underserved rural communities throughout the province;

And whereas both the provincial and federal governments have made universal access to broadband services a priority including through the provision of infrastructure grants to encourage private investment in rural areas; however, the ongoing property taxation of broadband infrastructure creates a significant additional cost which further inhibits the already strained business case for private investment in broadband connectivity;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia provide local governments with the ability to set tax rates for broadband infrastructure.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically asked the Province to grant local governments the authority to set property tax rates for broadband infrastructure, so that underserved communities throughout BC might use favourable tax rates to encourage private investment in broadband infrastructure.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered but did not endorse a related resolution, 2019-B133, from the same sponsor. Resolution 2019-B133 requested that the provincial government either exempt broadband telecommunication assets from property taxation, or alter the valuation of broadband infrastructure serving rural communities.*

*The Resolutions Committee wonders whether local government flexibility to set property tax rates for broadband infrastructure in particular would truly serve as an effective tool to encourage private investment in broadband connectivity. This would have less influence on property tax rates in rural areas, since regional districts play no role in setting the tax multiples for properties located in electoral areas. The sponsor has confirmed that the goal is to encourage investment in broadband infrastructure in underserved areas; and the sponsor is open to other tools that could be used to encourage such investment.*

*In 2004, the membership endorsed resolution B65, which suggested that the Province should change the classification for rail rights-of-way, to tax them as ordinary industrial property rather than as utilities. At the time, the rationale was that industrial property tax rates were lower than utility property tax rates, and the prospect of lower property tax over time could be used to encourage rail companies to invest in expansion of railway infrastructure in BC.*

*In its response to resolution 2004-B65, the provincial government questioned whether changing the taxation of rail rights-of-way would be the best solution. The Province pointed out that taxing rail rights-of-way as industrial properties might “raise equity issues with other types of properties in the Utilities property class such as pipelines and electricity transmission lines.” The provincial government did acknowledge that rail infrastructure bore the tax burden of Class 2 (Utilities) properties, and expressed willingness to discuss changes to the property taxation of railways.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the federal government, provincial government, and industry to provide every community in BC with access to broadband service, in order to develop economic growth opportunities (2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Finance**

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### **NEB6 Community Amenity Contributions**

### **Coquitlam**

Whereas communities, especially in Metro Vancouver are challenged to enhance and deliver services and amenities including but not limited to affordable housing, community centres, park and fire service expansion to ever increasing populations;

And whereas Development Cost Charges do not adequately address many of these items, as such guidelines were established by the provincial government under which municipalities could ask for “Voluntary Contributions” from development to provide a range of identified amenities, yet no accompanying legislation was established to support the guidelines;

And whereas municipalities undergo extensive negotiations and processes to establish and secure commitment for these voluntary contributions from development, further encumbering and delaying the delivery of much needed housing stock across the affordability spectrum:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government work with municipalities and key stakeholders including the development industry to establish legislation under which the charging of Community

Amenity Contributions is enforceable and inclusive of pre-established objectives and costs much in the manner of Development Cost Charges.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish legislation under which the charging of Community Amenity Contributions is enforceable and inclusive of pre-established objectives and costs much in the manner of Development Cost Charges.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that call for the expanded application of Development Cost Charges (DCC) beyond their current allowable usages to a variety of specific usages including solid waste infrastructure, fire halls and fire suppression equipment and sport related park infrastructure (2018-B21, 2016-SR1, 2015-B21, 2012-B9, 2012-B54, 2011-B35, 2010-B23, 2007-B37, 2005-B95).*

*The Committee also notes that in 2019, members supported resolution SR2 that called for a comprehensive review of development financing to identify approaches to capture broader growth related capital costs, create a consistent approach to land value capture and provide local governments flexibility. In response, the Province has acknowledged the need to review development financing and committed to consulting with UBCM and other stakeholders as next steps are considered.*

*In this context, the present resolution may run counter to existing UBCM policy by requesting a specific approach, establishing legislation under which the charging of Community Amenity Contributions is enforceable, without the benefit of a more wholesome review of alternatives.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Assessment

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### NEB7 Varied Tax Rate for the Residential Class

### Langley City

Whereas the Province of British Columbia through the *BC Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation* B.C. Reg. 438/81 specifies that there is one assessment class for all types of residential properties and the *Community Charter* outlines that a municipal bylaw to establish the property value taxes each year under section 197 (3) specifies there is a single rate for each property class;

And whereas the assessed value of the multi-family strata units and single family housing appreciates at vastly different rates, leading to large fluctuations and tax rate swings year-to-year between these housing types:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *BC Assessment Act* and the *Community Charter* to allow the residential class to be split into two distinct residential classes so that a different rate may be applied to each type of residential property to allow for better tax planning, and a more consistent application of property tax changes for all residents no matter their housing type.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership did not endorse 2019-B35, which was the same resolution submitted by the same sponsor.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership considered and referred resolution 2018-B118 to the UBCM Executive. The UBCM Executive endorsed 2018-B118 with an amendment and the final enactment clause read:*

*“Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to explore the merits of establishing new property tax sub-classes, or amending the existing residential tax class, as a tool to address housing affordability.”*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Environment

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### NEB8 Greenhouse Gas Limits for New Buildings

Port Moody

Whereas the energy efficiency requirements for new buildings in the British Columbia Energy Step Code continues to allow levels of carbon pollution that are inconsistent with local government and provincial climate change commitments;

And whereas failing to limit carbon pollution from new construction will necessitate retrofits to those new buildings in the future at greater difficulty and cost for building owners, occupants, and taxpayers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to include GHG limits for new construction as an enforceable element in Division B of the British Columbia Building Code, including a pathway to achieve zero GHG emissions for new construction in a timeline commensurate with the science of climate change and BC's reduction targets;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the BC government to revise the Province's goal in the Clean BC Plan to "make every new building constructed in BC "net-zero energy ready" by 2032" to "make every new building constructed in BC "zero emissions" and "net-zero energy ready" by 2032";

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the BC government to liaise with staff at Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments, North Central Local Government Association, and Southern Interior Local Government Association to ensure that there are provisions in the GHG limits that take into account and support the unique circumstances faced by rural communities, such as, but not limited to, decisions to utilize local materials and alternative building methods.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership did not endorse a similar resolution, B152, that was submitted by the same sponsor in 2019. Specifically, the 2019 resolution asks for "Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to include GHG limits for new construction as an enforceable element in Division B of the British Columbia Building Code, including a pathway to achieve zero GHG emissions for new construction in a timeline commensurate with the science of climate change and BC's reduction targets;". This is the same enactment clause as 2019-B152 which was rejected by the membership.*

*This current resolution makes an additional ask, beyond what was in 2019-B152, that requests the Province to liaise with AKBLG, NCLGA and SILGA to ensure that there are provisions in the GHG limits that take into account and support the unique circumstances faced by rural communities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health and Social Development

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### NEB9 Access to Emergency Health Services

Port Coquitlam

Whereas the February 2019 Auditor-General's Report "Access to Emergency Health Services" recommended that "the Ministry of Health work with local governments and British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to ensure that BCEHS can implement a co-ordinated approach to pre-hospital care that results in:

- medical oversight, to the extent appropriate, across agencies to ensure that patient care meets acceptable medical standards

- data-sharing between agencies to better understand whether patients are getting the right medical interventions at the right time
- signed agreements outlining the roles and responsibilities of fire departments, including the level of care provided
- confirmation that first responders are being notified of events where they can best contribute to patient care.";

And whereas urban fire departments continue to receive fewer calls to attend to provide emergency medical assistance and the public must wait for BCEHS, unnecessarily, despite the ability of fire departments to provide faster medical assistance;

And whereas local governments and BCEHS have been meeting for several years and have failed to enter into agreements for the fire service personnel to provide emergency medical assistance to the level of their training;

And whereas some local governments want the ability to respond to more calls and provide a wider range of emergency medical assistance;

And whereas despite the fact that fire services personnel may provide ancillary health services pursuant to the *Health Emergency Services Act* without an agreement with the BCEHS, the BCEHS controls all calls, through the Critical Response Model, and does not dispatch such calls:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge local governments, at their discretion, to maintain complete authority over the level of emergency medical assistant training their respective fire departments and personnel will attain, consistent with the level of service each deems appropriate to their communities;

And be it further resolved that, at their discretion, local governments have the authority to determine the appropriate response level, of their fire departments, including call type based on the needs of their respective community.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*This resolution was submitted to UBCM in 2019 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, the resolution was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2020 resolutions cycle.*

*This resolution makes a request that is not consistent with previous policy. In 2019, the membership endorsed SR3 that called on the Ministry of Health, BCEHS and BC local governments to work together to implement a co-ordinated approach to pre-hospital care, to create signed agreements outlining the roles and responsibilities of fire departments based on local need, and to confirm that first responders are being notified of events where they can best contribute to patient care.*

*Individual local governments do not have the authority to determine the appropriate pre-hospital response level for fire departments based on call types.*

*This resolution is also directed at UBCM, however, given that the Ministry of Health and BCEHS are responsible for decisions on pre-hospital health care, it is unclear how UBCM could take action on this resolution.*

*For reference, in response to 2019-SR3, the Ministry of Health advised that a stakeholder engagement plan was in development, consent agreements between BCEHS and municipalities will be established or refreshed. These agreements will address data sharing, medical oversight, and roles and responsibilities.*

*See also resolution NEB10.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEB10 First Responder Program in British Columbia**

**Metchosin**

Whereas local governments who choose to provide additional pre-hospital care to their citizens, through the First Responder Program, must sign an agreement to follow a model that is used province-wide, from metropolitan areas to the most rural parts of the province, and which may not address the individual needs or circumstances of the community or jurisdiction;

And whereas collaborative pilot projects have proven successful in both addressing the needs and capacities of individual communities as well as being beneficial to the care of the citizens of British Columbia;

And whereas municipal fire services are fully funded from municipal government or local authority:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia through BC Emergency Health Services, to allow individual local authorities to decide the level of service, dispatching protocols and local resource utilization for all pre-hospital care events to meet the specific needs of the individual community.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2019-SR3 that called on the Ministry of Health, BCEHS and BC local governments to work together to implement a co-ordinated approach to pre-hospital care, to create signed agreements outlining the roles and responsibilities of fire departments based on local need, and to confirm that first responders are being notified of events where they can best contribute to patient care.*

*The request by the sponsor is, in part, addressed by resolution 2019-SR3, however, local authorities cannot determine dispatching protocols.*

*In response to 2019-SR3, the Ministry of Health advised that a stakeholder engagement plan was in development, consent agreements between BCEHS and municipalities will be established or refreshed. These agreements will address data sharing, medical oversight, and roles and responsibilities.*

*The Committee is recommending Not Endorse for this resolution as the provincial government and BCEHS determine dispatch protocols. As well, the Province has indicated plans to work with individual communities on consent agreements.*

*See also resolution NEB9.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEB11 Coroners**

**Chetwynd**

Whereas the residents of the Province of British Columbia deserve timely and professional coroner services when deaths occur;

And whereas there are only 32 full-time coroners and approximately 75 community coroners working from five regional offices and the Offices of the Chief Coroner in Burnaby and Victoria;

And whereas the community coroners are expected to cover a wide range of communities which results in substantial wait times when deaths occur:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to hire more coroners and to establish a model that ensures adequate staffing levels are in place.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that this identical resolution was submitted in 2019 from the same sponsor. However, due to time constraints, the resolution was not debated at Convention, and referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration, where the resolution was subsequently not endorsed.*

*The sponsor was provided with the Executive decision, but has re-submitted the resolution for debate by the membership at the 2020 Convention.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEB12 Community Social Needs Resourcing Strategies

Kelowna

Whereas existing provincial funding and resource models are based on strong partnerships between all levels of government, there is an unaddressed need to provide flexibility in funding allocation to address unique and complex localized health, housing, and social needs.

And whereas the current provincial funding structure does not provide flexibility to support local governments to adapt and design locally relevant and responsive strategies and solutions based on local real-time conditions to effectively address unique community complex social needs.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to design a flexible funding program and resource model that enables local governments to develop and implement strategies which align with, and respond to, unique local context and conditions of social issues and needs of the respective local governments.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership did not endorse a similar resolution 2018-B155 that called for the Province to provide local governments with sustained financial support for local community social planning processes that support and integrate responses to social issues.*

*The Committee cautioned that such a request for funding may be perceived as a request for downloading insofar as support and integration of social services is a provincial responsibility.*

*In the background documents submitted for this resolution, the sponsor indicates they are seeking “an annualized provincial funding program that supports communities to build capacity of the community to coordinate and respond at the local level to an evolving social needs landscape, to test solutions to complex problems, and to ultimately move the needle on addressing unique challenges by adapting and responding with innovative community-based solutions”.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions 2017-B51 and 2014-B123 calling for improved coordination of social services.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEB13 Social Development Specialist Funding

Penticton

Whereas there is a growing pressure on local governments within the province to provide services in areas which have not traditionally been local government services, including homelessness, addictions, mental health, child-care and age friendly matters;

And whereas the Province is providing resources and services and local governments are left with the responsibility of coordinating the available resources and services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to provide 50 percent of the costs of a social development specialist for local governments with a population of 10,000 or more, or to local governments that are deemed to be communities in need, in order to work collaboratively with stakeholders in the alignment of policy, strategies and resourcing.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution with a specific request for 50 percent of funding for a social development specialist.*

However, the UBCM membership did not endorse a similar resolution (2018-B155) that called for the Province to provide local governments with sustained financial support for local community social planning processes that support and integrate responses to social issues.

The Committee cautioned that such a request for funding may be perceived as a request for downloading insofar as support and integration of social services is a provincial responsibility.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions 2017-B51 and 2014-B123 calling for improved coordination of social services.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Housing

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### **NEB14 Amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to Strengthen Maintenance Standards Victoria**

Whereas property maintenance standards are vital for protecting existing housing stock and tenants as they help to ensure that living environments are safe, secure, and appropriate;

And whereas many jurisdictions currently lack regional and municipal standards or regulations, including municipal bylaws or health standards:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to strengthen standards of property maintenance that set out a breadth of health, safety, and security standards, and establishes enforcement mechanisms that ensure adherence to these standards.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to strengthen standards of property maintenance.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions supporting the needs of renters, including 2017-B126 addressing renovations and 2019-B184, which called for the creation of an Office of the Renters Advocate.*

*However the Committee advises that local choice is a foundational tenet of general policy adopted by UBCM members. As worded, the current resolution cannot be supported, because it proposes legislative amendments that would constrain local choice with regards to standards of maintenance.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Selected Issues

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### **NEB15 Establish Standards for Building Electrification, Heat Pumps and Water Heaters North Vancouver District**

Whereas currently local governments are prohibited from requiring local standards or technical requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province enact legislation to empower local governments to establish standards for building electrification, heat pumps, and water heaters.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse, following Resolutions Committee Scrutiny the resolution has been reassigned.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation to allow local governments to establish standards for building electrification, heat pumps, and water heaters.*

*The Committee notes that empowering local governments to establish standards in these specific, very technical area may be problematic, specifically for those smaller local governments that do not have the capacity or expertise to be taking on this responsibility. Certain regulations and standards are best set by the provincial and/or federal government to ensure there is an overall standard of safety, consistency in the products that are being used.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEB16 Voting Rights for Alternate Directors**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas the *Local Government Act* provides that an Electoral Area Director must appoint an Alternate Electoral Area Director who may take the place of, vote and generally act in all matters for the absent Electoral Area Director;

And whereas the bylaws of UBCM disqualify Alternate Electoral Area Directors from participating in debate and voting at the Annual and Special Conventions;

And whereas this provision of the UBCM bylaws:

- prevents an Electoral Area from having a voice at UBCM Conventions when the Electoral Area Director is absent; and
- could be improved by permitting an Alternate Electoral Area Director to participate in debate and vote at the Annual and Special Conventions of the UBCM:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM change its bylaws to enable an Alternate Electoral Area Director, in the absence of the Electoral Area Director, to participate in debate and vote at Annual and Special Conventions of the UBCM.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that this identical resolution was also submitted last year from Nanaimo RD, 2019-B175, asking for voting rights for Alternate Electoral Area Directors at UBCM. Due to time constraints, resolution 2019-B175 was not debated at Convention, but was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration. The Executive upon consideration chose not to endorse 2019-B175.*

*In its comments to the 2019 resolution, the Committee referenced the UBCM bylaws as follows:*

### **11. REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTIONS:**

**All elected officials of members attending the Annual or any Special Convention of the Union shall be delegates entitled to participate in debates and to vote on any matter before the Convention. Other delegates shall not be entitled to the privilege of the floor unless authorized by the Convention.**

*This is an issue that has come forward periodically over the years from regional districts that have alternate electoral area directors attending UBCM Convention. While the Local Government Act provides for the same rights and responsibilities to an alternate as an elected EA director, UBCM bylaws are very clear in that a voting delegate must be an elected official.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section NR Resolutions Resolutions Proposing New Policy**

Section NR are the No Recommendation resolutions. Resolutions under No Recommendation neither align nor contradict existing policy, and are recommended as No Recommendation or No Action Required.

NR Resolutions are:

- resolutions on topics not previously considered;
- resolutions where there is no action required; or
- resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with current UBCM policy position.

Included in Section NR are resolutions numbered:

**NR1 – NR79**

After consideration of Section NEB resolutions, a spokesperson from the Resolutions Committee will introduce the following motion to enter all resolutions in Section NR for discussion:

- I move that all Section NR resolutions be considered for debate.

Discussion will begin in the order the resolutions are printed.

Sponsors do not have to move each resolution individually, but they are invited to speak to their resolution at the appropriate time.

Amendments to NR resolutions will not be considered.

### Timing

If the allotted time elapses and debate of all Section NR resolutions has not been completed, those not yet considered will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

## Legislative

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### NR1      **Predominant Purpose of Bylaw**

**North Vancouver District**

Whereas the original intent of section 9(2) of the *Community Charter* was to give a council unfettered discretion to elect to adopt a bylaw under a head of power determined by the council such that a bylaw will be upheld if it is attacked on the basis that the predominant purpose in fact (versus the legitimate purpose elected by the council) is one requiring ministerial approval;

And whereas the original intent and effect of section 9(2) was that a municipality need only determine one proper purpose for a bylaw to be valid, “even if members of Council may have had other motivations”: *International Bio Research v. Richmond (City)*, 2011 BCSC 471 at para. 43:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend section 9(2) of the *Community Charter* to provide that (a) a bylaw is presumed to be enacted validly, in good faith and for a proper purpose if the council elects to determine in the bylaw the predominant purpose, and (b) that the council may adopt a bylaw under more than one head of power under the *Community Charter*, whether this is a matter of concurrent jurisdiction under section 9(1).

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend section 9(2) of the Community Charter to provide that (a) a bylaw is presumed to be enacted validly, in good faith and for a proper purpose if the council elects to determine in the bylaw the predominant purpose, and (b) that the council may adopt a bylaw under more than one head of power under the Community Charter, whether this is a matter of concurrent jurisdiction under section 9(1).*

*In the absence of any previous policy the Committee is offering no recommendation.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### NR2      **Amend Section 8(6) of the *Community Charter* to Include “Prohibit” in Relation to Business**

**North Vancouver District**

Whereas the current statute limits the authority to only “regulating” in relation to “business” and the original white paper on the *Community Charter* contained the proposed authority to “prohibit” as well as “regulate”, as in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Toronto, Winnipeg and Yukon;

And whereas in order to proceed with several climate change best practices, it will be necessary to prohibit certain business practices, such as selling fossil fuel heating systems after a certain date:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend section 8(6) of the *Community Charter* to enable a council by bylaw to regulate or prohibit in relation to businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend section 8(6) of the Community Charter to enable a council by bylaw to regulate or prohibit in relation to businesses, business activities and persons engaged in business.*

*The Committee would note that under the Community Charter, regulation rather than prohibition of business, adheres to the philosophy of free enterprise which was the view of the policy makers of the day when the Charter was under development.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR3 Legislative Clarification on Temporary Use Permits**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas the *Local Government Act* establishes that a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) may be issued for a term up to three years, and may be renewed only one time for a term up to three additional years;

And whereas there is nothing prohibiting an applicant from applying for a new Temporary Use Permit to get around the prohibition of a second renewal, after the initial permit and one renewal have expired:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to specify that an applicant is not permitted to apply for a new Temporary Use Permit after their initial TUP and one renewal have expired.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Local Government Act to specify that an applicant is not permitted to apply for a new Temporary Use Permit after their initial TUP and one renewal have expired.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2002-B57 which asked the Province to amend the Local Government Act to allow local governments to issue a Temporary Use Permit with a term of up to 10 years. If the local government is not supportive of the applicant applying for a new TUP, why does the council/board not deny the application instead of seeking a legislative amendment.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR4 Green Roofs**

**North Vancouver District**

Whereas currently the *Local Government Act* allows a local government to require landscaping under section 527 and to control runoff under section 523, but the LGA and *Community Charter* do not empower local governments to require and enforce the related building standard of construction (prohibited under the *Building Act*) or to require and enforce maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to empower local governments to expressly require green roofs and enforce the related building standard of construction, and maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Local Government Act to empower local governments to expressly require green roofs and enforce the related building standard of construction and maintenance of green roofs, including security requirements.*

*The Resolutions Committee is offering no recommendation in the absence of previous policy and due to the fact that the request is to empower local governments to do this which may not be supportable by all local governments recognizing the differing capacities within each community to require and enforce specified building standards.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR5 Criminal Record Checks for Local Government Elected Officials**

**Maple Ridge**

Whereas individuals holding office in a local government are elected into a position of trust and power where they have access to sensitive data and are expected to "conduct themselves in an open, transparent and accountable manner" according to the Candidate's Guide To Local Government Elections in BC;

And whereas there is no requirement for elected officials to submit criminal record checks despite being privy to highly sensitive information and allowed to participate in activities that other employers would require criminal record checks for, such as volunteering:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to amend Section 87 of the *Local Government Act* to include criminal record checks as part of the nomination documents submitted by candidates thereby creating a high standard of transparency that will improve public trust in locally elected officials.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for Section 87 of the Local Government Act to be amended to require criminal record checks as a part of the nominating documents submitted by candidates for local government.*

*While the Committee understands the sponsor's desire to establish greater transparency in the candidate nomination process, it is concerned that the including criminal record checks as part of the nomination process may be an onerous additional step to ask to be done as part of the nomination process.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR6 Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government**

**Maple Ridge**

Whereas the UBCM Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC) has been working extensively to support local government initiatives to address less-than-responsible local government conduct by providing local government council and board members with a set of principles and general standards of conduct that can be used to develop their own code of conduct;

And whereas the WGRC continues to work on potential legislative change that focuses on the importance of councils and boards turning their minds to codes of conduct in a standardized and consistent manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the development, application and enforcement of codes of conduct.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to work towards the development, application and enforcement of Codes of Conduct for local government.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2016-B103 that asked UBCM to implement a code of conduct for its conferences and events. That Code of Conduct is now in place.*

*In the Fall of 2016 UBCM, jointly with the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, established a staff level working group to undertake collaborative research and policy work on the issue of responsible conduct of local government elected officials. The Working Group on Responsible Government created a set of principles and general standards that local governments can use to develop their own Code of Conduct.*

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2019-B83 that asked the Province to either create a Municipal Conflict of Interest Commissioner or expand the powers of the BC Conflict of Interest Commissioner, in order to remedy conflict of interest complaints.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Community Safety

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### NR7 Equitable Police Funding Model

Creston

Whereas the current RCMP policing model sees BC municipalities over 5,000 in population pay the full provincial cost share (either 70 percent or 90 percent depending on the size), while unincorporated areas, and municipalities under 5,000 in population pay the provincial police tax rate, which covers up to 50 percent of the estimated cost of policing;

And whereas due to this system there is an inequity perceived by municipalities and their taxpayers due to the Province subsidizing policing costs for some taxpayers and not others:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to review the current model of funding RCMP police services with consideration given to equitable funding of police services through a provincial police tax based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments.

And be it further resolved that any provincial contribution towards policing be shared equally with all police taxpayers.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution calling on the Province to review the current model of funding RCMP police services with consideration given to equitable funding of police services through a provincial police tax based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments. The UBCM membership has similarly not previously endorsed a resolution calling for any provincial contribution towards policing to be shared equally with all police taxpayers.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2016-B75, which requested that the current RCMP policing funding model be reviewed with consideration towards an incremental increase based on population growth. In response to this resolution, the Province cited several consultative processes used to discuss this issue (BC Community Safety Plan, Expert Committee on Police Structure and Funding). These processes have since been discontinued.*

*The UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2016-B81, which called for the provincial government to develop an equitable police funding program for all municipalities and regional districts.*

*Under the BC Police Act, municipalities must assume responsibility for policing services when their population, according to the Canada Census, reaches or surpasses 5,000 people. Municipalities under 5,000 in population and unincorporated areas are required to pay the Police Tax, which acts as a means for the Province to recover up to 50 percent of the estimated cost of providing enforcement services to these areas.*

*See also resolution EB5.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### NR8 Solving RCMP Municipal Resource Pressures

Squamish

Whereas many regions in British Columbia are experiencing population growth in addition to provincial promotion of industrial and tourist activity in rural or remote areas that do not have the necessary public safety infrastructure;

And whereas BC has seen an almost 30 percent increase in Provincial Parks and Recreation Site visitation since 2014, most of which are outside municipal boundaries;

And whereas municipalities impacted by industrial or tourism hot spots outside their boundaries have experienced increased criminality and road safety issues with minor or no increases in Provincial RCMP police resources resulting in municipal RCMP police resources becoming the backstop to address the pressures created by rural population growth, provincial tourism promotion and industrial project approvals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General of BC develop a funding model whereby Provincial RCMP resources increase and are allocated to regions across BC at a rate aligned with provincial tourism and/or industrial activity growth and rural population increases in that region.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that provincial RCMP resources are increased and allocated to various regions of BC based on tourism, industrial activity growth, and/or rural population increase in the specified region.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force to a sufficient level (2019-A3, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-B1). Endorsed resolution 2019-A3 called on the provincial government to increase its funding contribution for the provincial police force. In response, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General acknowledged that despite consistent funding increases to the provincial police force, front line policing resources have not increased in recent years.*

*In 2018, UBCM delivered correspondence to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, requesting that RCMP provincial detachments be adequately resourced.*

*The provincial government has recently approved the addition of 40 new provincial policing positions. Of these, 28 positions will be added to provincial detachment units.*

*See also resolutions EB6 and NR10.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR9            Expanded Role for RCMP Auxiliary Program**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas the RCMP are overworked and understaffed when it comes to rural and remote communities;

And whereas due to risk analysis, insurance and potential liability the RCMP Auxiliary Program has been severely restricted to the point of limited utility:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government and the Attorney General provide the necessary legal, risk and insurance protections to allow the RCMP Auxiliary Program to ride on calls with members to provide valuable assistance, support and safety to our overworked and understaffed RCMP Detachments.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting continued funding and a robust role for RCMP Auxiliary Constables, including ride-alongs, support for special events, crowd or traffic control, and firearms training (2016-B3, 2003-B47, 2000-B5).*

*The Committee advises that the current federal Auxiliary Program was discontinued on April 1, 2020. In its place, the RCMP has introduced a tiered model that will allow divisions and contract partners to choose one or a mixture of tiers based on local needs and circumstances. Activities will vary depending on tier chosen, but can include public*

safety education, crime prevention, assisting at major events, traffic control, and/or operational patrols with RCMP Members.

The proposed resolution calls on the Province, and specifically the Attorney General, to amend the Auxiliary Program. However, unless a BC-only program is developed, the only option available to RCMP contract partners is the federal tiered Auxiliary Program, which the provincial government does not have the authority to amend.

UBCM has recently forwarded correspondence to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, requesting that British Columbia implement the new tiered model in the short-term; and, that the Province develop a BC-only program as a long-term solution to meet local needs.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR10      Increased Funding for Provincial Police Resources Along the      Revelstoke**  
**Trans-Canada Highway Corridor**

Whereas the Trans-Canada Highway 1, from the Alberta / British Columbia provincial border through Revelstoke has surpassed its capacity due to increasing tourism and commercial transportation, resulting in frequent collisions, and the transportation route closures impeding commerce in the area;

And whereas there has been little or no increase in provincial police resourcing for communities along the Trans-Canada Highway to effectively reduce speeds beyond posted limits and ultimately improve road safety by reducing collisions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit extra resourcing towards additional provincial police officers posted to the effected local governments and the deployment of safety control measures, such as photo radar, in the Trans-Canada Highway transportation corridor.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to commit additional policing resources to communities located along the Trans-Canada Highway, as well as to implement safety control measures (e.g. photo radar) along the highway's transportation corridor.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force to a sufficient level (2019-A3, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-B1). Endorsed resolution 2019-A3 called on the provincial government to increase its funding contribution for the provincial police force. In response, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General acknowledged that despite consistent funding increases to the provincial police force, front line policing resources have not increased in recent years.*

*In 2018, UBCM delivered correspondence to Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, requesting that RCMP provincial detachments be adequately resourced.*

*The provincial government has recently approved the addition of 40 new provincial policing positions. Of these, 28 positions will be added to provincial detachment units.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has previously endorsed two resolutions (2019-B8 and 2017-B90) calling for the use of photo radar by local governments. An additional endorsed resolution (2011-B84) called for the implementation of intersection cameras on highways in BC.*

*In September 2019, the provincial government announced that it would be implementing several changes to modernize the traffic ticket system. Changes include expanding the red-light safety camera system, and introducing speed activated intersection safety cameras.*

*See also resolutions EB6 and NR8.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR11 Review Fines for Speeding****Central Saanich**

Whereas the provincial government has not reviewed and updated traffic fines since 1997, with the exception of excessive speed in 2010;

And whereas the current traffic fines for speeding are not deterring drivers from exceeding speed limits on municipal and provincial roads:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to increase traffic fines significantly for speeding in an effort to make driving above the speed limit 'less attractive' for drivers in BC.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to "significantly" increase traffic fines for speeding.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions related to speed limit safety such as:*

- *reduction in speed limits when passing emergency vehicles stopped on roadways (2019-B117, 2007-B102);*
- *establishment of blanket speed zones (2019-B7, 2009-B19, 2006-B14, 2003-LR9);*
- *reduction of speed limits on highways that pass through communities (2015-B12, 2011-B18, 2007-B101);*
- *permitting the use of speed cameras in school and playground zones (2013-B91); and*
- *increasing fines for speeding in school and playground zones (2006-B16, 2000-B69).*

*Individuals who commit speeding offences may be subject to the Province's Driver Risk Premium and Driver Penalty Point Premium. The provincial government currently reviews and updates both regularly, with the most recent increase coming on November 1, 2019.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR12 Bylaw Enforcement Officers Enforcing Speed Limits in School Zones****Lumby**

Whereas many British Columbia local governments are experiencing rising enforcement costs and reductions in policing resources, resulting in strained police services;

And whereas other jurisdictions have enabled additional law enforcement agencies to assist with speed limit enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General, amend Section 146 (9) of the *Motor Vehicle Act* to allow local governments, through a bylaw, the ability to enforce speed limits in school zones in order to provide an improved level of child safety.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend Section 146 of the Motor Vehicle Act to allow local governments, through bylaw, the ability to enforce speed limits in school zones, using their bylaw enforcement officers.*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed various resolutions relating to speed limit safety. These include:*

- *photo radar use by local governments (2019-B8, 2017-B90);*
- *establish blanket speed zones (2019-B7, 2009-B19, 2006-B14);*

- speed reduction when passing stopped emergency vehicles on roadways (2019-B117, 2007-B102);
- implement a progressive provincial system of fines and stronger penalties for failure to stop for a school bus (2015-B103);
- permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground zones (2013-B91); and
- doubling of fines for Motor Vehicle Act infractions, including speeding in school and playground zones (2006-B16).

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR13 Encouraging Personal Accountability in Emergency Management**

**Nelson**

Whereas the Province is modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* which sets out the responsibilities of the Province and local governments related to emergency preparedness, response and recovery;

And whereas individuals and businesses must be informed to understand their personal responsibilities in emergency preparedness with regard to the things individuals and businesses can and should do to mitigate the impact of any emergency;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly encourage the Province to include changes to the *Emergency Program Act* that reflects the knowledge and lessons learned from previous emergencies and emphasize the importance of individual and business preparedness in mitigating the impact of any disaster or emergency;

And be it resolved further that the Province fund education targeting individuals and businesses in how to best prepare for potential disasters or emergencies.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to include changes to the Emergency Program Act that reflect the knowledge and lessons learned from previous emergencies and that emphasize the importance of individual and business preparedness in mitigating the impact of any disaster or emergency. The UBCM membership has similarly not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to fund education targeting individuals and businesses in how to best prepare for potential disasters or emergencies.*

*In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee has been engaged as part of this process, which included the October 2019 release of a discussion paper for stakeholder feedback. The discussion paper includes the following items relevant to the proposed resolution:*

- *A focus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (adopted by BC and Canada), which calls for an all of society approach to share responsibility for disaster risk reduction; and,*
- *Acknowledgment that changes to BC's emergency management legislation will consider lessons learned previous emergencies (e.g. recent flood and wildfire seasons).*

*The discussion paper also includes an updated definition for "preparedness" that includes the need to provide "public/stakeholder engagement," although the funding source is not defined.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR14 Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness**

**Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas the Province has adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

And whereas proposed changes to the BC *Emergency Program Act* will include disaster mitigation as an additional local government responsibility:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province be similarly required by legislation to undertake disaster mitigation work on all lands and facilities under the care and control of the Province where emergency events could negatively impact adjacent communities under local government jurisdiction.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to be required by legislation to undertake disaster mitigation work on all lands and facilities under the care and control of the provincial government where emergency events could negatively impact adjacent areas under local government jurisdiction.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial support and resources to address disaster mitigation/prevention, including numerous resolutions related to flooding and wildfires. Two of the most recent resolutions include:*

- *2019-B105 - requesting that EMBC add mitigation to its mandate, under the Emergency Program Act; and*
- *2019-B106 - requesting, among other things, that there be sufficient provincial staff resources to work with local jurisdictions to mitigate disasters.*

*In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee has been engaged as part of this process, which included the October 2019 release of a provincial discussion paper for stakeholder feedback. In recognition that current legislation includes gaps related to mitigation and recovery, the discussion paper proposes that new legislation encompass all four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery).*

*Legislative changes may transfer new disaster mitigation responsibilities to local governments. Many respondents to the EMBC discussion paper requested adequate provincial support (e.g. funding) be provided to address these and other emergency management responsibilities. Several specifically requested that the provincial government retain responsibility for mitigation work on crown lands.*

*See also resolutions SR1 and C1.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR15      Emergency Interagency Communication System**

**McBride**

Whereas local government and regional district emergency first responders have no central interagency communication system to verify the validity of call outs between all emergency agencies;

And whereas this places smaller local governments at risk with unnecessary call outs given the shortage of emergency first responder resources and personnel:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to provide access to the RCMP Central Emergency Communication System for all Provincial Emergency Services to improve field communications and prevent un-necessary call outs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide access to the RCMP Central Emergency Communication System for all Provincial Emergency Services.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B84 which called on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide additional funding and instruct the RCMP to improve dispatching procedures to minimize delays in citizen calls for service.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR16 Flood Risk Mitigation Through Green Infrastructure and Natural Assets**

**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas the side channels, tributaries and sloughs of the Fraser and other large rivers have deep value to First Nations as historic transportation corridors, sites of food cultivation and harvest, refuge and gathering places; many of these same waterways are or were valuable recreational fishing, boating and swimming sites but are no longer safe and accessible for these activities;

And whereas these waterways provide moderating effects for localized and riverine flooding and valuable habitat for wild salmon and other important species;

And whereas there is no current requirement or standard practice for treating these natural and manmade waterways as valuable natural assets for their provision of the aforementioned ecosystem services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments remove constraints and implement requirements for incorporating green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in flood management to ensure effective flood risk mitigation while maintaining or restoring social, cultural and ecological co-benefits for these systems;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the federal and provincial governments promote natural assets as a viable emergency planning solution and provide appropriate funding through the Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, Emergency Management BC and other similar emergency planning and mitigation funds.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to:*

- *implement requirements for incorporating green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in flood management to ensure effective flood mitigation; and,*
- *promote natural assets as a viable emergency planning solution and provide appropriate funding through specific grants and programs.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2019-B12, 2018-B33, 2018-B37, 2018-B94, 2018-B123, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2015-B97, 2014-B75, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2012-B62, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2019-B166, calling on the Province to undertake natural capital valuations in all aspects of its forests and land resources management, starting with the Coast Forest Sector Revitalization Initiative, and demonstrably use these valuations in all related decision-making and asset management.*

*In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. UBCM's Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee has been engaged as part of this process, which included the October 2019 release of a discussion paper for stakeholder feedback. Among the recommendations included in the discussion paper is a proposed new definition of "mitigation" that acknowledges the need to protect cultural sites and the environment.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR17 BC Cannabis Regulation – Section 37**

**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas in British Columbia, and specifically in the Kootenay Region, there is a historical legacy of cannabis cultivation and a clear acknowledgment that the cannabis industry is a pillar of our regional economy;

And whereas Section 37 of the BC Cannabis Control Regulation prohibits the promotion of any place to consume or to spend time after consuming cannabis, which significantly limits the ability for the cannabis industry to thrive, and in many cases limits potential business owners to operate all together;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to remove Section 37 from the BC Cannabis regulation, which will remove a significant barrier to the success of the cannabis industry in British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to remove Section 37 of the BC Cannabis Control Regulation (CCR).*

*Section 37 reads: "A person must not market, advertise or promote any place as a place to consume cannabis or to spend time after consuming cannabis."*

*The prohibitions listed in Section 37 of the CCR are meant to align with provisions contained in the federal Cannabis Act surrounding promotion and advertising. Section 37 is intended to prevent the promotion of any location where individuals may consume cannabis (e.g. licenced cannabis outlets or restaurants).*

*In September 2017, UBCM and the provincial government formed the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR) as a forum for local governments to share their experiences and knowledge and discuss issues of interest with the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat.*

*In advance of the provincial government tabling cannabis legislation, JCCR members were asked to respond to a number of questions related to key policy issues/decisions. In response to questions regarding public consumption, JCCR members expressed considerable support for the development of dedicated places of use (licensed establishments) where individuals could consume cannabis. The JCCR's recommendations were endorsed by the UBCM Executive and forwarded to the Province for consideration. Although the majority of UBCM's recommendations were implemented, the Province has elected not to permit dedicated places of cannabis use at this time.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR18 Needle Retrieval and Disposal Program**

**Terrace**

Whereas harm reduction best practices include needle distribution rather than needle exchange;

And whereas local governments are left to clean up discarded drug paraphernalia such as needles found within their jurisdiction:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop an effective retrieval and safe disposal program for used needles and that they involve local governments in the development of this program.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that calls on the Province to develop an effective retrieval and safe disposal program for used needles, and that local governments be involved in the development of this program.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2019-B88, that sought provincial funding for local governments to cover the cost of cleaning up needles and drug paraphernalia, including equipment distributed through harm reduction strategies. In response, the provincial government cited the Community Action Initiative, as a means for local governments to access up to \$50,000 in funding for community wellness and harm reduction initiatives.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR19 Collection of Blood Samples for Police Drug Testing**

**Delta**

Whereas Bill C-46 amended the Criminal Code to authorize any police officer who has reasonable grounds to believe a drug-impaired driving offence or a blood drug concentration level offence has occurred, to demand a sample of blood to determine per se limits of drug levels in the blood;

And whereas Bill C-46 amended the Criminal Code to allow 'qualified technicians' to draw blood without the supervision of a doctor;

And whereas drawing blood in a timely matter (less than two hours) is critical to capturing accurate blood drug concentration levels:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to allow hospital emergency room nurses or qualified technicians to draw blood, at the request of police, without having to admit the subjects as patients to the hospital.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allow hospital emergency room nurses or qualified technicians to draw blood at the request of police, for a blood drug concentration test, without having to formally admit the subject as a patient to the hospital.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2017-B88 that sought more funding to train municipal police agencies to increase the number of certified Drug Recognition Experts in order to properly police drug-impaired driving in British Columbia. Drug Recognition Expert evaluations can include obtaining a bodily fluid sample, but not a blood sample. Results can provide evidence in support of a drug-impaired driving charge.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR20 Private Liquor Store Moratorium**

**Burns Lake**

Whereas the government placed a moratorium on the issuance of new Licensee Retail Stores (private liquor stores) until July 1, 2022, the negative impacts of this moratorium have economic and social implications for smaller communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to end the government-imposed moratorium on new Licensee Retail Stores.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to end the government-imposed moratorium on new Licensee Retail Stores.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has previously endorsed multiple resolutions seeking additional provincial resources to address substance abuse, including 2019-B60, 2017-B44, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2010-B14, 2010-B44, 2010-B143, 2010-B145, 2009-B9.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR21      Vegetation Control Along Powerlines**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas all of our communities rely on a safe, stable, and reliable electrical power grid;

And whereas we are seeing and experiencing an increase in violent storms that bring down trees and branches on power lines, interrupting power supply and frequently travel:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that utility companies have the mandate and resources to effectively manage vegetation along power lines to ensure a safe, stable and reliable electrical power supply.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure utility companies have the mandate and resources to effectively manage vegetation along power lines to ensure a safe, stable and reliable electrical power supply.*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).*

*Endorsed resolution 2019-B76 called on the provincial government to establish a multi-agency approach in order to facilitate fire mitigation work specifically along transportation corridors. In response, the Province noted that new road and bridge maintenance contracts, awarded in 2019, include a requirement to mow roadside vegetation.*

*UBCM members have also endorsed resolution 2003-B84, which calls on the Canadian National Railway to implement an integrated pest management program to control noxious weed growth along its rights-of-way.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR22      Amend the Jury Act**

**Fort St. John**

Whereas the *Jury Act* disqualifies Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament from jury duty but does not include local government elected officials;

And whereas local government elected officials actively lobby for legislative amendments, oversee their RCMP Detachment work plans and are privy to sensitive information that could create a real or perceived conflict of interest if required to participate on a jury in their municipality:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Jury Act* to disqualify local government elected officials from jury duty.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Jury Act to disqualify local government elected officials from jury duty.*

*Currently, Section 3(1) of BC's Jury Act disqualifies a Member of Parliament or the BC Legislature from serving as a juror.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transportation

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### NR23 Development Cost Charges Bylaw and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Abbotsford

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing administers the approval of the Development Cost Charges Bylaw for local governments and has rejected the inclusion of local government capital costs for Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) highway interchanges on the basis that the local government does not own the aforementioned tangible capital asset;

And whereas MOTI expects up to 33 per cent of highway interchange capital costs be paid for by the local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to provide for local governments to be able to include their portion of the capital cost for MOTI interchanges in their Development Cost Charges Bylaw or that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure fully fund capital costs for all MOTI-owned interchange projects.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to enable local governments to use development cost charge reserves for the local portion of capital costs for provincial highway interchanges. Nor have members called on the provincial government to pay the full capital costs for provincial highway interchanges.*

*However, the Committee would note that members endorsed resolution 2009-B83, which asked the provincial government to reinstate funding to local governments for improvements to major roads that intersect the provincial highway system. In response to the resolution, the Province suggested that local governments should apply to federal/provincial infrastructure programs for this type of project.*

*This resolution proposes that the Province should choose one of the following options to cover the local portion of capital costs for provincial highway interchange projects:*

- *enable local governments to use development cost charges to fund the local portion of capital costs for provincial highway interchanges; or*
- *the provincial government pay the full capital costs for provincial highway interchanges.*

*See also resolution EB23.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### NR24 Active Transportation

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure policy requires local governments to take responsibility for pedestrian and cycling trails within highway rights of way;

And whereas local government involvement in planning and operating active transportation infrastructure within highway right of way is inefficient and ineffective given that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure sets the guidelines and gives final approval;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to assume responsibility for the development and operation of active transportation infrastructure within highway rights of way.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to assume responsibility for the development and operation of active transportation infrastructure within highway rights of way.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for the development of active transportation infrastructure (2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99).*

*The Committee also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57, 2012-B63, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B110, 2006-B140).*

*In this 2020 resolution, the request for the Province to assume all responsibility for active transportation infrastructure within highway rights of way is a departure from existing UBCM policy. The resolutions that the UBCM membership has endorsed in the past have asked for provincial actions and cost-sharing with local governments, but not for the provincial government to assume complete responsibility. The Resolutions Committee wonders whether all local governments would wish to transfer to the Province responsibility for this specific type of active transportation infrastructure.*

*See also resolution EB24.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR25 Congestion Pricing**

## **North Vancouver District**

Whereas vehicle congestion leads to a plethora of issues, such as increased air pollution, increased GHG emissions, and reduced quality of life for individuals;

And whereas congestion charges have been successful in cities around the world:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to enact legislation to enable local governments to impose and collect vehicle congestion charges.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation to allow local governments to impose and collect vehicle congestion charges.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR26 Partnerships for Fare-Free Public Transit**

## **Victoria**

Whereas equitable access to mobility is fundamental to full and meaningful participation in local communities, including access to education, employment, services, recreation, culture and community life, and noting that emissions from transportation generate a majority of community-based emissions in many communities, meaning that changes in transportation options have the potential to have a substantial impact in reducing green-house gas emissions;

And whereas forward-looking jurisdictions around the world from Kingston, Ontario to Kansas City, Missouri, to Luxembourg and Estonia are eliminating user-fee barriers to public transit ridership, with residents paying for transit services through the tax system rather than at the fare box:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to work with local governments to introduce fare-free public transit services where communities support the elimination of user-fee barriers to public transit ridership.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province and local governments to develop fare-free public transit.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B114, which called for free or further subsidized transit passes for British Columbians receiving income or disability assistance.*

*In response to resolution 2019-B114, the provincial government observed that people receiving Persons with Disabilities (PWD) assistance are eligible to choose either a transit pass (paid in full by the BC Bus Pass Program) or a transportation supplement of \$52 per month. The Province clarified that under the BC Bus Pass Program, low-income seniors can pay a \$45 annual administration fee and may then access a transit pass; however, seniors are not eligible to receive a transportation supplement. The Province also pointed out that people receiving income assistance or disability assistance may access employment-related transportation supports—either through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, or through WorkBC.*

*As a different way to address barriers to public transit services, the provincial government highlighted its Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program, under which local governments may apply for funding of short-term projects intended to reduce poverty locally. The Province suggested that a pilot project offering low-income transit passes would likely be eligible for funding.*

*The Committee further advises that members considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2019-B113, regarding public transit fare infraction ticketing and enforcement. The resolution asked the Province to eliminate or reduce fines for fare infractions by those under 18 years of age; and investigate restorative justice and community service options for low-income individuals to settle fare infraction tickets.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR27 Benefits of Public Car Insurance**

**Burnaby**

Whereas public car insurance creates local jobs and significant investments in municipalities through road safety and improvement, grants-in-lieu, and community grants while providing greater control to municipalities to plan for risks and costs;

And whereas jurisdictions with only private insurance options have experienced significant rate hikes year after year while accident benefits dramatically decline:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to preserve public car insurance, including jobs and local investments, in British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to preserve public car insurance.*

*The Committee notes that due to time constraints, resolution 2019-B196 was not debated at Convention, but was referred to the UBCM Executive. The resolution asked the Province to open the basic car insurance market to the private sector. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse resolution 2019-B196.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 1998-B56, which in part called on the provincial government to deregulate motor vehicle insurance in BC. The Committee notes that this is a dated reference.*

*In response to resolution 1998-B56, the Province observed that private sector providers of vehicle insurance were often based in other provinces or even other countries; and could discriminate on the basis of age, gender, and marital status when setting insurance rates.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR28 Accessible Parking Campaign**

**Dawson Creek**

Whereas most handicap accessible parking spots are designed for standard sized vehicles without a side entry conversion to accommodate ramps or lifts for drivers or passengers with disabilities;

And whereas drivers or passengers with disabilities riding in a vehicle equipped with a side entry conversion require extra room to safely enter and exit the vehicle through the use of a ramp or lift:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to enact legislation in British Columbia that requires the provision of wheelchair accessible parking spaces, where are no less than 5.5 metres long, 2.5 metres wide, and have a clear pedestrian aisle of no less than 2.5 metres with a designated "no parking" sign.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to set the minimum dimensions of wheelchair accessible parking spaces at 5.5 metres long by 2.5 metres wide, with a "no parking" sign to designate a clear pedestrian aisle of no less than 2.5 metres.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**Taxation**

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**NR29 Requirement for Trust Accounts for Commercial Properties**

**Fort St. John**

Whereas there are commercial properties that are unable to pay property taxes that result in a loss of revenue for local government;

And whereas the majority of rental and lease agreements include an amount in the rental fee that is allocated towards property taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be asked to lobby the Province to implement a requirement for commercial property landlords to establish trust accounts to deposit property tax payments collected as part of the lease/rental agreements.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require commercial property landlords to create trust fund accounts to deposit property tax payments they collect as part of the lease or rental agreement.*

*The Committee would note that due to the pandemic, many municipalities have expressed concern about the property taxpayers' ability to pay their taxes. While the tax sale is the last resort, the sponsor is looking for an interim measure that would require landlords to put aside funds collected from leaseholders/renters to set aside those revenues to ensure taxes are paid.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR30 Places of Public Worship Tax Exemptions**

**Radium Hot Springs**

Whereas philanthropic organizations in each community provide different levels of service and public benefit that each local government may wish to recognize;

And whereas matters of worship are highly personal, and the financial obligations of places of public worship should only be shared among the citizens and taxpayers in a community with the consent of the local government body;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial Government to amend the *Community Charter* to move the tax exemption "places of public worship" from statutory [Section 220 (1) (h)], to permissive [Section 24 (2)].

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to amend the Community Charter to move the tax exemption "places of public worship" from statutory [Section 220 (1) (h)], to permissive [Section 24 (2)].*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR31 Taxation of Group 4 Independent Schools**

**Kimberley**

Whereas Group 4 independent schools bring hundreds of student residents to our communities that consume municipal services such as transit, library, bylaw enforcement, policing, and road and trail maintenance;

And whereas the *Community Charter* exempts these Group 4 Independent Schools from property taxation which the municipality normally utilizes to fund these services, thereby placing an extra burden on existing taxpayers;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC either remove the tax exemption for Group 4 Independent Schools from Provincial legislation or provide compensatory grants to municipalities that are affected.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to remove the tax exemption for Group 4 Independent Schools, or to provide compensatory grants to municipalities that are affected.*

*The Committee notes that the resolution references General Statutory Exemptions S. 220 (1)*

*(l) a building owned by an incorporated institution of learning that is regularly giving children instruction accepted as equivalent to that given in a public school, and that is actually occupied and wholly in use by the incorporated institution for the purpose of giving the instruction, together with*

*(i) the land on which the building stands, and*

*(ii) an area of the land surrounding the land referred to in subparagraph (i) or improvements on the area of land, or both, that are owned by the incorporated institution and that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of the incorporated institution, including, without limiting this, the following areas of land and improvements:*

*(A) playing fields, athletic grounds and facilities, playgrounds and improvements related to any of them;*

*(B) storage, maintenance and administrative facilities;*

*(C) dormitories for students;*

*(D) parking lots, walkways and roads;*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## NR32 Employer Health Tax

Sicamous

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implemented changes in 2018 to the Medical Services Plan and introduced a new Employer Health Tax in 2019 to replace the Medical Services Plan premiums;

And whereas the Employer Health Tax is placing an increased financial strain on small business and is having negative consequences on the economy of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to increase the small business exemption threshold from \$500,000 to \$1.25 million and ensure the tax is fully graduated so that the 1.95 percent rate is the same at all payroll thresholds in order to bridge the gap and create fairness overall.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase the small business exemption threshold from \$500,000 to \$1.25 million and ensure the tax is fully graduated so that the 1.95 percent rate is the same at all payroll thresholds in order to bridge the gap and create fairness overall.*

*Currently, employers with BC remuneration between \$500,000.01 and \$1,500,000 pay the EHT based on the calculation of: 2.925 percent x (BC remuneration - \$500,000). Employers with BC remuneration greater than \$1.5 million pay the EHT based on the following calculation: 1.95 percent x total BC remuneration.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse 2018-A1 that sought to have the Employer Health Tax be cost-neutral for local governments.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Finance

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### NR33 Local Government Price Index

Nanaimo City

Whereas local government and household spending are often compared by taxpayers through the lens of the Consumer Price Index which measures changes in the prices paid by household consumers for goods and services;

And whereas local government purchases do not fall into the same category as household purchases with respect to the types of goods each purchases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to create a Local Government Price Index that more accurately reflects the projected costs of the types of goods that local government purchase.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to create a Local Government Price Index that more accurately reflects the projected costs of the types of goods that local governments purchase.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2012-B133 that called on the Province to include in the Terms of Reference of the Municipal Auditor General (currently the Auditor General for Local Government) the creation of a Municipal Price Index.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR34 Enumeration and Consideration of Seasonal Populations****Cariboo RD**

Whereas many grants and public sector planning activities look largely at the population of an area as a determining factor in the grant amount, grant eligibility, and public service availability and levels;

And whereas many communities in rural British Columbia experience a great increase in seasonal population, which puts a strain on existing public services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to begin enumerating the seasonal populations of rural communities and that the seasonal population be strongly considered when looking at grant funding and the establishment of public service levels.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to begin enumerating the seasonal populations of rural communities and that the seasonal population be strongly considered when looking at grant funding and the establishment of public service levels.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for data and funding programs to reflect more accurately the existence and impact of shadow populations on local governments as local governments strive to resource and provide utilities, protective, recreational and other services (2013-B88, 2012-B97, 2010-B10, 2004-A3).*

*The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the Small Community Grant program and asking for the funding formula to be indexed and fine-tuned to the realities of small local governments in BC (2017-B16, 2014-B20, 2013-B18, 2012-B132).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**Environment**

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**NR35 Odometer Readings for Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracking****Powell River**

Whereas transportation is the single largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emission source for most BC communities, and accurately tracking these emissions is critical for all local governments as well as for the Province of British Columbia to be able to implement effective climate change mitigation initiatives and achieve GHG emission reduction targets;

And whereas the provincial government does not currently provide accurate transportation emissions data to BC communities to enable them to work strategically and measurably in the reduction of community transportation emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) to collect odometer readings from all customers at the time of vehicle insurance purchase and renewal and provide aggregates of this information to local governments in order to enable effective and targeted local government action on transportation GHG emissions reduction.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on ICBC to collect odometer readings from all customers at the time of vehicle insurance purchase and renewal and*

*provide aggregate data to local governments to enable effective and targeted action on transportation GHG emissions reduction.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2010-B83 which made a similar request, calling on ICBC to collect and release aggregate data (e.g. the estimate of vehicle kilometers traveled by vehicle class) that local governments can use to implement and measure the success of transportation-related climate action initiatives.*

*See also resolution EB59.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR36 Reducing Truck Pollution on Residential-Adjacent Commercial Transport (Trucking Routes) Vancouver**

Whereas the high number of older, heavy-duty diesel trucks travelling on residential-adjacent trucking routes exposes homes, schools, businesses and residents to significant traffic pollution linked to increased risk of respiratory diseases, such as asthma and heart disease. Of particular danger is soot, which is indicative of diesel exhaust, a carcinogen associated with lung cancer;

And whereas according to a July 2018 study by University of Toronto professors in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Metro Vancouver, elevated levels of traffic pollution can be detected as far as 250 metres from major roads, putting thousands of British Columbians at risk of suffering serious health issues from living on or near commercial transport (trucking) routes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to significantly strengthen regulations restricting traffic pollution, particularly of the particulates (soot) emitted by heavy-duty vehicles as well as requiring fuel alternatives that significantly reduce pollution on residential-adjacent commercial transport routes.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:                   **No Recommendation***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to strengthen regulations restricting traffic pollution, particularly emissions from heavy-duty vehicles, as well as requiring fuel alternatives that significantly reduce pollution on residential-adjacent commercial transport routes.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR37 Provincial Enabling of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing by Local Governments Vancouver**

Whereas local governments in British Columbia are considering how to most effectively support members of their communities in actions to mitigate climate change, especially to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from buildings, which account for over 50 percent of GHG emissions in many communities, but are challenged by the fact that the vast majority of buildings are privately owned and most building owners face financial barriers to energy and emission-reducing retrofits;

And whereas there is a reluctance by the Province to pursue public financing mechanisms for private buildings, but rapidly growing interest by private investors to put their capital to work solving challenges such as climate change, while earning a reasonable return on investment—as evidenced by the \$11 trillion in funds being divested globally from fossil fuels in 2019 and nearly a billion dollars of third party private investment in Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (C-PACE) in the United States in 2017 and 2018:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province update the *Vancouver Charter* and *Community Charter* to enable BC local or regional governments to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing programs that include accessing third party private investment.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that calls on the Province to update the Vancouver and Community Charters to enable BC local or regional governments to establish Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing programs that include accessing third party private investment.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2019-B140 which called on the Province to work with expert stakeholders with knowledge of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) best practices, including UBCM and FCM, to study the application of PACE in BC and develop PACE enabling legislation for BC Municipalities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR38 GHG Reduction Legislation**

**North Vancouver District**

Whereas measuring and reducing carbon pollution is critical to addressing the climate emergency:

And whereas the courts are currently bound by the Plastic Bag Decision which would likely require ministerial approval of environmental bylaws and limit authority under the other heads of power;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province enact legislation to enable local governments to require GHG emission reduction or elimination, including the sale or installation of fossil fuel heating systems and sale of fossil fuel vehicles, and require upgrades to or removal of fossil fuel heating systems.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation to enable local governments to require GHG emission reduction or elimination, including the sale or installation of fossil fuel heating systems and sale of fossil fuel vehicles, and require upgrades to or removal of fossil fuel heating systems.*

*However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a wide range of resolutions on low carbon initiatives including electric vehicle charging infrastructure (2019-B144, 2017-B132); increasing sales of electric vehicles (2018-B131, 2018-B130); building efficiency and retrofit programs as well as benchmarking (2019-B142, 2018-B32, 2018-B31, 2017-B62, 2014-B94); and zero waste strategies (2017-B63).*

*More generally, the UBCM membership has also endorsed resolutions calling greenhouse gas reductions (2014-B26).*

*See also resolution C11.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR39 Engaging Northern and Remote Communities on New Programs**

**Kitimat**

Whereas northern and rural communities need to be included in meaningful consultation when provincial greenhouse gas reduction programs are developed, in order to maximize success of the programs in those communities and prevent barriers to implementation;

And whereas program requirements can create barriers for community participation when resources are not available at a local or regional level (such as Energy Step Code requiring certified Energy Advisors to ensure compliance), and if programs are not scaled to suit small communities (such as offering fuel-switching incentives only for very large commercial and multi-family residential buildings);

And whereas when provincial programs are implemented without an adequate allocation of resources to northern and rural communities, the responsibility to overcome barriers is shifted to local government and contractors, each already facing challenges of limited organizational capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that it consults with residents and local governments regarding the unique culture, remoteness and low density of northern and remote communities when designing and implementing new provincial greenhouse gas reduction programs, including grants, and to ensure that such programs are designed in a way that allows them to succeed in our communities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to design and implement new provincial greenhouse gas reduction programs and grants that take into account the unique culture, remoteness and low density of northern and remote communities.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR40      Creating One Planet Communities**

**Saanich**

Whereas we live on one planet, and in Canada we use 3-4 planets resources per resident which is an unsustainable share of the Earth’s bio capacity and resources, thus threatening the well-being of current and future generations;

And whereas Saanich has declared a Climate Change Emergency, and has successfully used the One Planet Saanich model for resident engagement to help reduce our communities ecological footprint to one planet’s worth of bio capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage local governments to take steps to engage their citizens in reducing their ecological footprint by utilizing a “One Planet” or similar model for a sustainable future.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution encouraging local governments to take steps to engage their citizens in reducing their ecological footprint by utilizing a “One Planet” or similar model for a sustainable future.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR41      Closing Federal Corporate Tax Loopholes to Fund Climate-Related Adaptation and Mitigation**

**Nelson**

Whereas local governments are incurring substantial costs in relation to the impacts of climate change, including volatile weather patterns, droughts, wildfires, erosion and other impacts and such costs are anticipated to continue rising;

And whereas 2019 reports indicate that many corporations are not paying between 24 to 29 percent of legally owed federal taxes;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly encourage the Canadian Government to implement measures to close corporate tax loopholes and collect owed corporate taxes in order that such funds be directed to local governments and Indigenous communities, in order to pay for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience measures.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to implement measures to close corporate tax loopholes and collect owed corporate taxes in order that such funds be directed to local governments and Indigenous communities, in order to pay for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience measures.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR42 Venting Index Requirement and Efficiency of Burns Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas there is a large amount of smoke created during forest fuel reduction burns and/or agricultural burns;

And whereas there are minimal days that the venting index permits burning resulting in a large number of burns being undertaken during the permitted times, which results in a tremendous amount of smoke being produced, as all burning is taking place within a short period of time;

And whereas forced air curtain burner or trench burner systems greatly reduce the smoke created during combustion by improving the efficiency of a fire resulting in clean burns with very little atmospheric particulate being produced:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to allow burning outside of the venting days with the use of forced air systems, such as trench or curtain burners.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to allow burning outside of venting days with the use of forced air systems, such as trench or curtain burners.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B70, which asked the Province to develop more venting indexes, to help ensure the health of residents is not compromised by prescribed burns.*

*The membership has also endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to establish standards for regulating wood burning appliances and outdoor boilers, in order to reduce emissions (2008-B72, 2007-B35, 2006-B109, 2005-B114).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR43 BC Water Resources Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas local governments in British Columbia are the purveyors of water and water is and will become a very important issue as the province experiences the effect of climate change;

And whereas the analysis, quality, abundance protection, conservation, allocation and use of both ground water and surface water is of utmost importance both ecologically and financially now and in the future;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to create a ministry with the sole responsibility to research and provide education, protection and conservation of BC's water resources.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to create a Ministry with the sole responsibility to research and provide education, protection and conservation of BC's water resources.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed many resolutions seeking additional protections for our water resources, including:*

- *opposition to bulk water exports (2006-B147, 2003-B31);*
- *more oversight and control over groundwater extraction (2019-B154, 2018-B34, 2011-B43, 2008-B78);*
- *protection for coastal communities and waterways from spills (2018-B66, 2017-B112, 2016-B20, 2016-B21, 2015-B29); and*
- *watershed protection and a local government voice in water management processes (2019-B36, 2018-B34, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **NR44 Water Conservation and Grey Water Use**

#### **North Vancouver District**

Whereas local governments may require water conservation and grey water use in relation to a drainage system under section 8(2) and (3)(a) of the *Community Charter*, and as a condition in a phased development agreement under section 516(3) of the *Local Government Act*, but not in relation to plumbing requirements for new buildings or the retrofitting of old buildings:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province enact legislation to empower local governments to require water conservation and grey water use in relation to plumbing and drainage requirements for new buildings or the retrofitting of old buildings.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1993-B46 calling for changes to the BC Building and Plumbing Code and other enactments as appropriate to require the use of water conservation devices for all new construction. The Committee notes that this is a dated reference.*

*The Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse 2018-B125, that sought an update to the Building Code to make the installation of waterless urinals mandatory in all new dwellings built. However, the membership did endorse 2002-B49 which sought an amendment to the Building Code to introduce dual flush and lower water capacity toilets.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **NR45 Support for a British Columbia Coastal Protection Strategy**

#### **Port Moody**

Whereas unlike all the Atlantic provinces, BC has no comprehensive coastal and marine strategy, a BC Coastal Protection Strategy will clearly articulate provincial jurisdiction and enable the Province to better engage with other governments and communities;

And whereas no marine counterpart to the BC *Land Act* exists, and piecemeal legislation and policy govern numerous coastal marine activities;

And whereas a BC Coastal Protection Strategy will provide a vision and objectives to guide actions in the increasingly crowded coastal zone and highlight the importance the government places on these vital areas such as sensitive marine ecosystems, and vulnerable species, as well as their importance to protecting our coastal communities and economies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to develop and enact a Coastal Protection Strategy and law to leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, First Nations, local communities, and stakeholder groups to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a

network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop and enact a Coastal Protection Strategy and law to leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, First Nations, local communities, and stakeholder groups to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR46        Marine Debris**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas a large volume of marine debris including plastics, styrofoam, components of boats, docks, and fishing gear is increasingly washing up on local shores which is environmentally damaging to marine environments, poses risks to fish and wildlife, creates a safety hazard for marine traffic, and places added pressure on communities to collect and haul shoreline marine debris to disposal facilities which is costly and logistically complex;

And whereas local governments have no jurisdiction on shorelines, as that is under the authority of the Province, and provincial efforts to increase producer responsibility for product stewardship have not been sufficient at reducing pollution caused by marine debris due to the diversity of materials and their often unknown source of origin:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to adequately resource and develop a provincial program to assist with marine debris shoreline clean-up efforts that focusses on increasing regulation and enforcement for sectors responsible for the majority of marine debris, expanding recycling options for commonly found materials such as styrofoam, and funding communities that are struggling to address significant marine debris pollution on their shorelines so that regular community-led shoreline clean-up events are supported and collected marine debris can be safely transported to disposal facilities.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to resource and develop a program to assist with marine debris shoreline clean-up efforts and increase regulation and enforcement for sectors responsible for the majority of marine debris.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a past resolution 2002-B55 which called for marine debris clean up. The Committee notes that this is a dated reference.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR47        Home Heating Oil Spill Prevention**

**View Royal**

Whereas home heating oil is very toxic, killing fish and other marine life in waterbodies;

And whereas prevention is the most effective means to safeguard our environment and avoid the unnecessary provincial and municipal expenditure of both time and money for clean up:

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



UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reinstate BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR50 Use of High Efficiency Electrical Appliances Incentives Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas several Kootenay Boundary communities have committed to a transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050;

And whereas electricity generated in BC is considered a renewable energy source and carbon free while natural gas is not;

And whereas the incentives available from suppliers for carbon intensive energy sources e.g. natural gas in the province are greater than those available for carbon free sources:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to require all energy suppliers in the province, including Fortis BC, to increase the carbon free energy incentives available to all residents to support the use of high efficiency carbon free energy appliances and heating systems to the point where those incentives are at a minimum equalized to those currently provided by carbon intensive energy suppliers.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require all energy suppliers in the province, including Fortis BC, to increase the carbon free energy incentives available to all residents to support the use of high efficiency carbon free energy appliances and heating systems to the point where those incentives are at a minimum equalized to those currently provided by carbon intensive energy suppliers.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2008-B70 which sought energy efficient rebates. Specifically it urged the provincial and federal governments to ensure that they and their Crown corporations offer energy efficiency rebates based on products' (products including appliances) specifications, rather than on select manufacturers.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR51 Facilitating Clean Energy Retrofits Squamish**

Whereas many local governments have declared climate and ecological emergencies and have set significant targets to reduce emissions, to protect the environment, and to support health, wellness, and quality of life;

And whereas existing buildings account for 11 percent of BC's current greenhouse gas emissions, and retrofitting those buildings is critical to BC meeting its climate targets, while bringing money into the economy, adding new jobs to the market, and reducing energy bills for citizens;

And whereas a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program is an effective way to facilitate critical building retrofits, but existing legislation creates a significant administrative burden and other barriers for local governments wanting to implement an effective PACE program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to enact Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation following the PACE Alberta legislative checklist to develop a "pay as you save" energy retrofit incentive program for residential and commercial building owners.



*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to include pressurized tanks and sharps (needles) under the recycling regulation.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR54      A Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility Program for  
Cigarettes and Vaping Products**

**Delta**

Whereas waste from smoking cigarettes and vaping is unsightly, toxic to the environment and marine life, and is one of the most common sources of litter in many communities;

And whereas awareness and enforcement campaigns, have been ineffective in addressing the problem, and public ashtray programs have had mixed success:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) to include cigarette and vaping waste as a priority product category for extended producer responsibility in Canada, consistent with the 2019 Canada-Wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste;

And be it further resolved that the Province work with industry to implement a province-wide extended producer responsibility deposit-return program for cigarettes and vaping waste to eliminate litter generated by smoking.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to include cigarette and vaping waste as a priority product category for extended producer responsibility in Canada, as well as to implement a deposit-return program for cigarettes and vaping waste.*

*However, the Committee notes that resolution 2016-B129, which was referred to the UBCM Executive, was endorsed by Executive and called for a cigarette butt deposit-return program.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to expand and better coordinate extended producer responsibility programs (2017-B63, 2015-B62, 2014-A6, 2014-B97, 2013-SR1, 2013-B77, 2012-B27, 2012-B28, 2012-B30, 2012-B81, 2012-B125, 2011-B39, 2010-B33, 2009-B36, 2009-B37, 2009-B114, 2009-B115, 2009-B116, 2008-B29, 2008-B84, 2007-B25, 2006-B29, 2006-B30, 2006-B106).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR55      Cardboard Recycling**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas cardboard is cardboard;

And whereas all cardboard in the Province of BC should be treated equally;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC immediately incorporate all cardboard into the existing Extended Producer Responsibility Program operated by Recycle BC.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to include all cardboard into the existing Extended Producer Responsibility Program operated by Recycle BC.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions 2019-B146 and 2018-B68 which, in part, sought to include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector in the requirement for Extended Producer Responsibility plans for Printed Paper and Packaging.

See also resolutions EB54 and C10.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR56      Recovering Costs for the Illegal Disposal of Wildlife Carcasses      Highlands**

Whereas BC's small and rural governments are incurring waste disposal fees due to the illegal disposal of wildlife carcasses or parts on local government lands, including lands where people may be present, which is an offence under the *Wildlife Act*;

And whereas discarded wildlife carcasses or parts is defined in the *Wildlife Act* as an attractant to potentially dangerous wildlife; therefore a potential danger to people and domestic animals when illegally disposed of on land where there are likely to be people. This illegal disposal on local government land then becomes a cost (disposal fee) to a local government:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested by UBCM to cost share revenue generated from hunting activities (via a program or other means) with affected local governments to recover the costs associated with this illegal disposal on local government lands;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to investigate ways of preventing this illegal activity with improved language and clear direction within the *Wildlife Act* and/or Regulations.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks the Province to amend the Wildlife Act to prevent illegal disposal of wildlife carcasses on local government land and for the Province to share funding from hunting activities, so that local governments can recover the costs associated with illegal disposal.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR57      Invasive Species Act      Burns Lake**

Whereas there is no current provincial legislation that specifically addresses the negative impacts that invasive species cause for the economic well-being of municipalities and regional districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a comprehensive Invasive Species Act that addresses all taxa, prohibits the sale of invasive species, and includes appropriate enforcement clauses.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a comprehensive Invasive Species Act that addresses all taxa, prohibits the sale of invasive species, and includes appropriate enforcement clauses.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:*

- *Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B66, 2011-B44, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);*

- *Quagga and zebra mussels (2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);*
- *Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);*
- *Ban on sale of invasive species (2017-B28); and*
- *Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108).*

See also resolutions EB49 and EB50.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Land Use

### **NR58      Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) Enabling Subdivision      Central Kootenay RD into Smaller Affordable Lots**

Whereas the Ministry of Agriculture seeks to strengthen farming in BC and there are portions of the province where successful, intensive agriculture is practiced on small lots while showing significant farm receipts;

And whereas the viability of small lot agriculture depends on the affordability of the land and improvements which is in competition for Agricultural Land with the “hobby farm” development model featuring large homes and accessory buildings often impacting the land without contributing to agricultural production;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Agriculture to work with the Agricultural Land Commission to designate areas of the province where the Agricultural Land Reserve may be subdivided into smaller affordable lots provided the developed footprint is scaled such as to enable craft and/or niche agricultural market activity.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to designate areas of the province where ALR may be subdivided into smaller affordable lots provided the developed footprint is scaled such as to enable craft and/or niche agricultural market activity.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2002-B58 that sought, in part, homesite severance (sub-division) on ALR land to provide a residence for a relative as well as numerous resolutions (2014-B29, 2011-B52, 2009-B89, 2008-B47) calling for improved funding for agricultural activities in BC.*

*As of July 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture is continuing to determine revised options for residential flexibility in the ALR, including the consideration of garden suites, guest houses or carriage suites; accommodation above an existing building; manufactured homes; and permitting a principal residence to be constructed in addition to a manufactured home that was formerly a principal residence. Although subdivision is not under consideration, the overall reconsideration of residential uses in the ALR may impact the affordability of agricultural land.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR59      Cannabis Enforcement and Regulation within the Agricultural      Maple Ridge Land Reserve**

Whereas UBCM was not consulted on the legislative and regulatory changes that have changed the characterization of cannabis production on the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to "farm use";

And whereas the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* protects and exempts farm operation from liability in nuisance for any odour, noise, dust or other disturbance resulting from that farm operation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Agriculture to continue to work with farm operators and the Cannabis Policy Technical Working Group to address the concerns of local government in relation to the water

usage, waste, light emission, and the lack of enforcement related to cannabis operations within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with UBCM and the JCCR to address local government concerns around the lack of enforcement of cannabis rules within the Agricultural Land Reserve.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B71 which sought a moratorium on allowing cannabis to be grown on ALR land.*

*Having completed its primary objectives, the JCCR was discontinued in November 2019. In its place, UBCM has established the Cannabis Policy Technical Working Group to address new and ongoing technical issues.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Community Economic Development**

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### **NR60      Sustainable Development Goals**

### **Squamish**

Whereas all 193 member nations of the UN General assembly adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for achievement by 2030 to ensure a better, and more sustainable, equitable, peaceful, survivable, and prosperous future for all;

And whereas every level of government has authority over areas critical to progress on most of the Sustainable Development Goals:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province require all local governments to report on their efforts and progress in achieving each of the Sustainable Development Goals within their geographic jurisdiction;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM Executive work with the Province to help local governments improve their reporting and accountability over time by developing a standardized reporting approach for the Sustainable Development Goals at a municipal and regional level.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to require all local governments to report on their efforts and progress in achieving each of the Sustainable Development Goals within their geographic jurisdiction; and have local governments improve their reporting and accountability by developing a standardized approach for Sustainable Development Goals.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Regional Districts**

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### **NR61      Indigenous Peoples' Representation**

### **Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has enacted Bill 41-2019, the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* to align BC's laws with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP);

And whereas UNDRIP includes Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and culture institutions while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* does not allow for Indigenous peoples' representation at regional district tables when the regional district is situated in non-treaty territory:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to, in consultation with BC Indigenous peoples and impacted regional districts, explore amending the *Local Government Act* to include self-determined participation by BC Indigenous peoples as voting regional district directors.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Local Government Act to include self-determined participation by BC Indigenous peoples as voting regional district directors.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B150, which requested that the Province of BC and Government of Canada work towards addressing inclusive governance, requesting that they “work with First Nations and local governments to explore and implement revenue solutions such as federal transfer payments, thereby supporting implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the commitments in UNDRIP”, and “to ensure First Nation participation in the management of said payments, UBCM request British Columbia, in consultation with First Nations, amend the Local Government Act accordingly.” In addition, in response to resolution 2018-OF1, UBCM held a session at the 2019 Convention focused on exploring these issues, including consideration of opportunities for inclusive governance in regional district boards.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health and Social Development

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### NR62 Re-Evaluation of Outpatient Model

Terrace

Whereas a significant proportion of the province's homeless population have mental illnesses; And whereas being homeless presents a threat to their well-being and safety:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to re-evaluate the current outpatient model of mental health care.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to re-evaluate the current outpatient model of mental health care.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that call on the Province to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions, 2018-B52 and 2013-B121, that asked the Province for all necessary action, including funding, to reinstate Riverview as a patient-centred, wrap around care centre of excellence for mental health care and support and addictions services.*

*See also resolution SR8.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR63      Sharing Payments from Opioid Class Action Lawsuits**

**Prince George**

Whereas under the *Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act* (the “Act”) the provincial government may sue a manufacturer or wholesaler of an opioid product to recover the costs of health care benefits on an aggregate basis, for a population of persons who have suffered damage caused or contributed to by the use of or exposure to an opioid product;

And whereas pursuant to the Act and other legislation, the provincial government has launched a class action lawsuit on behalf of all federal, provincial and territorial governments to recover the costs of health care benefits from manufacturers and wholesalers of opioid products, whose marketing practices have had devastating impacts on the lives of thousands of British Columbians;

And whereas the definition of “health care benefits” under the Act includes “other expenditures by the government, made directly or through one or more agents or other intermediate bodies, for programs, services, benefits or similar matters associated with disease, injury or illness” and local governments have faced substantial “health care benefits” costs due to the opioid crisis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share any recovery of damages from the class action lawsuit with local governments, to further enable local governments to continue offering services and support programs that aim to reduce harm and stigma, address the root causes of the opioid crisis, and support people struggling with mental health and addiction.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to share any recovery of damages from the class action lawsuit against the manufacturer or wholesaler of opioid products with local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has several endorsed resolutions to address the opioid crisis, including 2019-B171, 2018-B142, 2018-B170, 2017-B71.*

*See also resolution SR8.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR64      A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care**

**Kaslo**

Whereas local health care at all stages of life impacts the economic development of communities: e.g. family members lose work time, people and their businesses move out of the community or choose not to locate there;

And whereas “ageing in place” keeps seniors close to home, where their partner, family or friends are better able to provide loving support and care, which reduces the load on health care providers and improves quality of life for all;

And whereas concentrating health services in regional centers transfers a significant economic burden to individuals in the form of transportation costs, increased energy consumption and housing in-affordability;

And whereas providing health care jobs in small communities stimulates the local economy with numerous spin-off benefits, creating opportunities to attract new people, their families, and businesses;

And whereas our elderly, and all patients, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not as “users”;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Government of British Columbia to build a strategy to expand rural community health care services with consideration for maximizing local economic impacts, creating professional job opportunities, access to affordable housing, improving social wellbeing and reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.



Submitted Directly to UBCM

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure farmers' markets are identified as an essential service during all provincial and local states of emergency.

The Committee also advise that no action is required on the resolution and its request, as farmers markets are listed as one of the COVID-19 Essential Services.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/essential-services-covid-19#food>

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR67 Free Menstrual Products in Civic Facilities Port Coquitlam**

Whereas equity-based policies around access to menstrual products helps to support inclusion, mobility, reduces stigma, and promotes gender equality;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia issued ministerial order M149/89 on April 3, 2019, requiring all public schools to have free menstrual products in school restrooms;

And whereas numerous jurisdictions across British Columbia and Canada have enacted policies to provide menstrual products in school, park, and civic restrooms to promote the health, mobility, and participation of citizens:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide policy direction and funding to cover the costs associated with providing free and accessible menstrual products in local and regional government run civic facility restrooms, including parks, libraries, shelters, service centres, police, judicial and incarceration centres.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide policy direction and funding to cover the costs associated with providing free and accessible menstrual products in local and regional government run civic facility restrooms, including parks, libraries, shelters, service centres, police, judicial and incarceration centres.

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR68 Early Childhood Education Labour Force Shortage Williams Lake**

Whereas there is a chronic shortage of Early Childhood Educators (ECE's) across the province that impedes the ability of qualified workers to return to the workforce after a parental leave:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a standard minimum \$25 per hour wage for ECE's in British Columbia to address the challenge of a lagging labour force in the child care sector;

And be it further resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training to address the gender-biased systems that place an unequal requirement on entrants into the ECE profession in comparison to other sectors, particularly when compared with trades education.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution which calls on the Province to implement a standard minimum \$25 per hour wage for ECEs and to address the gender-biased systems that place an unequal requirement on entrants into the ECE profession in comparison to other sectors.*

*However, this resolution would support the development of child care centers and their challenges in attracting and retaining Early Childhood Education staff. The UBCM membership has supported several resolutions calling for affordable, accessible and quality child care in BC (2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98).*

*On the issue of early childhood educators, the UBCM membership endorsed resolution (2006-B168) which asked the provincial government to work with other orders of government to ensure the transferability of Early Childhood Education accreditation across the provinces.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Housing

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### **NR69      Vacancy Tax**

**White Rock**

Whereas the City of Vancouver has authority through the *Vancouver Charter* to implement an Annual Vacancy Tax;

And whereas other municipalities are governed through the *Community Charter* where there is no current authority to implement a Vacancy Tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to amend the authority given to municipalities through the *Community Charter* permitting municipalities the authority to impose, by bylaw, an annual vacancy tax on taxable residential and commercial properties.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).*

*However, the Committee advises that the membership has not endorsed a resolution that would see the Province enable local government vacancy taxation that would apply to commercial properties. The Resolutions Committee also advises that in the Vacancy Tax provisions of the Vancouver Charter, taxable properties are restricted to a subset of residential properties.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR70      Declaring a Homelessness Emergency: Making an Emergency Plan to Drastically Reduce Homelessness**

**Vancouver**

Whereas British Columbia has at least 7,655 homeless people, and homelessness robs people of their security, dignity, rights and lives, as homeless people have about half the life expectancy as housed people;

And whereas Bill C-97 (June 21, 2019) containing the *National Housing Strategy Act*, and the federal right to housing legislation enshrines the need to “recognize that the right to adequate housing is a fundamental human right affirmed in international law.”:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province to declare a Homelessness Emergency and work with all orders of governments, BC Housing and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that calls on the Province to declare a Homelessness Emergency and work with all orders of governments, BC Housing and other partners on a Homelessness Emergency Plan to build or find dignified, affordable housing for the specific target of at least 80 percent of counted homeless people within three years.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy including plans to address homelessness (2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2017-B98, 2016-B45).*

*The Committee notes that the Province in 2018 passed the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, setting in place targets for poverty reduction (25 percent reduction in the poverty rate by 2024, 50 percent for children). The Province subsequently released a Poverty Reduction Strategy that identified several strategies to reduce homelessness.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR71 Tiny Home Legitimization**

**Squamish**

Whereas communities across BC are experiencing a housing crisis, and the full spectrum of affordable small housing forms and options that could meet their needs are not currently available to them;

And whereas tiny homes, single detached housing units less than 46.45 square metres (500 square feet) distinct from mobile homes or recreational vehicles and meant for full-time living, could support infill densification (as laneway alternatives), and yet some of their features are not permissible as per the BC Building Code (and the National Building Code), therefore unavailable to communities in need of financially accessible and affordable small housing options:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee to review the 14 Code change requests (ranging from application of the code, definitions within the code, combination rooms, ceiling heights, doorways, stairs, guards, smoke detectors, escape windows and lateral loads to plumbing fixtures) made at the federal building code level in support of mobile tiny houses in March 2017 by the Canadian Home Builders' Association;

And be it further resolved the Province should incorporate these changes into Part 9 of the BC Building Code, that would define tiny houses as allowable permanent dwellings, and thus permit them to be constructed where local government official community plans and zoning bylaws deem them appropriate.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend Part 9 of the BC Building Code to define tiny houses as allowable permanent dwellings, and thus permit them to be constructed where local government official community plans and zoning bylaws deem them appropriate.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has broadly supported resolutions in support of affordable housing (2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

**NR72 Safety Requirements for Existing Secondary Suites**

**Delta**

Whereas secondary suites in single family dwellings are a widespread form of affordable rental accommodation in many BC communities;



And whereas in 2017, an estimated 1700 pets had to be given up or terminated because their owners could not find stable shelter with them:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to change the *Residential Tenancy Act* and *Strata Property Act* such that landlords and strata organizations may not reject applicants for rental units because their family unit may include pets, on the condition that those pets would not pose serious and specific concerns in regard to physical danger, noise, smell, or an adverse allergic reaction among other building residents.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act and Strata Property Act to prevent landlords and strata organizations from rejecting applicants for rental units because of pets, but with some conditions to consider danger, noise, smell and/or allergies.*

*However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that call on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to better protect the rights of renters, including issues of renovations and demovictions (2017-B126, 2016-B121).*

*See also resolution C14.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NR75 Streamline Building Officials Certification Process**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas the Building Officials Association of British Columbia, under an administrative agreement with the Province, is responsible for education and examinations for persons applying for membership, and certification of members as registered building officials;

And whereas the current lengthy process for certifying a Level One Building Official affects local governments' ability to hire and retain qualified staff and provide building inspection services in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province and the Building Officials Association of British Columbia to streamline the examination and certification process by reducing the two year local government experience requirement to one year and review reasons for the high failure rate in the Level 1 examination.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province and BOABC to streamline the examination and certification process for building officials, by reducing the two year local government experience requirement to one year and review the reasons for the high failure rate in the Level 1 examination.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B187 calling on the Province to work with BOABC to ensure that enough Building Officials are certified and more candidates are attracted to the profession to meet the requirements of the Building Act, effective March 2021.*

*The Committee advises that the present resolution calls for a reduction in local government experience required to become a building inspector, which may lead to unintended consequences and run contrary to endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to reduce local government's exposure to liability in conducting building inspections (2013-B2, 2009-B56, 2008-B2, 2007-B2).*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Selected Issues

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### NR76 Whistleblower Legislation

Nanaimo City

Whereas whistleblower legislation has become statute for provincial government employees;

And whereas local government does not have an independent third party to receive whistleblower complaints or concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM create an independent third party to handle complaints and concerns of local government employees and officials or lobby the provincial government to expand their program to include local government.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously requested UBCM to create an independent third party to handle whistleblower complaints, or to lobby the Province to expand their program to include local government.*

*UBCM acts as an advocacy organization on behalf of BC local governments. This resolution asks UBCM to “create an independent third party to handle complaints and concerns of local government employees and officials” which is not within the scope of UBCM. While UBCM has been working with LGMA, the Province and other partners on matters related to responsible conduct and supporting tools and resources to promote good conduct, this request appears to extend those boundaries beyond our mandate. With respect to the latter request - expanding the existing provincial legislation to include local government - the Committee would suggest that further work would need to be done to better understand the implications of requesting that provincial legislation apply to the local government context.*

*The Committee advises that the sponsor is offering up two proposed options which are very different, one which is out of scope for UBCM and the other which is asking to expand the provincial program to include local governments. Without fully understanding how the provincial government program works the Committee is hesitant to support it, and has therefore offered no recommendation.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### NR77 Community to Community Forum Grants

Port Hardy

Whereas the importance of open and continuing conversation between local governments and First Nations governments is critical to further reconciliation;

And whereas the UBCM Regional Community to Community Forum (C2C) program is an important resource to assist with these dialogues, it is also important that governments be allowed the flexibility to access this funding when it is most beneficial to the communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM to allow the Regional Community to Community Forum grants to not be subject to specific deadlines, but be made available throughout the year, and that those granted funds be available for a full calendar year.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to allow Regional Community to Community Forum program to have an open intake for the full calendar year.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B23 calling for stable, ongoing funding programs with systemic, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to assist with First Nations reconciliation and relationship building efforts, but the present resolution specifically addresses the administration of the C2C Program.*

*With regards to the C2C program, the Resolutions Committee notes that the program already operates on a flexible model, including:*

- *Applications can be submitted at any time and are generally reviewed after 3 deadlines each year (which is more than many programs that only offer an annual intake);*
- *UBCM aims to respond to all applications within 30 days of the deadline; and*
- *Applicants have the full fiscal year in which they apply to complete their event. For applicants that apply for the spring deadline, this generally means their event can take place at any time in the following 12 months.*

*The Resolution Committee also notes that program is partially funded by the federal government which specifically ties funded activities to the fiscal year.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR78      Citizenship Ceremonies**

**Summerland**

Whereas Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) no longer holds Canadian citizenship ceremonies in smaller communities around British Columbia, and instead hold them only in larger centers;

And whereas Canadian citizenship ceremonies were often the only events to celebrate multiculturalism in smaller communities and they served to encourage an acceptance of diversity and inclusion in these communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM lobby the Federal Government of Canada to return to its previous practice of holding Canadian citizenship ceremonies in smaller communities around British Columbia.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:                      **No Recommendation***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a previous resolution asking the FCM to lobby the federal government to return to its previous practice on holding Canadian citizenship ceremonies in smaller communities around the province. Current website information indicates that citizenship ceremonies are being held in three BC communities - Surrey, Kelowna and Vancouver - in both federal offices and conference centres.*

*However, the Committee notes that on a somewhat related matter, the membership did endorse resolution 2012-B101 which asked the federal government to reconsider closing smaller Citizenship and Immigration offices (4 in BC) as it will have a negative effect on Canada's place in the competitive market of attracting immigrants.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

### **NR79      Post-Secondary Education in Rural Communities**

**Burns Lake**

Whereas the availability of post-secondary education is a critical piece in strengthening the fabric of small, rural communities as it allows residents to acquire further education and skills, without having to relocate and increases the community capacity for economic resilience and growth;

And whereas, local government, in partnership with local First Nations, is most aware of local needs and is in the best position to determine the most appropriate post-secondary provider:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to allow local government, in partnership with local First Nations, to have increased autonomy over the choice of their post-secondary education provider.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*            **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allow local government, in partnership with local First Nations, to have increased autonomy over the choice of their post-secondary education provider.*

Conference decision: \_\_\_\_\_

## Section C

Section C contains resolutions that are similar to others in the same year. Resolutions may also be placed in Section C if they relate to larger UBCM policy initiatives already underway, such as policy papers, working groups, or intergovernmental consultation processes; or if the resolutions are regionally focused or require more work to be understandable.

Resolutions placed in Section C will not be admitted for debate.

**Part 1** of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to policy papers and/or special sessions at Convention:

[No resolutions have been placed in this section.]

**Part 2** of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the Resolutions Book:

**C1 – C14**

**Part 3** of Section C contains resolutions that are referred to Area Associations due to being of a regional nature, or referred to sponsors for fine-tuning:

**C15 – C17**

## Section C2

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### **C1 Funding to Implement *Emergency Program Act* Changes**

**Cache Creek**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia is in the process of modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* for implementation in the Spring of 2021;

And whereas the changes being considered will require significant additional staff time and resources from local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General to provide 100 percent funding to a maximum of \$100,000 per year for a minimum of five years to local governments of 5,000 or smaller population to implement the changes to the *Emergency Program Act*.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR1.*

*See also resolution NR14.*

### **C2 Cannabis Retail Tax Revenue Sharing**

**Langley City**

Whereas following the legalization of non-medicinal cannabis in July 2018, the Province has implemented legislation that enables local governments to regulate cannabis retail activities within their jurisdictions;

And whereas the Province has finalized a cannabis excise tax coordination agreement with the federal government, which includes a share of the 75 percent of the cannabis excise tax revenues being allocated to provinces and territories;

And whereas the Province acknowledges the strong local government interest in cannabis excise tax revenue sharing and the Province has noted it is committed to working with local governments to understand the potential costs they may experience as a result of cannabis legalization;

And whereas cannabis retail stores have been legally operating in BC local government jurisdictions since 2018 and excise tax revenues have been collected by senior governments since 2018:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province commit to negotiating with local governments, through UBCM, to advance the development and implementation of a provincial–local government cannabis excise tax revenue sharing agreement.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR2.*

### **C3 Provincial Support for Victims' Services**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas Victim Services Programs provide support and assistance to victims of crime;

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

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to fully fund all Victim Services Programs.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution EB2.*

**C4            Funding Model for Incarceration of Prisoners            Parksville**

Whereas the current funding model for incarceration of prisoners places an undue financial burden on local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Premier of BC, Minister of Finance and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to implement an alternative funding model for equitable regional cost sharing for the incarceration of prisoners.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution EB4.*

*See also resolution C15.*

**C5            Election Finance Contribution Limits            Vancouver**

Whereas in 2017 the BC Legislature amended the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* (LECFA), banning special interest and corporate political donations at the local government level during an election year, placing limits on contributions and mandating public disclosures. However, the LECFA only applies to electoral organizations and candidates during an election year for the specific purpose of campaigning, or the last 28 days before the election in the case of a third party sponsor;

And whereas the October 2018 Elections BC Report of the Chief Electoral Officer provided two recommendations on Improving Accessibility, Transparency and Compliance which were as follows:

An elector organization is an organization that endorses or intends to endorse a candidate in an election;

Require elector organizations to register with Elections BC and file annual disclosure statements including reports of all financial transactions, similar to those filed by provincial political parties. Maintain the membership requirement (50 members) for elector organizations as prescribed by s. 93(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* to apply contributor and contribution limits to operating accounts of elector organizations and candidates for operational purposes at all times, and to require that they provide annual disclosure reports of contributions received in operating bank accounts, in election years and non-election years;

And be it further resolved that third party sponsors be required to provide disclosure reports for the full election year or the date that a referendum is announced, whichever is later.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR3.*

*See also resolution C6.*

## **C6 Election Finance Reporting**

**Vancouver**

Whereas in order to ensure the fairness of our local government election process, there should be full and transparent reporting of financial contributions to elector organizations and candidates, including reporting by third party entities that engage in significant campaign activities in support of candidates or endorsed candidates,

And whereas all financial transactions – both during a campaign and outside of campaign periods – should be reported;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* to require full and transparent reporting of in-kind support and financial contributions made to local government election candidates in elections years, as well as to sitting elected officials in non-election years.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR3.*

*See also resolution C5.*

## **C7 Fair Access to Funding for Regional Public Transit**

**Squamish**

Whereas access to reliable public transit is critical to building affordable, healthy, connected, safe, equitable, accessible, and carbon neutral communities;

And whereas the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Service Region (Vancouver Area) and the Victoria Regional Transit Service Area (Victoria Area) have access to a funding model that allows them to share the cost of public regional transit between drivers, user fares, and tax payers; however, this funding mechanism is not available to local governments outside of the two aforementioned areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the government of BC and BC Transit to work together in 2020 to build on the current municipal/provincial cost sharing model to include a three-way cost-share funding model (drivers, fares, and provincial/municipal taxes) for sustainable public regional transit and make this new model available to all local governments in time for 2021 budget cycles.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR4.*

## **C8 Provincial Support for Libraries**

**Vanderhoof**

Whereas British Columbians across all age-groups demand that public libraries offer crucial information and resource services while providing programs that enhance connections, learnings, and skill-building for a stronger community;

And whereas rural local governments continue to face increasing cost barrier and pressure of providing these services without significant provincial contribution:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to re-enact successful continuance of public libraries and their critical contribution to BC communities by restoring library funding to a level that reflects both the inflationary cost increase since 2009 and the value of this system to the province.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*           ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

Refer to resolution EB41.

See also resolution C9.

## **C9 Library Funding**

## **Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas the Province has laudably committed to a living wage for BC residents by increasing the minimum wage to \$14.60, however in doing so has inadvertently caused fiscal challenges for many libraries that rely on minimum wage workers;

And whereas the Province has stated that "Public libraries are at the heart of BC's diverse and unique communities", recognizing the profound impact libraries have on British Columbians from all walks of life; yet funding for libraries across the Province has remained stagnant since the 25 percent funding cut in 2009, when minimum wage was \$8.00:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province increase funding to libraries that will allow libraries to meet minimum wage requirements, and maintain both services and operational hours that community residents rely on.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution EB41.*

*See also resolution C8.*

## **C10 Municipal Solid Waste – ICI EPR Program**

## **Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas the Province has set the target for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) of 350 kg per person by 2020/2021, and many local governments have a current average MSW that is much higher;

And whereas many communities, specifically rural and remote communities, do not have access to Recycle BC services;

And whereas ICI recyclable material makes up approximately 50-60 percent of the MSW stream, and there are minimal to no private businesses that collect ICI material in many rural and remote communities, culminating in the impracticality of meeting Provincial targets:

Therefore be it resolved that NCLGA urge the Province to announce by October 2020 that the planned implementation of an ICI EPR Program inclusive of province wide consultation with commencement of the program no later than October 2021.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution*

*Refer to resolution EB54.*

*See also resolution NR55.*

## **C11 Regulate Sale and Installation of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure**

## **Squamish**

Whereas many local governments have declared climate and ecological emergencies and have set significant targets to reduce emissions, to protect the environment, and to support health, wellness, and quality of life;

And whereas many existing and new buildings rely on gas or oil for cooking, air and water heating, and as a consequence have high greenhouse gas emissions footprints even at Step 5 of the BC Energy Step Code, and that currently local governments are restricted in their ability to regulate the sale, rental, and installation of cooking, heating and hot water systems in new and existing buildings:



And whereas no pet clauses in lease agreements greatly reduce the availability and adequacy of rental suites for renters who own pets, further exacerbating extremely challenging rental market conditions for renters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to reduce “no pet” clauses in lease agreements in British Columbia as long as responsible ownership and animal welfare issues are also considered.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution NR74.*

## Section C3

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### **C15 Keep of Prisoner Program**

**Kamloops**

Whereas the Kamloops RCMP detachment continues to provide escort and custody services for provincial police prisoners from outlying detachments and intermittent prisoners sentenced by the Provincial Court of BC under the Keep of Prisoner Program which does not fairly compensate the City of Kamloops;

And whereas upon surveying local governments with a population of over 15,000 in the South East District of BC are also required to provide similar services to provincial police and intermittent prisoners and are also receiving unfair compensation for said services;

And whereas with no formal memorandum of agreement in place between the Province of BC, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the local governments in the South East District of BC to provide services for Provincial Police Prisoners from outlying detachments and Intermittent Prisoners, the continuation of providing said services are having a significant financial impact on all local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA strongly urge local governments with a population of over 15,000 in the South East District of BC to support this resolution and will pass a similar resolution;

And be it further resolved that SILGA request fair compensation of services provided by said local governments that are based upon actual costs and change the practice of the Provincial Court of BC sentencing intermittent prisoners to be held in municipal police lock-ups.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Refer Back to Area Association**

### **C16 De-Centralizing Forest Management**

**North Cowichan**

Whereas the forest sector in British Columbia is in crisis with thousands out of work and facing hardship; forestry companies closing mills, curtailing operations and redirecting investment outside of the province; and once thriving rural communities experiencing severe economic decline;

And whereas many communities across British Columbia and globally have demonstrated that when local people are empowered to manage public forests and other resources through community forest licences, regional trusts and other community-based governance models, they can enhance environmental sustainability, provide stable and fulfilling employment, and improve equity and fairness:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the Province of British Columbia to move to establish a de-centralized forest management model for the region of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast ("Vancouver Island and the Coast"), and, as a first step, appoint a Forester General for the region who will undertake the following actions:

- Consult with local communities, workers, businesses, First Nations and the broader public on current challenges with the forest sector;
- Carry out an analysis of the opportunities to increase employment and value-add, restrict raw log exports, improve environmental sustainability, and advance reconciliation with First Nations;
- Develop a regional land use plan for Vancouver Island and the Coast based on citizen input; and
- Recommend next steps for empowering Vancouver Island and the Coast in the management of forestry and related resources, including potentially establishing a Regional Standing Committee of the BC Legislature composed of the MLAs for Vancouver Island and the Coast.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Refer Back to Area Association**

**C17 Re-Evaluation of Outpatient Model**

**Kamloops**

Whereas a significant proportion of the province's homeless population have mental illnesses;

And whereas being homeless presents a threat to their well-being and safety:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA ask Interior Health Authority to re-evaluate the current outpatient model of mental health care.

*Submitted by the Deadline for the Spring Convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:           **Refer Back to Area Association***