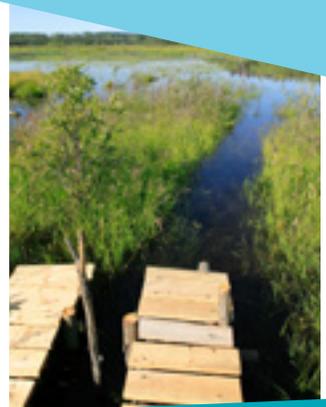


# 2023 UBCM Annual Report



**ANNUAL REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED  
AT THE 2023 UBCM CONVENTION**

**FOR MORE DETAILS: [ubcm.ca](http://ubcm.ca)**



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# Letter of Transmittal

We are pleased to present the Annual Report for the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the fiscal year ending 2023. As the President and Executive Director of UBCM, it is our privilege to transmit this comprehensive report, which provides a detailed overview of the accomplishments, challenges, and progress made by UBCM over the past year.

The UBCM Annual Report demonstrates the collective efforts and achievements of our organization in advocating for the interests and priorities of local governments across British Columbia. This year's report showcases the wide range of initiatives, programs, and partnerships that have been undertaken to advance the welfare and prosperity of our member communities.

## Advocacy

One of the central features of our work since our 2022 Convention has been to engage the Province and our membership to find solutions that address the **housing crisis**. In April we hosted a Housing Summit to showcase critical issues impacting housing attainability and best practices from across the housing system aimed at increasing the supply of homes needed most by British Columbians. Most recently, Councillor Ford joined with Premier Eby, Minister Kahlon and other leaders to discuss housing priorities with Deputy Premier Chrystia Freeland. Work also continues with the provincial government on a range of policy issues, including the regulation of short-term rentals, development cost charges, and a host of policy initiatives led by the Minister of Housing.

UBCM has also been engaged with the province as it completes its review of the **Emergency Act** in advance of legislation to be introduced this fall. Mitigation and preparation are key themes arising from the review. As we write this, the province is gripped in the worst fire season in its history, shortly on the heels of the historic fire seasons of 2017, 2018, and 2021. As climate change continues to amplify the risk of wildfire to BC's communities, we can see the impacts on local staff that support emergency operations centres and services. Our message to our provincial colleagues is that changes to the Emergency Act that result in new responsibilities for local government will require long-term, measured funding and capacity-building support that is equal to those responsibilities. We anticipate that the pending changes will be the topic of considerable discussion at the 2023 UBCM Convention.

Another key focus for UBCM advocacy this year relates to the **opioid crisis** and the decriminalization trial. UBCM endorsed a call for decriminalization in 2021, provided there are adequate provincial supports in place for safe consumption, drug testing, detox and treatment. UBCM has supported calls from our members who have been raising concerns about allowing unregulated drug consumption in parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces during the trial period. Some communities have either passed bylaws, or are considering bylaws to regulate public use. We are glad to see the Province's commitment to consult with local governments in advance of legislative changes to address this gap in current policy later this fall and look forward to the consideration of a Special Resolution on this issue by delegates to the 2023 Convention.

The past year has also seen UBCM build upon its longstanding advocacy for resources to support the **responsible conduct** of local elected officials. Following a UBCM resolution at the 2021 Convention, the Province implemented a legislative requirement for local governments to consider adopting or updating a code of conduct. Responsible conduct principles were also embedded in an updated oath of office, and a new interactive online resource was made available to support self-directed learning by local elected officials. We continue to hear a clear message from the membership that more needs to be done to strengthen the practice of responsible conduct by elected officials. Earlier this year our Executive adopted a Code of Conduct based on current best practices and we will continue to work with the provincial government and Local Government Management Association to look for additional ways to improve the framework for responsible conduct.

UBCM also has continued its advocacy for a two-pronged approach in response to the continuing challenges posed by **random violence, street disorder, and repeat offenders**. Earlier this year, the UBCM Executive endorsed a motion to support a letter from the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to the Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino, requesting a review of Bill C-75, and bail reform that would help detain repeat offenders for appropriate periods. UBCM's support for AMM's advocacy also affirmed the importance of addressing underlying factors (e.g., housing, health, mental health, addictions) as a critical and supportive strategy alongside bail reform to reduce the burden on the justice system. The provincial government is aligned with this approach, as is indicated in its Repeat Violent Offender Intervention Initiative.

## Funding Administration

UBCM continues to deepen its role as a preferred funding administrator for local government.

As we approach renewal negotiations for the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), we were pleased to receive the Province's endorsement for UBCM to continue as the administrator of this program. In its next phase, the CCBF will deliver more than \$3 billion to BC communities for infrastructure and capacity building. Consultations with our members have been ongoing since the spring and will help build our case for program changes that enhance the program for local governments. We were also pleased earlier this year to announce \$103.5 million in funding for 45 projects across the province in the final funding intake for the current agreement.

UBCM has also grown its provincially funded administration over the past year. The new Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream offered two intakes to help First Nations and local governments to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks. We also took on the delivery of Next Generation 911, a new \$60 million funding program was announced by the Province to help local governments with costs related to modernizing technology and 911 systems to meet new CRTC regulations.

## New Members, New Directions

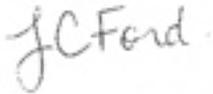
As a result of last fall's local government election, close to 45% of elected officials in BC are new to their current office. For hundreds of our members, this is our first opportunity to report on our work and to welcome them to our annual Convention.

We believe that this report will provide you with valuable insights into the UBCM's commitment to supporting and advocating for the needs of local governments throughout British Columbia.

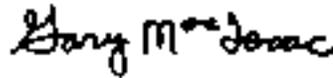
Should you have any questions, require additional information, or wish to discuss any matters further, please do not hesitate to contact us through either of UBCM's offices.

Thank you for your continued support and for the opportunity to present this report to the Union of BC Municipalities. We remain committed to our shared vision of empowering local governments and fostering positive change within our communities.

Yours sincerely,



Jen Ford  
President, UBCM



Gary Maclsaac  
Executive Director, UBCM

# Corporate Operations



# Corporate Operations

## Executive Priorities 2022-2023

At the November 2022 Executive meeting, board members identified priorities for the coming year. These priorities are based on the 2022-2023 Work Plan adopted at the July 2022 Executive meeting, with some additions and adjustments based on direction following Executive member discussion of UBCM Priorities and Work Plan at their November 2022 inaugural board meeting.

The chart below provides a summary of the past year’s priorities and their status at year-end, and reflects the additional work and adjustments undertaken as priorities and work evolved throughout the past year.

Following the chart, UBCM’s Advocacy Days 2023 is highlighted. A summary of UBCM’s Special Projects related to internal operations concludes the section.

Special Projects/Priorities	Accomplishments
<p><b>Local Government Finance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An MOU was signed with the Province in January 2022 that commits to an ongoing engagement process to address the financial challenges facing local governments. The Local Government Financial Review Working Group was set up with staff from the Ministries of Finance and Municipal Affairs, and UBCM staff.</li> <li>The Working Group met with Minister Kang, Minister Conroy and UBCM Presidents Committee in March 2023 to review the 2022 accomplishments, and get endorsement of the 2023 work plan.</li> <li>The working group continues to meet bi-weekly. This July it met with the Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs, and the Presidents Committee to discuss a review of the property tax system. (Recommendation #1 from the 2021 Finance Report.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Housing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized and delivered a two-day Housing Summit in April that brought together representatives from all orders of government, the non-profit and profit sectors, and more, to explore current policy, best practices, and solutions to the housing crisis.</li> <li>Ongoing engagement and outreach to the provincial government on elements of their “Homes for People” plan including the Housing Supply Act, short-term rentals, and more.</li> </ul>

<b>Special Projects/Priorities</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>Cannabis Taxation Revenue Sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments, through the Cannabis Policy Technical Working Group, have continued to provide input into cannabis policy changes that are helping grow the legalized market (e.g. farm-gate program, direct delivery from licenced producers to retailers).</li> <li>In 2023, UBCM's members will once again consider a resolution seeking a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue. Similar resolutions have been endorsed in six of the past seven years.</li> <li>UBCM continues to seek opportunities to advance the development of a cannabis taxation revenue sharing framework, however the Province remains unwilling to engage in meaningful discussion.</li> </ul>
<b>Working Group on Responsible Conduct</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worked with the Province and Local Government Management Association to support the implementation of legislative amendments requiring local governments to consider the adoption or update of a Code of Conduct. Local government oath of office was updated to embed responsible conduct principles. An on-demand educational resource was released in fall 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to work with the provincial and federal governments in the delivery of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Program streams were launched in 2018. UBCM has been provided a staff role on program development and administration of those programming streams that will directly impact local government. IPIC is now fully allocated, however, UBCM will continue to participate in the ongoing administration of ICIP programs.</li> <li>Will engage the province and federal governments as needed should there be opportunities for ICIP renewal, extension, or development of a new federal-provincial infrastructure program.</li> <li>The 2021 Finance Report (Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency) includes a recommendation requesting the Province advocate in partnership with UBCM, for the re-negotiation of the Canada Community-Building Fund. In part, this advocacy will highlight those priorities and recommendations outlined in the 2016/17 Canada's New Infrastructure Plan – Phase 2 Programming/Funding, Submission to Infrastructure Canada from UBCM.</li> </ul>

# Corporate Operations

Special Projects/Priorities	Accomplishments
<p><b>Infrastructure, continued</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UBCM has a joint-approach with the Province and is engaging the federal government in the re-negotiation of the Canada Community-Building Fund in 2023 (see CCBF below).</li> <li>• On February 10, 2023, the Provincial government announced the \$1 billion funding program, Growing Communities Fund. UBCM staff will continue to work with Municipal Affairs, who are responsible for the administration of the program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fire Safety Act: Reactivation of Working Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reactivated the UBCM’s working group related to the new Fire Safety Act that is yet to be brought into force.</li> <li>• UBCM members have not supported provincial direction that would require regional districts to conduct fire inspections, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.</li> <li>• Working group met three times over the past year with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) and other provincial officials to review additional research work related to the number of inspectable properties, a risk-based compliance monitoring model, regulatory development, and options for delivering a single standard of fire safety.</li> <li>• UBCM will continue to engage with OFC through the working group to resolve this matter.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provincial Land Use Planning, UNDRIP, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work towards producing guidance for local government and ensuring that processes are in place for local government engagement during implementation of land use planning and other initiatives.</li> <li>• Continued to engage with the Province on this issue in part through regular meetings of a working group on implementing an MOU on engagement on Indigenous issues.</li> </ul>

Special Projects/Priorities	Accomplishments
<p><b>Climate Change and Climate Action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to engage the Province and responsible ministries on implementing the recommendations of UBCM’s Special Committee on Climate Action (SCCA). It will inform the implementation of the new climate action strategy, RoadMap to 2030, as well as the new climate preparedness and adaptation strategy at the community level. Through the refreshed joint UBCM-Province Green Communities Committee, it will support local mitigation and adaptation plans.</li> <li>The UBCM SCCA recommendations are being advanced through the Local Government Finance Working Group, the joint UBCM-Province Green Communities Committee, and regular meetings with MOE staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Transition Support</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This issue was added as an emerging area of interest at the November 2022 Executive meeting, recognizing the significant changes taking place in water, land and resource management that will greatly impact BC communities.</li> <li>Identified as one of the UBCM Executive’s Advocacy Days priorities for 2023 (see below).</li> <li>UBCM has asked provincial and federal governments to consult and engage with communities recognizing transition support will be needed for both communities and workers. (2021-SR2)</li> <li>Province announced new funding program in November 2022. The Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program is focused on economic diversification, economic capacity, and forest impact transition. More will be needed to address the future changes coming to the land base.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enhanced Outreach and Engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This issue was added as an emerging area of interest at the November 2022 Executive meeting recognizing there would be a need for UBCM to enhance outreach to newly electeds following the 2022 Local Elections, noting the nearly 50% turnover in office.</li> <li>In response, the UBCM President undertook outreach to new mayors; UBCM was present at all LGLA newly elected seminars; connections were made with the BC Urban Mayors Caucus; and UBCM conducted enhanced member visits.</li> </ul>

# Corporate Operations

## Advocacy Days 2023

UBCM Executive held its 10th annual Advocacy Days during the April Executive meeting to discuss local government priorities with the Province. Over two days, Executive members met with 34 MLAs from all parties, including Premier David Eby, 11 Cabinet ministers, leader of the Official Opposition Kevin Falcon, and BC Green party leader Sonia Furstenau. Meetings focused on community safety, housing, and community economic development.

The need to develop a long-term local government funding and capacity building framework for new and ongoing emergency management costs was raised for discussion with MLAs. The Executive highlighted the financial pressures of preparing for and responding to the increased intensity of natural disasters at the community level, and pointed out the costs that will come with the new roles and responsibilities for local governments under the proposed modernization of emergency management legislation. They emphasized that the magnitude of investments required is beyond local taxation powers.

On the heels of the UBCM Housing Summit, Executive members stressed the importance of engaging local governments “early and often” as partners in addressing the housing crisis, both in identifying and implementing solutions. They highlighted the need for a comprehensive local government consultation framework on provincial housing supply measures, and said that ground-up approaches will help reduce the likelihood of unintended consequences and implementation challenges for provincial housing measures. The Executive also called on the Province to invest in the infrastructure necessary to support an accelerated supply of housing to accommodate BC’s population growth.

Regarding community economic development, Executive members discussed the importance of expanding provincial support for transitioning local economies through new funding and capacity-building support. They highlighted the struggles faced by resource-dependent communities, and the impact provincial resource management frameworks and decisions have on declining resource sectors. They advocated for early outreach and support in developing transition plans, as well as expanded training and re-training programs for workers in communities undergoing economic transition.



*Left to Right: Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg; Councillor Trish Mandewo; Councillor Jen Ford; Minister Anne Kang; Premier David Eby; Mayor Maja Tait*

# UBCM Internal Operations

## UBCM Governance Documents Review

In 2020, due to the prescriptiveness of UBCM's governance documents, UBCM required a special Ministerial Order to conduct a virtual Convention. This situation prompted the Executive to approve a special project to conduct a thorough review and suggest amendments to modernize UBCM's governance documents to address prescriptiveness, outdated legislative references, inconsistencies and errors, and to modernize terms to reflect current processes more accurately. A project proposal was approved by Executive in July 2021.

Extensive work has taken place over the past year culminating in two Extraordinary Resolutions being brought forward to the 2022 Convention. The first resolution (ER1) sought member support to work with the Province to seek amendments to the UBCM Act. The second (ER2) proposed a series of bylaw amendments to update and modernize how UBCM conducts its business. Both resolutions were endorsed.

UBCM and its consultant continue to work through potential UBCM Act changes with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and have completed an update of UBCM conference rules and procedures. Work continues on the UBCM Executive Policies, with a proposed set of amendments coming forward in the fall for Executive consideration.

## Cybersecurity Project

Cybersecurity is a rapidly increasing threat facing local governments and UBCM alike, prompting UBCM to undertake a special project to assess the threat to the organization. With the support of contract staff, IT support, and UBCM staff, the risks were identified and mitigative measures developed to address possible threat. In addition to purchasing cybersecurity insurance, the following work plan and timeline was adopted for the project:

- Stage 1: Management and Physical Security – Dec 2021-Feb 2022
- Stage 2: Employees and Business Practice – Feb 2022- May 2022
- Stage 3a: Data Security and IT Staff – May-June 2022
- Stage 3b: Probe by external company to find weaknesses – Oct 2022
- Final Audit Deliverables – March 2023
- Mitigation Strategy development and implementation to continue in 2022/23

As of July 2023, all 'critical' and 'high' cybersecurity risks have been addressed.

## UBCM Staff Compensation Review

As a priority project for 2023, UBCM undertook a UBCM staff compensation review. UBCM Presidents Committee oversaw the project, and a third-party consultant developed a survey and metrics, utilizing a number of organizations (both applicable local government and local government associations) to compare the competitiveness of UBCM staff compensation. Survey results indicated that, in general, UBCM staff compensation is competitive with the market. Based on the survey results, UBCM Presidents Committee made some changes to UBCM staff compensation and recommended that a UBCM staff compensation review be done every five years.

# Corporate Operations

## Executive Code of Conduct Update

UBCM's Executive provided direction on the design of Code of Conduct for elected officials appointed or elected to its board. The Code of Conduct will apply to members of UBCM's Executive while they conduct UBCM-related work and responsibilities. The Code of Conduct was adopted at the July meeting of the Executive.

## Group Benefits

UBCM plans include a database review and redesign, marketing and communications, the development of standardized analysis and reporting, completion of contract review and development and distribution of plan communication materials for members. Current consultants, George and Bell and our Third Party Administrator Health Benefits Trust will support this project. In addition a new approved position will provide senior administrative and marketing support and replaces the position of Manager, Member and Association Services.

## UBCM Staffing Changes

Within the Victoria office, the position of Office Coordinator was filled by Louise Carlow in September 2022. This position had been vacant since October 2021. Lynsay Pacey was hired in October 2022 as the new Program Officer in the LGPS team. In October 2022 Rebecca Williams was the successful candidate for the new role of HR & Group Benefits Officer. She left her previous position as CCBF Program Administrator, which was back-filled in February 2023 by Brenden Hartridge. In January 2023 UBCM ran an internal competition to back-fill Christina Arsen's 18-month maternity leave from the CCBF Program Officer position. Bryan Steer competed and was the successful candidate effective March 2023. Bryan left his previous role of LGPS Program Administrator which was back-filled by Claudia de Haan-Hewett. In April 2023 Zoë Ducklow was hired as the Communications Officer, which is a new role for UBCM.

In the Richmond office, Ashley Ferguson was hired in January 2023 as the Senior Financial Accountant. Kathleen Spalek, CFO retired in March 2023. The CFO position has been filled by Hervinder Bains who was previously promoted to Director of Finance when Kathleen announced her retirement last year. In April 2023 Raisa Jose was hired as the Events & Corporate Operations Administrator.

## Mission Statement

The **values** we want associated with UBCM as an organization are:

- Credibility and accuracy in what we do
- Timely and effective in how we respond
- Valuing teamwork and respecting diversity in everything we do
- Being non-partisan and objective in how we present ourselves

Our **vision** is to most effectively represent and serve all local governments in BC.

Guided by our values and to achieve our vision the purpose of UBCM is:

To **represent and serve** all local governments in BC by:

- Being the recognized advocate for their common interests
- Meeting the members' common needs

We will be the recognized **advocate** for local government in BC in:

- Policy development and implementation
- Government relations
- Communications externally
- Liaison with other groups

Our priorities for meeting the members' common needs are through:

- Communication to members
- Advice and training for local government officials
- Convention
- Information sharing

We strive for **continuous improvement** in all that we do.



*Victoria, BC*

# Corporate Operations

## UBCM Executive



**Councillor Jen Ford**  
Resort Municipality of Whistler

**President**  
Presidents Committee



**Councillor Trish Mandewo**  
City of Coquitlam

**First Vice-President**  
Indigenous Relations  
Committee, Chair  
Presidents Committee



**Councillor Laurey-Anne  
Roodenburg**  
City of Quesnel

**Past President**  
Convention Committee, Chair  
Presidents Committee  
Resolutions Committee



**Councillor Craig Hodge**  
City of Coquitlam

**Metro/GVRD Representative**  
Community Safety Committee,  
Chair  
Presidents Committee



**Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung**  
City of Vancouver

**Vancouver Representative**  
Convention Committee  
Environment Committee



**Councillor Sarah Fowler**  
Village of Tahsis

**Small Community  
Representative**  
Community Economic  
Development Committee, Chair  
Health & Social Development  
Committee



**Director Ian Morrison**  
Cowichan Valley Regional District

**Electoral Area Representative**  
Environment Committee, Chair  
Indigenous Relations Committee



**Councillor Pete Fry**  
City of Vancouver

**Vancouver Metro Area  
Representative**  
Health & Social Development  
Committee, Chair  
Resolutions Committee, Chair



**Councillor Margaret Kunst**  
Township of Langley

**Vancouver Metro Area Representative**  
Community Economic Development Committee  
Community Safety Committee



**Councillor Keith Page**  
City of Nelson

**AKBLG Representative**  
Community Economic Development Committee, Vice-Chair  
Community Safety Committee



**Director Penny Cote**  
Alberni Clayoquot Regional District

**AVICC Representative**  
Health & Social Development Committee  
Indigenous Relations Committee



**Councillor Patricia Ross**  
City of Abbotsford

**LMLGA Representative**  
Environment Committee, Vice-Chair  
Indigenous Relations Committee



**Director Steve Forseth**  
Cariboo Regional District

**NCLGA Representative**  
Community Safety Committee  
Indigenous Relations Committee



**Councillor Lori Mindnich**  
Village of Lumby

**SILGA Representative**  
Convention Committee, Vice-Chair  
Health & Social Development Committee, Vice-Chair



**Mayor Merlin Blackwell**  
District of Clearwater

**Director at Large**  
Environment Committee  
Health & Social Development Committee



**Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton**  
City of Courtenay

**Director at Large**  
Environment Committee  
Health & Social Development Committee



**Director Travis Hall**  
Central Coast Regional District

**Director at Large**  
Indigenous Relations Committee,  
Vice-Chair  
Convention Committee



**Councillor Gord Klassen**  
City of Fort St. John

**Director at Large**  
Community Safety Committee,  
Vice-Chair  
Resolutions Committee,  
Vice-Chair



**Councillor Jenna Stoner**  
District of Squamish

**Director at Large**  
Community Economic  
Development Committee  
Environment Committee



**Mayor Sarrah Storey**  
Village of Fraser Lake

**Director at Large**  
Convention Committee  
Health & Social Development  
Committee



**Mayor Maja Tait**  
District of Sooke

Presidents Committee  
Community Economic  
Development Committee

**Director at Large**  
**Term: Jan – May 2023**



*Left to Right, back row:* Mayor Merlin Blackwell, Councillor Trish Mandewo, Director Steve Forseth

*Left to Right, middle row:* Mayor Maja Tait, Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Mayor Sarrah Storey, Councillor Keith Page, Councillor Pete Fry

*Left to Right, 2nd middle row:* Councillor Jenna Stoner, Councillor Patricia Ross, Councillor Margaret Kunst

*Left to Right, front row:* Director Ian Morrison, Director Penny Cote, Councillor Jen Ford, Councillor Lori Mindnich, Councillor Sarah Fowler

*Not shown:* Councillor Gord Klassen, Director Travis Hall, Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, Councillor Craig Hodge

## UBCM Staff

UBCM staff worked hard this year to advance advocacy goals, engage with other governments on initiatives that affect our members, and distribute funding to local governments through our various funding programs.

[View the full staff list](#)



*Pamela Lewis and Kesley Mackay-Smith*



*Back: Jared Wright, Josh van Loon, Pamela Lewis, Brant Felker, Glen Brown  
Front: Toby Simpson, Liz Cookson, Kelsey Mackay-Smith, Rebecca Williams*



*Gary MacIsaac with a UBCM delegate*



*Kathleen Spalek, Josh van Loon, Julia Carandang, Reiko Tagami, Jamee Justason*



*Paul Taylor and Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg*



*Silverton, BC*



*Midway, BC*



*West Kelowna, BC*



*Tahsis, BC*

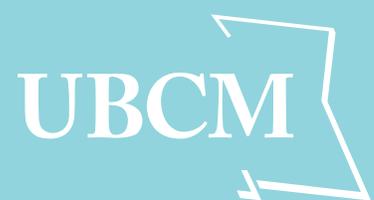


*White Rock, BC*



*Williams Lake, BC*

# Policy and Advocacy



## Policy and Advocacy

UBCM's mandate is to advocate on behalf of BC local governments and member First Nations for the development and implementation of legislation, regulation, policies, and programs that support the membership's needs. Our goal is to effect change that will benefit our members. To facilitate reaching that goal, UBCM participates in policy development and implementation processes in a number of ways:

- Proactively – presenting our own independent initiatives to other governments (i.e. UBCM's housing report "**A Home for Everyone**" sets out member direction and defines our advocacy efforts to provincial and federal governments).
- Reactively – responding to proposed provincial or federal policy changes (i.e. federal legislation to legalize cannabis).
- Ongoing involvement – participating in Ministry-UBCM or multi-party policy development processes which are many and varied with some requiring sustained involvement while others may only require limited intervention (i.e. Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee).

Much of UBCM's policy work is done through the Executive and its Committees. The following pages provide an overview of the extensive policy work undertaken and outlines progress to date on various issues identified through annual Committee work plans.

In addition to the Executive and Committees, many policy topics are covered off through ongoing working groups, committees and meetings that UBCM appointments and staff attend. These policy matters are summarized in the section that follows the Committee overviews.



*Pemberton, BC*

## Presidents Committee

Secretariat & Financial Management • Intergovernmental Relations • Best Practices • Member Services

### Committee Priorities

- Provide support to the UBCM Secretariat on member priorities, financial, and human resource issues
- Serve as the lead on intergovernmental relations
- Promote best practices to UBCM Membership
- Provide direction on UBCM Member Services and Group Benefits Programs

### Priorities in Action

- Provided strategic direction and leadership to UBCM's **advocacy work** on housing, climate action, and asset management infrastructure funding, and led interactions with the Province, federal government, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- Reported quarterly UBCM **finances** to the Executive, oversaw the annual audit, and gave direction on the preliminary budget.
- Point of contact for UBCM **human resources** matters including a staff compensation review and approval of four new staff positions—Communications Officer, HR and Benefits Coordinator, two Senior Policy Analyst positions (Finance and Climate Action).
- Supported direction for the **Local Government Financial working group**, and met with Finance and Municipal Affairs ministers to advance the group's work plan.
- Determined the 2023 **Advocacy Days** program priorities—emergency management, housing affordability, and local economies in transition—which were shared in meetings with cabinet ministers and MLAs.
- Provided recommendations for UBCM appointments to **external committees** such as Local Government Contract Management Committee, Municipal Pension Board trustees, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and more.
- Served as the contact point for emerging local government issues with the **Minister of Municipal Affairs**.
- Oversaw UBCM's participation in FCM's **international programs**, currently focused on Cambodia.
- Acted as UBCM **spokespersons** for media and to other governments.
- Provided **strategic direction** to the Secretariat between Executive meetings.
- Gave oversight to UBCM **special projects** such as responsible conduct, codes of conduct, cybersecurity, and UBCM governance documents review.
- Contributed to the renewal of UBCM's *Protocol on Consultation and Cooperation with the BC School Trustees Association*, signed at the 2022 UBCM Convention.
- Oversaw **Community Excellence Awards** program.
- Monitored the **group benefits plan**, negotiated the annual renewal with Pacific Blue Cross and related partners.
- Provided direction on **Municipal Pension Plan** matters.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Jen Ford, President  
Councillor Trish Mandewo, First Vice-President  
Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Past President  
Councillor Craig Hodge, GVRD/Metro Representative  
Mayor Maja Tait, Director at Large

# Policy and Advocacy

## Convention Committee

The 2022 Convention was held in Whistler, September 12 – 16 with the theme: Value of One, Power of Many. A total of 1,790 delegates attended the Convention. The overall Convention rating was a strong 4.5 out of 5. The plenary session, agricultural tour, and onsite Convention registration process being the highest rated aspects.

A variety of tours and sessions were held this year on topics ranging from Investigating Public Safety Reform to Inclusive Local Governance and Reconciliation in Action. Programming also included a diverse range of clinics and workshops, including BC Public Libraries: To Infinity and Beyond, Local Grown Solutions to Homelessness and Addiction, Reimagining Tourism in BC, and Airports – Critical Social-Economic Drivers for Communities. As always, delegates had the opportunity to set policy through Resolutions sessions, and participate in a number of provincial policy sessions, cabinet town halls, and government meetings.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair  
Councillor Lori Mindnich, Vice Chair  
Director Travis Hall  
Mayor Sarrah Storey  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung



*2022 UBCM Convention in Whistler, BC*

## Environment Committee

**Watershed Security • Climate Action • Health Impacts of Climate Change • Packaging and Printed Paper**

### Priorities

*Over the past year the Environment Committee focused on several policy areas. Some of the core priorities were: climate action, watershed security, and the health impacts of climate change.*

### Climate Action

Climate action continues to be a significant focus for the Environment Committee. UBCM, along with staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Climate Action Secretariat, form the Green Communities Committee (GCC) which supports local government leadership on climate action. The GCC developed and implemented a 2022/2023 Work Plan focused on coordinating, promoting, and showcasing climate change activities from local government and the province.

UBCM also participates on the Climate Action Toolkit Technical Oversight Committee, whose work includes the refreshed Climate Action Toolkit website, outreach and communication on climate change actions by local governments.

In March 2023, UBCM received \$300,000 from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness which in part, supports the GCC in delivering a Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Adaptation Local Government Guide.

Given the importance of this work, UBCM has created a new position for a climate action policy analyst so that our policy team can continue to provide leadership and address the myriad impacts climate change is having on local governments.

[BC Climate Action Toolkit](#)

### Watershed Security Strategy

The provincial government began consulting with stakeholders, including UBCM and our members, on a new Watershed Security Strategy in 2022. The Environment Committee has supported this strategy development by meeting with Ministry staff, providing feedback on the strategy and proposed next steps.

The Watershed Security Strategy will include policy related to governance, data and science, reconciliation, drinking water, land use planning, water supply and demand, and funding. It is expected to be finalized in winter 2023/2024.

[Watershed Security Strategy](#)

### Health Impacts of Climate Change

The health impacts of climate change have been a priority issue for both the Environment Committee and the Health and Social Development Committees since 2021. See the Health and Social Development Committee's annual report page for an overview of the work done on this file in the 2022 year.

[Health and Social Development](#)

## Environment Committee

### Committee Priorities

- Respond to policy matters that fall within its scope
- Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local governments are represented
- Work with Province and other groups to seek greater opportunities for climate action in BC

### Priorities in Action

- Engaged the Province on implementing the recommendations of the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action and informed the provincial **climate action** and adaptation strategies.
- Monitored the provincial government's work on the inclusion of industrial, commercial and institutional sector in the **packaging and printed paper program**.
- Ongoing representative participation in Recycle BC's Advisory Committee on the packaging and printed paper product stewardship program.
- Advocated for local government interests on the federal **Oceans Protection Plan** initiatives.
- Member of the provincial **Caribou Recovery Planning** Table.
- Board member for the Community Energy Association, which supports local governments in advancing solutions on **climate action**.
- Member of the BC Heat Committee which addresses **extreme temperatures** in BC.
- Received a delegation from the Ministry of Health's **Climate Resilience Program** and health authority partners in April.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Ian Morrison, Chair  
Councillor Patricia Ross, Vice Chair  
Mayor Merlin Blackwell  
Councillor Jenna Stoner  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton

## Indigenous Relations Committee

**UNDRIP • Treaty implementation • Truth and Reconciliation • Relationship Building • Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

### Priorities

*Over the past year the Indigenous Relations Committee has focused on relationship building, the work of reconciliation at a local level, implementing UNDRIP through legislation, and responding to the calls for action from the MMIWG inquiry.*

### Reconciliation and Relationship Building

Building relationships at a local level is a core step towards reconciliation, and the Committee has concentrated on providing a supportive framework to help local governments and First Nations work together.

**Reconciliation & Relationships**

Working closely with the First Nation Summit—an action and solutions oriented First Nations-driven organization—the Committee signed a three-year renewal of a cooperative agreement between UBCM and the Summit. UBCM's longstanding relationship with the Summit is based on mutual respect and common goals, and has been collaborative from the start. The agreement supports cooperation on partnerships like Community to Community funding, that provides opportunities for relationship-building between First Nations and local governments.

Relationship-building with First Nations and Indigenous communities has been a particular focus for UBCM, especially since the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 94 Calls to Action. This year the Committee continued to be engaged with other Indigenous organizations regarding local governments' role in implementing UNDRIP and the Calls to Action.

### Implementing UNDRIP and calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

UBCM members have supported calls to advance justice and reconciliation for Indigenous peoples in BC with resolutions dating back to 2015 that support implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, and asking for and then supporting action on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' 231 Calls for Justice.

In working with other levels of government, UBCM has voiced support for implementing each of these actions, and continually advocates for guidance and capacity-building for local governments working towards reconciliation. It has also continued to urge the Province to provide a clear delineation of responsibilities and updates on local government specific actions under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

On each of these fronts, UBCM continues to advocate for local governments to be more involved as reconciliation policy is implemented, given how critical local relationships and local actions are to lasting change.

**Current Policy Initiatives**

# Policy and Advocacy

## Indigenous Relations Committee

### Committee Priorities

- Monitor and respond to policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee
- Advocate for local government interests through working groups and intergovernmental communication
- Relationship building between local governments, First Nations and Indigenous organizations through best practices and joint initiatives

### Priorities in Action

- Monitored and assessed updates on the **implementation of UNDRIP**-related legislation – federal and provincial.
- Regularly communicated with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Ministry of Municipal Affairs regarding **improved engagement** between the Province, UBCM, and local governments on relevant Indigenous initiatives and agreements.
- Collaborated with Indigenous and other organizations to advance and share resources on **reconciliation** such as the Joint Indigenous and Local Government Relations Database.
- Administration of the Community-to-Community Forum Program to advance **reconciliation** locally.
- Met with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to discuss **implementation of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice**.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Trish Mandewo, Chair  
Director Travis Hall, Vice Chair  
Director Penny Cote  
Councillor Patricia Ross  
Director Ian Morrison  
Director Steve Forseth

## Community Safety Committee

**Policing • Cannabis • Liquor • Emergency Management • Road Safety • Justice System • Bylaw Enforcement • Flood and Fire Protection • 911 Emergency Communication**

### Priorities

Over the past year the Community Committee worked on a variety of priority areas, including the two highlighted below: the Police Act and public safety review, and modernization of BC's emergency management legislation.

#### Police Act and Public Safety Review

Policing is a primary component of the Community Safety Committee's work, and the ongoing *Police Act* and public safety review has been a key priority in 2022-2023. This work began in 2020, when the Province initiated an all-party *Police Act* review. The Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* issued its report in April 2022, with 11 recommendations—ranging from improving Indigenous self-administration in policing, to funding integrated mental health support, and establishing a provincial police service.

The Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable—made up of 15 local government representatives, and co-chaired by UBCM—analyzed and responded to the report with strong support for most recommendations. Funding for integrated mental health support should be the highest and most immediate priority, the Roundtable wrote in its report. The group did not support the recommendation that BC establish its own provincial police force. Local government representatives felt there was too little evidence of a benefit, and thought the enormous amount of work would take away from more pressing public safety priorities.

The Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable continues to meet monthly to discuss public safety reforms and policy proposals, while the Community Safety Committee continues to monitor key local government issues and concerns. UBCM also hosted a study session, *Investigating Public Safety Reform*, as part of the 2022 Convention.

**Roundtable response to the recommendations on transforming the Police Act**

#### New Emergency Management Legislation

Over the last four years, the Province has been conducting a thorough review of the Emergency Program Act, with plans to release new legislation in fall 2023. UBCM and the Province co-chaired the Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee, mandated to provide input to the legislative review.

The Province's guiding theme in reforming the EPA is in shifting government priority towards mitigation and preparation, away from a primary focus on reactionary response. It is often said at these tables that every dollar spent on mitigation saves \$7 in response spending.

Local governments largely support this philosophical change, but know that the work being asked of them is beyond their current capacity. Significantly more consultation with neighbouring communities and Indigenous governments will be required, as well as more responsibility for mitigation work.

That's why the main message from the UBCM Executive and Community Safety Committee has been the need for reliable, regular funding and capacity-building provided to local governments to support the new levels of work. This messaging has been the consistent direction from membership with the endorsement of resolutions: 2022-EB35, 2020-SR1. On each of these fronts, UBCM continues to advocate for local governments to be more involved as reconciliation policy is implemented, given how critical local relationships and local actions are to lasting change.

# Policy and Advocacy

## Community Safety Committee

### Committee Priorities

- Respond to community safety issues falling within the scope of the Committee
- Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local government interests are represented
- Work with the Province and other associations on community safety

### Priorities in Action

- Continued to monitor and provide input on the delivery of **RCMP services** through the CSC and the Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee.
- Updated, advised and engaged members on the **RCMP Collective Agreement**.
- Hosted a Town Hall on Policing, and a Policing 101 Webinar to share information and receive input on local government **public safety priorities**.
- Monitored provincial **liquor policy**, and provided input towards relevant policy changes.
- Monitored regulation of **medical and non-medical cannabis**, and worked with the Province, through a technical working group, to address ongoing issues.
- Engaged with the Province and E-Comm regarding **emergency communications service delivery**, the introduction of Next Generation 911, and local government priorities.
- Met with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other local government associations to discuss community safety issues of importance and mutual interest.
- Monitored other committees and forums where UBCM has participated and/or made appointments, which includes those related to the **justice system, road safety, seismic safety, rail safety, policing, cannabis, liquor, fire safety** and **emergency management**.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Craig Hodge, Chair  
Councillor Gord Klassen, Vice Chair  
Director Steve Forseth  
Councillor Keith Page  
Councillor Margaret Kunst  
BC Association of Police Boards

## Community Economic Development Committee

Natural Resource Sector • Agriculture • Tourism • Economic Diversification • Arts, Culture, Heritage • Jobs, Skills (Re) Training • Telecommunications/Connectivity

### Priorities

*Two priorities the Community Economic Development Committee has focused on over the past year have been supporting local economies in transition, and internet connectivity in rural and remote areas.*

#### Supporting Local Economies in Transition

The management of old-growth forests has significant impacts for BC communities, and the Community Economic Development Committee continues to advocate for the Province to engage with local governments as it develops a response to the Old Growth Strategic Review. The Committee has shared its concerns about a lack of consultation with the Minister of Forests and Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

On the urging of the Committee, the UBCM Executive made “supporting local economies in transition” one of three priorities at this year’s Advocacy Days, where Executive members meet with the Premier, cabinet ministers, and MLAs. They emphasized the struggles faced by resource-dependent Indigenous and local governments, and the impact provincial resource management frameworks and decisions have on declining resource sectors. They asked for early outreach and support in developing transition plans, as well as expanded training and re-training programs for workers in communities undergoing economic transition.

UBCM also hosted a webinar for local governments about work the Province is doing with First Nations to implement the recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review. The webinar included an overview of the range of provincial programs in place to support communities in transition—such as Community Transition Rapid Response Teams, and the Rural Business and Community Recovery Initiative.

The Committee would observe that local and Indigenous governments from regions engaged in aquaculture have experienced similar impacts, as the federal government moves to implement the transition away from open net pen aquaculture operations in BC. As with forest sector communities, these coastal communities also seek support for economic transition, and concomitant (re)training for workers.

**Old growth recommendations being implemented**

**Engagement opportunities following old growth webinar**

#### Internet Connectivity in Rural & Remote Areas

The Community Economic Development Committee’s objective for internet connectivity is to ensure that internet services providers, as well as the provincial and federal governments, seek out and listen to Indigenous and local government perspectives. This is particularly important as the federal and provincial governments work to deliver up to \$830 million in funding to achieve high-speed internet for all homes in BC by 2027. With the provincial and federal funding programs targeted directly at telecommunications providers, Indigenous and local governments must find ways to be heard, so that the projects being built provide the best and most efficient internet service for rural and remote residents, businesses, community organizations, and institutions.

# Policy and Advocacy

## Community Economic Development Committee

Committee Chair, Councillor Sarah Fowler, serves as a member of the Regional Connectivity Knowledge Network (RCKN), a knowledge-sharing group of local government and Indigenous government elected officials and senior staff from remote and rural areas in BC, who build capacity to improve broadband connectivity in their communities. Staff from UBCM and Connected Communities provide joint administrative support for the RCKN, facilitating access to technical experts, internet service providers, and other resources.

Through the RCKN, the Committee has monitored and provided feedback on the rollout of the provincial government's Connecting Communities BC funding program for high-speed internet in rural and remote communities.

Under the Committee's direction, UBCM further partnered with the Connectivity Division (Citizens' Services) to offer webinars about the Community Information Tool and Community Investment Opportunities Tool. These tools facilitate access for communities and potential investors to important economic, demographic, connectivity, and infrastructure data; and help communities promote local industrial, commercial, and agricultural investment opportunities.

UBCM collaborates actively with FCM and other provincial/territorial local government associations to better understand internet connectivity challenges and coordinate policy change requests.



*Gibsons, BC*

## Community Economic Development Committee

### Committee Priorities

- Respond to policy matters falling within the scope of the Committee
- Participate in working groups and committees to ensure Indigenous and local government interests are represented
- Work with the Province, Trusts and other associations to seek out greater economic development opportunities

### Priorities in Action

- Represented local governments at a provincial **Old Growth Forum**, which reported on co-development work by the Province and First Nations to develop a framework on ecosystem health and biodiversity, and an action plan for implementation.
- Coordinated an engagement session for local governments to discuss the federal government's transition plans for open net pen **aquaculture** operations in BC (<https://www.ubcm.ca/about-ubcm/latest-news/open-net-pen-transition-engagement>).
- Officials from two local area associations—AVICC and NCLGA—served as representatives to DFO's **aquaculture** management advisory committees regarding finfish and shellfish.
- Councillor Brian Frenkel continues to serve as UBCM's representative on **forestry**-related committees: Forest and Range Practices Advisory Council (PAC), Forest Products Innovations' BC Innovation Leadership Committee, Private Forest Lands Council, and Land and Natural Resource Operations Roundtable.
- Worked with Commercial Energy Consumers Association to represent local government interests on energy related matters before the BC Utilities Commission.
- UBCM staff served on the **Community Energy Association** board.
- Received a delegation from the **BC Utilities Commission**, providing an overview of BCUC's role and mandate, current proceedings and areas of work of interest to local and Indigenous governments, recognizing there has been an increased level of interest by Indigenous and local governments in BCUC activities.
- Provided direction on a **referred resolution**, 2022-NR53, which raised the issue of the PST applying to fossil fuel heat and hot water appliances.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Sarah Fowler, Chair  
Councillor Keith Page, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Margaret Kunst  
Councillor Jenna Stoner  
Mayor Maja Tait

# Policy and Advocacy

## Health and Social Development Committee

**Mental Health • Decriminalization • Accessibility • Active Transportation • Child Care**

### Priorities

*Over the past year the Health and Social Development Committee worked on several priority areas, including two that are highlighted here: decriminalization and the health impacts of climate change.*

#### Decriminalization

Decriminalization of illicit drugs was one of the key issues addressed by the Health and Social Development Committee in 2022-2023. The BC government was granted a three-year exemption by Health Canada from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs.

While UBCM members support decriminalization as a tool to address the opioid crisis (2021-NR44), local governments are raising concerns with respect to the use of these drugs in parks, playgrounds and other public spaces. Some communities have either passed bylaws, or are considering bylaws to regulate public use.

Over the course of the year, the Committee has continued to participate on the Province's Core Planning Table; co-chaired the Local Government Working Group on decriminalization; provided feedback to the Province on the development of resources; monitored the concerns of local governments; advocated for improved mental health and addictions services including overdose prevention sites that accommodate use by inhalation; and invited the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions to meet with the Committee to discuss ongoing issues.

#### Health Impacts of Climate Change

The health impacts of climate change has been a priority issue for both the Health and Social Development and the Environment Committees since 2021. This was initiated by the extreme heat and wildfires experienced across the province that year, which contributed to both physical and mental health concerns for BC residents.

Given local government's role in climate action and emergency management, and the expectation of more frequent and intense climate-related events, the Committee has sought to collaborate with the provincial government on an integrated provincial approach to address the health impacts of climate change.

UBCM held a 2021 Convention session on this issue, where experts at the session advised that worsening climate change and global warming will mean more extreme climate events in BC. The Committee received a delegation from the Ministry of Health's Climate Resilience Program and health authority partners at the April 2023 meeting. UBCM is also a new member of the BC Heat Committee, which addresses extreme heat in the Province. As well, staff presented at the Climate Change and Health Learning Exchange, which was hosted by the BC Ministry of Health's Climate Resilience Unit and Health Canada's Climate Change and Innovation Bureau.

## Health and Social Development Committee

### Committee Priorities

- Respond to policy matters that fall within its scope
- Participate in working groups and committees to ensure local governments are represented
- Work with Province and other groups to seek greater opportunities for improved health in BC

### Priorities in Action

- Met with Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions delegations about **decriminalization**, overdose community response, and overdose emergency response.
- Attended the Licensing and Bylaw Officers association conference to understand the concerns of bylaw officers on **decriminalization**.
- Contributed to the implementation of **accessibility** legislation and the development of resources for local governments with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Disability Alliance of BC.
- Monitored the concerns of BC local governments on **homelessness**, and supported the homelessness session at the UBCM Housing conference.
- Met with local governments to hear emerging concerns regarding **child care**.
- Is a member of the BC Healthy Living Alliance, an alliance of province-wide health related organizations addressing the impacts of **chronic disease**.
- Co-chaired the Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund which distributes education grants for **paramedic training**.
- Member of the Ministry of Health's **Healthy Communities Working Group**, which encourages health authorities and local governments to work together to create healthy communities.
- Received a delegation from the **Local Leaders for Mental Health** and provided feedback on their plans and proposed activities.
- Worked with health authority partners on **active transportation** proposals and initiatives.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Pete Fry, Chair  
Councillor Lori Mindnich, Vice Chair  
Mayor Merlin Blackwell  
Director Penny Cote  
Councillor Sarah Fowler  
Mayor Sarrah Storey  
Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton

## Resolutions Committee

The resolutions process is the foundation of UBCM's advocacy on behalf of BC local governments and member First Nations.

Members often ask UBCM about the status or progress of policy arising from a resolution endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention. They want to know if laws have been passed and if change has been made. Through resolutions, UBCM members speak with one voice to express the needs and concerns of BC communities. Issues raised and solutions proposed in resolutions often bring positive change for local governments in BC.

The majority of resolutions are addressed to the provincial government. Those resolutions endorsed by the membership are conveyed to the provincial government. The responses we receive from the Province are analyzed and placed into one of six categories. Staff assess the receptiveness of the Province based on their responses, and report their finding to the UBCM Executive. The table below provides an overview of five years of historical provincial response rates by category.

Provincial Response Types	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Province supports the request	8	8	9	16	12	4
Willing to consider the changes, suggestions or concerns expressed	20	16	30	17	25	3
Willing to undertake further study or review of the issues in question	24	15	23	18	13	18
Issues have already been addressed in whole or in part through existing provincial initiatives	51	30	51	56	46	57
Proposed changes/suggestions/concerns will not be considered	20	16	30	32	25	20
Not addressed in provincial response	13	1	15	14	15	21
<b>Provincial Responses Received Each Year</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>153</b>	

*\* Some resolutions make multiple requests, so the Province provides different responses to different parts of the resolution. Because of this, the combined total of response types tracked in the above table may be greater than the number of responses received from the Province.*

UBCM achieves significant dialogue and success through the resolutions process. The following developments have been noted in 2022/23. Each of the issues was the topic of a resolution from a UBCM member local government.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
Anti-Racism	2021-EB76, 2016-B98, 2016-B103, 2013-B87	In June 2022, the Province enacted its Anti-Racism Data Act, new legislation aimed at: 1) Breaking down barriers for people to access programs; 2) Ensuring racialized people aren't disproportionately targeted; and 3) Improving programs and services so more people feel safe getting the help they need.
Strengthening Farming Program	2022-NR8, 2019-B66, 2014-A3, 2013-B56, 2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2010-B119, 2009-B144	The Strengthening Farming Program is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that is jointly implemented with the Agricultural Land Commission. It provides guidance and support for farmers, First Nations and local governments with agricultural land. There are two key components: farm practices protection and land use planning for agriculture.
<i>Community Economic Development</i> Watershed Security and Climate Change	2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122	In early 2022, the Province began engagement on the Watershed Security Strategy through a discussion paper. The Province heard from respondents, including local governments, that water and watersheds are very important to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of British Columbians. However, respondents maintained that unsustainable water and land use, cumulative impacts of developments, invasive species and population growth are putting these values at risk. Climate change was also noted as making ecosystems and communities even more vulnerable to disasters like floods and drought. In Spring 2023 the Province was at the mid-way point of developing the Watershed Security Strategy and released a new intentions paper for stakeholder engagement. Consultation with local governments and stakeholders was held in throughout the spring and summer.

## Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<p><i>Community Economic Development</i> Broadband Connectivity, Federal</p>	<p>2022-EB84, 2021-EB47, 2021-EB48, 2021-EB50, 2020-SR6, 2020-EB69, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23</p>	<p>In September 2022, the first intake of the new provincial connectivity funding program, Connecting Communities BC, opened to eligible applicants include internet service providers (ISPs), or Indigenous or local governments working with ISPs. The program focuses on expanding broadband internet services to underserved rural, remote, and Indigenous communities using technologies such as fibre, cable, and fixed wireless. The funding for Connecting Communities BC comes from a joint agreement by the provincial and federal governments to invest up to \$830 million (\$415 million each) to support expanding broadband connectivity infrastructure in BC to all households by 2027.</p>
<p><i>Environment</i> Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy</p>	<p>2021-EB39, 2020-SR1, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2019-B11, 2018-B95, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2016-B58, 2016-B56, 2015-A5, 2015-B7, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B50, 2014-B76, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-A1, 2013-B44, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98</p>	<p>In June 2022, the Province announced that people in British Columbia will be better protected from the impacts of wildfires, flooding and extreme heat through the actions included in the new Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. The strategy includes actions across ministries supported by \$513 million of investment to ensure BC is prepared for climate impacts in the near term, while setting the foundation for future action.</p>

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<p><i>Community Economic Development</i> Broadband Connectivity, Provincial</p>	<p>2022-EB84, 2021-EB47, 2021-EB48, 2021-EB50, 2020-SR6, 2020-EB69, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23</p>	<p>In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$85 million for Highway and Community Cellular Connectivity.</p>
<p><i>Community Economic Development</i> Rural Economic Diversification</p>	<p>2019-OF1</p>	<p>In November 2022, the Province of BC announced a new Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program to support BC communities to help local governments transition and diversify their local economies. The \$33 million in funding will be allocated to three streams: economic diversification, economic capacity, and forest impact transition.</p>
<p><i>Community Economic Development</i> Trails and Parks</p>	<p>2021-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2011-B49, 2003-B28, 2003-B94, 2001-B84</p>	<p>In May 2023 the Province announced a \$10 million Outdoor Recreation of BC endowment fund that will provide money for expenses like signage, maintenance work, education programs, and other recreation projects. It will help to support volunteers' work in provincial parks and publicly-accessible private land, in creating new trails and maintaining current trails.</p>
<p><i>Environment</i> BC Building Code</p>	<p>2021-EB40, 2020-NR73, 2018-B31, 2018-B58, 2015-B27</p>	<p>Effective May 2023 the Province has implemented changes to the BC Building Code that will require 20% better energy efficiency for most new buildings throughout the province. The new energy-efficiency regulations will help BC meet its CleanBC 2030 goals.</p>

## Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<p><i>Environment</i> Climate Preparedness and Adaptation</p>	<p>2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B139, 2016-B58, 2014-B26, 2012-B25, 2011-B98, 2010-B40, 2010-B71, 2010-B76, 2010-B84, 2010-B86, 2009-B113, 2009-B134, 2008-B72, 2008-B74, 2008-B76, 2008-B79, 2008-B91, 2008-B148, 2007-B33, 2007-B35, 2007-B177, 2007-LR4, 2006-B27, 2006-B109, 2006-B145, 2005-B28, 2004-B79</p>	<p>In June 2022, the Province released BC's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy. The strategy looks to strengthen the collective capacity to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of climate change. This includes sudden events like wildfires, floods, and heatwaves, as well as changes that happen more slowly like rising sea levels, receding glaciers, and shifting ecosystems.</p> <p>The strategy outlines a range of government actions designed to help people and communities prepare. The Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy is part of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. The roadmap is the Province's plan to expand and accelerate climate action by building on BC's natural advantages – abundant and clean electricity, innovative technology and a highly-skilled workforce.</p>
<p><i>Environment</i> Coastal Marine Protection</p>	<p>2022-EB53, 2022-NR47, 2020-NR46, 2017-B110</p>	<p>The Province is developing a Coastal Marine Strategy with First Nations that will lay out a plan for addressing priorities for coastal-marine ecosystem health and community well-being. The Coastal Marine Strategy will focus on areas closer to shore, where estuaries, kelp beds, eelgrass meadows, rocky shorelines, and sandy beaches support an abundance and diversity of marine life. These areas are also popular places for people to live, work, collect food, and connect with nature. The intentions paper has been released and consultations with stakeholder groups continue.</p>

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<i>Environment</i> Extreme Heat Events Funding	2022-EB11, 2021-EB73	In Spring 2022, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund has added a new funding stream for Extreme Temperature Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning. The intent of the Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning funding stream is to support eligible applicants to ensure they have accurate knowledge of the risks associated with extreme temperatures and how these risks will change over time, and to develop effective response plans and strategies to prepare, mitigate and adapt to those risks. At this time, UBCM is administering the second round of this program.
<i>Environment</i> Extreme Heat Events: Preparedness Plan and Guide	2022-EB11, 2021-EB73	The Province has developed the BC Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS) to support public health and safety during heat events. This framework will include the use of the national Alert Ready system to issue public alerts for extreme heat emergencies. A new Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide has also been developed by the Province, to help individuals prepare their homes and stay safe.
<i>Environment</i> Right to Repair	2021-NR37	Federal Budget 2023 announces that the government will work to implement a right to repair, with the aim of introducing a targeted framework for home appliances and electronics in 2024.
<i>Finance</i> Libraries	2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56	In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$45 million to libraries to address local priorities and support accessibility, inclusion, and reconciliation. The funding will also support steps to improve access to books, digital collections, programs, spaces, literacy, technology, and operating hours.
<i>Health</i> Combating Opioid Crisis	2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-NR44, 2020-SR8, 2018-B142, 2017-B71	Federal Budget 2023 proposes to provide a total of \$359.2 million over five years, starting in 2023-24, with \$5.7 million ongoing and \$1.3 million in remaining amortization, to support a renewed Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy, which would guide the government's work to save lives and protect the health and safety of Canadians. This includes funding for community supports, prevention programs, supervised consumption sites, and action to tackle drug trafficking.

## Policy and Advocacy

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<i>Health</i> Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs	2021-EB56, 2021-NR44	The BC government was granted an exemption by Health Canada from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs. This is one of the approaches by the provincial government to address the ongoing toxic poisoning crisis. The exemption began on January 31, 2023, and is in effect until January 31, 2026.
<i>Health</i> Dental Care	2021-EB69, 2018-B146, 2008-B145	Federal Budget 2023 provides \$13 billion over five years, starting in 2023-24, and \$4.4 billion ongoing, to Health Canada to implement the new Canadian Dental Care Plan. The plan will provide dental coverage for uninsured Canadians with annual family income of less than \$90,000, with no co-pays for those with family incomes under \$70,000. The plan would begin providing coverage by the end of 2023 and will be administered by Health Canada, with support from a third-party benefits administrator.
<i>Health</i> Food Security	2022-NR8, 2019-B66, 2014-A3, 2013-B56, 2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2010-B119, 2009-B144	Federal Budget 2023 offers one-time inflation relief payments or a "grocery rebate" to about 11 million low- and modest-income Canadians, worth up to \$467 for a couple with two children, and up to \$234 for a single Canadian without children.
<i>Health</i> Health Care Workforce	2019-B63	BC Budget 2023 included a new deal for family doctors and supports BC's health care workforce. With nearly \$1 billion for a health workforce strategy to recruit, train and retain workers.

Area	Related Resolutions	Action
<i>Health</i> Mental Health and Addictions	2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3	In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$1 billion to support those who struggle with mental health, addiction or substance use, including: \$867 million for mental health and addictions services across the continuum of care, including prevention, harm reduction, safe supply, treatment and recovery; \$586 million of this spending will add new treatment and recovery beds throughout BC and fund a new model of “seamless support”; and \$169 million in capital investments over three years to create additional complex care beds.
<i>Health</i> Universal Public Health Care	2022-SR1, 2022-EB15, 2022-EB19, 2022-EB20, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162	Federal Budget 2023 strengthens Canada’s universal public health care system, by delivering \$198.3 billion to reduce backlogs, expand access to family health services and ensure provinces and territories can provide the high quality and timely health care Canadians expect and deserve.
<i>Housing</i> Homelessness - Federal Plans	2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109	The Federal Budget 2023 is delivering over \$500 million towards the government's goal of ending chronic homelessness, through Reaching Home, Canada's Homelessness Strategy.
<i>Housing</i> Homelessness - Provincial Plans	2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109	The Province announced its Belonging in BC plan to prevent and reduce homelessness. The plan adds 3,800 new supportive housing units and 240 complex-care spaces province-wide, and creates multidisciplinary regional response teams designed to rapidly respond to encampments to better support people sheltering outdoors to move inside.
<i>Housing</i> Real Estate Speculation and Flipping	2017-A2, 2016-B136, 2015-B47, 2006-B23, 2000-B77	In September 2022, the Province announced plans to introduce a house-flipping tax to discourage speculation in the housing market. Federal Budget 2022 also introduced a new deeming rule for residential real estate to ensure that profits from the disposition of flipped property are taxed as business income.

<p><i>Housing</i> Rental Assistance</p>	<p>2022-EB28, 2022-NR13, 2017-B53, 2015-B45, 2014-B42, 2014-B44</p>	<p>The Federal Budget 2023 delivered a top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit in December 2022, which provided low-income renters with a \$500 payment to help with the cost of housing. The Province's 2023 Budget also introduces an annual income-tested tax credit of up to \$400 per year for renters.</p>
<p><i>Housing</i> Rental Stock</p>	<p>2022-NR14, 2021-NR54, 2018-B56, 2017-B53, 2016-OF1, 2015-B14, 2015-B47, 2015-B48, 2015-B49, 2014-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B143, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007- A7, 2007-B40, 2007-B108, 2007-B197, 2006-B118, 2005-B47, 2004-B30</p>	<p>In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$230 million to renew aging BC Housing rental stock. In January, the Province also announced a \$500 million fund to provide grants to non-profit housing organizations to buy residential rental buildings and co-ops. The Homes for People plan released in April also announced a range of other initiatives relating to rental housing including an exploration of new opportunities to build, expand, and maintain purpose built rental buildings.</p>
<p><i>Housing</i> Secondary Suites</p>	<p>2022-EB26</p>	<p>The Province will introduce legislation to allow secondary suites in every community across the province. Additionally, homeowners will be able to access a forgivable loan of 50% of the cost of renovations, up to a maximum of \$40,000 over five years, if they are willing to rent secondary suites at below market rate for at least five years.</p>
<p><i>Housing</i> Supply</p>	<p>2022-EB25, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128, 2003-B40</p>	<p>The Province is committing \$4 billion over three years (Budget 2023) to build new homes for renters, people with middle incomes, Indigenous people, and students. The Homes for People plan also includes a commitment to launch BC Builds, which is intended to increase supply of middle income housing.</p>

<p><i>Responsible Conduct</i> Code of Conduct</p>	<p>2021-SR3</p>	<p>The Province responded to the requests of this Special resolution by establishing a legislated requirement by local governments to consider adopting a Code of Conduct within six months of a new term; embedding foundational principles for responsible conduct in the prescribed Oath of Office and, through the Working Group on Responsible Conduct, providing local governments with an online training module to strengthen responsible conduct.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i> Coastal Flooding</p>	<p>2020-NR45, 2013-A2, 2011-B79, 2010-B8</p>	<p>In response to increasing coastal flooding risks, the Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC), a branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), recently launched a five-year initiative entitled the Predicting and Alerting for Coastal Flooding (PACF) project. It is expected that the number of potential yearly events, the extent of vulnerable coastline and the resulting impact of coastal flooding will increase due to global sea-level rise in combination with the increased intensity of storms.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i> Emergency Management Capacity</p>	<p>2022-NR68, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44</p>	<p>The Province committed \$85 million in Budget 2023 to increase emergency management capacity in the province and provide new investments in disaster risk assessment, preparedness and mitigation. Funding will also support more cross-ministry coordination, including working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i> Flood Mitigation</p>	<p>2022-SR3, 2022-NR28, 2022-EB39, 2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1</p>	<p>In July 2022, the provincial and federal governments committed, through the Adaptation, Resilience and Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program, up to \$81.8 million towards community flood mitigation infrastructure projects. The purpose of this funding program is to help local governments prepare for, as well as prevent flooding events. Applicants may apply individually for up to \$10 million, or jointly for up to \$20 million, and must also be prepared to contribute funding towards approved flood mitigation projects.</p>

<p><i>Safety</i></p> <p>New RCMP Auxiliary Program</p>	<p>2020-NR9</p>	<p>In February 2023, the Province and RCMP E Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the initiation of a new RCMP Auxiliary Program at the most comprehensive (Tier 3) level, applicable province-wide where the RCMP is the police service of jurisdiction. A start date for the new Program is still to be determined.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i></p> <p>Next Generation 911</p>	<p>2022-EB42</p>	<p>The Province committed \$150 million for a local government Next Generation 911 Readiness Fund in Budget 2023. This includes \$90 million to E-Comm to address technological upgrades, and \$60 million, distributed through UBCM, to address local government costs.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i></p> <p>Provincial Police Resources</p>	<p>2022-EB43, 2020-EB6, 2020-NR10, 2019-A3, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-B1</p>	<p>As part of the new Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province is committing \$230 million over three years towards hiring additional front-line and specialized police services. Funding responds to a long-standing UBCM request for the Province to adequately address service demands in communities under 5,000 in population and unincorporated areas.</p> <p>This new commitment will also help increase the capacity of various specialized teams, and help support prosecutors and probation officers dealing with high-risk offenders.</p>

<p><i>Safety</i> Repeat Offenders</p>	<p>2022-NR36, 2022-NR37, 2021-NR3, 2020-SR8, 2015-A2, 2015-B54, 2014-B34, 2007-A2, 2007-B89, 2006-B137</p>	<p>In November 2022, the Province announced the Safer Communities Action Plan which is seeking increased enforcement provisions related to repeat offenders and improving services to address mental health and addictions issues in communities. Some initiatives include: New repeat violent offender coordinated response teams that include police, prosecutors and probation officers; expanded use of mental-health crisis response teams, to alleviate the burden on local police and improve response to those in crisis; and opening 10 Indigenous Justice Centres to provide culturally appropriate support to Indigenous Peoples involved in the justice system. In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$87 million for programs to address repeat offending.</p>
<p><i>Safety</i> Wildfires</p>	<p>2022-NR26, 2022-EB36, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR21, 2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75</p>	<p>In Budget 2023, the Province committed \$64 million in capital funding for the BC Wildfire Service over five years (2022/23 to 2026/27) for firefighting equipment.</p>
<p><i>Transportation</i> Active Transportation</p>	<p>2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99</p>	<p>BC Budget 2023 offered \$100 million to help local governments improve active transportation infrastructure.</p>
<p><i>Transportation</i> E-Bike Rebates</p>	<p>2020-EB29</p>	<p>Beginning June 1, 2023, rebates on the purchase of an approved e-bike will be available to BC residents older than 19 and will be based on a person's income. Rebates will range from \$350 to a maximum of \$1,400.</p>
<p><i>Transportation</i> Rail Safety</p>	<p>2021-EB18, 2019-B17, 2018-B13, 2017-B7, 2015-B13, 2014-B55, 2014-B126</p>	<p>In January 2023 Transport Canada announced a new funding program that will support Indigenous and local communities to participate in rail safety initiatives. The Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement (PERSE) will fund a maximum of \$150,000 per recipient and per application. The program provides financial capacity support for resources to participate in eligible activities such as: 1) Holding discussions to address gaps in Indigenous and local engagement on rail safety; 2) Engaging at the local and regional level on Indigenous and local communities' representation in rail safety; or 3) Researching the impact rail lines have on communities or traditional territories.</p>

These are recent success stories. Not all resolutions achieve immediate results, but they bring important local government issues to the attention of the provincial and federal governments.

# Policy and Advocacy

## Emerging and Ongoing Policy Files

In addition to the policy matters covered by UBCM's Committees, there are a number of other issues that are addressed outside the committee structure. The following provides an overview of those issues and how UBCM is representing the members' interests.

### Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels

UBCM continued to monitor the federal and provincial governments' actions on abandoned and derelict vessels. In February 2019, the federal government established new legislation, the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act, to ensure that wrecked, abandoned or hazardous commercial and pleasure vessels are removed and remediated at the owner's expense. The Act is one of the six measures introduced under the federal government's \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan to address abandoned vessels. Other measures include a Small Craft Harbours Abandoned and Wrecked Vessels initiative, and an Abandoned Boats Funding program.

On April 28, 2021, the provincial government announced \$9.5 million has been provided from the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund to tackle shoreline cleanups and remove derelict vessels from the north coast of BC to southern Vancouver Island. \$7.1 million of that funding has been allocated to shoreline clean up, and the remainder for the removal of 100 derelict vessels. The funding has been distributed to four agencies (Songhees Development Corporation, the Small Ship Tour Operators Association – Wilderness Tourism Association, the Coastal Restoration Society, and the Ocean Legacy Foundation) to address the clean up and removal work.

In May 2023, the Province provided an additional \$25 million for the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund, noting that the fund had removed 1,500 tonnes of marine debris to date, including 118 derelict vessels. Local governments can apply for a shoreline debris cleanup or removal of derelict vessels.

### Cannabis Taxation Revenue Sharing

In March, 2022 UBCM received correspondence from Minister Farnworth confirming the Province's direction to have The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agreement on Cannabis Taxation sees the federal government retain 25% of excise tax revenue (up to \$100 million per year), with the remaining 75% or more going to provinces and territories. This reflects a federal share that was reduced by 25% in recognition of the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments. The federal government declined to directly transfer a share of excise tax revenue to local governments, leaving that responsibility to provinces and territories. In British Columbia, the provincial government has not disbursed any of its cannabis-related taxation revenue to local governments.

UBCM continues to call on the Province to comply with the intent of the federal excise tax revenue sharing scheme, and recognize the costs and responsibilities assumed by local governments by negotiating an equitable cannabis taxation revenue sharing agreement. The 2021 UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance report, *Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency*, recommends “a targeted consumption tax that provides local governments a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue.”

## Federal Comprehensive & Specific Lands Claims Policy

In September 2019, the federal government, Province and First Nations Summit endorsed a policy on Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia. This BC-specific policy establishes a process whereby negotiation mandates are co-developed in recognition of the inherent right to self-determination. The intent of the policy is to provide greater flexibility to develop agreements in an incremental or staged way.

As of March 2020, the Federal Government fulfilled their 2019 Budget commitment to forgive all comprehensive claims negotiation loan debt. The Federal Government has also engaged with Indigenous groups across the country through a series of discussion tables, and is moving forward towards implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

The Federal Government's approach to Comprehensive Land Claims continues to emphasize both work towards further negotiation of modern treaties and agreements, and treaty implementation, including:

- Continued negotiation of treaties, self-government agreements and other constructive arrangements.
- Advancement of the Recognition and Reconciliation of Rights Policy for Treaty Negotiations in British Columbia.
- Recognition that treaties and self-government agreements “are the foundations for transformative change that move us away from colonial systems of administration and governance”, and that Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) would hold discussions at more than 189 tables across the country to increase the number of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements.

## National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Aboriginal Women & Girls

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report on June 3, 2019, built around 231 Calls for Justice. In response to resolution 2019-LR4, UBCM encouraged the Federal Government to move forward on the development and implementation of a National Action Plan to address violence against Indigenous women and others. The Federal Government released its National Action Plan on June 3, 2021. More recently, federal MPs unanimously supported a motion to create a ‘Red Dress Alert’ system. In addition, the Federal Government released its second annual “Federal Pathway” report highlighting actions towards supporting safety, addressing institutional and systemic change, and increasing accountability and transparency.

Within BC, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) is responsible for implementation of the Calls for Justice and is currently administering the Path Forward Community Fund for safety planning and capacity building. The Province also recently released their status update, focusing on administration of the Path Forward Community Fund as well as introduction of the Anti-Racism Data Act, ongoing development of anti-racism legislation, and work towards an action plan to address gender-based violence. UBCM is monitoring the implementation of the Calls for Justice and continues to engage with the Province to explore opportunities for local actions.

# Policy and Advocacy

## Elections Education & Advice Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was constituted in fall 2016 to meet the requirements set out in the new Local Elections Campaigning Financing Act (LECFA). UBCM has a seat on the TAC Advisory Committee along with the Local Government Management Association, Elections BC, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Education and BC School Trustees Association. TAC members provide information and resources to support election participants and discuss matters of common interest respecting the administration and application of LECFA related regulations.

In advance of the October 15, 2022 General Local Elections, TAC members updated all forms, brochures, manuals, and guidebooks to support election participants in understanding the elections process, the rules, and candidates' role in that process. A number of educational workshops and webinars were held across the province. All of the updated materials including videos and webinars are posted on the Municipal Affairs website at: [www.gov.bc.ca/localelections](http://www.gov.bc.ca/localelections).

## Federal Regulation & Support for Rail Safety

As road authorities, local governments and rail companies must ensure that public railway grade crossings meet the requirements of the federal Rail Safety Grade Crossings Regulations (GCR). In response to advocacy by local government organizations including UBCM, the federal government amended the GCR to extend compliance deadlines and prioritize grade crossings by levels of risk. The timeline for grade crossings to meet GCR requirements was November 28, 2022 for high-priority grade crossings; and is November 28, 2024 for all other grade crossings. For grade crossings of provincially regulated railways, the BC government extended the GCR compliance deadline to January 1, 2028.

UBCM monitors and provides feedback on the suite of Transport Canada funding programs intended to assist Indigenous and local governments with rail safety improvements and engagement:

- Rail Safety Improvement Program (RSIP) funds rail safety improvements, including grade crossings, rail lines, climate change resilience, and extreme weather mitigation.
- Program to Enhance Rail Safety Engagement (PERSE) supports Indigenous and local governments to engage with Transport Canada regarding the rail transportation system.
- Community Participation Funding Program – Rail Safety Component (CPFP-RS) supports short-term events that enable local and Indigenous governments to take part in developing and improving the rail transportation system.

While these funding programs are not presently accepting applications, it is anticipated that the federal government will open intakes in the coming months.

UBCM participates in a Transport Canada working group for provincial and territorial local government associations, to ensure that local governments receive clear information about GCR implementation, rail safety, and related funding programs, and that local government perspectives are provided to the federal government.

## Safe Drinking Water on Reserves

Indigenous Services Canada releases regular updates on progress towards lifting boil water advisories, most recently noting that as of June 19, 2023, 142 long-term advisories were lifted since November 2015. An additional 28 long-term advisories remain in effect in 26 communities. UBCM continues to monitor Federal Government actions to address safe drinking water on reserves.

## Federal Additions to Reserve Policy

The Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada 2023-2024 Departmental work plan notes that the department will continue work in collaboration with Indigenous partners to redesign the Additions to Reserve Policy and accelerate the processing of additions to reserve requests. The work plan also indicates that the Federal Government is aiming to approve 70 additions to reserve and reserve creation submissions in 2023-2024. UBCM continues to monitor Federal Government actions on this file.

### FCM International Programs – UBCM Partners with Cambodia

UBCM has been involved in international programming through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for more than 20 years. In February 2022, the Executive approved participation in the FCM Partnerships for Municipal Innovation – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) program for a period from January 2022 - December 2026. The program aims to increase women's capacity to get involved and lead in local governance, as well as local governments' capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive services.

UBCM has partnered with the National League of Communes (NLC) under the PMI-WILL program. In 2021, UBCM participated in a virtual assessment of organizational needs and opportunities within the NLC, the results of which are driving capacity building initiatives and future work plans. UBCM also supported a review of a capacity development guide for Canadian local government associations involved in the FCM program.

In March 2023, Councillor Jen Ford, UBCM President, and Jared Wright, UBCM's Director of Advocacy and Government Relations conducted their first mission to Cambodia under the PMI-WILL project. The purpose of the first mission to Cambodia was to review the five priorities of NLC capacity development plan, and to develop and review the three-year work plan. The team also delivered training on gender, advocacy, and communication to NLC board and staff.





*Masset, BC*



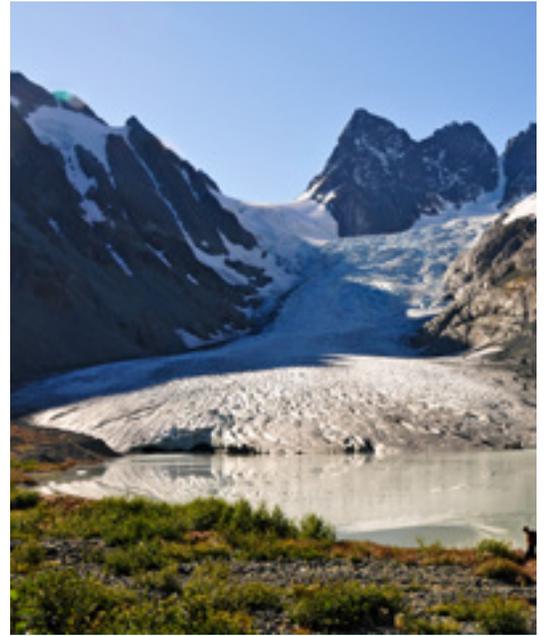
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*Pouce Coupe, BC*



*Enderby, BC*



*Central Coast Regional District, BC*



*Whistler, BC*



*Princeton, BC*

# Programs and Services



# Programs and Services



Canal Flats, BC

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The new Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation funding stream offered two intakes to help First Nations and local governments to reduce risks from future disasters due to natural hazards and climate-related risks.
- The 2023/24 Regional Community to Community funding program has been expanded to fund up to \$10,000 in C2C forums as well as up to \$10,000 for agreements, plans, and bylaw review that supports reconciliation and relationship building.
- Next Generation 911: A new funding program was announced by the Province to help local governments with costs related to modernizing technology and 911 systems to meet new CRTC regulations. A contribution of \$60 million was provided by the Ministry of Citizens' Services.
- Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program: Since 2020, 97 applications for \$4.98 million in approved funding have been funded for either planning or projects to help reduce poverty at the local level.

## Local Government Program Services

UBCM has delivered provincially funded programs since 2004. Numerous funding programs were available to local governments, First Nations, and other eligible applicants in 2022/23.

### Active Transportation Planning Program

Administered for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (\$600,000 since 2020), the intent of the Active Transportation Planning program is to support local governments to incorporate or enhance active transportation components of formal planning documents (Official Community Plan, Sustainability Plan, Neighbourhood Plan, or Transportation Plan), including research, consultation, and policy development.

### Asset Management Planning Program

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and including the contribution of accrued interest from LGPS programs (\$5 million since 2014), the program provides assistance to local governments to deliver sustainable services by extending and deepening asset management practices within their organizations and through subsidies for Asset Management BC training events.

Three intakes were successfully completed in 2022/23 and 46 applications were received over this time.

### Community Child Care Planning and Space Creation

Administered for the Ministry of Education and Child Care and including funding from the Canada-British Columbia Early Learning and Child Care Agreement (\$21.5 million since 2018), two funding streams support local governments to engage in child care planning activities, and develop child care spaces for children up to five years of age.

### Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

Administered for the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (\$367 million since 2017), the CEPF is intended to support First Nations and local governments to better prepare for disasters and reduce risks from natural hazards in a changing climate.

The following funding streams had intakes in 2022/23:

- Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (two intakes)
- Emergency Operations Centres Equipment and Training
- Emergency Support Services Equipment and Training
- Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training
- Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning
- Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training

The new Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Adaptation (DRR-CA) fund replaced the previous Flood Risk Assessments, Mapping and Mitigation Planning, and Structural Flood Mitigation funding streams. The new DRR-CA stream expanded the focus to include all hazards and incorporate climate adaptation into projects. The 2022 intake approved 58 applications, and the Spring 2023 intake approved 60 applications with an additional 11 under review.

## **Community Resiliency Investment Program**

The FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program is administered for the Ministry of Forests (\$163 million since 2018) and provides funding to local governments and First Nations in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities that reduce the community's risk from wildfire.

The 2022 CRI intake approved 121 applications, and 39 have completed or are under final report review.

The 2023 intake is an open intake with applications being accepted until September 30, 2023. To date 91 applications have been received.

## **Complete Communities Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (\$10 million since 2022), the Complete Communities program supports local governments and modern Treaty First Nations to enhance their ability to make evidence-based land use planning decisions through assessments of their current community completeness; analysis and identification of strengths, opportunities, challenges, and potential actions that align with identified community goals; and support for creating more complete communities and an implementation plan. Intakes are planned for 2023 and 2024.

## **Housing Needs Report Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (\$5 million since 2018), the Housing Needs Reports program supports local governments in undertaking housing needs reports in order to meet provincial requirements. The final intake was completed in 2022.

## **Local Government Development Approvals Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Canada-BC Restart Agreement (\$15 million since 2021), the Local Government Development Approvals program supports the implementation of established best practices and testing of innovative approaches to improve development approvals processes while meeting local government planning and policy objectives. The first intake occurred in 2021, and resulted in 43 applications approved for funding.

## **Next Generation 911 Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Citizens' Services (\$60 million since 2023), this program was announced in February 2023 and is under development.

## **Poverty Reduction Planning and Action Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (\$5 million since 2019), the Poverty Reduction Planning and Action program supports local governments in reducing poverty at the local level, and supports the Province's poverty reduction strategy TogetherBC. Four intakes have been successfully completed to date and the final intake was completed in March 2023.

## **Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Indigenous Services Canada, and including the contribution of accrued interest from LGPS programs (\$2.9 million since 1999), the C2C program provides funding for local governments and First Nations to come together in dialogue on topics of mutual interest or concern. Three intakes were successfully completed in 2022/23, with 52 applications received.

## **Strengthening Communities' Services Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, through the Canada-BC Restart Agreement (\$100 million since 2021), the Strengthening Communities' Services program aims to support local governments and Treaty First Nations take action in providing urgent assistance to individuals currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Starting in 2021, two intakes have been completed. The final intake was completed in 2022.

## **Urban Communities Partnering for Reconciliation Pilot Program**

Administered for the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (\$210,000 since 2019), this pilot program supports local governments and eligible Indigenous societies develop events and activities that provide a time and place for dialogue to build on opportunities, support reconciliation efforts, resolve issues of common responsibility, interest or concern, and/or to advance tangible outcomes. A second intake will take place in 2023.

# Programs and Services



Taylor, BC



Clearwater, BC

## Canada Community-Building Fund

In May 2014, UBCM entered into a 10-year Gas Tax Agreement—now the Canada Community Building Fund Agreement (CCBF)—with Canada and British Columbia which will see over \$2.9 billion in federal funding transferred for investments in local government infrastructure and capacity building projects. The CCBF provides the administrative framework for the delivery of federal Canada Community-Building funding to British Columbia local governments and other recipients.

UBCM continues to administer the Canada Community-Building Fund on behalf of the three parties through three distinct funding programs: Community Works Fund, Strategic Priorities Fund, and Greater Vancouver Regional Fund.

### Program Highlights

In 2023, UBCM completed the third and final intake under the Strategic Priorities Fund which resulted in 45 projects totaling more than \$103.5 million in approvals for local government infrastructure projects across the province.

In March, UBCM published the 2023 Canada Community-Building Fund Outcomes Report. The report provided output and outcomes data for all local government CCBF funded projects for a five-year period from 2017-2022. The report highlighted the positive and significant impact the funding has had on building critical local government infrastructure and building local capacity by analyzing more than 2,600 complete projects which expended over \$1 billion in CCBF funds throughout the reporting period.

In June, UBCM published Status of Asset Management in British Columbia which provided results from the 2022 CCBF Asset Management Measuring Progress Survey.

### Community Works Fund (CWF)

- UBCM will deliver over \$119 million to all local governments in 2023 through the Community Works Fund program. This is an increase in funding over 2022 due to an incremental increase in overall program funding.
- Eligible investment categories for local government capital infrastructure projects include: local roads, bridges and active transportation; public transit; drinking water; wastewater; solid waste; community energy systems; recreational and sport infrastructure; tourism and cultural infrastructure; regional and local airports; broadband connectivity; disaster mitigation; short-sea shipping; short-line rail and brownfield redevelopment.
- Local governments can also invest CWF towards certain capacity building projects such as asset management planning, integrated community sustainability planning, and long-term infrastructure planning.
- Local government CWF allocation is based on a funding floor of \$60,875 and a per capita amount.

- In British Columbia, all local governments participate in the Community Works Fund program and on average expend more than \$110 million of CWF on over 800 infrastructure and capacity building projects each year.

### **Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF)**

- The SPF is an application-based Canada Community-Building Fund program which is available to local governments outside of Metro Vancouver.
- SPF pools approximately \$30 million each year for eligible projects that are large in scale, regional in impact or innovative and align with the national objectives of productivity and economic growth, a clean environment, and strong cities and communities.
- The third and final SPF intake under the Renewed Agreement, 2014-2024, resulted in 45 approved projects with a funding commitment of \$103.5 million.
- Previous funding intakes in 2015 and 2017 approved funding of \$291 million for a total of 170 projects.

### **Greater Vancouver Regional Fund (GVRF)**

- UBCM continues to deliver pooled funding in the Greater Vancouver region for regional transportation projects.
- UBCM entered into a GVRF agreement with TransLink in 2017 which will deliver over \$1.3 billion over 10 years for transportation investments that benefit Metro Vancouver region.
- All projects submitted by TransLink are reviewed and approved by the Metro Regional District Board of Directors.

### **Asset Management**

- The current CCBF Agreement states that all local governments must work to strengthen Asset Management in accordance with the Asset Management framework developed by the Partnership Committee.
- Since 2015, UBCM and CCBF recipients in BC have worked toward this goal by developing the Asset Management for Sustainable Service Delivery: a BC Framework (approved by Partnership Committee in 2015) and releasing the results of subsequent surveys and questionnaires such as the 2016 Asset Management Assessment and the 2018 Asset Management Commitment Questionnaire.
- In June 2023, UBCM released the results of the Asset Management Assessment Form – Measuring Progress. This is phase three of local government commitment under the CCBF agreement to report on progress in asset management practices since signing their Community Works Fund Agreement.
- Results of the survey found that over 50% of local governments in BC have developed a formal asset management process or system.

### **Canada Community Building Fund – Re-negotiation**

- September/October 2022 – UBCM and the Province agreed on a joint negotiation approach which includes:
  - UBCM continue to administer CCBF program
  - Advocate for long-term agreement with dedicated and predictable funding model
  - Provision of flexible and effective funding and programming
  - Advocate for doubling of the fund
  - Removal of stacking provision
  - Increase and improve the indexing formula
  - Continue to enhance and improve local government capacity to implement asset management best practices

#### **Next Steps:**

- Provincial/UBCM response to a federal renewal paper (housing, reporting, communications)
  - Joint provincial/UBCM response
- Continue to participate in the joint provincial/UBCM renewal working group
- Continue to participate in the national working group
- Review and collate data from the Spring 2023 UBCM renewal survey
- Further targeted engagements with Regional Districts and Metro Vancouver
- Draft and sign a renewed CCBF Agreement
  - targeted for late 2023 or early 2024

# Programs and Services

## Member Services

### UBCM Group Benefits Program

UBCM in partnership with Pacific Blue Cross/BC Life offer a variety of health benefits including:

- Extended Health
- Dental
- Group Life, Dependent Life and Optional Life
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) and Optional AD&D
- Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability
- Administrative Services Only (ASO)
- Critical Illness Benefits (Group and Optional Plans)
- Employee and Family Assistance Plan
- Health Spending Accounts
- Benefits for Elected Officials

UBCM provides group benefit plan insurance to 126 participants that include 102 local government members and 24 affiliated associations covering approximately 4,100 employees.

### Highlights from the year

UBCM has been working to ensure that the Group Benefits Plan has a strong governance model and that members receive the service they deserve and pay for through sponsorship fees. UBCM continues to contract the services of George & Bell Consultants to provide actuarial services for the annual renewal and to provide detailed financial analysis and advice to UBCM and to our members. In addition, UBCM has a contract with a third-party administrator, Health Benefits Trust (HBT), to provide day to day general inquiry support to our members. As partners, we are committed to working together to ensure that local governments and affiliated associations receive value, economies of scale, excellence in service and strong advocate representation.

### Annual Renewal

Negotiations with PBC are completed each year in July by UBCM's consultant and actuary, George & Bell Consulting. The renewal timeline runs from April 1 to August 31 with new rates provided in September and effective October 1.

### Dog/Cat Tags

UBCM provides a discounted rate on dog and cat tags which local governments sell to their residents. In 2022/2023 57 members participated generating \$18,482 in revenue. Revenues and participants have been declining over the past few years as members move to permanent tags that don't have to be replaced each year.

### Wall Calendars

UBCM provides a wall calendar with key legislative dates to our membership for a nominal fee. For the 2023 calendar year UBCM sold 880 calendars for total revenue of approximately \$8,730. Calendar sales remain consistent with the majority of local governments continuing to purchase them and display them prominently in their offices.

Financial Statements of

**UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPALITIES**

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended May 31, 2023





KPMG LLP  
PO Box 10426 777 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver BC V7Y 1K3  
Canada  
Tel 604-691-3000  
Fax 604-691-3031

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Union of British Columbia Municipalities

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Union of British Columbia Municipalities (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at May 31, 2023
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at May 31, 2023, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.



## ***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

## ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.

# Financial Statements



Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
Page 3

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group entity to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that tapers at both ends, resembling a stylized underline or a signature flourish.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Vancouver, Canada  
July 14, 2023

# UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

## Statement of Financial Position

May 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

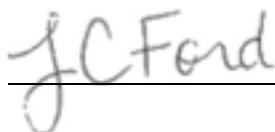
	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 16,886,405	\$ 6,855,067
Investments (note 3(a))	754,562,045	689,461,856
Accounts receivables	131,553	177,804
Prepaid expenses	198,942	271,575
	<u>771,778,945</u>	<u>696,766,302</u>
Capital assets (note 4)	1,725,896	1,877,226
Intangible asset (note 5)	101,568	223,452
	<u>\$ 773,606,409</u>	<u>\$ 698,866,980</u>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 6)	\$ 238,436	\$ 175,240
Convention deposits	315,550	88,500
Deferred revenue (note 7)	786,374	766,719
Deferred contributions (note 8)	754,116,356	683,590,595
	<u>755,456,716</u>	<u>684,621,054</u>
Deferred lease inducement	-	798
Other liabilities	90,721	81,536
	<u>755,547,437</u>	<u>684,703,388</u>
Net assets:		
Invested in capital and intangible assets (note 9)	1,740,852	1,887,805
Internally restricted (note 10)	5,120,000	5,120,000
Unrestricted	11,198,120	7,155,787
	<u>18,058,972</u>	<u>14,163,592</u>
Commitment (note 13)		
	<u>\$ 773,606,409</u>	<u>\$ 698,866,980</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Executive Committee:



Director



Director

## UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

### Statement of Operations

Year ended May 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Annual member dues (note 7)	\$ 1,302,415	\$ 1,278,844
Convention	1,549,280	583,029
Members' services	1,124,561	756,759
Administrative fees (note 11)	146,121	143,121
Investment income (note 3(b))	4,440,882	185,586
Government grants (note 8):		
Local Government Program Services	61,760,400	67,924,138
Canada Community-Building Fund	456,881,144	613,952,670
Other government funding	174,000	283,604
	527,378,803	685,107,751
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries and benefits	1,942,834	1,660,626
Executive	313,391	190,709
Office services and supplies	297,582	301,811
Staff travel	61,483	21,418
Professional fees	118,047	189,123
Convention	1,076,523	640,205
Members' services	858,019	251,035
Government programs (note 8):		
Local Government Program Services	61,760,400	67,924,138
Canada Community-Building Fund	456,881,144	613,952,670
Other government funding	174,000	283,604
	523,483,423	685,415,339
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,895,380</b>	<b>\$ (307,588)</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended May 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	Invested in capital and intangible assets (note 9)	Internally restricted (note 10)	Unrestricted	Total
Balance, May 31, 2021	\$ 2,050,766	\$ 5,120,000	\$ 7,300,414	\$ 14,471,180
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	(162,961)	-	(144,627)	(307,588)
Balance, May 31, 2022	1,887,805	5,120,000	7,155,787	14,163,592
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(146,953)	-	4,042,333	3,895,380
Balance, May 31, 2023	\$ 1,740,852	\$ 5,120,000	\$ 11,198,120	\$ 18,058,972

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

### Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended May 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ 3,895,380	\$ (307,588)
Items not involving cash:		
Change in fair value of investments	(120,376)	166,220
Non-cash accrued investment income	(3,617,245)	78,822
Amortization of capital assets	151,330	172,332
Amortization of intangible asset	121,884	121,884
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(126,261)	(131,255)
Amortization of deferred lease inducement	(798)	(9,581)
	303,914	90,834
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Accounts receivable	46,251	41,048
Prepaid expenses	72,633	(120,462)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	63,196	(122,100)
Convention deposits	227,050	82,000
Deferred revenue	19,655	12,123
Deferred contributions	50,289,454	(200,834,246)
Other liabilities	9,185	14,785
	51,031,338	(200,836,018)
Investments:		
Purchase of investments	(325,000,000)	(540,000,000)
Proceeds on disposal of investments	284,000,000	431,100,000
	(41,000,000)	(108,900,000)
Increase (decrease) in cash	10,031,338	(309,736,018)
Cash, beginning of year	6,855,067	316,591,085
Cash, end of year	\$ 16,886,405	\$ 6,855,067
Non-cash activities:		
Investment income accrued and recorded to deferred revenue and contributions	\$ 20,362,568	\$ 1,677,491

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended May 31, 2023

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## 1. Operations:

Union of British Columbia Municipalities (“UBCM”) is incorporated under the *Union of British Columbia Municipalities Act* and its principal activity is to represent the interests of its members in dealing with other orders of government. UBCM is a not-for-profit organization and is exempt from income taxes.

UBCM’s operations include the following significant activities:

(a) Operating:

Reflects the general operating activities and administration functions of the UBCM.

(b) Convention:

Activities directly related to the annual convention.

(c) Local Government Program Services (“LGPS”):

The Province of British Columbia (the “Province”) has provided funding to UBCM for shared provincial-local government interests in a variety of fields. The service that UBCM provides is to control and deliver those funds to members for the purposes of the various programs.

(d) Canada Community-Building Fund (“CCBF”):

The Government of Canada (“Canada”), the Province, and UBCM had entered into the Administrative Agreement on the Federal Gas Tax Fund in British Columbia (the “CCBF Agreement”) to transfer funding to UBCM to control and deliver the funding to local government organizations in British Columbia. The federal CCBF provides predictable, long-term and stable funding to local governments in British Columbia for investment in infrastructure and capacity building projects. The CCBF Agreement is effective from April 1, 2014 until March 31, 2024.

(e) Other government funding:

Canada and the Province provides funding to UBCM for various special projects. The service that UBCM provides is to control and deliver those funds to members for the purposes of the various special projects.

## 2. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook - *Accounting*. Significant accounting policies include:

(a) Revenue recognition:

UBCM follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions which include government grants. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

# Financial Statements

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (a) Revenue recognition (continued):

Externally restricted contributions are recorded as deferred contributions in the year received, and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue when earned. Restricted investment income is recorded as deferred contributions in the year earned, and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized.

Revenue from annual member dues, special levies, fees and contracts is recognized when the services are provided. Amounts collected relating to subsequent periods are recorded as deferred revenue.

Contributed capital assets are measured at the fair value at the date of contribution. Contributed capital assets not subject to amortization, such as land, are recorded as direct increases in net assets in the period the assets are received. Contributed capital assets subject to amortization and contributions restricted for the purchase of capital assets and intangible asset are deferred and amortized into revenue on a straight-line basis, at a rate corresponding with the amortization rate for the related capital asset and intangible asset.

### (b) Capital assets:

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives as follows:

Asset	Years
Building	25
Office equipment	4
Leasehold improvements	Lesser of useful life of asset and lease term

UBCM reviews the carrying amount of capital assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset no longer contributes to UBCM's ability to provide services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its carrying amount. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured and recorded in the statement of operations at the amount by which the carrying amount of the capital asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

### (c) Intangible asset:

Intangible asset is recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over the asset's estimated useful life as follows:

Asset	Years
CCBF management software	7

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (c) Intangible asset (continued):

UBCM reviews the carrying amount of intangible asset for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset no longer contributes to UBCM's ability to provide services, or that the value of future economic benefits or service potential associated with the asset is less than its carrying amount. If such conditions exist, an impairment loss is measured and recorded in the statement of operations at the amount by which the carrying amount of the intangible asset exceeds its fair value or replacement cost.

### (d) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition. Freestanding derivative instruments that are not in a qualifying hedging relationship and equity instruments that are quoted in an active market are subsequently measured at fair value. All other financial instruments are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. UBCM has elected to carry its investments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, UBCM determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount UBCM expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future period, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

### (e) Deferred lease inducement:

Deferred lease inducement relates to tenant inducements received in a lease agreement, including any rent-free periods and step-rent increases. Amortization of deferred lease inducements is recognized over the initial term of the lease on a straight-line basis against office services and supplies expense.

### (f) Employee future benefits:

UBCM and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan. Defined contribution plan accounting is applied to the multi-employer defined benefit plan and, accordingly, contributions are expensed when paid or payable.

# Financial Statements

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

## 3. Investments:

### (a) Investments:

	2023	2022
Money market funds	\$ 747,614,295	\$ 682,634,483
Exchange traded funds ("ETFs"):		
Equity indexed ETFs	4,096,579	4,691,232
Fixed income indexed ETFs	2,811,843	2,078,572
Other	39,328	57,569
	<u>\$ 754,562,045</u>	<u>\$ 689,461,856</u>

### (b) Investment income:

	2023	2022
Interest income	\$ 4,320,506	\$ 481,002
Other	120,376	(295,416)
	<u>\$ 4,440,882</u>	<u>\$ 185,586</u>

## 4. Capital assets:

			2023	2022
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
Land	\$ 252,000	\$ -	\$ 252,000	\$ 252,000
Building	3,347,623	1,891,248	1,456,375	1,590,280
Office equipment	138,598	131,668	6,930	11,307
Leasehold improvements	140,931	130,340	10,591	23,639
	<u>\$ 3,879,152</u>	<u>\$ 2,153,256</u>	<u>\$ 1,725,896</u>	<u>\$ 1,877,226</u>

## 5. Intangible asset:

			2023	2022
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value	Net book value
CCBF management software	\$ 832,872	\$ 731,304	\$ 101,568	\$ 223,452

## 6. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities as at May 31, 2023 are government remittances payable of \$21,663 (2022 - \$34,404) for sales and payroll-related taxes.

## 7. Deferred revenue:

	Members' dues	Other	Total
Balance, May 31, 2021	\$ 742,851	\$ 11,745	\$ 754,596
Amounts received	1,286,383	33,934	1,320,317
Recognized as revenue	(1,278,844)	(29,350)	(1,308,194)
Balance, May 31, 2022	750,390	16,329	766,719
Amounts received	1,324,861	14,575	1,339,436
Recognized as revenue	(1,302,415)	(17,366)	(1,319,781)
Balance, May 31, 2023	\$ 772,836	\$ 13,538	\$ 786,374

## 8. Deferred contributions:

	LGPS	CCBF (a)	Other government funding	Total
Balance, May 31, 2021	\$ 248,065,702	\$ 633,876,269	\$ 612,770	\$ 882,554,741
Amounts received	200,313,827	280,416,420	543,486	481,273,733
Restricted investment income earned	481,921	1,440,612	-	1,922,533
Recognized as revenue	(67,924,138)	(613,952,670)	(283,604)	(682,160,412)
Balance, May 31, 2022	380,937,312	301,780,631	872,652	683,590,595
Amounts received	272,846,883	293,162,604	886,000	566,895,487
Restricted investment income earned	11,497,795	10,948,023	-	22,445,818
Recognized as revenue	(61,760,400)	(456,881,144)	(174,000)	(518,815,544)
Balance, May 31, 2023	\$ 603,521,590	\$ 149,010,114	\$ 1,584,652	\$ 754,116,356

# Financial Statements

## 8. Deferred contributions (continued):

(a) UBCM is required to annually report in accordance with the CCBF Agreement to Canada and the Province by September 30. As at May 31, 2023, included in CCBF deferred contributions is deferred capital contributions of \$86,612 (2022 - \$212,873). During the year ended May 31, 2023, amortization of deferred capital contributions recognized as revenue was \$126,261 (2022 - \$131,255).

## 9. Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets:

Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets is calculated as follows

	2023	2022
Capital assets	\$ 1,725,896	\$ 1,877,226
Intangible asset	101,568	223,452
Amount financed by deferred capital contributions (note 8(a))	(86,612)	(212,873)
<b>Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 1,740,852</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,805</b>

Change in net assets invested in capital and intangible assets is calculated as follows:

	2023	2022
Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, beginning of year	\$ 1,887,805	\$ 2,050,766
Excess of revenue over expenses:		
Amortization of capital assets	(151,330)	(172,332)
Amortization of intangible asset	(121,884)	(121,884)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	126,261	131,255
	(146,953)	(162,961)
<b>Net assets invested in capital and intangible assets, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 1,740,852</b>	<b>\$ 1,887,805</b>

## 10. Internally restricted net assets:

Internally restricted net assets are comprised of reserves restricted by the Executive Committee of UBCM for future expenditures related to specific purposes. The Executive Committee approved the establishment of the following reserves:

(a) Business Stabilization Reserve:

This reserve relates to:

- 50% of budgeted member dues restricted for the purposes of providing a stabilization fund in the event of unforeseen future revenue losses or events; and
- 50% of the normal convention expenses in reserve restricted for the purposes of providing funding in the case of an emergency event such as cancellation of a convention.

(b) Technology Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing sustainable funding to support new technology solutions; to upgrade of legacy systems; and to purchase new and to upgrade existing hardware and software.

(c) Legal Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for the assistance of appeals of court decisions that impact members.

(d) Building and Equipment Maintenance Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for replacing hardware, equipment and furniture at the convention; and for repairs and maintenance at the Richmond office and the Local Government House.

(e) Building Replacement Reserve:

This reserve is restricted for providing funding for the replacement of the Local Government House building.

(f) Amounts restricted are as follows:

	2023	2022
Business Stabilization Reserve	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000
Technology Reserve	1,500,000	1,500,000
Legal Reserve	500,000	500,000
Building and Equipment Maintenance Reserve	500,000	500,000
Building Replacement Reserve	1,120,000	1,120,000
	<u>\$ 5,120,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,120,000</u>

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## 11. Administrative fees:

UBCM charges administrative fees to third parties to recover its costs incurred. Administrative fees are comprised as follows:

	2023	2022
UBCM professional counsel	\$ 143,721	\$ 135,921
Rental fee	2,400	7,200
	<b>\$ 146,121</b>	<b>\$ 143,121</b>

## 12. Trust funds:

UBCM administers the following trust funds where activities and balances are not reflected in UBCM's financial statements:

Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund:

(a) The Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund was established through contributions from members, the Province of British Columbia and other individuals. Scholarship applications and awards are made within the Union executive's general guidelines by the Board of Examiners.

(b) UBCM / Federation of Canadian Municipalities ("FCM") Travel Fund:

UBCM administers the UBCM / FCM Travel Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to assist FCM Board Members with their travel costs to FCM meetings through per capita levies.

(c) Commercial Vehicle License Program Fund:

Participating municipalities remit license fees collected for commercial vehicles to the UBCM in trust. Surplus funds are distributed to the participating municipalities on December 31 annually. UBCM ceased administering the Commercial Vehicle License Program on behalf of local governments on December 31, 2019.

(d) Local Government Leadership Academy ("LGLA"):

UBCM holds investments in trust for the LGLA. The LGLA provides local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators with leadership development opportunities in the interest of improving governance at the local level.

The funds held by UBCM on behalf of the trust funds are as follows:

	2023	2022
Jeff McKelvey Scholarship Fund	\$ 79,003	\$ 79,289
UBCM / FCM Travel Fund	331,627	332,137
Commercial Vehicle License Program Fund	1	373
Local Government Leadership Academy	911,258	894,899
	<b>\$ 1,321,889</b>	<b>\$ 1,306,698</b>

### 13. Commitment:

Effective October 1, 2021, the UBCM extended the operating lease for its office space in Richmond, British Columbia for a period of five years with expiry on June 30, 2027.

The UBCM is committed to annual basic lease payment plus estimated proportionate share of taxes and common area maintenance costs as follows:

2024	\$	106,440
2025		106,620
2026		108,260
2027		130,130
2028		10,840
	\$	462,290

### 14. Municipal Pension Plan:

UBCM and its employees contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The board of Trustees, representing plan members and employers is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits are based on a formula. As at December 31, 2022, the plan has about 240,000 active members and approximately 124,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 43,000 contributors, of which 28 (2022 - 27) are UBCM's employees.

Every three years, an actuarial valuation is performed to assess the financial position of the plan and adequacy of plan funding. The actuary determines an appropriate combined employer and member contribution rate to fund the plan. The actuary's calculated contribution rate is based on the entry age normal cost method, which produces the long-term rate of member and employer contributions sufficient to provide benefits for average future entrants to the plan. This rate may be adjusted for the amortization of any actuarial funding surplus and will be adjusted for the amortization of any unfunded actuarial liability.

The most recent actuarial valuation as at December 31, 2021, indicated a \$3.761 billion funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis. UBCM paid \$278,768 (2022 - \$286,580) for employer contributions to the plan in fiscal 2023.

The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2024, with results available in 2025.

Employers participating in the plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension plan accounting). This is because the plan records accrued liabilities and accrued assets for the plan in aggregate, resulting in no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and cost to the individual employers participating in the plan.

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## 15. Financial risks:

### (a) Market risk:

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. UBCM manages its investment portfolio to earn investment income and invests according to approved policy. UBCM is not involved in any hedging relationships through its operations and does not hold or use any derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. Management does not believe that UBCM is subject to significant market risk arising from its investments as investments are comprised of primarily of money market funds.

### (b) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss. For cash, investments, and accounts receivable, UBCM's credit risk is limited to the carrying value on the statement of financial position. Cash is held by a large provincial credit union, investments in money market funds are held with the Municipal Finance Authority of BC and investments in ETFs are held with a large federal financial institution.

### (c) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that UBCM will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. UBCM manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash. UBCM monitors the cash flow to ensure a sufficient continuity of funding.

### (d) Interest rate risk:

UBCM is not exposed to significant interest risk as it does not have amounts payable that are charged interest.

There has been no change to the financials risk exposures outlined above from 2022.

## 16. Comparative information:

Certain comparative information has been reclassified to conform to this year's financial statement presentation. These reclassifications do not impact the deficiency of revenue over expenses or net assets reported in the prior year.