



PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

**to the Resolutions of the 2020
Union of British Columbia Municipalities**

September 2021

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SR4 Recovery and Rebuild of Public Transit in BC

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:

- 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.
- 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In August 2020, the Province entered into a Safe Restart Agreement with the federal government to cost-share funding support for public transportation which includes BC Ferries, TransLink and BC Transit. That agreement resulted in \$675.8 million for TransLink and \$88.3 million for BC Transit services.

The BC Transit funding will assist local governments, which lost fare revenue for a number of weeks and are experiencing low ridership, to maintain an essential level of transit service and to keep fares affordable. This funding will also assist with incremental safety costs associated with responding to COVID-19 such as the additional cleaning, personal protective equipment and bus driver plexi-glass panels. For TransLink, this funding helps close TransLink's projected COVID-19-related operating funding gap in 2020 and 2021, keep annual fare raises capped at 2.3% annually through 2024, offset lower than forecast motor fuel tax revenue, and implement the free transit for youth program.

This one-time funding is a recognition of the importance of public transportation to the social and economic well-being of British Columbians. In addition, the Province has announced as part of Budget 2021 that all children age 12 and under will be able to ride transit for free across B.C. Free transit for

youth 12 and under will help create lifelong transit riders, building better, more inclusive and sustainable communities. The Province is committed to making it easier and more affordable for families to move within their communities as we move forward through the pandemic recovery period.

SR8 Mental Health, Addiction and Poisoned Drug Supply

Whereas there are two current public health emergencies in BC with the COVID-19 crisis declared in March 2020, and the overdose crisis declared in April 2016;

And whereas deaths due to unintentional illicit drug toxicity have increased considerably with 170 deaths in May 2020 alone, and 554 deaths between January and May 2020;

And whereas police and fire departments are responding to an increasing number of mental health and overdose related calls, which results in higher costs carried by local governments:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to introduce a comprehensive strategy for the provision of protective and health services that includes:

- Ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency;
- Implementing a province-wide agreement between police and mental health officials on the management of mental health patients in emergency wards;
- Developing integrated teams of health, police, and other officials on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to manage individuals with mental health issues; and
- Introducing additional long-term care beds to deal specifically with mental illness cases.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

British Columbians are experiencing unprecedented rates of harm due to an illicit drug supply that is unpredictable, highly toxic and has claimed the lives of over 7000 people since 2016. In April 2016, a public health emergency was declared due to rising illicit drug toxicity harms including death, and in March 2020, an additional public health emergency was declared due to the onset of the novel coronavirus – COVID-19.

The intersection of these emergencies has had devastating effects on people who use drugs, having exacerbated the ongoing risk of death and other harms due to an increasingly toxic street drug supply. The province remains committed to an urgent, comprehensive and escalated response to these emergencies that includes a focus on priority actions to save lives, reduce stigma, and improve public safety.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions was created in 2017 to build a seamless, coordinated network of mental health and addictions services that works for everyone in BC, as well as lead the response to the overdose crisis.

The Province established the Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) in December 2017 to act as a sustained coordination centre in the provincewide overdose emergency response. Government's work is

guided by the implementation of a comprehensive package of essential health sector interventions and strategies for a supportive environment to reduce overdose deaths and drug-related harms, including fast-tracking pathways to low barrier evidence-based medications and treatment and recovery services.

Budget Update 2017 and Budget 2019 provided \$138 million per year to respond to the Overdose Emergency. In this time, the Province has doubled the number of overdose prevention/ supervised consumption services available to save lives, funded 36 Community Action Teams, added seven new and expanded nine substance use teams in health authorities across the province to engage and retain more people in supports and has made more treatment options available to more people with substance use challenges than ever before.

In addition, government's investment in addictions treatment beds has included \$36 million to open 123 youth beds – which will more than double the number of youth treatment beds throughout the province, as well as \$13 million to add over 100 new adult treatment and recovery beds across the province to improve access and connect more people to the help they need.

Since the pandemic began in March 2020, to counter the impacts of COVID-19 safety measures, additional resources have been added including funding and greater support for operators of supportive recovery homes to operate during the pandemic, additional funding for supervised consumption sites, and greater access to virtual low or no cost counselling services.

In September 2020, the Ministers of Health and Mental Health and Addictions approved new policy direction to provide safe prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. As the intersection of public health emergencies related to the overdose crisis and COVID-19 continues to exacerbate health inequalities in BC, the government remains committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to protective and health services delivery that works to put people on a path to treatment and recovery.

As part of our escalated response to the overdose crisis, a number of initiatives have also been established to facilitate collaboration between law enforcement and mental health and substance use service providers to support the mental health of British Columbians. These initiatives include Mobile Crisis Response Services in Kamloops, Surrey, Prince George and Vancouver; police partnerships with local case management and outreach teams such as Assertive Community Treatment teams; and the establishment of Mental Health Liaison Officers.

On April 20, 2021, *Budget 2021* provided the largest investment in mental health and addictions services in B.C. history with \$500 million in new funding across the three-year fiscal plan. This funding supports progress on BC's mental health and addictions strategy, *A Pathway to Hope*, which provides a roadmap to enhancing and improving mental health and addictions services. This includes targeted supports for children and youth, improved quality and access to mental health services, and prevention, treatment and emergency response to the overdose crisis.

Budget 2021 provides \$330 million over the fiscal plan to provide a full spectrum of treatment and recovery services for individuals experiencing issues with substance use. This includes \$152 million for opioid treatment. Overdose prevention supports implemented in response to the pandemic will become permanent programs through *Budget 2021*, meaning that \$15 million in funding will be provided each year to health authorities to scale up key interventions including overdose prevention services and more nurses and interdisciplinary outreach teams to help connect more people to treatment and recovery services. Additional services such as Assertive Community Treatment teams, the Lifeguard App, and consultative services for health care professionals providing substance use treatment were also annualized. *Budget 2021* also provides \$14 million for the First Nations Health Authority to deliver targeted mental health and addictions services to Indigenous peoples throughout BC.

Other substance-use services include end-to-end services from initial sobering and assessment and withdrawal management services, through to supporting an individual transition back into daily life. Funding will support the creation of 195 new substance-use treatment and recovery beds throughout BC for all types of substance use. New beds will be supported by new out-patient, peer supports and community-based support services throughout the province.

The Minister of Mental Health and Addictions has been mandated to develop complex care housing for people who require more intensive supports than provided in supportive housing. The Ministry is working across government and with partners including local government representatives to develop a framework for complex care housing. Government will set aside funding in 2021/22 from the Pandemic and Recovery Contingencies Vote to begin implementing this key priority action.

EB7 Funding for Rural Crime Reduction/Prevention Group

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The provincial government has made significant investments in the British Columbia RCMP Provincial Services, and specifically in the Cariboo Chilcotin Crime Reduction Unit (CC-CRU), also known as the Special Project Team (SPT). This six-member team has been financially supported, on an annual basis, by the provincial government since 2017/18 and provides both municipal and rural policing services in the region. As part of Budget 2021, government provided permanent funding of \$1M for the continuation of the CC-CRU.

The three areas of response for this team are: Organized Crime and Gang-Involved Offenders, Chronic Offender Management and, Illicit Drug Trafficking and the Opioid Epidemic. These resources are primarily focused on multijurisdictional prolific offenders, particularly those with connections to gang activity and organized crime.

In addition, to address resource pressures across all areas of provincial policing responsibility in the province, government continues to work closely with the RCMP to identify high risk priority communities to secure funding for resource requirements.

Lastly, it is important to consider in the delivery of policing services, the RCMP must respect the distinction of municipal and provincial policing responsibilities as defined by the Police Act. Encroachment on municipal or provincial responsibilities, whether front-line General Duty, specialized functions, or resourcing dedicated to crime prevention initiatives, will directly impact the respective partner's resources and budgets. It is imperative that provincial resource levels are commensurate to the workload generated by provincial areas.

EB11 Extending Life of Fire Apparatus

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province acknowledges the challenges small and rural fire departments have regarding the purchase, maintenance and replacement of fire apparatus. The Community Charter and the Local Government Act allow local governments to determine the level of fire protection services that they feel is best suited to the needs of their constituents. Local governments set service levels and select equipment which Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) uses to set ratings and rates.

FUS collects information on public fire protection efforts in communities across Canada and works directly with the private sector property and casualty insurers in Canada to set ratings and rates. Part of the overall process is evidence-based and considers the level of fire protection, apparatus, pumping capacity, age of fire apparatus, water supply and many other factors. The Province and the Office of the Fire Commissioner do not have a role in this evidence-based process.

EB12 Collaborative Wildfire Mitigation

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 CAI 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The government announced the Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction (CL WRR) stream of the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program in 2019_2020. The mandate of the CL WRR stream is to fund activities on provincial crown land that contribute to a reduction in wildfire risk around communities and is intended to complement the CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) stream for local authorities and Indigenous communities. The CL WRR stream is administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development working closely with local governments and First Nations communities to plan for fuel management treatments that are located on Crown land around communities. The BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) sets program standards and guidance for effective fuel management treatments guided by fire science and measurable reductions in fire behavior as a key outcome.

It takes the collaborative efforts of multiple levels of governments and stakeholders working together to achieve wildfire resilient communities. This may include local fire departments, First Nations and local government staff and elected officials, provincial governments such as Emergency Management BC, BCWS and Land Managers, industry representatives and other community stakeholders. In recognition of the important role that local governments and First Nations play in supporting the implementation of all seven Firesmart disciplines, the 2021 intake of the FCFS stream provides funds under the Interagency Co-ordination activity for developing, coordinating and/or participating on a Community Wildfire Resiliency Committee (CWRC). The purpose of the committee is to bring together local communities and provincial agency staff with stakeholders to coordinate, plan and share information on Firesmart activities including fuel management. One of the key activities of a CWRC could be the development of fuel management planning tables to support the integration of fuel management planning across jurisdictional boundaries.

EB16 Medical Cannabis Safety Concerns

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 **and First Nations** 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province supports medical cannabis program reform and greater information sharing with Provinces, law enforcement, local and Indigenous governments.

However, it is important to note that medical cannabis and commercial cannabis production are regulated by the federal government under the federal *Cannabis Act* and regulations. Cannabis production, whether federally authorized for personal medical use or commercially licensed, is subject to local government bylaws, building and fire code requirements.

While commercial cannabis production facilities must notify local authorities in writing of their intent to apply for a licence and complete construction prior to submitting an application to Health Canada, this is not the case with personal/designated medical cannabis producers.

A medical patient may register with Health Canada and receive an authorization to grow cannabis for their own personal medical use or designate another individual to grow on their behalf. Health Canada does not disclose personal information regarding these personal medical authorizations, such as home addresses, except to law enforcement for investigation purposes. Health Canada may be able to provide aggregate information about the number of personal/designated growers in your community. You can contact Health Canada at omc-bcm@hc-sc.gc.ca or by phone, at 1-866-337-7705.

Diverting cannabis produced under these authorizations for illicit commercial sale is an offence under the *Cannabis Act*.

Concerns about the medical cannabis program and/or commercial cannabis production licensing can be directed to Health Canada at: cannabis@canada.ca.

Health Canada will be undertaking a legislated three-year review of the *Cannabis Act* and associated regulations, commencing in October 2021. The Province of B.C. will be looking to engage further on these issues prior to this review through the UBCM Cannabis Policy Technical Working Group.

EB17 Transportation Services for Rural and Remote Communities

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Province appreciates that British Columbians living in rural and remote communities often have unique transportation challenges when accessing non-emergency health services in different communities. Consultation with northern mayors and regional district chairs indicated that those areas could not fund inter-city transportation service from their property taxes, especially in communities where residents were already contributing to local transit service.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure continue to work closely with health authorities to address the unique needs of British Columbians in each health region. Access to transportation is a priority for this government. We continue to work with our federal counterparts, communities, and other stakeholders to provide safe, affordable, and reliable transportation options for those who live and work in the north.

Due to the unique nature of the North and the distances between communities, it is important that the Province does what it can to provide or support inter-city ground transportation services. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is happy to report that the Government of Canada has partnered with the Government of B.C. to fund 50 percent of the costs of a northern inter-city transportation service, BC Bus North, through to March 31, 2022.

Residents who are required to travel for planned hospital appointments for services that may not be available in their community are responsible for arranging and paying for their trip to and from the appointment. However, the Province and health authorities offer several subsidized and low-cost private-pay options for patients travelling to access medical care outside their community. In Northern BC these include: Northern Health Connections (NHC) which provides low-cost bus transportation for patients needing to travel for out-of-town medical appointments in northern BC and Vancouver.

For communities such as Stewart, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure needs to better understand the transportation needs north of Highway 16 along Highway 37 and 37A and staff have started a needs assessment study for rural, remote, and indigenous communities.

The Province understands that pandemic has made inter-city travel even more challenging. While there are broader federal and provincial relief funding options available for businesses, there was a funding gap for private inter-city bus providers, which is why on March 9, 2021, the Province announced the one-time relief funding for intercity bus operators to help these vital services stay open and prepare for the strong recovery we expect as B.C.'s COVID-19 vaccination efforts let us all travel more freely. Twenty companies applied for and received over \$6 million in funding.

B.C. local governments are welcome to share their thoughts on transportation in their region with the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

EB19 Public Highway Designation for Resource Roads

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 defined standards for construction, maintenance, and enforcement for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities, funded similarly to the public highway system

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure contributes approximately \$1 million per year to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) for enhanced maintenance on resource roads with residences. This program has been in place since the early 2000's.

Resource roads are typically one to two lane gravel roads built for industrial purposes to access natural resources in remote areas. Over 620,000 kilometers of roads in British Columbia are considered resource roads.

Resource roads are not built or maintained to the same standards as paved public roadways maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Most resource roads are under the jurisdiction of FLNRORD or Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) and therefore these ministries are responsible for defining the standards for construction and maintenance for resource roads.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure encourages raising this matter with FLNRORD and EMLI.

EB32 Accessibility Funding for Passenger Directed Vehicles

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 .

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Accessibility is a top priority for government and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff are working on options to assist government in determining how to use the per trip fees to support accessibility.

While other jurisdictions have taken two years or longer to fund accessibility programs with trip fee revenue, the ministry is currently exploring options to determine how to leverage these fees. The ministry is continuing to work with stakeholders on establishing a passenger directed vehicle driver training framework that includes education on accessibility.

This accessibility funding strategy and driver training framework will improve the accessibility and service quality of the passenger directed vehicle industry.

EB37 BC Gaming Grant

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Money generated by gambling in British Columbia is used to provide key services and support economic development in local communities throughout British Columbia. In recent non-COVID years, more than \$1 billion of gambling revenue was generated annually, helping to fund health care, education and community programs across B.C.

A portion of gambling revenue is shared directly with 34 local governments that host casinos and community gambling centres in their jurisdiction (they receive 10% of net gaming income). A greater portion, \$140 million annually, is distributed to not-for-profit organizations that deliver programs to communities across British Columbia, through the Community Gaming Grants program (CGG). These grants ensure British Columbians from all regions of the province, including communities under 10,000, have access to programs and services that improve their quality of life, support local needs and build vibrant communities.

Organizations eligible for gaming grants must be a non-profit delivering programs with community benefit. CGG are only intended to support volunteer-driven organizations, which at its core is demonstrated by non-remunerated board positions. Municipalities are not eligible to apply for gaming grants as they are not volunteer-driven organizations.

Not-for-profit organizations are found in all communities and CGG does not earmark funds by location, sector or size. All eligible not-for-profit organizations with programs meeting the CGG requirements receive some level of funding. About 90% of all applicants receive some level of funding. Across B.C., Community Gaming Grants are provided to over 5000 organizations.

Communities under 10,000 can encourage local not-for-profits to apply for gaming grants. If they need further information about the CGG program, they can contact the Community Gaming Grants Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to discuss any questions they may have.

EB47 Forest Harvesting Plans

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Community meetings to review forest harvesting plans are not a current legal requirement of Forest License Holders; however, recognizing the importance of this engagement, community sessions have been organized and supported in some areas by FLNRORD Resource District Offices, for example:

- Ministry staff in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area (TSA) began community meetings with tenure holders in 2019 where harvesting plans are presented for review by the public and interested stakeholders,
- Ministry staff in a neighboring Okanagan TSA are communicating planned forest harvest operations using web based operational map tools.

The topic of the UBCM resolution is the focus of the renewal of the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) through the introduction of spatialized Forest Operations Maps and the piloting of Forest Landscape Planning.

Engagement with local governments regarding Forest Sector Modernization is currently underway.

Please see: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/competitive-forest-industry>

EB64 New Agricultural Land Commission Regulation

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Fisheries

After consulting with local governments, First Nation governments, agriculture-sector stakeholders, and members of the public, government amended the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation to permit second residences on most ALR parcels. This regulatory permission for a second residence (outlined below) comes into effect December 31, 2021, and does not have an expiry date.

Options for an additional small secondary home were announced on July 12, 2021, allowing farmers and Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) landowners to have both a principal residence and a small secondary residence on their property with a streamlined approval process. Only permissions from local government or First Nations government will be required, and there will be no application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). A Notice of Intent for soil/fill use is still required to be filed with the ALC.

The regulatory amendments will come into effect on December 31, 2021, providing approximately six months as a transition period for local governments to adjust their processes as necessary. The new permissions will provide:

- On parcels 40 hectares or smaller, if the existing residence is 500 square metres (approximately 5,400 square feet) or less, a second residence of 90 square metres (approximately 970 square feet) or less can be built.
- If the existing residence is larger than 500 square metres, then a small secondary residence for non-farm use would not be permitted. However, farmers can still apply to the ALC for an additional residence for farm use.
- On parcels larger than 40 hectares, a second residence 186 square metres (approximately 2,000 square feet) or less is permitted, no matter the size of the first residence.

The new rules will allow property owners in the ALR increased housing flexibility, helping farmers and non-farmers support their families and businesses in their communities. The additional residence can be used for housing extended family, agritourism accommodation, housing for farm labour or a rental

property for supplemental income. There is no longer a requirement that additional residences must be used by the landowner or immediate family members.

Landowners who had previously invested in a secondary manufactured home on their land for use by immediate family members have until December 31, 2021 to obtain local government approval and ensure appropriate permits and authorizations are in place. This grandparenting period has been extended from the previous July 31, 2021 deadline. An [information bulletin](#) provides more detailed information related to manufactured homes.

A July 12 [Agriculture, Food and Fisheries news release](#) contains examples of flexible housing options permitted under the regulation and a backgrounder on this change. [The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries website](#) provides further information and a link to the [Order in Council](#).

Work leading up to recent changes:

Prior to these changes being made, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries explored options for additional residences in the ALR. Between September and November 2019, a public engagement occurred which asked participants how to ensure the flexibility for residential uses while prioritizing agriculture in the ALR.

In response, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries published [the Ministry of Agriculture Policy Intentions Paper: Residential Flexibility in the ALR](#) in January 2020. The policy intentions paper outlined a number of considerations to increase residential flexibility in the ALR and the types of additional residences under consideration. The paper provided the public with an opportunity to submit feedback on the options that were under consideration. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries also recognized the important role of local governments and engaged with them to seek their specific input. The feedback received was summarized in a [What We Heard](#) document.

Completion of this residential flexibility project was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic when ministry staff paused work on the project to support the agriculture sector with COVID-19 issues. Work on the project continued in 2020. On April 9, 2021, the Ministry published a factsheet with an update on the ongoing work.

EB65 Private Land Logging

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is working on Phase 2 of the Private Managed Forest Land program review. Phase 2 will build on the completed public engagement to consolidate that feedback into recommendations to address public concerns with the Private Managed Forest Land Program. The Government has not yet indicated if changes with respect to the Private Managed Forest Land Act could be on their legislative agenda for this year. However, we have begun reengaging with the major stakeholders to continue discussions around legislative options and we will table an intentions paper with the Minister this year.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development looks forward to continued dialogue with UBCM, and with the individual member local governments, including the Islands Trust, that are most affected by forestry activities on private land.

Municipal Affairs

The Province recognizes that the authority for regulation of forestry activities on private lands is longstanding and complex. Historically, when the authority with respect to tree cutting was provided to municipalities, specific review and consideration was given to the decision to ultimately not extend the authority to regional districts as the rationale for the municipal authority is primarily aimed at trees in urban settings.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff will consider the issue for inclusion in future policy work. The scope of this request is quite significant; as with any requested legislative changes the ministry seeks to understand the full range of implications, including climate change considerations and consistency around forestry practices on private land within the province. It would also require consultations with

First Nations, regional districts, and a number of stakeholders, including private landowners to take into consideration the various interests among all those affected by the changes.

EB66 Working Forest Reserve

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

On June 1, 2021 Premier John Horgan announced the Modernizing Forest Policy in British Columbia – Setting the Intention and Leading the Forest Sector Transition. The Modernizing Forest Policy document is a coordinated response to several forestry focused initiatives of the past few years including Coast Forest Sector Revitalization, Interior Forest Sector Renewal, the *Forest and Range Practices Act* Improvement Initiative, the Old Growth Strategic Review, the draft BC-First Nations Forest Strategy, and wildfire related actions/activities.

Government intends to fulfil the vision for the future of the forest sector based on three principles that were repeatedly heard from partners, stakeholders, and communities during the various engagement sessions: Increasing Forest Sector Participation, Enhancing Stewardship and Sustainability, and Strengthening the Social Contract

There are twenty policy intentions that are linked to the three guiding principles. These policy intentions include enhancing the legal mechanisms to allow tenure to be redistributed for harvesting purposes and encouraging diversification in the sector. It also includes increasing fibre access for value-added domestic manufacturers, promoting the use of wood and mass timber and protecting good jobs.

The policy intentions also include continuing to improve the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. The government intends to move forward with changes like the proposed tactical planning approach of Forest Landscape Plans in the modernized land use planning process.

Designating provincial land generally requires a process of strategic planning, consultations, and a framework of law that enables a designation. Designations will also need to be explored and

carried out in a manner that is respectful and consistent with government direction for reconciliation with BC's Indigenous Nations.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is currently implementing a modernized land use planning process and is also in the process of establishing operational forestry pilot projects to test a more spatial and collaborative forest stewardship planning process, termed 'forest landscape planning' (FLP).

The Forest Landscape Planning approach is designed to;

- enable new, lasting collaborations with B.C.'s communities and Indigenous Peoples;
- realize sustainable timber harvest levels in support of B.C.'s economy;
- improve coordination within forest development in management units;
- achieve greater government oversight of forest management to protect public safety, the environment and natural resources;
- ensure that land managers have the right tools to establish resilient forests and rangelands when faced with the uncertain impacts of climate change upon these ecosystems.

By promoting earlier and more inclusive planning for forestry operations, and through improved government oversight and expectation-setting, the FLP method can more effectively incorporate long-term investments in forestry and include specific forest management methods.

EB81 Housing Supports for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

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;

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Community Living British Columbia

The Province recognizes the importance of having access to inclusive, affordable housing.

Community Living BC (CLBC) continues to work on increasing access to a broader range of home support options for people with developmental disabilities, which will be achieved by collaborating with partners such as BC Housing, Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and the non-profit and cooperative housing sectors to increase access to affordable, inclusive housing; collaborating with Inclusion BC, service providers, local governments and other stakeholders to support the development of affordable and inclusive housing; and making improvements to shared living.

Community Living BC is also helping to lead the [Re-imagining Community Inclusion](#) (RCI) initiative, which represents the shared goals and aspirations that people with lived experience, their families, and the people, organizations and systems around them have for a more inclusive British Columbia. Affordable, inclusive housing is a key consideration of Re-imagining Community Inclusion's ten-year road map to better services for people with developmental disabilities.

Since 2017, Government has increased income and disability assistance rates by \$325 per month, which includes Government's May 2021 rates increase of \$175 – the largest permanent rate increase ever. The Government also moved quickly to provide emergency measures to support vulnerable British Columbians during the COVID-19 pandemic – including, from April to December 2020, the temporary \$300 monthly supplement for people receiving income or disability assistance, Community Living BC's temporary emergency funding program for service providers from April to August 2020 so that they could continue to deliver essential residential services that over 9,000 adults with developmental disabilities count on, and freezing rents through July 2021 as an interim measure to provide stability for renters during the pandemic.

NEB6 Community Amenity Contributions

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.

Response: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Finance

In 2018, the Province initiated the Development Approvals Process Review to address challenges and identify opportunities for improvement in the current development approvals process, and to support local governments in eliminating barriers to affordable housing and accelerate the construction of the homes people need in their communities.

As a first step the Ministry of Municipal Affairs engaged a broad range of stakeholders including UBCM, local governments, the development industry and non-profit housing organizations to discuss the challenges of the current local government development approvals process in B.C. Among the areas identified is development finance. The final report from this engagement was publicly shared at UBCM Convention 2019: <https://news.gov.B.C..ca/releases/2019MAH0139-001844>

The Province recognizes that a review of development finance tools, including an evaluation of community amenity contributions, is a key component of improving the entire development approvals system. The Province will be looking at recommendations from the Development Approvals Process Review consultations as it considers next steps on development finance. Any work in this area will include engagement with UBCM and key stakeholders, as well as advice from the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which is chaired by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and includes representatives from local government and the development community.

NR7 Equitable Police Funding Model

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 area, 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 the intent to make police services more affordable for contract partners, including local governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government is aware of and addressing concerns from municipalities with respect to the significant cost difference for residents moving from the Police Tax to full municipal responsibility for policing costs. For municipalities which emerged above 5,000 population as a result of the 2016 Canada Census, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General assisted by agreeing to phase-in resources for their respective new RCMP Municipal Police Units. This resulted in a cost-savings to the municipalities over a two-year period. We are pleased to share that this policy will remain in effect for any emerging municipalities resultant from the 2021 Census. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General Policing and Security Branch has also added improvements to internal processes to better assist potential emerging municipalities, including earlier engagement with municipal staff and increased engagement to provide information to interested municipalities.

Funding of police services, including the Police Tax, will be further examined through the Policing and Public Safety Modernization project that is currently underway in the Policing and Security Branch. Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of policing and public safety is a key pillar of the project, which will work towards achieving equitable service delivery and funding models that support adequate and effective policing, enhance services, and enable resiliency. Extensive consultation with interests, including municipalities through UBCM, will be essential when contemplating any policy or legislative change in relation to the project, such as the Police Tax.

On December 9, 2020, the Legislative Assembly reappointed a Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act with renewed membership. The scope of the committee is to examine, inquire into and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on reforms related to the modernization and sustainability of policing under the Police Act, including funding; the role of police with respect to complex social issues, including mental health and wellness, addictions and harm reduction; the scope of systemic racism within B.C.'s police agencies; and whether there are measures necessary to ensure a modernized Police Act is consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Policing and Security Branch has also prioritized the policing and public safety modernization effort. The Province's vision for police modernization is to create an equitable, efficient and accountable policing and public safety model that meets the needs of all British Columbians through exploring the four themes of Effectiveness and Efficiency of Policing; Roles and Responsibilities; Public Trust; and Systemic Racism and Reconciliation.

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 speed limits and ultimately improve road safety by reducing collisions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to increase funding for additional front-line provincial police officers to address population growth and meet immediate and projected service needs across British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has heard the concerns from local governments and is aware of the pressures on front-line provincial policing in rural/unincorporated areas and small municipalities. In 2019, the Province provided new, additional funds to the RCMP to augment front-line, general duty policing at the highest needs, highest risk Provincial Detachment Units. This initiative also created the Provincial Support Team (PST) to provide temporary, mobile relief to Provincial Detachment Units experiencing front-line resource pressures such as those resulting from vacancies, emergent incidents, or events.

It is the Province's expectation that RCMP Detachment Commanders consult with local governments in setting the policing priorities for their communities, including traffic enforcement. The Ministry also continues to work with the RCMP, and internally to government, to address resource pressures across all areas of provincial policing responsibility in the province.

It is important to know that the RCMP Provincial Service also maintains provincial traffic services and highway patrol resources across the province, providing specialized traffic enforcement and collision investigation services throughout provincial policing areas in B.C.

In addition, the Province provides on average \$35 million annually in additional funding to police in B.C. in support of enhanced traffic enforcement delivered through Integrated Road Safety Units and other enhanced enforcement initiatives, such as CounterAttack, a long-standing seasonal traffic enforcement initiative that targets impaired drivers through dedicated police resources and overtime funding to police.

These resources and initiatives provide valuable and enhanced enforcement in rural areas.

NR11 Review Fine for Speeding

Whereas the Provincial Government has not reviewed and updated traffic fines since 1997, with the expectation 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 for provincial government to thoroughly review traffic fines for speeding, with consideration towards adjusting fines in an effort to make driving above the speed limit 'less attractive' for drivers in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province is committed to reducing risky and aggressive driving behaviours like speeding on B.C. roads.

Thirty-five speed cameras were installed at high-risk intersections in 2019 to create a deterrent to speeding as well as ticket speeding vehicles. The Province will continue to monitor the results at these intersections, including crash rates.

Penalties and fines are in place for drivers who are caught speeding excessively (40km/hr over the speed limit). The driver's car is impounded immediately, fines increase based on speed, and three penalty points are added to their licence.

Excessive speeding violations also lead to higher insurance costs for the driver through ICBC's Driver Risk Premium and Driver Penalty Point Premium. Drivers may face additional penalties through RoadSafetyBC's Driver Improvement Program. Depending on the driving record, a driver may be prohibited from driving for up to one year.

If a driver has been racing or stunt driving and is considered a serious risk to public safety, police may also complete a High-Risk Driving Incident Report which could lead to a driving prohibition from between three to 36 months.

Government continues to monitor the impacts that current fines and enforcement are having on risky driving behaviours.

NR12 Bylaw Enforcement Officers Enforcing Speed Limits in School Zones

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 provincial legislation to allow local government, through a bylaw, the ability to enforce speed limits in school zones in order to provide an improved level of child safety;

And be it further resolved that the Province provide necessary funding and support to local governments that choose to implement this new enforcement tool.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province of British Columbia is committed to ensuring that our roads are safe for all road users and acknowledges the important role bylaw enforcement officers play in community safety.

There are no plans to expand the scope of the authority of bylaw enforcement officers beyond the current extent of enforcing municipal or regional district bylaws in the performance of their duties.

Prevention is a critical component of road safety. Local governments throughout British Columbia may be interested in utilizing local Bylaw Enforcement Officers to provide public education and awareness to citizens who may not be familiar with the rules related to school zone speeds. Local governments are also encouraged to contact ICBC regional safety coordinators to learn more about support for [volunteer Speed Watch programs](#) and loan or purchase of portable speed readers.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is also looking forward to the recommendations of the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*, which may include examining other types of public safety enforcement models to augment traditional policing services.

NR13 Encouraging Personal Accountability in Emergency Management

Whereas the Province is modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* which sets out the responsibilities of the Province and the 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 the Province, as part of its work to modernize emergency management legislation, fund education targeting all key stakeholders, including local governments, individuals and businesses on how to manage new legislation responsibilities, including preparation for potential disasters or emergencies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) actively works to promote emergency preparedness for individuals, businesses, and communities.

As government works to modernize emergency management, including introducing new emergency management legislation, EMBC will be working closely with all partners to ensure that the changes are well understood and effectively implemented.

A key tool for emergency management public education is PreparedBC. Created in 2015, PreparedBC is British Columbia's official emergency preparedness education program serving the general public, local authorities, schools and Indigenous communities.

PreparedBC core programs include:

- [PreparedBC library & resources](#):
 - More than 15 guides addressing B.C.'s top hazards and personal readiness, as well as niche planning considerations for small businesses and people with disabilities.
 - Hardcopy guides are available for free to local authorities and related agencies. They can also be downloaded from [PreparedBC.ca](#).
 - [Hazard-based social media packages](#) are available for use by local authorities. They include pre-done graphics and content that can be customized for regional needs.
- [Master of Disaster classroom program](#), for grades 4 to 8, teaches youth about the hazards in B.C. and how they can prepare their families, neighborhoods, and communities. It is endorsed by the Ministry of Education, aligns with core curriculum competencies, and includes an emergency plan to be completed by parents and caregivers.
- [Partners in Preparedness retail program](#) is a marketing program that partners with retailers to promote household readiness through the sale of recommended emergency supplies at

participating stores. Adopters include London Drugs, Save On Foods and Mountain Equipment Co-op.

- [High Ground Hike tsunami readiness program is a](#) program to assist at-risk communities in hosting High Ground Hikes during Tsunami Preparedness Week every April. Participants are encouraged to walk, run or hike to designated safe areas to reinforce proper tsunami response.
- Online Engagement through the administration of the PreparedBC Twitter feed ([@PreparedBC](#)) and the PreparedBC [Facebook page](#) with the intent of sparking conversation and action around personal readiness.

PreparedBC's future state is a program refresh planned to ensure alignment with the Sendai Framework, the BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and a shift toward Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management.

Engagement on new emergency management legislation will have Emergency Management BC continue working with partners after new legislation is passed to ensure a common understanding of new responsibilities and how that supports an all of government and all of society approach to emergency management. Emergency Management BC will also be working closely with partners such as local authorities to manage implementation requirements.

NR14 Emergency Mitigation and Preparedness

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province's rugged natural landscape results in several natural hazards such as flooding, wildfire, and geohazards including landslides, rockfall and debris flows that affect our communities. Many of these hazards originate from Crown land and impact populated areas of the province managed by local authorities and First Nations.

The Province will continue to support local authorities and First Nations through direct mitigation works where appropriate, and to better understand and invest in disaster risk reduction on Crown land near their communities through application-based mitigation funding programs such as the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, Community Resiliency Investment Program, and Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. Disaster risk reduction will be a component of the modernized emergency management legislation, but it is not anticipated that specific mitigation projects will be legislated.

NR16 Flood Risk Mitigation Through Green Infrastructure and Natural Assets

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 .

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Government is committed to funding capital projects that reduce flood risks to communities across the province while enhancing natural asset services. The Provincial and federal governments have partnered on flood and disaster mitigation funding programs including two recent sub-streams under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) and the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Program.

Although not inclusive of flood mitigation, the Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream program had a disaster mitigation and adaptation infrastructure outcome that specified use of natural infrastructure as eligible to mitigate or protect against the impacts of climate change, disasters triggered by natural hazards, and extreme weather events.

Geographic distribution and community size are considered in the technical evaluation of proposals under these funding programs. In addition, the Province continues to implement regionally significant initiatives that support community-led projects, such as climate change impacts on flooding.

NR18 Needle Retrieval and Disposal Program

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

For the past several decades, sterile needle and other harm reduction supply distribution has been a key part of provincial public health policy. Harm reduction and needle distribution programs strive to support people who use drugs and are vulnerable to various preventable health and social harms. Sterile syringe distribution is an evidence-based harm reduction approach shown to reduce or stop the transmission of blood-borne pathogens. It also offers an opportunity for people to connect to health care services.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is aware of the public concerns regarding the improper disposal of used needles in BC communities, including the public fears and anxiety relating to this matter. We are working with the Ministry of Health to support the sustainability of harm reduction programs throughout the province, including effective harm reduction supply distribution and the collection/disposal of used supplies and drug-related litter. We are also further committed to developing and investing in a comprehensive substance use continuum of care that provides a range of access points and treatment, recovery and harm reduction care pathways to address substance use challenges.

Regional health authorities, municipal officials, and community partners must work together when issues of discarded needles arise in a community. A provincial [Harm Reduction Community Guide](#) offers guidance to municipalities in BC to take a facilitative role in reducing the level of drug-related harm in their communities. This guide sets out evidence and potential benefits of using a harm reduction approach to address the harms associated with problematic substance use.

Further, [the Strengthening Communities Services funding program](#)—funded by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs as part of the Safe Restart Agreement to manage the impacts of COVID-19—will deliver \$100 million with an aim to support unsheltered homeless populations and strengthen communities' health and safety through an application-based program. The program guide included harm reduction services and cleaning and waste management services as activities eligible for funding.

During the September 2019 UBCM Convention, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions announced the Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grants. In total, twenty-four municipalities and their community partners received up to \$50,000 in Community Wellness and Harm Reduction Grant funding for initiatives that build on community wellness, safety and harm-reduction efforts

related to the overdose crisis and saving lives. The one-time grants were supported by the Community Crisis Innovation Fund through the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and were administered by the Community Action Initiative.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), with support from the Province, has established [harm reduction policy and guidelines](#) that includes direction on recovery and safe disposal of syringes (section 8 – see also [2018 “safe needle disposal” fact sheet](#)). Evidence shows that limiting the number of needles distribution increases the likelihood of people sharing or re-using needles, increasing the risk of disease. The BCCDC and Office of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) [recommend against needle buy-back programs](#) for multiple reasons: lack of evidence that they are effective, and may cause unintended harm and consequences, such as the increased risk of needle stick injury, risks associated with breaking into or removing community disposal boxes, and wastage. Additionally, the BCCDC recommends that communities engage with peers to develop a plan to address discarded needles. Peers are best situated to know where needles are being discarded and engage others who use needles about safe disposal.

The Ministry welcomes ongoing cooperation between municipalities, regional health authorities and community partners to help ensure that British Columbia’s communities are safe and healthy, and that shared public concerns such as inappropriately discarded syringes are addressed in an effective and timely manner.

NR19 Collection of Blood Samples for Police Drug Testing

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province of British Columbia is committed to ensuring that our roads are as safe as possible for all road users and acknowledges that there are several strategies in place to ensure that law enforcement officers can address the public safety risks caused by drug-impaired driving. Non-medical blood draws are just one component of this strategy, along with Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) and Drug Recognition Experts (DREs).

Currently, those designated as "qualified technicians" to take samples of blood are registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered psychiatric nurse and/or a person working in a hospital who, in the normal course of their duties, takes blood samples.

Non-medical blood draws, performed by a qualified technician, can be conducted outside of a hospital setting, which means the subject does not have to be admitted as a patient to hospital.

It is recommended that law enforcement agencies examine opportunities to hire or contract nursing staff or approach their local Health Authority to develop processes and policies related to non-medical blood draws for drug-impaired driving investigations.

There are no plans at this time to expand the scope of the designation of a qualified technician beyond the extent of the current designations, which were updated in June 2019.

NR21 Vegetation Control Along Powerlines

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation

Since 2007, the United States and other Canadian provinces have enacted legislation to adopt mandatory and enforceable reliability standards for the interconnected electricity grid. Mandatory reliability standards (MRS) are one of the key recommendations resulting from the 2003 blackout in north-eastern North America. British Columbia adopted MRS in 2009 with an amendment to the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA) that gave the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) jurisdiction to adopt reliability standards for application in BC. Vegetation management is included as part of MRS. Utilities and other transmission line operators are required to manage vegetation located on transmission rights of way (ROW) and minimize encroachments from vegetation located adjacent to the ROW to ensure reliability. BC Hydro, FortisBC and other transmission owners are subject to the BCUC's oversight of MRS.

More than half of all power outages in B.C. are caused by trees and adverse weather. Tall, diseased, or flawed trees can fall or grow into power lines and are a safety hazard. BC Hydro spends more than \$50 million each year on vegetation maintenance to prevent outages along 79,000 kilometres of overhead power lines. In its 2022 Revenue Requirements Application to the BC Utilities Commission, BC Hydro has requested additional operational funding of \$25 million for vegetation management, bringing the total budget to \$74.4 million. BC Hydro's vegetation management team regularly inspects trees and other tall vegetation growing under or adjacent to transmission and distribution power lines to identify potential problems. Minimizing service interruptions and the duration of outages are performance measures tracked by BC Hydro as part of its annual service plan.

BC Hydro is currently in the process of finalizing long term contracts, of two to seven years, for distribution voltage vegetation maintenance across the province. The successful vegetation management contractors will be assigned work in their contract areas throughout the year. A dedicated contractor working in the region throughout the year will result in quicker response times for customer and emergency work and during storm events, when vegetation crews are required. The northern interior region of the province will have five separate contract areas. The Cariboo region (70 Mile House, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, west to Bella Coola) is one of the contract areas that will be assigned a distribution vegetation management contractor.

NR23 Development Cost Charges Bylaw and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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 The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure 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 The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure interchanges in their Development Cost Charges Bylaw or that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure fully fund capital costs for all The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure-owned interchange projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Development cost charges (DCCs) are for local government capital costs required to service future growth (like local parks, transportation infrastructure (roads, transit, and active transportation), sewers, water and drainage systems). DCC's have been used by Municipalities to partner on key infrastructure design to support development and growth in communities adjacent (and beyond) provincial infrastructure. A review of the policy has determined that DCC's can not apply to infrastructure not owned by the local government regardless of the benefits to the individual parties (including development). DCC's have been used by local government to fund provincially owned infrastructure that supports community and development-driven traffic demands (such as the 216th Interchange Project completed in 2020). However, the information submitted by municipalities with the DCC bylaw did not clearly indicate ownership of the infrastructure. The Province of BC relies on the disclosure of ownership in order to equitably review all DCC bylaws and has adjusted its review procedure accordingly.

Expanding DCCs to include provincial infrastructure could represent an increase in the allowable scope of DCCs, which may result in cost impacts for developers. Conversely, not expanding DCC's to provincial infrastructure needs to be considered carefully as it will impact municipal partnership opportunities on future infrastructure projects. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure brought the matter before the Development and Finance Review Committee (DFRC) in July 2021, where the information was received, and the Committee made additional requests for information. All agencies and the DFRC committee are still exploring the full scope and understanding of the impacts. The DFRC is a standing committee made up of representatives from the Province, local governments, and the development industry and makes recommendations to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs on issues impacting development finance (including DCCs).

All ministries involved appreciate that time is of the essence on this matter, as upcoming projects on the Highway 1 corridor are anticipating leveraging municipal partnerships, such as the Highway 1 216th to 264th project as well as the Highway 1 264th to Whatcom Project. Local governments have indicated that without the ability to access DCC funding, they may be unable to make a financial contribution, resulting in a risk to delivering these mandate commitment projects. Similar conversations have occurred with other local governments throughout the Lower Mainland.

NR24 Active Transportation

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Provincial Government is eager to see the growth of active transportation across the province. In 2019, Move. Commute. Connect. – B.C.'s Active Transportation Strategy, was released to support the Province's CleanBC Strategy.

The Provincial Government works to incorporate pedestrian and cycling improvements as part of most major highway capital projects. This includes working with local communities to identify active transportation connections and crossings that align with local transportation plans and aspirations.

Many communities throughout the province have developed plans that outline short-, medium-, and long-term investments in active transportation that align with their unique needs. One of the ways the province supports community active transportation is through the Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants program that provides cost-sharing with Indigenous and local governments.

Communities that construct active transportation infrastructure are responsible for its ownership and maintenance. It is recognized that some active transportation infrastructure plans and projects are found on, or adjacent to, provincial rights-of-way. The Province facilitates the development of active transportation infrastructure on provincial rights of ways through a permitting and/or license of occupation process that is respectful of applicant needs and requirements.

Currently there is no plan for the Province to assume responsibility for the development and operation of all active transportation infrastructure within highway rights of way.

NR25 Congestion Pricing

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Government is committed to making life more affordable and getting people moving in the Lower Mainland. That is why we continue to work with the Metro Vancouver region to advance the Mayors' Council's vision to get people out of traffic and home with their families.

While we are aware of the interest among some Metro Vancouver municipalities to examine mobility pricing as a possible approach to manage congestion, reduce greenhouse gases, and serve as a revenue source for transit and transportation, it is vital that any transportation solutions in the region be fair and affordable for everybody, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect people's travel patterns and mode choice.

Accordingly, government's focus has been continuing to work with TransLink and adjacent regions to deliver on immediate needs in response to COVID-19 to ensure the continued delivery of essential transit services in the Lower Mainland. This work includes supporting TransLink with long term planning by working with them and Metro Vancouver as part of Transport 2050, the Regional Transportation Strategy for the Metro Vancouver, as well as the agency's next Investment Plan which will identify funding sources from senior governments and TransLink, with the goal to facilitate and promote mode shifts to transit and active transportation options

NR31 Taxation of Group 4 Independent Schools

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The *Community Charter* section 220(1)(l) provides a statutory exemption from property taxation for an independent school.

The provision was amended by the legislature in 2015 to expand the statutory exemption to include land reasonably necessary for the purposes of the school. Such land had previously been subject to a permissive exemption. The question of including or excluding group 4 independent schools was considered by the legislature and the decision was to include all independent schools.

Class 4 independent schools were included in the statutory exemption before the 2015 changes expanded the geographic base of the exemption. The government does not plan to review the legislation.

NR34 Enumeration and Consideration of Seasonal Populations

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 to better understand and address the impact on infrastructure and the delivery of services during seasonal increases in population of rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs recognizes that the seasonal influx of people during specific times of year, for tourism and other purposes, may add additional pressure on existing public services, and that this pressure can be more acutely felt in rural communities. The Province is not considering enumerating the seasonal fluctuation of rural populations at this time.

With respect to infrastructure grants, population base is not a standard metric or policy tool for evaluating applications. Local governments are responsible for planning service design and delivery based on known population and expected seasonal fluctuations, and are best placed to evaluate seasonal population changes and assess specific service pressures.

For unconditional grants, any change in the way that a local government population is calculated would represent a significant shift in provincial policy, requiring considerable research and consultation into possible implications.

NR35 Odometer Readings for Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracking

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province and ICBC support measures that protect a healthy environment and promote GHG reduction.

ICBC does not require customers to disclose their odometer reading when renewing their insurance; however, ICBC provides an incentive for customers by offering a low kilometre discount (Distance Factor in ICBC's Basic Tariff) to those who drive less than 5,000 kilometres.

The data provided by customers for this discount is on a volunteer basis, and the quantity of data is limited; however, the proportion of vehicles in a geographic area that qualify for the reduced rating from the Distance Factor may be useful data, with an increasing proportion indicating progress around reducing GHGs.

ICBC recently launched a new website that includes vehicle population data which can be sorted by municipality, vehicle type or area based on the first three characters of the postal code. This data is now public in a customizable, convenient format that will make data available in a timelier manner and is in keeping with the Province's commitment to transparency.

NR37 Provincial Enabling of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Vancouver Financing by Local Governments

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

In fall 2020, as part of StrongerBC, and in the Ministerial Mandate letters for Municipal Affairs and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon innovation, the Province has identified PACE as a priority. The Province has developed an internal PACE Roadmap to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and barriers of the various considerations for PACE program specific to the B.C. context implementation. Consultation with local governments and key interests including UBCM, the City of Vancouver, and potential funding agencies including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities was undertaken in late 2020 and early 2021.

The road map contains an evaluation of PACE and related financing tools, to drive adoption of energy efficiency and low carbon retrofit measures in existing residential and commercial buildings. This will result in a summary of policy and legislative and/or regulatory requirements and recommendations for how PACE could be implemented to minimize or eliminate market barriers for building owners and managers. A key requirement is to look at PACE as a preferred outcome and also to identify other types of potential alternative financing mechanisms that support building retrofits.

Many successful PACE programs are administered by third parties utilizing external financing thus alleviating capacity pressure on local governments and fiscal constraints for the province. These considerations, including legislative and regulatory elements such as in the *Community Charter* and the *Vancouver Charter*, are considered in the roadmap. The PACE Roadmap, in partnership with the consultation process, will inform next steps regarding PACE implementation. UBCM and the City of Vancouver will continue to be updated throughout the process. The Ministries of Environment and

Climate Change Strategy, Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, Municipal Affairs and Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing are collaborating on the PACE initiative.

NR38 GHG Reduction Legislation

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) is not considering enacting legislation requested by Resolution NR38 and will continue to implement CleanBC policies including working with local governments on their climate action plans where appropriate.

The Climate Change Accountability Act (CCAA) requires government to set an interim target and sectoral targets to help keep our CleanBC plan on track. The Province has recently announced a new interim emissions target of 16% below 2007 levels by 2025. B.C. established sectoral emission reduction targets in March, 2021 and notified UBCM at that time. CleanBC and The Climate Change Accountability Act do not call for the explicit elimination of fossil fuel heating systems or the sale of fossil fuels, but instead provide incentives, carbon pricing and legislation (e.g. Zero-Emission Vehicle Act) to make progress on CleanBC targets.

The Province works in collaboration with UBCM and their climate plans. B.C. has also worked with UBCM's Special Committee on Climate Action and the subsequent recommendations that align with CleanBC.

The request for legislation in Resolution NR38 directed to ENV is the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MUNI) as they are responsible for local government legislation.

MUNI responded to UBCM resolution NR2 "Amend Section 8(6) of the Community Charter to Include "Prohibit" in Relation to Business". As the GHG reduction legislation resolution NR38 relates to local government authority over business operations ENV provides the following text from MUNI's response to NR2.

"The Province recognizes that the current provision in the Community Charter with respect to businesses limits municipalities' authority to "regulate" and does not include the bare authority to "prohibit". When the Community Charter was drafted, the Province needed to consider all interests that would be affected by the legislation, including the potentially significant impact on the business community and economic activity of broad authority to affect the fundamental nature of a business (e.g. prohibit a particular type of business/business activity).

Local government legislation does provide municipalities various powers that can significantly affect business activities. Within the authority to "regulate" businesses under the Community Charter, a

municipality may establish limitations and restrictions, including rules respecting what must or must not be done. Additionally, the Community Charter authorizes requiring a business license for businesses to operate and municipalities may prohibit any business activity until a license has been granted and establish terms and conditions. As well, municipal zoning authority under the Local Government Act includes the power to prohibit any land use or uses in a zone.

Municipal authority under the Community Charter also includes the power to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to the protection of the natural environment, subject to provincial involvement through concurrent authority. The precise scope of legislative authority in a particular circumstance is ultimately determined by the courts.

Any legislative change to the Community Charter in regard to business would need to understand and consider the full range of implications and interests affected by such a change, including court decisions, climate change considerations, impacts on economic prosperity, and business practices across BC. It would need to consider how such a change would affect the provincial role in regulating matters such as consumer protection and the protection of the natural environment. It would also require consultations with a broad range of interests in addition to local governments, including a wide range of business representatives, to gather the views of all who would be affected by any such proposed changes.”

NR40 Creating One Planet Communities

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province is committed to reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our legislated climate targets (16% reduction from 2007 levels by 2025, 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 80% by 2050). CleanBC charts a path to the 2030 target. One Planet Saanich is one planning tool with a strong focus on citizen engagement that helps communities make progress on meeting their targets.

We all have a role to play in driving down emissions through more efficient buildings, cleaner transportation, reducing waste, fuel switching, and many other important actions outlined in CleanBC.

The Province has successfully engaged citizens in a range of CleanBC policies and acknowledges that an aware and engaged citizenry is a critical part of climate action, and that local governments are well placed to drive this engagement.

We applaud Saanich's success with the 'One Planet' model and we support Saanich sharing information and insights on the model with other municipalities.

NR42 Venting Index Requirement and Efficiency of Burns

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) is designed to minimize the impact of smoke from open burning on human health and the environment. The regulation was updated in September 2019 and now includes specific requirements to facilitate and encourage use of the forced air burning systems known as air curtain incinerators. The regulation also recognizes that burning is the last resort for disposal of vegetative debris after other options, such as economically beneficial use of the fibre, have been investigated.

The ventilation (venting) forecast is a key tool within the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation to reduce the risk of smoke pollution. During good venting conditions, smoke from open burning generally disperses quickly and during poor venting conditions smoke is likely to be trapped near ground level. Poor venting during the winter months is common, especially in the B.C. Interior, and venting must be incorporated into the planning of open burning projects. Good or fair venting conditions are more common in the early fall, late winter, and early spring.

While air curtain incinerators are still significant emitters of particulate matter, they do reduce emissions by approximately 90% relative to open burning in piles. The Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation recognizes and encourages this better burning technology by providing more permissive provisions for air curtain incinerators. Burning with an air curtain incinerator can be undertaken when venting is either rated good or fair (which is typically the spring and fall burn seasons) while pile burning requires a good venting rating. In addition, air curtain incinerators can use smaller setbacks from neighbours and longer burn periods. Since air curtain incinerators are still large emitters of particulate matter pollution, burning during poor ventilation conditions is not allowed.

In summary the new Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation already enables the use of air curtain incinerators and supports open burning during fair or good conditions. Open burning during poor

ventilation conditions would worsen air quality, especially in valley communities in Interior B.C., and impact human health and the environment.

NR44 Water Conservation and Grey Water Use

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, it be 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 building or the retrofitting of old buildings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

Changes are continually being made to the B.C. Building Code to enhance water efficiency requirements for plumbing fixtures, appliances and equipment in new construction and substantial renovations.

The Province appreciates the growing interest in using available non-potable water supplies in the place of potable ones for selected purposes such as flushing toilets and irrigating lawns and gardens. The B.C. Building Code has been amended to support reuse of water internally.

Reclaimed wastewater is not the same quality as potable water and may contain substances and micro-organisms that pose a risk to public health and the environment. To ensure the health and safety of building occupants and prevent cross-contamination of the potable water supply, a grey water system cannot be connected to a potable water system.

In support of CleanBC, the Province is engaging in consultation in summer and fall 2021 with Indigenous communities, local governments, and industry representatives on the development of an Existing Buildings Resilience Strategy. This strategy will consider several topics related to existing buildings, including climate resilience issues such as water conservation related to climate change. The Province welcomes the input of communities with concerns related to water use in buildings as part of this consultation.

More information on the Existing Buildings Resilience Strategy is available by contacting the Building and Safety Standards Branch with the Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing at building.safety@gov.bc.ca.

NR45 Support for a British Columbia Coastal Protection Strategy

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 UBCM 2020 Resolutions Book 135 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development

The Province takes its role as steward of our marine environment seriously and has worked for decades to improve the management of our foreshore and submerged lands over which we have jurisdiction. For example, under the Marine Planning Partnership, the Province and our First Nations partners recently completed the first five-year implementation phase of four marine spatial plans on the North Coast of the Province. The Marine Planning Partnership plans inform resource management decisions by helping ensure compatibility with local and regional preferences for economic development and diversification and broader stewardship and conservation.

Where the Province's interests in protecting our tidal waters fall under federal jurisdiction we have partnered with the Federal government on several ongoing initiatives. Currently, and in partnership with Indigenous groups, the parties are working on a Marine Protected Area Network on the north coast to establish an ecologically comprehensive resilient and representative network that protects the biological diversity and health of the marine environment for present and future generations.

Other federal initiatives in which the province plays a key supporting role is the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, the Cumulative Effects of Marine Shipping Initiative, the Anchorages Initiative, among others. The Province also has several initiatives to help support the economic resilience and sustainability of coastal communities and will continue to do this.

As noted in some ministry mandate letters, the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations, in partnership with First Nations, and with support from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Fisheries, will lead work to develop a Coastal Marine Strategy that will seek to better protect coastal habitat while growing coastal economies. Initial work on the scope of the Coastal Marine Strategy is underway internally and future engagement on a draft strategy will enable local and regional values to be reflected.

NR46 Marine Debris

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Discarded plastics and derelict vessels pollute the environment and put coastal communities at risk. To help address this, in August 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) introduced the Clean Coast Clean Waters Initiative. CCCW provides \$14.83M in funding to help create jobs and support coastal communities, including Indigenous communities, as they recover from the COVID-19 economic downturn and loss of tourism. In addition, CCCW supports the Province's work on the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan by funding shoreline cleanup and derelict vessel removal projects, which includes the removal of plastics and other debris from the marine coastal environment.

To further support the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, on December 17, 2020 the ministry announced the Recycled Plastics Manufacturing Stimulus (RPMS) fund. RPMS provides \$5M to expand the use of innovative technologies to turn used plastics into new products, support the circular economy of plastics, increase local processing capacity for recycling and create new jobs for British Columbians. Regional representation and opportunities for youth, women and Indigenous people are included in the fund selection criteria.

The Province acknowledges that the proper management of packaging and paper products (PPP), including cardboard, from the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector is a challenge for some local governments, and is working to explore new regulatory or policy approaches to manage these materials. Currently, only residential PPP is regulated and therefore managed by Recycle BC. The ministry issued a Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper in September 2020 that sought feedback

on several items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs or other policy initiatives, including PPP from the ICI sector and marine debris. The ministry received substantive feedback from key partners and stakeholders, which is summarized in the [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper - Summary of Feedback \(gov.bc.ca\)](#). This will inform the subsequent development of a multi-year plan for EPR in B.C. As a first step, we saw there is broad support for collecting data to better understand current gaps in diversion and practices in managing PPP from the ICI sector and ENV is planning to perform research in this area.

As of July 26, 2021, under s. 8(3)(j) of the *Community Charter*, the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation (the Regulation) has been amended, to include a [new part \(Part 3\)](#) that enables local governments in B.C. to take action on plastics by authorizing municipalities to implement bylaws that ban certain single-use items. [Over the past year](#), Honourable Minister George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has approved nine municipal single-use plastic ban bylaws submitted for Ministerial approval by the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich, Richmond, Tofino, Ucluelet, Surrey, Nanaimo, Esquimalt and Rossland. Now any interested municipality can implement bylaws to ban certain single-use items following the requirements set out in the amended Regulation, without the need to submit for Ministerial approval. The Regulation provides a municipality with the option to regulate all, or some, of the following single-use items:

- Bans on plastic checkout bags in conjunction with fees on single-use paper bags
- Bans on polystyrene foam service ware
- Bans on most plastic drinking straws, with by-request exemptions for accessible straws
- Bans or by-request restrictions on plastic utensils including stir sticks

The Province has recently committed to the development of a new coastal marine strategy for British Columbia, in partnership with First Nations and federal and local governments. The scope of this work is currently in development but may provide an opportunity to address issues of interest to coastal communities such as marine debris. The Province and Pacific North Coast Nations are currently co-leading implementation of the Marine Plan Partnership plans, which include objectives and strategies related to reducing marine pollution and restoring coastal habitats. As part of this work, the Marine Planning Partnership partners have provided funding support and monitoring capacity to help prioritize and inform local clean-up efforts in areas such as North Vancouver Island.

NR47 Home Heating Oil Spill Prevention

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:

- Require home heating oil tanks be registered and tagged as being in good condition and prohibit companies from filling tanks without a proper tag;
- Create a mandatory inspection system including authorized inspector access for this purpose;
- Legislate absolute liability for home heating fuel companies for any spills from tanks they fill and require those companies to carry insurance for that liability;
- Legislate a public insurance fund paid for by a surcharge on heating oil fuel sales to pay for spills from properties where the property owner has self-identified as having a heating oil tank; and
- Require proper decommissioning of tanks that no longer meet certification or that are unused for a prescribed period of time.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

A number of local governments have taken initiatives regarding Residential Underground Storage Tanks (UST). For example, Saanich and Oak Bay require permits to be obtained for the installation, decommission, or removal of tanks. West Vancouver has built an inventory of properties with USTs and has maintained their records by requiring permits for their removal. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy continues to work with local government and fuel suppliers to minimize the occurrences of leaks through awareness programs, bylaws and best practices.

Homeowners are responsible for ensuring their home heating oil tanks and any associated pipes are in good condition. Under the Environmental Management Act, a current or previous owner may be held responsible for clean-up of a home heating oil spill. It is important that British Columbians be reminded to regularly check their home heating oil tank for leaks and are advised to replace it approximately every 15 years to minimize the chance of a leak.

NR49 Funding for Clean Renewable Energy Projects

Whereas the BC Hydro Standing Offer Program encouraging the development of new small and clean renewable energy projects was indefinitely suspended in 2019 after the Province's comprehensive review of BC Hydro;

And whereas renewable energy projects are a feasible revenue source for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reinstate the BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments.

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation

British Columbia currently has a surplus of highly reliable, low-cost, and clean electricity. This surplus is more than enough to move us toward our CleanBC goals in the near and medium term.

At the same time, our Government is committed to affordability for British Columbians. Part of this commitment is to keep BC Hydro's rates affordable. While BC Hydro is in electricity surplus, it would have to sell any incremental electricity it purchased under an electricity purchase program for local governments on export markets, at prices that would be substantially lower than the price paid under the Standing Offer Program when that program was suspended in 2019. These losses would be recovered from all of BC Hydro's customers through rates, increasing electricity bills.

BC Hydro is currently developing its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which will look at future energy needs over a 20-year period, and explore the resources required to meet them. BC Hydro sought feedback on their draft plan up until July 31, 2021 and is now considering all of the feedback received as they finalize the plan. Updates and more information can be found at <https://www.bchydro.com/toolbar/about/planning-for-our-future/clean-power-2040.html>.

In order to ensure that BC Hydro's energy purchase agreements are cost-effective, and that rates are kept affordable, BC Hydro's IRP and new energy purchase agreements are subject to the approval of the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). BC Hydro will submit its IRP to the BCUC later this year, and the BCUC will make its decision on BC Hydro's IRP in 2022, after a public process. Information on how to participate in BCUC processes can be found at <https://www.bcuc.com/get-involved/>.

NR52 Home Emissions and Energy Rating and Labelling

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 Home Emissions and Energy ratings and labelling provide a good system for homeowners and buyers to raise awareness of their property's Emissions and Energy performance which in turn helps to encourage changes to reduce property emissions, but currently there is no statutory authority for a local government to require Emissions and Energy labelling or rating:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to enact legislation to enable a local government to require building Emissions and Energy rating and labelling.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation

In fall of 2020, following an earlier CleanBC commitment, the government of British Columbia (BC) mandated the Ministries of Finance and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) to collaborate on requiring the disclosure of energy performance information at time of sale for residential buildings in BC. The mandate aims to achieve the following objectives: 1) raise awareness of home energy performance and costs amongst homeowners and buyers; and 2) drive the implementation of energy and emission-reducing retrofits in the existing building sector.

EMLI is currently working on the development of policy options and implementation tools to facilitate the generation of home energy ratings and their disclosure at the time of sale in support of this mandate. Before proceeding with this policy, EMLI will engage homeowners, real estate professionals, local governments, and First Nation governments to ensure alignment with stakeholder objectives and priorities.

NR53 Hazardous Materials Recycling Regulation

Whereas non refillable pressurized tanks and sharps (needles) have been identified across British Columbia as creating serious health and safety concerns for the public and workers engaged in garbage and recycling collection, processing and landfilling;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia can include these hazardous materials under the Recycling Regulation to ensure cost effective and safe disposal under an Extended Producer Responsibility Program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to include nonrefillable pressurized tanks and sharps (needles) under the Recycling Regulation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province acknowledges that the proper management of non refillable pressurized tanks and sharps are a challenge for local governments to manage.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy issued a [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper](#) in September 2020 that sought feedback on a number of items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility, including compressed gas in canisters and medical syringes. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy received substantive feedback from key partners and stakeholders, which is summarized in the [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper - Summary of Feedback \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) and was made publicly available June 2021. This will inform the subsequent development of a multi-year plan for Extended Producer Responsibility in B.C.

NR54 A Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Cigarettes and Vaping Products

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province acknowledges that waste from cigarettes and vapes are toxic to the environment, marine life and communities and that proper management is a challenge for local governments.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy issued a [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper](#) in September 2020 that sought feedback on a number of items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility, which included vaping products but not cigarette waste. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy received substantive feedback from key partners and stakeholders, which is summarized in the [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper - Summary of Feedback \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) and was made publicly available in June 2021. This will inform the subsequent development of a multi-year plan for Extended Producer Responsibility in B.C.

We continue to actively work in partnership with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) on Extended Producer Responsibility priorities addressed by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

NR55 Cardboard Recycling

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province acknowledges that the proper management of packaging and paper products, including cardboard, from the industrial, commercial and institutional sector is a challenge for some local governments and is working to explore new regulatory or policy approaches to manage these materials. Currently, only residential packaging and paper products is regulated and therefore managed by Recycle BC. It should be noted that the Province only regulates products to be covered by an approved extended producer responsibility plan – it is up to individual producers if they choose an existing plan or develop their own plan to meet this requirement.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy issued a [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper](#) in September 2020 that sought feedback on a number of items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility, including PPP from the ICI sector. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy received substantive feedback from key partners and stakeholders, which is summarized in the [Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper - Summary of Feedback \(gov.bc.ca\)](#) and was made publicly available in June 2021. This will inform the subsequent development of a multi-year plan for Extended Producer Responsibility in B.C. As a first step, we saw there was broad support for collecting data to better understand current gaps in diversion and practices in managing PPP from the ICI sector and ENV is already beginning to perform the necessary research in this area.

NR56 Recovering Costs for the Illegal Disposal of Wildlife Carcasses

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The *Wildlife Act* has provisions specifically aimed to reduce situations that attract dangerous wildlife - such as bear, cougar and wolf - including the disposal of parts of dead wildlife that meet the definition of "attractant".

For example, it is an offence under the *Wildlife Act* to leave or dispose of attractants (i.e., parts of dead wildlife) in places where there are people or likely to be people. If a person committing such an offence is successfully identified and charged, that person could face penalties of \$230 (by way of violation ticket) or up to \$50,000 imposed through court action. Anyone that witnesses, or has information related to, an offence under the Wildlife Act is encouraged to contact the Conservation Officer Service Report all Poachers and Polluters 24 Hour Hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

If a person mismanages dead wildlife parts on their own property and creates a risk of attracting dangerous wildlife, a dangerous wildlife protection order can be issued requiring the property owner or occupier to clean up the property within a set period of time. Failure to comply with the order by the deadline can result in penalties of \$575 (by way of violation ticket) or up to \$100,000 imposed through court action, for each day they exceed the time given.

The Province provides direct communication to hunters through the B.C. Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis, BC Hunting Online and the BC Conservation Officer (COS) website. The Province will review the Synopsis and the websites and commits to making updates that improve outreach material profiling the correct dumping of hunting waste, safely and ethically, as well as improved details of the offence and potential penalties under the *Wildlife Act*.

Options for improving expectations and deterrents will also be considered further as a part of an upcoming review of the *Wildlife Act* (2022-2025).

NR57 Invasive Species Act

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province recognizes that there are gaps in the current invasive species management and legislative framework in British Columbia, with the potential result that many high-risk species and their pathways of introduction may not be adequately controlled. The federal government has the legislative authority to prevent the introduction of invasive species of concern to Canada. Once a species has established in one or more area(s) of the country, the responsibility for prevention or management generally transfers to the provinces and territories.

The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) is the coordinating body for invasive species prevention and management and has representation from all resource and land management ministries. IMISWG completed a review of current legislation and policy and identified specific taxonomic groups and invasive species that are not addressed, and areas where changes and improvements to policy would support the prevention of invasive species introduction and spread. Ontario is the first provincial/territorial jurisdiction to have an *Invasive Species Act* and regulations. Their staff have been sharing lessons learned through that process with the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group. The risks posed by invasive species are well recognized by the Provincial government. Invasive species do not obey boundaries, so their management requires coordination across all jurisdictions.

The Province is committed to continuing to pursue improved policy solutions to address all invasive species.

NR59 Cannabis Enforcement and Regulation within the Agricultural 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is following odour-nuisances related to cannabis production closely, and is collaborating with the Metro Vancouver Regional District's Air Quality Bylaw and Regulation Team, and cannabis-facility operators located in the Metro-Vancouver area, to pursue the investigation of how *Normal Farm Practices* may be established for the sector, which may mitigate future concerns related to odour-complaints from the indoor or greenhouse production of cannabis. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries is currently conducting a study titled, "The Relative Impact of VOC Emissions from Agriculture on Air Quality of Urban Centre", that will seek to provide enhanced information on the most effective mitigation-technologies that indoor and greenhouse producers of cannabis may apply to minimize odor output from their operations. The report will also include findings that further investigate the overall air-quality impacts of cannabis air-emissions in the Metro-Vancouver region.

As Health Canada is the official regulatory-body overseeing the licensing and production of legal-cannabis in Canada, they have already addressed issues related to odor and enforcement by stating that, "the building or part of the building where cannabis is produced, packed, labelled and store must be equipped with a system that filters air to prevent the escape of odours". Health Canada has increased its site-inspections in B.C. due to complaints, and has created an [Online Complaint Form](#) for individuals aggrieved by nuisances arising from a licensed cannabis facilities to submit a formal complaint, so Health Canada may consider conducting a compliance-inspection of the facility as referenced. Where Health Canada finds that a producer's air-filtration system is not performing adequately or is found to not be in operation, Health Canada may consider issuing a cease-and-desist order against the facility until mitigation requirements are met.

Additionally, the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Metro Vancouver Regional District, published a report titled, "[Best Available Control Technologies for Cannabis Production in British Columbia](#)". This early report provided guidance to industry on the technologies available to manage potential health and environmental impacts from their

operations. The Ministry of Environment has also recently published a [Cannabis Waste Management Factsheet](#), that details how cannabis producers must comply with existing regulatory requirements under the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA) and *Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management* (AEM Code) in order to protect human health and the environment. Both resources can be found on their [Environmental Management for the Cannabis Industry Webpage](#), which also provides information regarding water licenses and approvals.

Further, the Cannabis Legalization Secretariat (the Secretariat), under the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Office (PSSG) is currently conducting external engagement with local governments to discuss cannabis production and regulatory limitations within their communities. The Metro Vancouver Regional District, of which the City of Maple Ridge is a member, has been invited to participate.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries acknowledges that the above actions are only first-steps, and that the Province is committed to continued monitoring of the industry, collaborating with local governments, and providing further guidance on *Normal Farm Practices* in the sector as needed, to further support the Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB), as an independent administrative tribunal in their supervision of the [Farm Practices Protection \(Right to Farm\) Act](#) as the regulatory nature of the cannabis sector is still developing.

NR60 Sustainable Development Goals

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province of British Columbia is committed to supporting an economy where business and people are mutually successful, and where our diverse, well educated people, rich endowment of natural resources and exceptional location provide the foundation for sustainable prosperity that is shared by all British Columbians.

The United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) align with this government's vision for British Columbia through strategies ranging from CleanBC, focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing climate change risks, to TogetherBC, B.C.'s first poverty reduction strategy, which includes a focus on affordability, opportunity, social inclusion and reconciliation. Both of these strategies include mechanisms for annual reporting on progress.

We recognize that several local governments are incorporating the SDGs into their plans and operations. For example, Fort St. John's *2018 – 2023 Strategic Plan* and Kelowna's *Imagine Kelowna* document align with the SDGs. They are not alone. Increasing numbers of local governments are making commitments to advance a range of the UN's Agenda 2030 initiatives that support the SDGs. The Province of British Columbia encourages all local governments to learn more about the broad applicability of the SDGs and looks forward to seeing how they incorporate them into their corporate and community planning activities, and monitor and report on them.

NR61 Indigenous Peoples' Representation

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province is committed to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and building relationships that are based on respect, recognition of title and rights, and in support of self-determination and self-governance. The Province is encouraged to see many local governments and Indigenous governments working together to take actions that support meaningful reconciliation.

A key part of self-determination is being able to identify how best to collaborate in government-to-government relationships and participate in decisions that affect your community. The B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) provides a path forward and co-operative relationships between local governments and First Nations are an important part of supporting reconciliation province-wide.

The draft action plan to implement the Declaration Act will help guide the Province's implementation, including legislative amendments, over time. Theme 1: Self-determination and self-governance action 1.1.3 reads: Support inclusive regional governance by advancing Indigenous participation in regional district boards. (Ministry of Municipal Affairs).

The Province will be reviewing comments from First Nations communities, leadership and Indigenous peoples and organizations on 1.1.3. The Province knows there is a strong, and growing, interest in direct participation of First Nations at the regional district board table. More work will need to be done to understand the challenges, benefits, and opportunities for Indigenous governments to be directly involved in the governance of regional services.

In the interim, we encourage communities to learn from examples of Indigenous and regional district collaboration that already exist and apply them where appropriate. These include sitting on the Board

and on Committees in an advisory role, entering into agreements and protocols, and holding regional forums and other events, for collaborative dialogue.

NR62 Re-Evaluation of Outpatient Model

Whereas a significant proportion of the province's homeless population have mental illness; 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Province is working with local governments and partners to ensure people experiencing homelessness, as well as mental health and substance use challenges, are supported through two public health emergencies - COVID-19 and the overdose emergency.

The Province recognizes the need for complex care housing models to meet the needs of a segment of the population that requires more health and social services than are currently provided through existing supportive housing offerings. Development of complex care housing is within the mandate letter of the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Minister is working across government, including with the Minister responsible for Housing, the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Minister of Health, to develop and implement new models to meet the needs of individuals requiring complex care. This work is underway and will involve local government, service providers and health partners as it progresses.

NR63 Sharing Payments from Opioid Class Action Lawsuits

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province commenced legal action against more than 40 opioid distributors and manufacturers to recover its health care costs and introduced enabling legislation, the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, in fall 2019. This action is part of BC’s continued effort to take action in response to the profound impact that opioids have had on communities across BC and is an important step in holding these companies to account given the devastating impact that has resulted from their deceptive marketing and distribution practices.

Investing in services and supports to save lives and address the impacts of the overdose emergency on communities across BC is not dependent on the outcome of the litigation process. Significant steps have been taken to escalate BC’s response with new and enhanced services on the ground such as Community Action Teams (CATs); community wellness and harm reduction initiatives; StopOverdoseBC and other campaigns to reduce stigma and raise awareness; and increased investments to enhance availability and access to services including medication assisted treatment, bed-based treatment and recovery and substance use integrated team-based care, to name a few.

Municipalities have been key to informing and supporting this work. Going forward the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions will continue to ensure policy and strategic planning is informed by the needs of all interests including municipalities, First Nations partners and communities, people with lived and living experience, service providers and other experts.

NR64 A Strategy for Rural Economic Development Through Health Care

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Ministry agrees that supporting local health care is key to improving life in rural British Columbia. Many of the initiatives are linked to StrongerBC, BC’s Economic Recovery Plan that is focused on making health care stronger, getting people back to work, supporting businesses, and helping communities. There are a number of programs currently underway to enhance the quality and accessibility of health services in communities across the province, including:

Primary Care Networks

Through the development of Primary Care Networks (PCNs), the Ministry is working with communities to build out and strengthen primary care services within communities. In the Kootenay region, the Kootenay Boundary PCN is in its second year of implementation and has hired 27 additional health providers as of January 7, 2021, including a physiotherapist and social worker for the Kaslo Primary Health Clinic.

Seniors’ Services

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BC government rolled out Safe Seniors, Strong Communities, a province wide program that matches seniors who need support with non-medical essentials (e.g. grocery delivery, prescription pick up and delivery, transportation) to volunteers in their community who are willing to help. To support registration of both seniors and volunteers in Safe Seniors, Strong Communities, the provincial government expanded bc211, a non-profit organization

that provides free information and referral to community, government, and social services. Previously only available in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island, bc211 is now province wide. bc211 is available 24/7 by calling or texting 211; interpretation services are available in over 160 languages.

Through the implementation of the Health Career Access Program (HCAP), the Province is increasing the supply of Health Care Assistants (HCAs) in BC and supporting employment transitions to the health sector. HCAP provides an opportunity for individuals to begin employment in the long term care and assisted living sector in a non-direct care role (the Health Care Support Worker, HCSW) and receive employer-sponsored training leading to a provincially recognized Health Care Assistant (HCA) credential. The Ministry works with health authorities and other employers to identify HCAP opportunities and to increase the available pool of HCAs to care for seniors across the province. Overall, up to 3000 new HCSW positions are being made available through the program.

Rural Programs for Physicians

Recruiting and retaining physicians in smaller, rural communities is a challenge across Canada. The Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC), with representation from Doctors of BC, the Ministry of Health and health authorities, was established under formal agreement between the Government and Doctors of BC (DoBC) in 2001 to enhance the delivery of rural health care.

The goal of the JSC is to enhance the availability and stability of physician services in rural and remote areas of BC by addressing some of the unique, demanding, and difficult circumstances encountered by rural physicians. A suite of 13 rural programs have been designed to assist and support physicians in rural practice. This includes the Rural Retention Program (RRP) which provides an incentive to physicians who practice in rural communities and a further incentive for physicians who reside and practice in rural communities; the Rural Continuing Medical Education (CME) which provides an annual payment to rural physicians to assist with their medical education; a Recruitment Incentive for physicians who are recruited to fill a vacancy in the physician supply plan in a rural community; the Recruitment Contingency Fund which provides funding to health authorities to assist with recruitments costs such as advertising and site visits and also provides relocation expenses for physicians; and the Rural Locum Programs which provides physicians in eligible communities with a designated number of days (28 to 43 dependent upon community designation) to allow them time off for vacation, CME or health needs.

International Medical Graduate (IMG) Return of Service Program

Of the 58 entry-level IMG positions within UBC's Post Graduat Medical Education program, 52 of them are in Family Medicine. Family Medicine IMGs complete a two-year Return of Service (ROS) in a designated BC community of need immediately after residency training; the remaining six IMG positions are dedicated for specialty training that requires a three-year ROS. As of January 22, 2021, 319 family and 54 specialist IMGs have been placed in 89 BC communities.

Practice Ready Assessment-BC Program (PRA-BC)

The PRA-BC is a program for internationally educated family physicians (FPs) who have completed residency training outside Canada. The program provides an alternative pathway to licensure in exchange for a practice commitment in a health authority-identified community. PRA-BC is partially funded by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues (JSC), a partnership between the Ministry of Health and Doctors of BC, to help address access to rural FPs in BC by requiring successful applicants to provide a three-year Return of Service (ROS) in a rural community of need. As of 2020, PRA-BC assesses up to 32 family physicians each year (16 rural placements; 16 PCN placements). All candidates must pass a rigorous assessment process to ensure they meet the standards of practice in the province before the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC grants them a license to practice in BC. As of January 22, 2021, 126 IMGs successfully completed PRA-BC, and have been placed in 45 rural BC communities.

NR65 Helipad Hospital Construction

Whereas none of the new or existing level 3 trauma hospital construct plan in rural British Columbia include plans or designs for onsite helipads;

And whereas due to an absence of onsite hospital helipads, rural BC trauma patients experience delayed access to level 3 trauma hospitals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to legislate that all current at future level 3 and above trauma hospitals being constructed in rural BC receive capital funding to construct and operate an onsite helipad.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

There are many requirements from Transport Canada for constructing and operating a hospital heliport including flight patterns, lighting, and whether the hospital is in a residential area. Hospital based helipads can be quite disruptive to daily hospital operations due to the noise, vibration, potential for flying debris and exhaust fumes. There is also risk of impact to the hospital, patients, and staff in the event of a crash during landing or take-off. Transport Canada certification of hospital heliports has become increasingly difficult over the past 10 years.

In most cases, hospitals in rural areas are located within 5-10 minutes of an airport. Airports are much better equipped to safely and efficiently accommodate helicopter landings and take-offs 24 hours a day. Regardless of whether a helicopter lands at a hospital or an airport, BC Ambulance Service is required to load and unload patients and transport them to the hospital.

Hospitals in rural settings tend to have very few instances of patients arriving or transferring by helicopter. When they do, the patients tend not to be in extreme critical condition; many are able to walk off the helicopter under their own power. Those patients that are in extremely critical condition are transferred to a fixed-wing aircraft and flown to a L1 or L2 trauma centre which tend to be located in larger urban centres like Kamloops, Victoria or Vancouver.

NR67 Free Menstrual Products in Civic Facilities

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

A key mandate item for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction is to build on the work of so many around the province to make B.C. a global leader in the fight to end period poverty by creating a multi-sectoral Period Poverty Task Force to develop a comprehensive, long-term response to period poverty in B.C.

In April 2019, the provincial government issued a first-in-Canada ministerial order that requires all public schools to provide free menstrual products for students in school bathrooms. Following this, the Province provided a \$107,000 grant to the United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) to distribute menstrual products to 12 non-profit agencies that serve vulnerable populations. The project collected data on the number of people served, products used, how period poverty affects people's lives, and how addressing the issue can benefit communities.

A final report on the UWLM Period Promise Project was released on March 10, 2021. The UWLM's final report highlights the challenges faced by those living in poverty when they are menstruating. The report also includes recommendations, including the establishment of a task force on period poverty. The findings from the report will help to inform government's work on period poverty going forward. More details on a task force will be available later this year.

NR68 Early Childhood Education Labour Force Shortage

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 Early Childhood Educators in British Columbia to address the challenge of a lagging labour force in the childcare sector;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a standard fair wage, that reflects the current cost of living for Early Childhood Educators in British Columbia to address the challenge of a lagging labour force in the childcare 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Children and Family Development

Recognizing the critical value of Early Childhood Educators and continuing to work to help child care facilities recruit and retain high-quality front-line staff, the Province introduced the [Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy](#). The [ECE Wage Enhancement](#) was part of this strategy to address low wages in the child care sector with a goal to lift providers to a living wage and recognize the important role they play in a child's development. All front-line Early Childhood Educators in licensed care facilities are eligible to receive a wage enhancement of \$2 per hour as of April 1, 2020, which helps with recruiting new Early Childhood Educators and retaining experienced Early Childhood Educators already working in the sector. Since 2018, the Province has invested more than \$51 million to provide over 13,000 early childhood educators with wage enhancements. Early Childhood Educator wages, and the quality of the child care system, remains a priority as the Province continues to implement the [Child Care BC Plan](#).

Another part of the strategy to address the shortage of Early Childhood Educators is by removing barriers to education. Almost \$16 million has also been invested into more than 8,000 bursaries and workforce-development supports for students pursuing a career in child care over the last three years. An additional \$5.2 million is available to Early Childhood Educator students for the 2020-21 academic year. The strategy to grow the number of Early Childhood Educator students is part of a three-year, \$136-million investment to improve the quality of B.C.'s child care system and recognize Early Childhood Educators for their important work.

To further support Early Childhood Educators in their professional development, they can now access the [BC Early Years Professional Development Hub](#). The ability to learn remotely will improve access to high quality learning opportunities for rural and remote professionals and those who cannot access traditional face-to-face courses.

As the Province continues to work towards implementing the next phase of the [Childcare BC Plan](#), further improvements to wages for the child care sector continues to be a priority, as reflected in Minister Chen's [mandate letter](#). This commitment is to further expand the successful Early Childhood Educators WE program to ensure that Early Childhood Educators are supported throughout B.C.

NR69 Vacancy Tax

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Finance

The Province is committed to working with our local government partners to address affordable housing issues in B.C. The Province has taken a number of tangible steps, including implementing the 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability and working with the federal government to develop a National Housing Strategy.

Designing an authority for a vacancy tax for local governments would require amendments to the *Community Charter*. As local governments vary greatly in resources and needs, further discussion is required before considering legislation beyond what was granted to the City of Vancouver in 2016 as implementation of a similar authority could be administratively burdensome and not cost-effective for many communities. While enabling legislation would not necessarily be used by every community, it would have been feasible for use across the broad range of communities throughout the province.

The Province will also continue to monitor the impacts of the provincial speculation and vacancy tax, the Vancouver Empty Homes Tax, and the federal Budget 2021 intention to impose a property tax on foreign owners before considering providing all local governments in B.C. the authority to impose their own similar taxes. Those measures have the same policy intent as a local vacancy tax and their effectiveness in areas where they apply is being monitored.

We note that in 2018, affordable housing was added as a permissible use of Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) funds, and that 12 local governments are currently using a portion of MRDT revenues for affordable housing initiatives. Interested local governments can learn more by contacting Destination BC or visiting <https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-we-do/funding-sources/mrdt/>.

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

Across the Province, homelessness is being exacerbated by the dual public health emergencies of the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis, as well as an affordable housing crisis.

The Province is committed to working with all orders of government, BC Housing, health authorities and community partners to prevent and reduce homelessness, to increase affordable housing and to provide dignified health, cultural and social supports for vulnerable people.

The Province has partnered with the federal government to implement the \$70-billion National Housing Strategy, which aims to eliminate chronic homelessness, build 125,000 new homes and bring half a million families out of core housing need over 10 years.

In Budget 2018 the provincial government committed to a 10-year affordable housing plan, Homes for BC, – which includes partnering to deliver 114,000 new units of affordable housing, including supportive housing, and increasing security for renters.

This plan includes a historic investment of \$7 billion over 10 years to build 39,110 units of affordable housing, including 14,350 rental units for low-to-middle income families and individuals; 4,900 new units of supportive housing for individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness; 1,750 units of social housing for Indigenous people; and 1,500 units for women fleeing problematic domestic situations.

The 4,900 units of supportive housing for the homeless include 2,000 units funded through the Rapid Response to Homelessness Program, 2,500 units with 24/7 support services through the Building BC: Supportive Housing Fund, and an additional 200 units funded in Budgets 2019 and 2020. Of these, over 2,600 have been completed so far, with hundreds more in the development phases in communities across the province.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the province has supported the addition of over 80 emergency response centres and 3,500 additional spaces to support safe sheltering, isolation, transitional housing, and the orderly disbanding of several encampments consisting of hundreds of people across the province, including several large encampments in Victoria and Vancouver. Budget 2021 includes an additional \$265 million in 2021-22 to extend supports and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This will maintain 3,000 temporary emergency shelter and hotel spaces made available to these communities during the pandemic.

In November 2020, the Province issued new mandates to ministries to address homelessness. The Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing has a mandate to lead the development of a provincial Homelessness Strategy. In support of this Strategy, the Ministry and BC Housing are planning the transition of the people in these 3,500 spaces to appropriate, permanent options over time when the COVID restrictions are removed.

The Ministries of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Municipal Affairs, and Children and Family Development are co-mandated to support this work. A new Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness has been formed to support coordinated efforts.

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction continues to lead the Poverty Reduction Plan, TogetherBC, released as part of Budget 2019, which includes key actions to reduce poverty long-term and to provide opportunities for jobs and skills training.

NR73 BC Building Code

Whereas the changes to the BC Building Code in 2018 added significant costs and reliance on mechanical systems and synthetic materials to residential construction and is further exaggerated by the BC Energy Step Code;

And whereas most local governments agree with the concept of reducing GHG emissions however new home ownership is deterred by adding costs of energy consultants and mandated energy solutions in areas of the province that have high land values but lower average annual income and where mechanical solutions are not relevant due to infirm power therefore adding further pressure to the affordable housing crisis in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Building and Safety Standards Division to assess regional financial disparities making building affordability and flexible low cost building methods a priority for the revision of the BC Building Code in 2022;

And be it further resolved that additions to building code that are beyond structural integrity and safety be addressed through incentives, not punitive or prescriptive measures.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province is committed to the implementation of CleanBC goal of requiring net-zero energy ready construction as a minimum standard in the 2032 BC Building Code, and incremental energy efficiency improvements of 20% in 2022 and 40% in 2032. The Province is also committed to a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone, which includes homebuilders, homebuyers, renters, and all other British Columbians connected to the housing sector. Finding a way to address housing affordability alongside the Provincial climate commitments is necessary to the success of both important initiatives.

The Province has taken several steps to address concerns about affordability and regional conditions in development of the Energy Step Code. Meaningful stakeholder engagement has been foundational to the development of affordable energy efficiency standards like the Energy Step Code. A wide range of stakeholders, including homebuilders, trades, utilities, local governments, and BC Housing have been important partners in identifying and finding solutions issues related to increased costs and unique regional conditions.

Based on stakeholder input, the Energy Step Code provides flexibility to builders to improve energy efficiency using design strategies that are cost effective and suit their clients. This does require the use of an energy advisor or similar consultant, but this also provides opportunities for savings because specific materials and equipment are no longer specified in the Energy Step Code for energy efficiency. BC Housing has prepared a guide to help builders identify these cost-effective design strategies, and case studies are available that demonstrate that builders are often able to achieve significant improvements in energy efficiency with very modest investments. The BC Energy Step Code Builder Guide is available on BC Housing's website and provides design strategies for all regions of British Columbia.

The Province has also worked closely with builders and local governments to identify opportunities for local governments to remove barriers to affordable energy efficient housing. These opportunities include improved permitting processes, development incentives, and evaluating the impact of zoning and building bylaw requirements that may increase construction costs of energy efficient homes. Some municipalities and regional districts provide building permit rebates or density incentives for buildings constructed to the Energy Step Code, such as the Regional District of Comox Strathcona that offers between 25% to 100% permit rebate for homes built to Step 3 or higher. These and other best practices are identified in the Local Government Best Practices Guide available at www.energystepcode.ca/for-local-governments/.

NR75 Streamline Building Officials Certification Process

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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Province's first priority is the safety of British Columbians. Building officials play an important role in the construction, repair, alteration and demolition of buildings. The requirement that building officials be qualified to make compliance decisions is intended to help ensure consistent application and enforcement of standards for buildings across the province and a safer built environment for all citizens.

A candidate for any level of practice is expected to demonstrate subject matter competency by achieving a passing score on each exam required for that level. Passing scores are set by the Building Officials Association of British Columbia's Exam Development Committee in consultation with the International Code Council (ICC) at a scaled score of 80% for all the Building Officials Association of British Columbia exams. The Building Officials Association of British Columbia has published detailed information about their exams, including how scores are calculated and reported, at www.boabc.org.

As the delegated administrative authority, the Building Officials Association of British Columbia has made examinations for all levels of building officials available online to facilitate greater accessibility and expediency. Individuals apply through the Building Officials Association of British Columbia's website for authorization to take an exam, which is typically granted within a business day. An exam that is not proctored can be written immediately. A proctored exam can be written as soon as the candidate has made arrangements with an independent online proctor.

To support exam takers, the Building Officials Association of British Columbia publishes free content outlines for each exam online. It is also actively expanding offerings of online courses which are available 24/7. Other courses to assist candidates to prepare are already available online and in person from post-secondary institutions such as BCIT or Camosun College.

Unlike the Building Officials Association of British Columbia's voluntary certification scheme, the building official qualification scheme under the Building Act does not include a minimum work experience

requirement. Upon successful completion of all qualifying exams, a Building Level 1 candidate can be registered in a class and upon registration will be eligible to practice in that class.

The Province has also made several amendments to the qualification framework to better support local governments through the transition to mandatory qualification requirement. This includes adding trainee classes to allow individuals to temporarily operate at a higher qualification level while gaining needed skills and receiving training and development support from an employer to achieve the regular qualification. Prospective new local government building officials can take advantage of this to commence employer-supported operation as Building Level 1 – in Training officials upon completion of a single exam. Local governments can also work with a qualified contractor or other professional or seek to borrow a qualified member of staff from a neighbouring jurisdiction if needed. We continue to work closely with the Building Officials Association of British Columbia to support municipalities and regional districts to ensure the framework is meeting the needs of local governments and the people they serve.

NR79 Post-Secondary Education in Rural Communities

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 work in partnership with local governments and First Nations to ensure that post-secondary education providers offer courses and programs that best meet the needs of all local residents.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

The Ministry recognizes that public post-secondary institutions are an integral part of regional economic development. This role will only be amplified during COVID-19 economic recovery.

Decisions made by post-secondary institutions about course or program offerings need to take regional human resource and labour market needs into consideration. The Ministry encourages local governments, First Nations, and employers to collaborate and work with post-secondary institutions to identify regional training needs and opportunities and to inform educational program planning processes. Post-secondary institutions have staff and advisory structures in place to support this important input.

Ministry policy allows Indigenous communities and institutes to choose the public post-secondary institution they wish to partner with, regardless of geographic location, to deliver programming in an Indigenous community or at an Indigenous post-secondary institute. Aside from encouraging the post-secondary institution selected by an Indigenous community to advise the local public post-secondary institution of the planned program delivery as a courtesy, there is no requirement to consult with the local public post-secondary institution before agreeing to provide a program, nor is there an approval role for the local public post-secondary institution.

The Ministry encourages and supports post-secondary providers to establish partnerships with local governments and Indigenous communities to identify local educational training needs and provide training opportunities. Many public post-secondary institutions have Indigenous Advisory councils that can act as a mechanism for input and partnership. Working with Indigenous communities on possible solutions is an approach that reflects the Ministry's commitments to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the relevant articles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

LR2 Regulation of Anticoagulant Rodenticide

Whereas anticoagulant rodenticides are highly toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative compounds used to eliminate rodent populations that pose serious threats to B.C. wildlife (including raptors, songbirds, coyotes, snakes, raccoons, owls) and the environment (including aquatic ecosystems) through primary and secondary poisoning of non-target species placing owls and raptors are at a particularly high risk of secondary poisoning because of their dependence on rodents as a food source;

And whereas anticoagulant rodenticides are an ineffective and counterproductive means of controlling rodent populations long-term because they fail to address the root of the infestation problems (ie access to food, shelter and other attractants) and kill predators that serve as natural and chemical-free methods of pest control (eg. a single owl eats around 1,000 rats per year);

And whereas local governments have passed motions to ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on city- owned property and have petitioned the B.C. government to implement a province-wide ban because existing risk mitigation measures implemented by federal and provincial governments are inadequately addressing the threats that anticoagulant rodenticides pose to the environment, wildlife and human health:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and call for the Minister of Health to initiate a special review of the regulation of anticoagulant rodenticides.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province jointly regulates pesticide use with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to ensure pesticides pose minimal risks to people and the environment. The PMRA evaluates pesticides for their potential impacts, establishes restrictions to mitigate unreasonable risks, and approves their sale for use in Canada. The PMRA periodically re-evaluate their assessment and ensure recent scientific findings are considered. The PMRA also chairs a Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Pest Management where B.C. can ensure environmental and public health concerns are considered.

In addition to the regular re-evaluations, the PMRA can also initiate a Special Review of a pesticide if there is enough new scientific evidence to suggest that an approved pesticide presents a significant health or environmental risk. The Province is able to participate in these re-evaluations.

The Province further regulates pesticide use through the Integrated Pest Management Act (IPMA) and Regulation (IPMR) which aims to protect human health and the environment. The IPMR is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and defines which pesticide uses require an authorization, establishes additional environmental and human health protection standards, and sets minimum training requirements for pesticide users.

The ministry understands that managing rodent populations is important for several reasons, including public health and safety (e.g., disease transmission, electrical hazards) and environmental protection. However, all pesticide use should only be considered within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. A key principle of rodent IPM is the focus on long-term solutions with an emphasis on prevention methods such as removal of rodent attractants. If these measures are not sufficient to reduce pest populations, control measures, including rodenticides and alternatives to pesticides, may be warranted.

The ministry maintains a commitment to protect wildlife from adverse impacts resulting from pesticide use and is concerned about recent reports of wildlife poisoning from the use of certain rodenticides. On July 21, 2021, a Minister's Order was issued under Section 8 of the IPMA which bans the sale and use in B.C. of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) that contain brodifacoum, bromadiolone or difethialone as the active ingredient. The Minister's Order will be in place for 18 months while ministry staff undertake a science review to better understand the risks of SGARs to wildlife and determine mitigation methods. Recommendations based on the outcome of the science review will be used to inform future policy options. Exemptions to the ban are being provided for essential services and agricultural operators.

Essential services have been identified to avoid disruption to critical safety and food supply functions in the province and were based on the COVID-19 essential services provincial list. Essential services include businesses and services for public health and safety, critical infrastructure, food supply, transportation, sanitation, communications and information technology and mortuary related services. Other uses of SGARs not identified as essential are banned. For example, SGARs cannot be used in or around most residential buildings, office buildings, parks, schools or non-food retail shops.

In addition to imposing a temporary ban on the use of SGARs, ministry staff are taking action to address risks associated with the use of rodenticides, including:

- Conducting compliance inspections of vendors and users to ensure the products are only being used by certified operators for essential services and that an integrated pest management approach is being utilized prior to pesticide use;
- Raising awareness with rodenticide users on the impacts of misusing rodenticides with an emphasis that prevention is the best long-term strategy;
- Coordinating with Indigenous Peoples, local government, and provincial and national wildlife experts;
- Developing education materials for the public and agricultural operators to better manage rodents as part of an integrated pest management program; and
- Updating materials used by individuals intending to become certified to apply or sell rodenticides.

Details of the ban, including a recorded presentation explaining the changes, are available at www.gov.bc.ca/RodentIPM