



Handling of Resolutions at UBCM Convention

1. Resolutions Procedures at Convention

The UBCM membership has adopted a number of procedures to improve policy sessions and optimize the time available for debate.

a) Priority Resolutions

Section ER (extraordinary resolutions), Section SR (special resolutions), and Section A resolutions deal with priority issues for local governments in BC. These resolutions are considered individually, beginning during the first policy session at the UBCM Convention.

b) General Resolutions

Section B resolutions are introduced as a group after debate of Section ER, SR, and A resolutions has concluded. Once introduced, Section B resolutions are deemed to have been moved. Debate and voting will then take place, with the resolutions in Section B to be considered in blocks or individually as appropriate, in the order that they are printed in the *Resolutions Book*.

c) Resolutions Supporting Existing Policy

Previously endorsed resolutions are placed into Section B1 of the *Resolutions Book* and considered as a block, in order to avoid repetitive debate on issues that continue to be brought forward and endorsed each year.

d) New Resolutions Aligned with UBCM's General Policy

Of the resolutions proposing new policy — those in Sections B2 or B3 — the Resolutions Committee may suggest block consideration of resolutions that support UBCM's general policy direction. These resolutions will be grouped in sections B2-a or B3-a of the *Resolutions Book*. Only resolutions with the recommendation "Endorse" or "Endorse with Proposed Amendment" are included in the B2-a or B3-a block.

e) Removing a Resolution From a Block

Any voting delegate wishing to speak in opposition or propose an amendment may withdraw a resolution from a block to be considered individually.

f) New Resolutions Proposing New Policy

Of the resolutions proposing new policy, those that do not support existing UBCM policy or its general policy direction, will be considered individually. These resolutions will appear in sections B2-b or B3-b of the *Resolutions Book*.

g) Speaking to a Resolution

For each resolution to be considered individually, the Chair will invite a delegate from the sponsoring local government to introduce the resolution. The sponsor is permitted up to three minutes to introduce the resolution.

Once the sponsor has spoken to a resolution, the Chair will then open the floor for discussion, with each delegate able to speak for up to two minutes. However, if no voting delegate wishes to speak in opposition or propose an amendment, then the question will be called. This is intended to minimize the time spent debating a resolution that the plenary already seems to support.

h) Pro & Con Microphones

To assist the Chair in determining whether delegates wish to speak in favour of or in opposition to a resolution, two microphones will be placed at each microphone station on the Convention floor. The microphones will be labelled "Pro" and "Con". The Pro mic is for delegates speaking in favour, and the Con mic is for delegates speaking in opposition to the resolution. Those wishing to propose amendments should approach the Con mic.

i) Electronic Voting on Resolutions

The electronic voting system will be deployed for close votes or at the discretion of the Chair.

2. Resolutions Not Considered Due to Time Constraints

Should Convention conclude before all resolutions have been considered, resolutions not yet considered will be referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration at their next meeting. A recommendation for each resolution is printed in the *Resolutions Book*, and the Executive will base their decisions on these recommendations. The Executive decision on each referred resolution will be conveyed to resolution sponsor and the UBCM membership.

3. Resolutions Off the Floor

Any voting delegate may introduce a resolution off the floor of Convention. To be admitted for debate, the resolution requires assent from a three-fifths (60%) majority of the delegates present. The Resolutions Committee requests sponsors of such resolutions to distribute print copies to the plenary. If admitted for debate, a resolution off the floor will be considered individually.

4. Other Matters Affecting Handling of Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee has indicated that it will:

- adhere strictly to the **Writing Guidelines for Resolutions** and will make every effort to ensure that resolutions are clear and concise; and
- endeavour to consider all resolutions submitted (as per guidelines) during the time allocated at Convention.

Sponsors should be prepared to speak to their resolutions on the Convention floor. The purpose is to provide background information on the resolution, because the "Whereas" clauses of resolutions will not be read aloud to the delegates.

Resolutions should address topics that are of local government concern province-wide.

The above policies are not exhaustive but are in addition to the *UBCM Bylaws* and to the "Conference Rules & Procedures for Handling of Resolutions" that are adopted each year by the Convention.

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