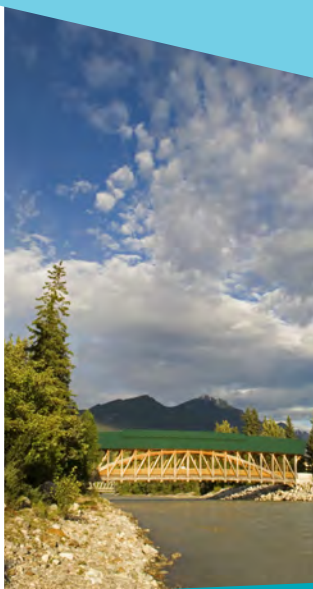


# 2023 UBCM Resolutions Book



# **Resolutions to be Considered at the 2023 UBCM Convention**

## **Vancouver Convention Centre Vancouver, BC**

The resolutions session is presently scheduled for:

### **Wednesday, September 20**

#### **10:40am to 11:55am**

Extraordinary Resolution

Special Resolutions

Endorse Block of Resolutions

Not Endorse Block of Resolutions

No Recommendation Resolutions (*time permitting*)

### **Thursday, September 21**

#### **8:55am to 11:30am**

Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review

No Recommendation Resolutions (*cont'd*)

### **Friday, September 22**

#### **8:00am to 10:45am**

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline [*Policy  
Book 1 blue cover*]

No Recommendation Resolutions (*cont'd*)

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

# Report of the 2023 Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is pleased to welcome newly elected and returning members to Convention. We look forward to the lively debate of this year's resolutions.

## Resolutions

Two hundred and two resolutions were received from the members by the June 30 deadline and have been included in the Resolutions Book. The UBCM Executive are putting forward one Extraordinary Resolutions (ER) and two Special Resolutions (SR) for consideration. This makes a total of 205 resolutions in 2023. They are indexed by both resolution number and by sponsor.

This year, the majority of resolutions were submitted to the five Area Associations prior to being submitted to UBCM. This reflects an on-going trend of increased engagement in the different regions of the province. The Resolutions Committee credits members for submitting resolutions to their Area Associations for consideration at annual spring conventions, and reminds members that Area Association endorsement lends weight to a resolution when it is later considered at UBCM. Under each resolution there is a notation indicating if the resolution was endorsed at an Area Association or submitted directly to UBCM. The Committee would note that UBCM receives the vast majority of direct submission resolutions (those submitted to UBCM rather than to an Area Association) in the final few days up to and including the submission deadline.

## Advance Preparation

The Resolutions Committee is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate over the three days allotted to resolutions. Resolution sponsors should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide information that clarifies the request made by the resolution. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, in order to make it possible to debate as many resolutions as time permits.

## Order of Debate

Debate will begin with the individual consideration of the Extraordinary Resolution (ER), followed by the Special Resolutions (SR).

Next, members will consider the two consent agenda blocks of resolutions, the Endorse Block (EB) of resolutions and the Not Endorse Block (NEB) of resolutions.

Finally, individual consideration of resolutions with the recommendation of No Recommendation (NR) or No Action Required.

If time constraints prevent all resolutions from being considered, policies ensure that resolutions not considered by the Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action, and the sponsors advised of the Executive action.

Resolutions received after the deadline are handled as Late Resolutions, in accordance with the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions. These are printed in the "Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline," which will be posted to the UBCM web site and Convention App on the first day of Convention.

The Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions detail the step-by-step handling of each category of resolution. Members are encouraged to read the Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions that follow this introduction.

## Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review

The Resolutions Committee will present a Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review during the Thursday morning resolutions session. The purpose of this report is to present an overview of the resolutions process review to-date and to survey membership for their feedback. The Report contains five questions which we will ask members to vote on Thursday morning. The results of the survey will help the Resolutions Committee to gauge whether there is member support to make changes to the resolutions process, and if so, in what areas. The 2023 Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review is available as **Appendix A** at the back of this Resolutions Book. The Resolutions Committee urges members to review the Report prior to the session on Thursday morning of Convention.

## 2023 UBCM Resolutions Committee

Councillor Pete Fry, Chair  
Councillor Gord Klassen, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg

## Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Book

Section	Description	Handling
<b>EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS (ER)</b>	Extraordinary resolutions—to amend the UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the <i>UBCM Act</i>	Considered individually
<b>SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS (SR)</b>	UBCM Executive resolutions on priority issues	Considered individually
<b>ENDORSE BLOCK (EB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions that support established UBCM policy</li> <li>Recommendation: Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment</li> </ul>	Considered as a block
<b>NOT ENDORSE BLOCK (NEB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions that are contrary to established UBCM policy</li> <li>Recommendation: Not Endorse</li> </ul>	Considered as a block
<b>NO RECOMMENDATION (NR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New issues</li> <li>Recommendation: No Recommendation or No Action Required</li> </ul>	Considered individually
<b>REFERRED RESOLUTIONS (RR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolutions referred to similar resolutions found elsewhere in the Resolutions Book</li> <li>Resolutions referred to policy papers and/or special sessions held at Convention</li> <li>Resolutions to be referred back to the sponsor or Area Association</li> <li>Resolutions recommended Refer to UBCM Executive</li> </ul>	Not admitted for debate

# Classification in the Resolutions Book

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

## Health and Social Development

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

## Housing

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

## Community Safety

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

## Environment

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

## Regional Districts

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

## Finance

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

## Land Use

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

## Taxation

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

## Transportation

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

## Legislative

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

## Assessment

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

## Community Economic Development

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

## Elections

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

## Selected Issues

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

# Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions

## General Rules

1. Sessions will begin and end promptly at the scheduled hours.
2. Delegates will use the floor microphones when speaking.
3. All elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations attending the Annual Convention of the Union shall be delegates entitled to participate in debates and to vote on any matter before the Convention. Non-elected officials of member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations may attend a Convention as guest delegates and shall not be entitled to the privilege of the floor unless authorized by the Convention and in any case shall not be entitled to vote [Bylaw s. 11]. Guest speakers may be permitted at the discretion of the Executive. [Bylaw s. 14(e)]
4. At all business sessions of the Convention, fifty delegates shall constitute a quorum. [Bylaw s. 12(h)]

## Voting Rules

5. Only elected officials from member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations are entitled to vote. [Bylaw s. 11]
6. Voting on ordinary resolutions normally shall be by a show of voting cards or by electronic voting device, as determined by the Chair.

In cases where the number of votes for or against a motion is difficult to discern using a show of voting cards, the Chair may at their discretion call for a vote using electronic voting devices. The results of a vote using electronic voting devices are final.

Following a show of voting cards, the Chair's decision as to whether a motion is won or lost is final, unless immediately upon the decision of the Chair being declared, ten or more voting delegates then present, by standing, demand an electronic vote, whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a vote using electronic voting devices. The results of a vote using electronic voting devices are final.

In the event that electronic voting devices are not available or not functioning, the Chair may call for a standing vote, whereupon the Chair shall again put the same question to the Convention to be decided by a count of those standing in favour of and against the motion. In the event that the result of the

standing vote is questioned by fifty or more voting delegates then present, or at any time at the discretion of the Chair, the Chair shall order that the matter before the Convention be determined by ballot, and the result of such ballot shall be final. [Bylaw s. 13(a)]

7. Where voting is by ballot, scrutineers shall be appointed by the Chair to distribute the ballot, collect the same, and to count and report the vote. [Bylaw s. 13(b)]

8. In all cases, where the votes of delegates then present, including the vote of the Chair, are equal for and against a question, the question shall be negated, and it shall be the duty of the Chair to so declare. [Bylaw s. 13(c)]

9. No vote by proxy shall be recognized or allowed. [Bylaw s. 13(d)]

10. When voting by show of hands all delegates shall hold their voting card. In the case of a ballot, the voting card must be presented and initialled by the scrutineers before a ballot is issued.

## Rules of Procedure

11. The fundamental principles of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Union so far as they may be applicable without coming in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws. [Bylaw s. 22(a)]

12. The Chair shall enforce order and strict observance of the Bylaws. Subject to an appeal to the meeting sustained by a majority vote of delegates present, the Chair shall have the right to decide all questions of order and the Chair's rulings in this regard shall be final. [Bylaw s. 22(b)]

13. A delegate wishing to move, second or speak to a motion shall address the Chair and shall wait until they are recognized before speaking. Delegates must announce their name, local government office and membership or other qualifications each time they wish to speak [Bylaw s. 22(c)]

14. Delegates must confine their remarks to a maximum speaking period of two minutes. The introducer of a motion is permitted three minutes. [Bylaw s. 22(d)]

15. No delegate may speak more than once on any one question unless and until all other delegates desiring to speak have been heard. [Bylaw s. 22(e)]

16. Any amendment and any motion to withdraw any resolution from consideration of the meeting or to refer the same to the Resolutions Committee, or to any other committee, and any motion affecting the resolution must be moved and seconded from the Convention floor. [Bylaw s. 23(e)]

17. Motions to vary the agenda are permitted in the following circumstances:

a) a motion to adjust the order in which the No Recommendation (NR) resolutions will be considered.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to amend the order of debate of NR resolutions. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the NR resolution will be dealt with immediately, but not before the Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been considered.

A simple majority is required to endorse an NR resolution that has been admitted for debate.

b) a motion to consider a Referred Resolution (RR), which are not considered at Convention.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an RR resolution be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the RR resolution will be dealt with immediately, but not before the Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been considered.

A simple majority is required to endorse an RR resolution that has been admitted for debate.

c) a motion to consider a resolution received after the deadline (late resolution) that was not recommended admit for debate.

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that a late resolution be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?"

– and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the late resolution will be dealt with on Friday morning, immediately following the consideration of any late resolution(s) deemed emergency and recommended for debate, as found in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution received after the deadline (late resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

d) a motion to consider a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book or in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline ("off the floor" resolution). (Conference Rules and Procedures s. 56)

A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an "off the floor" resolution, which is defined as a resolution not included in either the Resolutions Book or Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the "off the floor" resolution will be considered on the Friday of Convention, immediately following consideration of the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book ("off the floor" resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

18. Should discussion continue on any resolution for an undue length of time without reasonable agreement being reached, the resolution may be cleared from the floor by a favourable vote to refer the resolution to the Resolutions Committee for further consideration and report. [Bylaw s. 23(e)]

### **Order of Resolutions: Resolutions Book and Convention Debate**

Resolutions will be organized as follows:

19. EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed "ER" and are included in the first section of the Resolutions Book. Extraordinary Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership. Extraordinary

Resolutions are sponsored by the UBCM Executive and are seeking membership approval to amend UBCM Bylaws or to ask the Province to amend the *UBCM Act*. [Bylaw s. 19]

20. Extraordinary Resolutions: Notice of Extraordinary Resolutions intended to be submitted for consideration shall be given in writing to the Executive Director not later than seventy-five (75) days prior to the date fixed for the Annual Convention, and shall be included in the Resolutions Book distributed to member municipalities, regional districts and First Nations by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. A favourable three-fifths majority vote at an Annual Convention of the delegates then present shall be necessary to adopt an Extraordinary Resolution. [Bylaw s.20]

21. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS: Those which will be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate. These are prefixed “SR” and are included in the second section of the Resolutions Book. Special Resolutions will be considered individually by the membership, following consideration of all Extraordinary Resolutions.

Special Resolutions are sponsored by the UBCM Executive and address priority issues of the membership.

22. RESOLUTION BLOCKS: Resolutions may be placed before the Convention for Plenary debate in one of two blocks being an Endorse Block or a Not Endorse Block as follows:

a) ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

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

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

b) NOT ENDORSE BLOCK OF RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

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

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

23. NO RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

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

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

The No Recommendation resolutions will be considered individually, following consideration of the Not Endorse Block.

Any NR resolutions that are not considered during Convention will be referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration following Convention. Sponsors will be notified of the decision made by Executive regarding their resolution.

24. REFERRED RESOLUTIONS: Those resolutions that include:

- referred to a similar resolution in an Endorse Block or Not Endorse Block;
- referred to a similar No Recommendation resolution;
- referred to a Special Resolution to be put forward at Convention;
- referred to policy papers and/or special sessions held at Convention;
- deemed too regional in nature and will be referred back to either the sponsor or the Area

Association; or

- recommended Refer to UBCM Executive.

These are prefixed “RR” and are included in the sixth section of the Resolutions Book and cross-referenced for delegates’ information.

Referred Resolutions will not be admitted for debate during Convention, unless a favourable motion to vary the agenda is achieved in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 17b)

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

25. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

26. The resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

27. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

28. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from UBCM, the sponsor, to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

29. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

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

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the “Voting Rules”. (Rules s. 5-10)

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

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

Extraordinary Resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

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

31. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

32. The resolution will after reading be properly

before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

33. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

34. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from UBCM, the sponsor, to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

35. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

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

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the “Rules of Procedure”. (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the “Voting Rules”. (Rules s. 5-10)

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

A simple majority is required to endorse a Special Resolution.

Special Resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book.

### **Step-by-Step Rules for the Endorse Block of Resolutions**

37. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee’s recommendations for all Endorse Block resolutions as a block.

38. The Endorse Block will require a mover and a seconder.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have an Endorse Block resolution entered for individual discussion, because they disagree with the recommendation or wish to propose an amendment, shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – “Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?” – and such question shall require a simple majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the Endorse Block and it will be

considered immediately following the Endorse Block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Endorse Block as amended.

v) After the Endorse Block has been considered, any resolution(s) removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

A simple majority is required to endorse the Endorse Block of resolutions, either as amended, or unamended.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution(s) pulled from the Endorse Block for individual consideration.

### **Step-by-Step Rules for the Not Endorse Block of Resolutions**

39. The Chair will introduce a motion to adopt the Resolutions Committee's recommendations for all Not Endorse Block resolutions as a block.

40. The Not Endorse Block will require a mover and a seconder.

i) A voting delegate who wishes to have a Not Endorse Block resolution entered for individual discussion, because they disagree with the recommendation or wish to propose an amendment, shall, after being recognized by the Chair, put forward a motion to remove the resolution from the block and have the resolution entered for discussion.

ii) If duly seconded, the Chair shall put the question – "Shall the resolution be removed from the block and admitted for discussion?" – and such question shall require a simple majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. [Bylaw s. 23(d)]

iii) If the motion passes, then the Chair will remove the resolution from the Not Endorse Block and it will be considered immediately following the Not Endorse Block of resolutions.

iv) The Chair will ask for the endorsement of the Not Endorse Block as amended.

v) After the Not Endorse Block has been considered, any resolution(s) removed for individual consideration will be entered for consideration.

A simple majority is required to endorse the Not Endorse Block of resolutions either as amended or unamended.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution(s) pulled from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration.

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

41. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of each resolution to be dealt with by the Convention to be read.

42. The resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and will not require a mover or a seconder. [Bylaw s. 23(a)]

43. A spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee will then give the views of the Resolutions Committee together with any suggestions and reasons therefore. [Bylaw s. 23(b)i]

44. The Chair shall then call on a delegate from the sponsoring municipality, regional district or First Nation to introduce the resolution. [Bylaw s. 23(b)ii]

45. The Chair will then call for discussion from the floor. [Bylaw s. 23(b)iii]

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

Discussion shall proceed in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure". (Rules s. 11-18)

Voting on the resolution shall proceed in accordance with the "Voting Rules". (Rules s. 5-10)

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

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

No Recommendation resolutions will be dealt with on the Convention floor in the order in which they appear in the Resolutions Book, unless a favourable motion to vary the agenda is achieved in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure". (Rules s. 17a)

### **For Resolutions Received After the Deadline**

47. A resolution submitted following the regular deadline shall be considered "late" and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that the resolution shall be provided to UBCM by the Friday noon preceding the date of the Annual Convention.

48. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be available for discussion after Extraordinary Resolutions and Special Resolutions have been

considered, but not before the time included in the Convention Program.

49. Resolutions received after the deadline shall be examined by the Resolutions Committee and shall be separated into the following categories:

(a) Emergency Resolutions recommended to be placed before the Convention for Plenary discussion.

(b) Resolutions recommended to be referred to the UBCM Executive for appropriate action (note that the Resolution Committee's recommendation for action will be included in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline).

(c) Resolutions not recommended to be admitted for Plenary discussion.

50. Resolutions received after the deadline are classified as "Emergency" and therefore appropriate for Plenary only if the topic is such that it has arisen since the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions.

Resolutions received after the deadline are appropriate to be referred to the Executive if the topic has arisen since the regular submission of resolutions and, in the opinion of the Resolutions Committee, the topic is noncontroversial and in keeping with UBCM policy.

Resolutions received after the deadline are not appropriate for Plenary discussion or referral if they concern a topic that arose or was known before the regular deadline for resolutions.

51. The Chair shall put forward a motion that contains the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee on entering Resolutions Received after the Deadline for discussion which, if duly seconded, will be dealt with as follows: The Chair shall put the question – "Shall the report of the Resolutions Committee and the recommendations therein be adopted?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote.

52. Only Emergency Resolutions shall be dealt with and they shall be dealt with in the order presented in the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

53. The Resolutions Committee's Report on resolutions Received After the Deadline shall be distributed at Convention.

54. The Chair will cause the title and enactment clause of the Emergency Resolution to be read by a spokesperson for the Resolutions Committee.

55. The Emergency Resolution will after reading be properly before the Convention and the procedures for handling No Recommendation resolutions will apply. (Rules s. 41-46)

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution received after the deadline (Emergency Resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

### **For Resolutions Not Included in the Resolutions Book or in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline**

56. A delegate may put forward a motion on the Convention floor to request that an "off the floor" resolution, which is defined as a resolution not included in either the Resolutions Book or Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, be considered. The motion will require a seconder. If seconded, the Chair will put the question: "Shall the motion before the meeting be admitted for debate?" – and such question shall require a three-fifths majority vote before the motion can be put forward for discussion by the Convention. If a favourable vote is achieved, the "off the floor" resolution will be considered on the Friday of Convention, immediately following consideration of the Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline.

A simple majority is required to endorse a resolution not included in the Resolutions Book ("off the floor" resolution) that has been admitted for debate.

The Chair, at their discretion, may require that any such motion be submitted in writing and may require that copies be provided to all delegates present before consideration thereof. [Bylaw s. 14(c)]

57. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Executive may submit any matters not requiring Extraordinary Resolution to any Convention for consideration or action at any time. [Bylaw s. 14(d)]

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## Section ER Resolutions

Section ER resolutions are Extraordinary Resolutions and they seek to amend the UBCM Bylaws or the provincial *UBCM Act*. A three-fifths majority is required to endorse an Extraordinary Resolution.

Included in Section ER are resolutions numbered:

**ER1**

## Section ER

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### ER1      **Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Change the Resolutions Submission Deadline**

### **UBCM Executive**

Whereas Section 14(a) of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Bylaws presently sets the submission deadline for resolutions as June 30;

And whereas UBCM has received up to a quarter of its total annual member resolutions within one week of the submission deadline, making it challenging for the Executive to adequately review and provide comprehensive comments on all of the resolutions within the current reporting deadlines;

And whereas a submission deadline set two weeks earlier to June 15 would provide the Executive with enough additional time to ensure that all resolutions receive adequate review and commentary prior to being distributed to the membership for consideration:

Therefore be it resolved that Section 14(a) of the UBCM Bylaws be amended to read:

(a) All resolutions for discussion at the Annual Convention (the “Annual Resolutions”) shall be forwarded to the Executive Director not later than June 15 and the Executive Director shall arrange for the distribution of the same and forward a copy of all resolutions to be dealt with to the members at least thirty (30) days before the date of the Annual Convention.

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

*UBCM Executive comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that that while approximately 70 percent of resolutions are submitted to the Area Associations, that still leaves 30 percent that are submitted directly to UBCM. Of those direct submission resolutions, the vast majority arrive, last minute, in the final days up to and including the submission deadline of June 30.*

*With the UBCM Committee and Executive meetings occurring in mid-July, staff, the Resolutions Committee and the Executive do not have sufficient time to adequately review and comment on the resolutions that come in at the deadline. This also means there isn't sufficient time to work with the sponsors should their resolutions require fine-tuning (for clarity and format).*

*Moving the submission deadline ahead two weeks, to June 15, will give staff, the Resolutions Committee and the Executive the time they need to properly review the last minute resolutions and ensure a consistent level of quality.*

*Section 14(a) of the UBCM Bylaws set the submission deadline, so a change to the submission deadline requires an amendment to the UBCM Bylaws. Amendment of the UBCM Bylaws may only be done through an Extraordinary Resolution.*

*The Committee notes that the membership supported a 2013 Extraordinary Resolution, 2013-ER1, that sought membership approval to change the fiscal year end from June 30 to May 31 in order to give UBCM accounting staff sufficient time to prepare financial year end reports for the mid-July Executive meetings.*

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

## **Section SR Resolutions**

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

Included in Section SR are resolutions numbered:

**SR1 – SR2**

## Section SR

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### Health and Social Development

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#### SR1 Health Equity for Rural and Remote Communities

#### UBCM Executive

Whereas rural and remote communities in BC experience significant health care challenges, including a lack of access to emergency services, on-demand mental health and addictions facilities, physicians, paramedics, and other health professionals;

And whereas the long distances, limited public and private transportation options to travel to the nearest health care service, and high costs for accommodations to stay near those sites while receiving treatment, are substantial barriers for people living in rural communities across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government introduce metrics and policy to identify reasonable travel distances from each community to health care services and facilities, to ensure transparent, accountable, and equitable health care access for those living in rural and remote communities in BC;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government move quickly to increase the health care workforce in rural and remote communities by:

- creating additional licensing and training opportunities for internationally-trained medical graduates;
- establishing recruitment and retention programs for health care professionals willing to work in rural areas;
- approving physician assistants to work alongside physicians and other health professionals; and
- expanding the use of nurse practitioners and pharmacists to increase access to health services.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing the need for additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities in BC, including:*

*Rural and Remote Health Care Services and Primary Care Providers:*

- *providing more funding or other assistances for placing medical locums in small, rural communities (2022-EB19);*
- *building a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services (2020-NR64);*
- *ensuring equitable access to health services in rural BC with adequate funding to support that model (2019-B62);*
- *providing solutions to ensure medical specialists and services are available in rural BC (2019-B63); and*
- *requiring resources and permission for local physicians to perform minor operating procedures in remote rural hospitals (2006-B154).*

*Rural and Remote Ambulance Paramedics:*

- *managing recruitment and retention of paramedics, maintaining adequate staffing levels and delivery of service in rural communities (2022-EB5, 2022-EB7, 2021-EB61, 2021-EB62, 2020-EB74);*
- *more advanced care and critical care paramedics in rural ambulance stations (2017-B133); and*
- *restoring funding to the BC Ambulance Service so that citizens could expect a timely response from qualified personnel throughout the province (2007-B50).*

*Education of Health Care Providers to Work in Rural and Remote Communities:*

- *working with universities and communities to encourage graduates of medical programs to practice*

- and stay in rural areas of BC (2011-B60); and
- developing appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112).

#### *Rural and Remote Mental Health and Addiction Services:*

- seeking more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities (2019-B61);
- seeking, in part, more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC (2010-B145);
- seeking more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province (2007-B51); and
- seeking more regional detox centres (2006-B8).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking additional resources for health care in communities throughout BC, including:

#### *Health Care Services and Primary Care Providers:*

- supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146); and
- improving physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals (2018-B143, 2017-B42, 2015-B68, 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41, 2003-B104).

#### *Ambulance Paramedics:*

Seeking adequate funding for province wide ambulance services (2013-B44, 2013-B142, 2010-B45, 2007-B50, 2007-B156, 2006-B48, 2003-B33).

#### *Education of Health Care Providers:*

Education and training opportunities for more health care professionals (2009-B148, 2008-B49) and removing obstacles for foreign trained doctors and health professionals who are willing to work in BC (2009-B148).

#### *Mental Health and Addiction Services:*

Improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (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).

The Committee notes that members have submitted several resolutions this year addressing rural and remote health care services: 1.03 (attraction and retention of rural primary care providers), 1.04 (rural paramedics), 1.09 (rural physician assistants), 1.13 (rural health care shortages and closures), 1.20 (rural withdrawal services), 1.2 (rural addictions treatment), 1.25 (rural primary and allied care providers), 1.31 (rural mental health and addictions treatment). The Resolutions Committee has attempted to capture the requests made by each of these resolutions in this Special Resolution.

See resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14

#### *UBCM Executive comments:*

#### **Background**

The UBCM Executive is proposing 2023-SR4 given the continuing health care crisis in rural and remote communities in BC.

UBCM received eight (8) resolutions on this issue for consideration at the 2023 Convention (RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14) which highlight concerns around the need for access to emergency

services, on-demand mental health and addictions facilities, physicians, paramedics, and other health professionals.

*Additional concerns raised by Executive include the long distances to access health care, limited public and private transportation options to travel to the nearest health care service, and high costs for accommodations to stay near those sites while receiving treatment, which are substantial barriers for people living in rural communities across the Province.*

### **UBCM Policy Position**

*In addition to the resolutions identified in the Resolutions Committee comments, the UBCM endorsed resolution 2022 Special Resolution (SR)1 which noted:*

*Whereas all British Columbians, notably families, seniors, children and people with chronic and acute health care needs are facing an immediate health care crisis due to the closure of hospitals and emergency rooms in their communities;*

*And whereas there is a critical need for additional family physicians, emergency room doctors, specialists, paramedics, and nurses across the province:*

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government take urgent steps to ensure hospitals, emergency rooms, and ambulance services are open and available 24 hours a day;*

*And be it further resolved that the provincial government increase funding and training opportunities for health care professionals so that all residents of British Columbia can access an appropriate and necessary level of care.*

*The membership has also called for greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC (2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91, 2009-B148).*

### **Current Status**

*At the 2022 Convention, UBCM held a plenary session on Re-envisioning Health Care in BC. The session noted that BC communities and their residents were experiencing unprecedented challenges with the health care system, which included the closure of emergency rooms, long wait times for surgery, difficulties in finding a family physician, problems with the recruitment and retention of health care professionals, and inconsistent access to ambulance service. This session explored how these issues were affecting communities in all areas of the Province, and in both urban and rural contexts; and discussed ideas for transforming the health care system in BC.*

*Presenters included Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister, Ministry of Health; Gaby Wickstrom, Mayor, Town of Port McNeill; Merlin Blackwell, Mayor, District of Clearwater; Pete Fry, Councillor, City of Vancouver; Troy Clifford, President, Ambulance Paramedics and Emergency Dispatchers of BC; George Abbott, President, Circle Square Solutions Inc.; Dr. Kerry Jang, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia; and Dr. Ray Markham, Rural Family Physician.*

*The provincial government recently created the Longitudinal Family Physician (LFP) Payment Model which is an alternative to the fee-for-service model to support physicians in family practice who provide longitudinal family medicine care. The model supports family physicians by compensating for time, patient interactions, and the number and complexity of patients in their practice. On February 1, 2023, eligible family physicians in BC who registered for the LFP Payment Model will be able to start billing under the LFP Payment Model.*

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

## Community Safety

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### SR2 911 Emergency Communications Service Delivery

### UBCM Executive

Whereas there is a growing need for a more resilient and reliable emergency communications system, especially in light of the increasing severity and frequency of disasters and emergencies, 911 service disruptions and a growing annual emergency call volume;

And whereas 911 is a universally recognized number for British Columbians to call when there is an emergency (e.g. medical issue), but 911 calls related to mental health are oftentimes directed to police agencies as the first point of contact;

And whereas the improvement of the 911 emergency communications system has been a long-standing priority for local governments, as well as the UBCM Executive, which has made calls for improvements related to funding, governance and standards:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC work with local governments to modernize the 911 emergency communications system in a manner that is consistent with recent UBCM advocacy, and which includes the following:

- Implementation of a 911 call answer levy on cellular devices, to address current and future financial challenges associated with the delivery of 911 services;
- Development of consistent 911 service standards, without increasing service costs for local governments;
- Creation of a provincial 911 governance model, with local government representation, to address policy and service standard issues, and manage revenue; and
- Integration of mental health call options within the 911 framework.

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking the creation of a call answer levy on cellular devices to fund 911 emergency services (2021-EB7, 2012-LR1, 2011-B13, 2009-B10, 2004-SR1). Last year, UBCM members endorsed a more wide-ranging resolution (2022-EB42), seeking for the Province to work with UBCM to develop a new provincial mandate and structure for 911 service delivery, with a focus on improving the governance, funding and operations.*

*Additionally, the UBCM Executive, in October 2022, delivered correspondence calling for a governance model, consistent service standards, and a provincial strategy to modernize 911 services, in addition to emphasizing the need for a call answer levy on cellular devices.*

*The integration of mental health call options within the 911 framework is an emerging advocacy issue for the UBCM Executive. In August 2022, the UBCM Executive and Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable requested that the Province create and fund a coordinated continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues, including through the addition of a mental health option within 911 call options. This request is consistent with recommendations delivered by the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act in April 2022.*

*In March 2023, the Province announced funding towards the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911), a federally mandated initiative to modernization 911 networks and infrastructure across Canada. Funding includes:*

- *\$90 million towards E-Comm 911 technological upgrades and other work associated with the transition that would otherwise be funded by local governments; and*
- *\$60 million to UBCM to support local government transition costs.*

See resolution RR17

UBCM Executive comments:

### **Background**

*The Executive is bringing forward this Special Resolution as a means to consolidate recent UBCM resolutions and advocacy pertaining to 911 emergency communications service delivery. Requests related to funding, governance, standards and the integration of mental health call options have all been featured as part of recent UBCM resolutions and/or other advocacy directed towards the provincial government.*

*Many of these requests have coincided with the introduction of Next Generation 911 (NG911), which is a federally mandated initiative to modernization 911 networks and infrastructure across Canada. NG911 digital-based infrastructure and technology will enable enhanced emergency communications capabilities, including real time texting, audio and video streaming, picture messaging and precise location determination. This new platform also offers the ability to add new emergency response functions, including the integration of mental health call options into the current police, fire and ambulance dispatch framework.*

*These requests are also a reflection of the current state of 911 emergency communications service delivery in British Columbia. The implementation of NG911 will likely increase the annual cost of 911 service delivery, which will be borne by local governments. The financial pressures to fund the 911 system are even more noteworthy given the lack of a province-wide call answer levy on cellular devices. While most Canadian provinces have already implemented such a levy, BC local governments are only able to pay for this service through property taxes or a levy on those that still use landline phones.*

*Data provided by E-Comm 911 shows that annual call volume has increased over the past several years, putting substantial pressure on the dispatch system. Many 911 calls are also mental health related, and without a dedicated call option, affected individuals are often passed to agencies who are not and should not be expected to take the place of trained mental health professionals.*

*While the 911 emergency communications system has become province-wide, with E-Comm handling 99 percent of calls, BC still lacks a provincial 911 governance structure. This means that many local governments are not able to provide direct input towards the 911 services that they fund and receive. This has made it difficult to develop, among other things, province-wide standards, which would ensure all areas of the province are receiving the same level of service.*

### **UBCM Policy Position**

*The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking the creation of a call answer levy on cellular devices to fund 911 emergency services (2021-EB7, 2012-LR1, 2011-B13, 2009-B10, 2004-SR1). Furthermore, in October 2019, the UBCM Executive called on the Province to establish a call answer levy on cellular devices, in addition to creating a new governance entity to manage associated revenue.*

*Last year, UBCM members endorsed a more wide-ranging resolution (2022-EB42), seeking for the Province to work with UBCM to develop a new provincial mandate and structure for 911 service delivery, with a focus on improving the governance, funding and operations.*

*Noting the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, recent 911 service disruptions and growing annual call volume, the UBCM Executive, in October 2022, delivered a more comprehensive request to the Province. Correspondence called for a governance model, consistent service standards, and a provincial strategy to modernize 911 services, in addition to emphasizing the need for a call answer levy on cellular devices.*

*The integration of mental health call options within the 911 framework is an emerging issue prioritized by the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable (LGPMR) and UBCM Executive. In August 2022, the UBCM Executive and LGPMR requested that the Province create and fund a coordinated continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues, including through the addition of a*

mental health option within 911 call options. This request is consistent with recommendations delivered by the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act in April 2022.

### **Current Status**

*In 2019, six years after a UBCM working group had examined the introduction of a province-wide call answer levy on cellular devices, the Province initiated a comprehensive review of 911 emergency communication service delivery. This review was abruptly concluded in February 2020, prior to any meaningful changes being implemented.*

*The Province and UBCM, in spring 2023, examined local government transition costs associated with Next Generation 911. Following these discussions, the Province finalized a \$150 million investment towards the implementation of NG911, including:*

- \$90 million towards E-Comm 911 technological upgrades and other work associated with the transition that would otherwise be funded by local governments; and*
- \$60 million to UBCM to support local government transition costs.*

*UBCM has also continued to engage the Province regarding long-term changes to 911 emergency communications service delivery. Most recently, UBCM Executive members raised this issue as part of an April 2023 meeting with the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. UBCM and provincial staff continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss challenges, concerns and long-term solutions to improve 911 emergency communications service delivery.*

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

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

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

EB Resolutions are:

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

Included in Section EB are resolutions numbered:

**EB1 – EB73**

## Section EB

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### Health and Social Development

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#### **EB1 Investment in Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery**

**Kamloops,  
Kelowna**

Whereas additional mental health and substance use programs and associated funding is needed to meet the complex needs of people living with challenges in BC communities that has contributed to an unprecedented level of deaths, poverty, criminal activity, social disorder, stress on first responders and health care professionals contributing to increased pressure on hospitals;

And whereas the lack of innovative models to treat patients with severe, complex mental health and substance misuse conditions has contributed to a health care and safety crisis in communities, urban and rural, throughout British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to further increase investment into 'on demand' mental health treatment, withdrawal management and substance use programs throughout the province, that meets the diverse needs of the people suffering from severe substance misuse and mental health challenges;

And be it further resolved that an update to "A Pathway to Hope" strategy includes a plan to fully fund and establish regional campuses of care, similar to the innovative model of Red Fish Healing Centre, to provide a safe, stable and compassionate environment for people requiring highly specialized mental health support with severe mental illness diagnoses.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed many resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (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).*

*See resolutions EB2, EB3, NR7*

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

#### **EB2 Treatment on Demand**

**Maple Ridge**

Whereas the addictive substances emergency claims the lives of many British Columbians on a daily basis in addition to its adverse economic effects;

And whereas treatment facilities have a wait time that is beyond that of those struggling with active addiction further exacerbating the costs to British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to fund, develop, and implement a wide spectrum of treatment on demand programs.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to address the on-going toxic drug crisis, including:*

- *2022-SR2, which called for funding and staff for security, clean-up, and social services at harm reduction locations and surrounding neighbourhoods in BC communities, as well as a share of the \$150 million settlement from Purdue Pharma Canada to local governments to help cover the costs associated with the opioid and overdose crisis, such as police, fire and bylaw departments;*
- *2021-EB56 which called for a safe drug supply;*
- *2021-NR44 which called for a safe drug supply and that the supply be free;*
- *2019-B142, which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs; and*
- *2020-SR8, which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 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).*

*See resolutions EB1, EB3, NR7*

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

### **EB3      Safe Drug Supply**

**Victoria**

Whereas the British Columbia provincial government declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016, in response to rapidly escalating fatalities caused by the unregulated and toxic drug supply;

And whereas despite some action by the provincial government to mitigate harm linked to the unregulated drug supply, interventions to-date have not been proportionate to the scale and scope of the crisis, with over 11,390 preventable deaths of British Columbians due to accidental overdose linked back to the toxic drug supply between April 2016 and December 31, 2022;

And whereas offering a safe, predictable, and regulated supply of drugs (“safe supply”) is widely recognized by health officials, policy makers, academic researchers, and advocates as a key intervention for addressing the drug poisoning crisis, and structural, policy and legal impediments to a “safe supply” are yet to be resolved:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for increased access to accessible, culturally safe, and reliable safe supply in collaboration with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders to create an educational resource for engaging civic actors on the benefits of safe supply services as part of a continuum of critical health interventions including harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery, enforcement, and housing with the objective of reducing unregulated drug poisoning deaths.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two recent resolutions that sought a safe drug supply, 2021-EB56 and 2021-NR44. In particular, 2021-NR44 asked that the safe drug supply be free.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions seeking harm reduction measures to address the on-going toxic drug crisis, including:*

- *2022-SR2, which called for funding and staff for security, clean-up, and social services at harm reduction locations and surrounding neighbourhoods in BC communities, as well as a share of the \$150 million settlement from Purdue Pharma Canada to local governments to help cover the costs associated with the opioid and overdose crisis, such as police, fire and bylaw departments;*
- *2019-B142, which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs; and*
- *2020-SR8, which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.*

*See resolutions EB1, EB2, NR7*

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

**EB4                      Reimbursing Local Governments for Medical Services                      Prince George**  
**Provided by Local Government Fire and Rescue Service**

Whereas communities across British Columbia are facing a significant increase in calls to respond to emergency medical incidents;

And whereas local governments provide for their fire departments to support prehospital patient care in their community by providing emergency medical services that assist the Provincial Government's BC Ambulance Service;

And whereas the costs associated with supporting prehospital care by local government fire departments has increased significantly in relation to response hours and increased use of first aid and other medical supplies and that such costs are funded solely through local government property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a funding model to compensate local governments who provide emergency medical services through their fire and rescue services fulfilling the responsibility of the provincial government with consideration given to community population and the fire department's authorized level of emergency medical response.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).*

*See resolutions EB5, EB6*

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

**EB5                      Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire                      Okanagan-Similkameen RD**  
**Department First Responder Programs**

Whereas in rural and remote areas ambulances are not able to get to medical calls in a timely manner because of distances travelled and members of community fire departments are able to arrive on scene much more quickly;

And whereas when first on scene first responders of community fire departments can assist the ambulance team by accessing the patient, gathering information, taking vitals and packaging the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival;

And whereas community fire departments are funded through local government taxes while BC Emergency Health Services are funded through provincial monies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for rural and remote volunteer fire department first responder programs.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for ~~rural and remote volunteer~~ fire department first responder programs.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).*

*The Committee is proposing an amendment as more than just rural and remote volunteer fire departments are seeking compensation from the Ministry of Health for pre-hospital care.*

*See resolutions EB4, EB6*

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

## **EB6      BC Emergency Health Services/Demands on Local Governments      Port Alberni**

Whereas medical first responder call volume data taken locally and provincially reflects an upward trajectory year over year;

And whereas this increased trajectory of medical first responder call volume is disproportionately higher for municipal emergency responders than those reported by British Columbia Emergency Health Services [BCEHS];

And whereas BCEHS is responsible for the delivery, co-ordination and governance of emergency health services and can and does consent to other organizations, primarily fire departments, providing these services as part of a co-ordinated response;

And whereas a number of challenges are present in achieving a coordinated approach to the access and provision of emergency health services including that of increased service demands congruent to the varied capacity for fire departments to provide first responder services across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Health to work with local governments and BCEHS to improve the coordinated approach to emergency health services that results in adequate funding and staffing levels so as to not overburden local governments [fire departments].

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Ministry of Health to work with local governments and BCEHS to improve the coordinated approach to emergency health services that results in adequate funding and staffing levels so as to not overburden local government ~~[fire departments]~~ **first responders**.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two similar resolutions which asked for better coordination between BCEHS and local governments, whose fire departments may be called upon to provide pre-hospital emergency care (2022-EB3, 2019-SR3).*

*Resolution 2022-EB3 asked the Province to require BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to report regularly to local government prior to the initiation of a policy where that policy may have an impact on local government resources or the safety of our mutual constituents.*

*Resolution 2019-SR3 asks the Province, BCEHS and BC local governments to work together to implement a co-ordinated approach to pre-hospital care, including outlining the roles and responsibilities of fire departments based on local need; and confirming that first responders are being notified of events where they can best contribute to patient care.*

*See resolutions EB4, EB5*

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

## **EB7 Primary Care Clinic Funding**

## **Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas the investment in primary care is consistent with the strategic direction of the Ministry of Health and supports a team-based primary care model;

And whereas new physicians are choosing team based health and provincial incentives are targeting new graduates who want to work with teams of other clinicians;

And whereas the approval of new Rural Growth Plans and expansion of their Primary Care Networks includes capital funding to help streamline access to primary care for patients and families:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional funding, according to regionally defined needs, for expansion of existing Primary Care Networks to address regular health care needs closer to home.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for more resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks (2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2016-B44).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.*

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

## **EB8 Ministry of Health Communication**

## **Williams Lake**

Whereas health care is a critical need for all British Columbians;

And whereas transparent and open communication between levels of government is required, and citizens should be assured their leaders are working together as they were elected to do:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking more and improved consultation between the Province and local governments on a variety of topics, most recently:*

- *2022-EB75 which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will impacted by provincial policy;*
- *2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;*
- *2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land;*
- *2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people; and*
- *2019-SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives.*

*The membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).*

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

# Housing

**EB9**

**Homes for People Action Plan**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas on April 3, 2023, Premier Eby announced that the Province of BC is taking action to address the housing shortage by proposing to implement the Homes for People Action Plan that includes provisions to allow up to four homes on a parcel where currently only one home is permitted;

And whereas when the Homes for People Action Plan is implemented through legislation, such legislation, while very appropriate in many urban settings, could, in numerous situations, be in conflict with the ability to service an influx of residents, direct density away from floodplains and other hazards, or protect areas of ecological importance:

Therefore be it resolved that Premier Eby be requested to ensure that legislation to implement the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

Therefore be it resolved that ~~Premier Eby~~ **the Province of BC** be requested to ensure that legislation to implement the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Premier to ensure that the implementation of the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking more and improved consultation between the Province and local governments on a variety of topics, most recently:*

- *2022-EB75 which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will be impacted by provincial policy;*
- *2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;*
- *2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land;*
- *2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people; and*
- *2019-SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).*

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

## **EB10 BC Housing Delays**

**Williams Lake**

Whereas there is a significant housing shortage in most areas of the province;

And whereas BC Housing has been put in place to assist communities with this issue, especially with low income/emergency housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to commit to a timeline to address the ongoing delays with BC Housing that contribute to the lack of progress in providing housing for communities that are experiencing an ongoing housing crisis.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to commit to a timeline to address the ongoing delays and lack of progress that place communities in continued crisis.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 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).*

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

## **EB11 Affordable Housing Infrastructure Upgrades**

**Cranbrook**

Whereas BC local governments recognize the current housing crisis and lack of affordable housing across BC;

And whereas local government infrastructure deficits and land availability may be a significant barrier to the creation or provision of affordable housing;

And whereas provincial grant opportunities generally do not fund new or upgraded linear infrastructure or land acquisition:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for new or upgraded linear water and sewer infrastructure and land acquisition that would directly contribute to the creation of affordable housing in BC communities.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for new or upgraded ~~linear water and sewer~~ infrastructure and land acquisition that would directly contribute to the creation of affordable housing in BC communities.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for new or upgraded infrastructure and land acquisition that would directly contribute to the creation of affordable housing in BC communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership in 2019 endorsed a resolution requesting that the Province conduct a comprehensive review of existing funding mechanisms for financing growth-related infrastructure services, including Development Cost Charges and Amenity Agreements (2019-SR2). The Province and UBCM are currently working to review the local government finance system in BC under an MOU on Local Government Financial Resiliency.*

*Membership has also endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-NR14, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55), and wide ranging resolutions calling for increased infrastructure funding (e.g. 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35). The Committee is proposing an amendment to better capture the broad array of growth related infrastructure needs.*

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

## **EB12 Development Approvals**

**Cranbrook**

Whereas the Province is seeking to increase the speed of development across British Columbia amidst a shortage of affordable housing and housing supply options for British Columbia;

And whereas development approval processes within municipalities can be streamlined to expedite approvals;

And whereas these development approvals can be significantly delayed by the development review processes within the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, or BC Hydro;

And whereas UBCM recognizes the efforts by the Province to try and improve the development approval process through the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province to expand the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and further expedite the review timeframe for all development applications that require approval from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and BC Hydro.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province to ~~expand the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) and further~~ expedite the review timeframe for all development applications that require approval from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and BC Hydro.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to review its permitting processes that relate to local government development and infrastructure projects and investigate opportunities to streamline those processes (2021-LR3, 2020-EB52, 2019-B153).*

*The Committee also notes that the need to expedite Provincial approvals was identified in the 2019 DAPR report, and that the Province has now initiated work to streamline Provincial approvals.  
(<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023WLRS0003-000033>)*

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

## **EB13 Expanding Property Transfer Tax Exemptions**

**Burnaby**

Whereas the high cost of land is one of the greatest barriers to non-market housing development in British Columbia;

And whereas municipalities have been asked by the Province to support the development of new non-market housing developments, including by forgoing market value of their own lands to provide to not-for-profit organizations at a nominal rate and for extended periods of time to facilitate the development of affordable housing;

And whereas municipalities view not-for-profit organizations as partners in non-market housing development, regardless of their registration status as a society or charity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review the Property Transfer Tax and other provincial legislation to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies, co-operatives or corporations incorporated and in good standing under the BC *Societies Act*, *Cooperative Association Act*, or the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing from payment of Property Transfer Tax to eliminate this financial burden on the creation of non-market housing.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies, co-operatives or corporations incorporated and in good standing under the BC *Societies Act*, *Cooperative Association Act*, or the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing from payment of Property Transfer Tax to eliminate this financial burden on the creation of non-market housing.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR14 which asked the provincial government support the recommendation of the Canada-British Columbia Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability, to develop a provincial acquisition strategy and grant program that would allow non-profit housing providers to purchase and repair aging rental stock for the purposes of maintaining existing affordable housing.*

*Of note, the second whereas clause in resolution 2022-NR14 included reference to a statement by the Expert Panel on Housing Supply that "...BC government should exempt non-profit organizations from the property transfer tax for building acquisitions that will be used to provide affordable housing:"*

*The Committee further notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that requested the provincial government allocate a portion of revenues from the Property Transfer Tax to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability (2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).*

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

## **EB14 Municipal Authority for Empty Homes Tax**

**Burnaby**

Whereas encouraging unoccupied residential properties to become available for long-term occupancy represents an opportunity to increase the availability of housing in our communities;

And whereas the authority to adopt an Empty Homes Tax is not currently available to municipalities operating outside of the *Vancouver Charter*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Community Charter* to enable municipalities to administer a specific property tax on unoccupied Class 1 Residential properties, with net revenues to be used by the municipality towards affordable housing projects.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).*

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

## **EB15 Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms**

**Revelstoke**

Whereas resolution 2018-A4 – Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms' Responsibility in Compliance asked the Province to negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short-term rental (STR) platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service, was endorsed by UBCM;

And whereas the provincial response was to continue to closely monitor the issue of STRs and their impact on communities across BC;

And whereas the local governments continue to recognize the impact of short-term rentals on the long-term rental market by reducing the amount of available long-term rentals for permanent residents and increasing the speculative value of traditional residential properties;

And whereas the required staffing resources to pursue active and reactive enforcement of illegal short-term rentals is beyond the ability of smaller local governments to be able to effectively respond to;

And whereas the tracking of illegal short-term rentals requires significant resources (time and capital) from small local governments as booking platforms are designed to withhold location details of rental properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Housing to expedite the drafting and subsequent consideration of provincial legislation that would accomplish the following:

- Require short-term rental booking platforms to verify that local government approvals have been obtained, and those that are advertising without appropriate approvals would be removed from the booking platform;
- Require short-term rental booking platforms to list the civic address of the rental property to support with local municipal tracking and verification of compliance; and
- Provide additional enforcement mechanisms for local governments with respect to noncompliant operators including, but not limited to, the issuance of municipal tickets that, should they not be challenged or paid, could be placed on property taxes.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for all three of the requests listed in the enactment clause.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing regulation of short-term rentals, including:*

- *2022-NR11 which asked the Province to develop short-term rental enforcement solutions for all local governments, such as broadening authority to enforce compliance through simplified ticketing procedures, collection of evidence and the establishment of proof based on online investigation of accommodation listings, and expanding options to compel payment of unpaid fines through alternative mechanisms such as applying uncollected ticket fines to property taxes; and*
- *2018-A4 which asked the Province to negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short-term rental platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service.*

*UBCM's housing strategy included a recommendation that the Province should investigate, in consultation with local governments, options for regulating short-term rentals with the goals of:*

- *enforceability;*
- *retaining local government choice; and*
- *providing local governments with more clarity, and regulatory power where needed.*

*UBCM's housing strategy also put forward the model of 'platform accountability' as one option for the Province to consider, because it places the onus on short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb for enforcement, alleviating the burden on local governments. The 2021 Report of the Joint UBCM-Province Advisory Group on Short-Term Rentals subsequently made a range of recommendations consistent with past UBCM policy that are intended to give local governments greater flexibility and supports towards effective regulation of short-term rentals.*

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

## **EB16 Review of Shelter Aid For Elderly Renters Subsidies**

**Vernon**

Whereas the rent ceiling caps for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program have not been increased since 2018 and, as they range from \$734 to \$803, in no way reflect the reality of market rents paid by seniors in the Province;

And whereas their income cannot exceed \$30,600 for a single renter in Vancouver or \$29,352 in the rest of the province leaving seniors living on less than minimum wage unable to access rent supports;

And whereas the average income of a SAFER recipient is \$23,660, and two out of three seniors who rent in this province receive no subsidy from government;

And whereas in addition to the overall inadequacy of the subsidy amount resulting from the rent and income ceilings, the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) formula can result in a senior's subsidy being decreased if their rent increase is greater than their income increases, due to the formula not being adjusted for inflation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the formula used to calculate the SAFER subsidy to accurately reflect both the current incomes of low-income seniors and the average market rents throughout the province as calculated by CMHC;

And be it further resolved that these amounts be reviewed and updated on an annual basis going forward.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed two similar resolutions addressing the SAFER program:*

- 2022-EB28 which asked the Province to increase to the maximum rent ceilings and monthly payment amounts through SAFER, and that regular increases be made in maximum rent ceilings and monthly payments in subsequent years; and*
- 2013-B53 which asked the Province to adjust the maximum monthly rent levels under the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program to reflect the actual prevailing cost of housing for seniors across the province and eliminate the requirement of annual re-application.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions addressing subsidies for renters and seniors, including:*

- 2017-B51 which asked the Province to plan system-wide initiatives to support seniors' healthy, stable and successful aging to limit social isolation, varieties of abuse and limited access to needed housing;*
- 2015-B45 which asked the Province to increase income assistance shelter allowances and expand and lengthen rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing; and*
- 2014-B42 which asked the Province to increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in communities affected by industrial development.*

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

## **EB17      Emergency Homelessness Prevention Strategies to Protect Renters in Core Housing Need**

**Victoria**

Whereas the Province of BC is making historic investments in affordable housing, has initiated zoning and regulatory reform and has introduced demand-side measures to address the housing crisis;

And whereas despite these actions, 13.4 percent of British Columbians live in core housing need, and as of May 2023 the average listed rental price for a two-bedroom unit in BC is \$2,714;

And whereas the share of units affordable to renters with the lowest 20 percent of incomes in Vancouver and Victoria is one percent;

And whereas province wide from October 2021 to 2022 the average change in rent on turnover of a two-bedroom unit was a 27 percent increase, vacant units in Victoria rented for 33 percent more than occupied units, in Vancouver the average rent for unoccupied units surpassed the overall average rent for occupied units by 43 percent, residents of BC face the highest rates of eviction in Canada, and 85 percent of those evictions are no-fault evictions;

And whereas to prevent homelessness and protect low-income renter households, emergency homelessness prevention strategies are required:

Therefore be it resolved that the province explores ways, in at least the major urban centers, to:

- Rapidly increase the rental stock, especially for households in core housing need, through provincial legislation and programs that will, directly or indirectly, enable a rapid and significant increase in the approvals, construction and supply of rental housing in areas near transit, active transportation infrastructure, and community destinations (workplaces, schools, shopping);
- Mitigate the number of no-fault evictions in BC using methods such as gathering data on and investigating rent increases and evictions through adequate resourcing of the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB), regulate providing RTB rules and regulations to tenants upon signing a lease, increasing the compensation owed to tenants from landlords when exercising no-fault evictions, and regulating price increases in between tenancies to be reasonable and fair; and
- Close the gap between households in core housing need and rental housing costs including considering income supports such as income and disability assistance, guaranteed annual incomes, and an increase to the province's already successful rental assistance programs for households in core housing need until supply meets demand in the rental housing market.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution addressing protecting renters in core need in all of the ways noted in the enactment clause.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported a variety of resolutions seeking assistance to renters, including:*

- *2022-EB28, 2017-B51, 2013-B53 all of which sought additional aid and support for senior renters;*
- *2022-NR13 which asked for a review of the eligibility criteria for rental assistance to help qualify single people with diverse abilities for assistance;*
- *2020-EB85 which sought expanded authority to notify renters impacted by renovations or redevelopment;*
- *2019-B1840 which sought the creation of an Office of the Renters Advocate to monitor and analyzes renters' services and issues in BC;*
- *2017-B126 which asked for a number of improvements for renters including to allow renters the right of first refusal to return to their units, to eliminate or amend fixed-term tenancy agreements to prevent significant rent increases upon renewal, and to permit one tenant or applicant to represent and take collective action on behalf of all tenants in a building;*
- *2016-B137 and 2017-B53 which sought, in part, to reduce the impact of renovations on tenants;*
- *2015-B45 which asked the Province to increase income assistance shelter allowances and expand and lengthen rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing; and*
- *2014-B42 which asked the Province to increase BC Housing rental subsidies for low-income households in communities affected by industrial development; and*
- *2014-B44 which asked for rental assistance for housing cooperatives.*

*The Committee also advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2022-NR10 which asked the Province to explore a vacancy control policy that would limit increases between tenancies.*

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

## EB18 Extreme Weather Response

Nanaimo City

Whereas the Province, through BC Housing and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), supports year round emergency shelters and temporary winter shelters (operational from November 1st to March 31st);

And whereas since 2022 extreme weather response warming/cooling centres to support vulnerable populations which often tend to be for those with acute mental health and substance use disorders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Housing, EMCR and health authorities ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long-term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions that asked the Province to provide funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response shelters and warming and cooling centers (2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).*

*See resolution NR27*

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

## EB19 Mitigating Heat-Related Health Impacts in Residential Buildings

Delta

Whereas extreme heat events are becoming more common and, during such heat events, temperatures inside residential buildings can rise significantly;

And whereas vulnerable populations, including seniors and people with mobility challenges may have difficulty leaving their homes during extreme temperature events, and may suffer from heat-related health impacts, including heatstroke and death;

And whereas stratas and landlords can restrict the ability of residents to install window or portable air conditioners, or use heat-shielding window-coverings:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to enact legislation to prohibit stratas and landlords from disallowing lifesaving temperature controls, including portable or window air conditioners and window coverings that keep out heat, to protect the health and safety of people living in those buildings during periods of extreme heat.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to enact legislation to prohibit stratas and landlords from disallowing lifesaving temperature controls, **subject to reasonable safety considerations**, including portable or window air conditioners and window coverings that keep out heat, to protect the health and safety of people living in those buildings during periods of extreme heat.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation to prohibit stratas and landlords from disallowing lifesaving*

temperature controls, including portable or window air conditioners and window coverings that keep out heat, to protect the health and safety of people living in those buildings during periods of extreme heat.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did support resolution 2022-EB11 that addressed the need for cooling centres during extreme heat events. Membership have also endorsed wide ranging resolutions relating to provision of safe housing in general (e.g. 2022-EB27, 2022-EB26).

The Committee would also note that improper installation of cooling equipment such as portable air conditioners may pose safety risks associated with fire and falling units, and is proposing an amendment to reflect these risks.

The Province recently announced an initiative to support installation of air-conditioning units for people who have low-incomes and are medically vulnerable to heat (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HLTH0095-001044>), and is also proposing related changes to the building code will be brought into force in December 2023. Proposed changes include 'cooling requirements, accessibility standards, and proposals on building safety to ensure that all buildings are equipped with features that meet people's needs', including a summer design temperature that a living space in a dwelling unit must be capable of maintaining by the addition of mechanical cooling or, where achievable, by passive design measures.

(<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/construction-industry/building-codes-and-standards/bc-codes-2023-public-review-pcf/overheating.pdf>)

See resolutions EB20, NR29

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

<b>EB20</b>	<b>Incentives for Heat Pumps and Other Climate Resilience Retrofits in Multi-Residential Buildings</b>	<b>Port Moody</b>
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Whereas climate change is worsening conditions and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, and existing multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) are some of the most vulnerable and housing the most vulnerable populations;

And whereas the CleanBC Better Homes program provides incentives and rebates for some, but not all, dwelling types, excluding MURBs (such as high-rises and apartment buildings) yet over 30 percent of British Columbians reside in these dwellings:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province make the necessary changes to the CleanBC Better Homes program to ensure that all dwelling types are eligible for incentives and rebates for retrofits to ensure the health and safety of all British Columbians, particularly the most vulnerable, while working towards the Province's GHG reduction targets.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to make the necessary changes to the CleanBC Better Homes program to ensure that all dwelling types, including multi-residential buildings, are eligible for incentives and rebates for retrofits to ensure the health and safety of all British Columbians, particularly the most vulnerable, while working towards the Province's GHG reduction targets.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several additional resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2022-EB31, 2022-NR18, 2021-EB40, 2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).*

See resolutions EB19, NR29

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

## **EB21 Enhanced Retrofit Programs for Part 3 Buildings**

**Saanich**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has set sectoral targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 59 percent to 64 percent below 2007 levels by 2030 for buildings and communities, but is so far falling short of those targets with only a 10 percent reduction achieved in 2020 as reported in the 2022 Climate Change Accountability Report;

And whereas encouraging building retrofits and electrification are critical strategies to address health risks associated with overheating in buildings as a result of warming temperatures, and to reduce GHG emissions from the operation of existing buildings, which represent a significant proportion of community emissions for local governments;

And whereas the current rate of low-carbon retrofits and the uptake of current CleanBC programs for Part 3 commercial and multi-family buildings are inadequate to meet provincial and local government climate targets and support market development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province improve the programs available to Part 3 buildings of all types, including increasing the incentive amounts available for feasibility studies and retrofits, addressing key gaps such as in-suite measures for multi-family buildings, and providing enhanced support services to help Part 3 building owners and managers navigate the retrofit process from beginning to end.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to improve the programs available to Part 3 buildings of all types, including increasing the incentive amounts available for feasibility studies and retrofits, addressing key gaps such as in-suite measures for multi-family buildings, and providing enhanced support services to help Part 3 building owners and managers navigate the retrofit process from beginning to end.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2022-EB31, 2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).*

*The Resolutions Committee also notes that “Part 3 buildings” is in reference to the BC Building Code: larger or more ‘complex’ buildings exceeding 600 m<sup>2</sup> or exceeding 3 stories in height.*

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

## **Community Safety**

### **EB22 Cost of Emergency Response**

**Fernie**

Whereas the cost of emergency response to highway motor vehicle accidents has increased for local governments, but the compensation from the province has not increased commensurately:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revisit the funding formula to ensure that first responder costs incurred on the Province's behalf by local government responders are fully covered.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2011-B5, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.*

*In response to resolution 2020-EB9, the Province responded that it "recognizes and appreciates the invaluable life-saving service that communities provide to motorists throughout British Columbia and is committed to developing a sustainable funding model."*

*The Committee also notes that some of the endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2013-B8, 2011-B5 and 2009-B88). The Province has previously rejected the idea of involving ICBC in a road rescue funding model, primarily due to potential impacts on insurance rates for BC motorists.*

*See resolutions EB23, EB24*

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

## **EB23 Improved Level of Funding for Highway Rescue Services**

**Chase**

Whereas British Columbia highways handle large volumes of traffic, with vehicle crashes occurring in all parts of BC in all seasons;

And whereas many small community volunteer fire departments and societies provide vital highway rescue services for crashes occurring on Provincial highways;

And whereas while some costs are reimbursed to the communities providing this service, costs for the service exceed the reimbursed costs, meaning local taxpayers, most of which reside in small communities, are subsidizing up to 50 percent for a Provincial highway system service, including a portion of on-call payments for highway rescue responders, training costs, fuel, vehicle provision, maintenance and replacement;

And whereas the Province of BC funds 100 percent of other emergency services attending to vehicle crashes on Provincial Highways including BC Ambulance Service and BC Coroners Service:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to seriously commit to the development and implementation of a comprehensive funding model for Highway Rescue Services such that small community taxpayers are not subsidizing a provincial service.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2011-B4, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10, 2006-B64, 2005-B4, 2004-B6, 2003-B49).*

See resolutions EB22, EB24

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

**EB24 Fire Department Compensation for Attendance at Traffic Incidents**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas there is an increasing need for fire departments to attend traffic incidents;

And whereas this is unfairly increasing the tax load on rural residents;

And whereas continued downloading on volunteer fire departments is adding to the potential failure of these small departments as taxation costs are starting to overtake house insurance benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require ICBC to compensate rural fire departments for first responder attendance at traffic incidents at a per call out rate plus use of expendables/consumables.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require ICBC to compensate ~~rural~~ fire departments for first responder attendance at traffic incidents at a per call out rate plus use of expendables/consumables.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2011-B5, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.*

*In response to resolution 2020-EB9, the Province responded that it "recognizes and appreciates the invaluable life-saving service that communities provide to motorists throughout British Columbia and is committed to developing a sustainable funding model."*

*The Committee also notes that some of the endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2013-B8, 2011-B5 and 2009-B88). The Province has previously rejected the idea of involving ICBC in a road rescue funding model, primarily due to potential impacts on insurance rates for BC motorists.*

*Given that this issue impacts all local governments, not just rural fire departments, the Resolutions Committee is proposing an amendment to the enactment clause that removes the word "rural." The proposed amendment seeks adequate compensation, from ICBC, for all fire departments that attend traffic incidents.*

See resolutions EB22, EB23

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

**EB25 Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras**

**Saanich**

Whereas local governments, with limited and competing resources, must address traffic safety challenges to ensure the well-being of our residents;

And whereas the enforcement of traffic regulations, such as speed regulations in residential areas, playgrounds, and school zones, is labour intensive and the ability to use traffic enforcement cameras as a deterrent has proven to be effective and efficient in the management of speed and other traffic regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed two resolutions with very similarly worded enactment clauses, 2019-B8 and 2017-B90, that requested the authority for local governments to implement photo radar at their own expense.*

*Resolution 2019-B8 specifically asked for "the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement photo radar, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense." In response, the Province did not directly respond to the request, only noting that the Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program is not available to local governments, and that the provincial focus is on implementing ISC speed activation cameras at 35 high priority sites.*

*The Resolutions Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other related resolutions, including:*

- 2013-B91 which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and*
- 2011-B84 which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.*

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

## **EB26 Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities**

**Nelson**

Whereas local governments across British Columbia are increasingly being impacted by severe weather events that are creating complex emergency situations;

And whereas local governments are legislated to plan for, respond to, and assist their communities in recovering from these emergencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for, and respond to, local emergencies.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (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) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).*

*As part of its work to provide input into the 2019-2023 review of emergency management legislation, UBCM and its members have consistently called on the Province to provide ongoing funding and support to address local government responsibilities. In a 2019 formal response to a provincial discussion paper, UBCM specifically recommended that the Province:*

- Develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency*

- management responsibilities; and
- Confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments, to address emergency management capacity issues.

*The Province's 2023 budget is allocating \$85 million to increase emergency management capacity in BC 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.*

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

## **EB27 2022 Emergency Support Services Program Guide**

**Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) released in December 2022 the new Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide;

And whereas less than sufficient broad-based meaningful consultation was undertaken including responsible local authorities under the current legislation and associated Indigenous Nations;

And whereas the EMCR has committed to having multiple updates in the first year of release and yearly updates afterward noting that feedback can be provided to the ESS Program Office:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness proactively consult with local authorities and associated Indigenous Nations throughout the province as part of the commitment to provide regular updates to ensure practices are consistently reflected in its resources.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness to proactively consult with local authorities and associated Indigenous Nations throughout the province as part of the commitment to provide regular updates to the Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local governments (2019-SR1, 2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).*

*The membership has also supported resolutions seeking to improve engagement with and representation of First Nations in part through support for the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and UNDRIP (2015-B106, 2018-B150, 2020-NR61).*

*It is understood that following the release of the 2022 ESS Program Guide, a number of local governments delivered formal correspondence to the Province expressing concerns including but not limited to the lack of adequate consultation with local authorities during the development of the Guide.*

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

## **EB28 FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Funding**

**West Kelowna**

Whereas the Province of BC faces ongoing and increased risk of wildfire, with more aggressive fires, that grow larger and threaten more lives and property each year;

And whereas the Province spends hundreds of millions of dollars on wildfire suppression (\$263 million/year - 10-year average);

And whereas the amount dedicated to local governments for wildfire prevention via the Community Resilience Investment Grant is exponentially smaller (\$13 million in 2022);

And whereas the existing grant process is onerous and resource intensive, whereby local governments must apply every year and compete for limited dollars, and does not allow for long term planning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2022-NR26, 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).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB37 which sought improvements to the Firesmart Program by asking the Province to review the guidelines restricting reimbursement maximums to 50 percent of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$500 per property, with consideration to increasing these financial incentives to motivate more property owners to participate in the FireSmart rebate programs offered by local governments.*

*The FireSmart Funding and Supports programs received \$90 million of additional funding in 2022. Annual approved funding is based on the eligible applications that are received; there is not an annual funding cap and applicants do not compete for the funds. For the 2023 program, the funding maximum per high-risk applicant was increased and all applicants have the ability to apply for funding for two full years of eligible activities. The management committee that oversees the program is currently looking at opportunities to simplify the application process.*

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

## **EB29 Provincial Government Re-Established as Diking Authority Abbotsford**

Whereas the Province has designated municipalities as diking authorities and established a wide range of authoritative powers over them including requirements to fully administer and resource ongoing dike maintenance, flood protection planning, monitoring, inspection, as well as to substantively fund disaster prevention and relief initiatives;

And whereas the Province of BC completed a Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for BC in 2019 that found that extreme weather events will continue to worsen across the province in coming years including heat waves and severe river flooding with extreme precipitation events continuing to increase toward 1 in 20 year events becoming 1 in 10 year events or lower;

And whereas the administrative and financial resources required for local governments to undertake the responsibilities as diking authorities are an increasingly unsustainable burden on local communities with no dedicated funding sources from senior government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to be re-established as the diking authority in local governments.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions calling on the Province to be re-established as the diking authority in all local governments (2022-SR3, 2015-B52 and 2014-B75 (in local governments under 20,000 in population)).*

*Resolution 2022-SR3 was brought forward by the UBCM Executive in recognition of recent flooding events, and subsequent calls from the UBCM membership for the Province be re-established as diking authority in all local governments. In its response to the resolution, the Province was unwilling to commit to the proposed changes, instead offering to examine additional strategies and funding opportunities for local governments.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (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).*

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

## **EB30 Diversion Court**

## **Maple Ridge**

Whereas the court system is experiencing an overwhelming number of cases;

And whereas the current justice system including bail system challenges of dealing with crime rarely results in reforming individuals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to support further funding for diversion courts with dedicated judges so as to implement greater capacity in the restorative justice system, complimented by sufficient treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the Province for a sustainable funding source for restorative justice programs (2020-EB3, 2018-B9, 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2010-B2, 2009-B7, 2008-B4, 2007-B3). Also endorsed was resolution 2003-B114, which requested that the federal government provide funding to the Province for diversionary programs for first-time non-violent offenders.*

*The UBCM membership has also endorsed a variety of resolutions asking the Province to create and fund specialized courts and other alternatives to the traditional court system (2021-EB11, 2019-B207, 2007-B165).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking increased judicial resources (2018-B89, 2012-B2, 2011-B9, 2009-B2, 2007-B88).*

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

## Environment

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### EB31 Increased Funding for Climate Adaptation Costs

Saanich

Whereas climate change is collectively, and increasingly, costing BC local governments billions of dollars in the form of increased maintenance, construction and upgrading of infrastructure, disaster relief and other climate costs;

And whereas current provincial and federal funding falls considerably short of what is needed to properly protect communities in BC from current and future projected climate changes such as floods, wildfires and extreme heat:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province increase funding available for climate adaptation measures through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, commensurate with BC's climate risks.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

**Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province increase funding available for climate adaptation measures ~~through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund~~, commensurate with BC's climate risks.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include: 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2022-EB34, 2022-EB35, 2022-NR23, 2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114). Resolution 2022-EB34 in particular sought build back better funding for critical infrastructure to address climate change risk and related natural disasters.*

*The Committee is proposing an amendment to remove the reference to the specific fund, the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, as this fund is competition/application based.*

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

### EB32 Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities

Metchosin

Whereas British Columbia and Canada have committed to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Together for Wildlife Strategy;

And whereas protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities by establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund and other legislative and promotional measures to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions requesting the protection and restoration of biodiversity, including:*

- *2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;*
- *2022-NR39 which asked the Province to develop the process and timelines through which they will develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;*
- *2022-NR40 which asked the Province to enact Species At Risk Protection and Legislation; and*
- *2018-B108 which asked the Province to set aside dedicated funding for purposes of system expansion, ecological monitoring and research, and management planning to meet the quantitative and qualitative measures set out in the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada.*

*See resolutions EB33, NR47, RR18, RR19*

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

### **EB33      New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Species at Risk**

**Islands Trust**

Whereas in 2022 UBCM endorsed resolutions calling on the Province of BC to work in cooperation with First Nations to enact species at risk legislation and to work towards new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;

And whereas in November 2022 the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada Report which documents an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years;

And whereas in December 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to urgently proceed with legislation, informed by new agreements and reports, co-developed with First Nations, that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions, including:*

- *2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public;*
- *2010-B35 which asked the Province to develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC; and*
- *2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact a strong Species and Ecosystem Protection Act to safeguard British Columbia's exceptional biological richness - in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change - recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.*

*See resolutions EB32, NR47, RR18, RR19*

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

**EB34 Invasive Species – Amendment to the Weed Control Act**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas the *Weed Control Act* [RSBC 1996] Chapter 487 provides that an occupier must control noxious weeds growing or located on land and premises, and on any other property located on land and premises, occupied by that person;

And whereas the proliferation of invasive plants has grown exponentially throughout British Columbia;

And whereas invasive plants continue to be sold commercially to uninformed property owners and landscapers;

And whereas S. 4(1) of the Weed Control Regulation provides that no person shall transport, keep for sale, offer to buy or sell, or buy or sell any screenings containing seeds of a noxious weed, it says nothing about plants:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Weed Control Act* to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the Weed Control Regulation.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Weed Control Act to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the Weed Control Regulation.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:*

- *Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B31, 2013-B66, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);*
- *Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);*
- *Aquatic invasive species (2021-EB26);*
- *Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);*
- *Ban on sale of invasive species of plants and seeds (2017-B28, 2011-B44, 2008-B71);*
- *Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);*
- *Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and*
- *Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).*

*See resolutions EB35, NR51*

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

**EB35 Ban on the Sale of Invasive Plant Species**

**West Vancouver**

Whereas invasive plants can cause significant economic harm by damaging crops, fisheries, forests, and infrastructure, and impose costs on industry and taxpayers for control and eradication efforts;

And whereas regulating the sale and distribution of invasive plants is a key strategy for preventing their introduction and spread, and for protecting native ecosystems and economies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province ban the sale and distribution of invasive plants within the jurisdiction of the Province of British Columbia, except for plants that have been determined to be non-invasive.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions asking the Province to ban the sale and distribution of invasive plants within the Province of British Columbia (2017-B28, 2011-B44, 2008-B71).*

*See resolutions EB34, NR51*

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

### **EB36      Greater Enforcement for Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program      Sicamous**

Whereas the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels poses a serious threat to watercourses in British Columbia and the primary vector for invasive mussels is watercraft entering the province;

And whereas the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) is the first line of defence and remains grossly underfunded with less than 10 watercraft inspection stations throughout the province;

And whereas the Province has yet to introduce 'pull-the-plug' legislation, legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels or mandatory watercraft inspections for vessels entering British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province increase funding for the IMDP, introduce legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels when entering BC and establish mandatory watercraft inspections to ensure the protection of our watercourses.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2021-EB26, which asked the provincial and federal governments to adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a watercraft inspection station.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:*

- *Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B31, 2013-B66, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);*
- *Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);*
- *Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);*
- *Ban on sale of invasive species of plants and seeds (2017-B28, 2011-B44, 2008-B71);*
- *Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);*
- *Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and*

- *Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).*

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

### **EB37      *Water Sustainability Act***

### **Lake Country**

Whereas the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was brought into force and effect to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of BC residents today and in the future, and the Okanagan, like most of BC, faces real threats to watershed security over the next decade and beyond;

And whereas inadequate enforcement tools, compliance monitoring, resources and penalties for contraventions under the WSA are perpetuating damages to streams, watersheds and aquifers that provide drinking water, irrigation and fisheries resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests to allocate more staffing, funding and enforcement tools, prioritize enforcement to ensure watershed security is maintained and work collaboratively with local governments.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB28, 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).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed 2018-B34 which asked the Province to work with UBCM and water governance specialists to establish regulations, implement Water Objectives, and designate areas for Water Sustainability Plans where necessary where necessary to ease the tensions arising due to competition between domestic and agricultural water use, source protection, resource extraction and wildfire mitigation. Members also endorsed 2020-EB52 which asked the Province to allocate greater resources to S.11 Approvals under the Water Sustainability Act.*

*See resolutions EB38, EB56*

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

### **EB38      *Regional Water Supply Strategies***

### **Nanaimo RD**

Whereas in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing population; fresh water for human consumption, agriculture, industry, and ecological needs has become a precious commodity on Vancouver Island and across British Columbia;

And whereas there are many different purveyors involved in the supply of drinking water including governments and private companies, as well as many agencies responsible for development planning for the growing population:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:*

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);*
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB28, 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).*

*See resolutions EB37, EB56*

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

**EB39      Recycle BC Stewardship Plan Proposed Community  
Eligibility Criteria**

**Columbia Shuswap RD**

Whereas the Recycle BC Stewardship Plan update proposes to introduce a Community Eligibility Criteria;

And whereas the proposed Community Eligibility Criteria will result in a significant reduction to regional district depot collection services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Recycle BC proposed Community Eligibility Criteria does not result in a decrease in funding of existing recycling depots.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on Recycle BC to ensure that its proposed Community Eligibility Criteria does not result in a decrease in funding of existing recycling depots.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting financial support and recycling services for smaller and rural communities (2022-EB55, 2019-B43, 2018-B69, 2017-B109, 2014-A6).*

See resolution EB40

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

**EB40      Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas reasonable and free consumer access to recycling collection facilities or collection services is the cornerstone of British Columbia's recycling framework;

And whereas the 2021 Accessibility Framework within the Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia's Guidance on Accessibility of Stewardship Programs will not provide for the service levels expected within many remote communities in British Columbia, as Extended Producer Responsibility programs are only provided "where practical":

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for improved access to recycling for rural and remote communities with tiered and funded solutions based on the remoteness index and developed in collaboration with local governments.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed other resolutions requesting financial support and recycling services for smaller and rural communities (2022-EB55, 2019-B43, 2018-B69, 2017-B109, 2014-A6).*

See resolution EB39

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

**EB41      Expansion of the Recycling Regulation to Include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging and Printed Paper Recyclables**

**Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (BCMOECCS) Recycling Regulation regulates the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for residential packaging and printed paper (PPP), which is managed by Recycle BC;

And whereas PPP recyclables from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sources, is not currently part of the Recycling Regulation, which is allowing the financial burden of diverting this recycling stream from landfilling onto the ICI sector and local governments;

And whereas the Provincial Government has instituted a phased study of ICI PPP recyclables as part of the EPR 5-year Action Plan which will not be completed until 2025:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province expedite the inclusion of industrial, commercial and institutional packaging and printed paper recyclables into the Recycling Regulations much sooner than 2025.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to include the ICI sectors in the Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility programs (2021-EB33, 2020-EB54, 2020-NR57, 2019-B146, 2018-B68).*

*See resolution RR20*

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

## **EB42 ICBC Data**

**Saanich**

Whereas local governments require baseline and consistent data to inform policy design, implementation, and evaluation, and to measure progress towards achieving greenhouse gas and vehicle kilometers travelled reductions targets;

And whereas the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) is now committed to usage/distance-based insurance discounts that require odometer data:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province mandate ICBC to collect odometer readings for all licensed vehicles annually and provide greenhouse gas and vehicle kilometers travelled data sets to local governments to help inform their climate policy decisions.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions making similar requests for ICBC to share vehicle and kilometer data with local governments to help them address greenhouse gas emissions (2022-EB57, 2020-EB59, 2020-NR35, 2019-B142, 2010-B83).*

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

## **EB43 Clean Transportation Action Plan for Rural and Northern Communities**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas the Province of BC has released the Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 outlining measures to reach its legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas zero-emission vehicles may not be a suitable alternative for remote rural resource based industries including forestry, oil and gas, and agriculture;

And whereas public transit is not available in many rural and remote communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a Clean BC Transportation Plan specific to rural and northern communities that addresses the unique challenges and identifies how the GHG targets can be achieved.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2021-EB40 titled CleanBC Support for Northern and Rural Communities, which asked the Province to provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions addressing cleaner transportation with reduced GHG emissions (2020-EB26, 2020-EB27, 2020-EB29, 2020-EB30, 2020-EB59, 2020-NR35, 2019-B118, 2019-B142, 2019-B143, 2019-B151, 2016-B68, 2014-B33).*

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

#### **EB44      Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward      Courtenay**

Whereas in 2021, 37 local governments from across BC, as well as UBCM, passed resolutions supporting Help Cities Lead, a campaign advocating for the implementation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residential and commercial buildings;

And whereas the Province has not met its commitment to move forward with next steps on a PACE program in the RoadMap to 2030 climate strategy, which is a form of financing for energy retrofits designed to help building owners save on energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has yet to advance the program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation to support a province-wide PACE program for residential and commercial buildings.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions in support of PACE, including:*

- *2022-EB48 which asked the Province to prioritize the PACE initiative enabling legislation and include consideration for participation by electoral area residents of regional districts;*
- *2021-EB36 which asked the Province to support BC legislation enabling PACE by third-party administration; and*
- *2019-B140 which asked the Province to develop PACE enabling legislation for BC municipalities.*

*See resolution RR21*

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

#### **EB45      Illegal Dumping on Agricultural Lands      Fraser Valley RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia amended the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* in 2018 under Bill 52;

And whereas these changes included new prohibitions for dumping waste and other damaging substances on farmland, with significant penalties and new tools for enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to follow through on these changes and invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste on agricultural lands.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asked the Province to follow through on changes prohibiting dumping waste on farmland and to invest more resources into prosecuting offenders who do.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has many endorsed resolutions that address illegal dumping and which call for adequate funding and enforcement (2021-EB30, 2021-EB31, 2021-EB32, 2020-EB56, 2018-B36, 2017-B25, 2017-B64, 2017-B97, 2012-B29, 2011-B89).

The Committee further notes that the membership has supported a number of resolutions that address soil and its disposal, including:

- Contaminated soil permitting process (2016-B34);
- Contaminated soil relocation (2013-B37, 2012-B120);
- Placement of fill on ALR land and its impact on surrounding lands (2012-B82); and
- Soil removal fee (2011-B32, 2008-B135).

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

## Regional Districts

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### EB46 Protection of Trees

### Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas regional districts currently have no regulatory authority to prevent tree cutting except as it relates to areas affected by flooding or other hazards;

And whereas municipalities have broad powers to regulate tree protection under Section 8(3)(c) and Division 7 of the *Community Charter*, including bylaws for protection, removal, replanting, and replacement of trees;

And whereas some regional districts, particularly regional districts experiencing development pressure, share similar concerns as municipalities with respect to protecting trees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide regional districts authority over tree cutting/tree protection that is equal to the regulatory power municipalities have for tree protection.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions calling on the Province to grant regional districts the authority to enact tree protection bylaws (2021-EB52, 2019-B58, 2015-B39, 2003-B41).*

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

### EB47 Regional District Funding for Small Water Systems

### Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas in the interest of providing a safe potable drinking water supply, Regional Districts are encouraged by the Province to assume ownership and operation of failing or deficient water systems owned by improvement districts, water users' communities, societies and private development;

And whereas these water systems are not financially viable as they are very small in size (frequently less than 100 customers) with limited access to funding, they are located in rural or remote rural communities with a very limited tax base, and with no opportunity to amalgamate with other water systems to achieve economies of scale:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution from the sponsor last year, 2022-EB81.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:*

- *Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- *Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- *Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- *Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

*The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for federal funding for the renewal and replacement of aging local government infrastructure, including that related to drinking water and wastewater (2011-B143, 2010-B77, 2010-82, 2010-B71).*

*The Committee further notes that the provincial and federal governments have traditionally not included operation and maintenance as an eligible cost in capital funding programs. However, the majority of recent capital programs support capital infrastructure upgrades that support drinking water system improvements needed to meet current and emerging provincial/federal standards and support the transfer of ownership to local governments.*

*The Committee additionally notes that the provincial government, through the Ministry of Health, has developed various guides and standards for small drinking water systems. Definitions for 'small water systems' vary. The Drinking Protection Regulation includes the definition of a 'small water system as one that serves up to 500 individuals during a 24 hour period. Defining 'very small' water systems based on financial sustainability is challenging.*

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

## **EB48      Parking on Ministry of Transportation Rights-of-Way**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas regional districts have not been granted the authority to regulate vehicle parking on roadways in rural areas;

And whereas the Province and the RCMP have limited resources to regulate and enforce the increased volume of vehicles parked illegally on roads and rights-of-way that cause congestion and unsafe conditions for other vehicles, pedestrians and emergency first responders:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia grant regional districts the authority under the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and rights of-way with the same authority as municipalities.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a nearly identical resolution, 2019-B56, that sought authority for regional districts to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and right-of-ways.*

*The Provincial response to 2019-B56 indicated that the government was supportive of exploring the current parking and enforcement regulations on provincial roads within regional districts.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2014-B102, which called for regional districts to be granted the authority to enforce parking regulations within their boundaries.*

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

## Finance

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### **EB49      Senior Levels of Government – Oversubscribed Funding      Summerland**

Whereas government funding programs such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Building BC Community Housing Fund have been established to realize government priorities;

And whereas local governments expend considerable effort and expense to prepare applications for government funding programs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to review the granting process to improve efficiency and ensure its funding programs are adequately resourced so that shared objectives can be realized.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking improvements in the grant processes, including:*

- 2022-EB58 which asked the provincial and federal governments to identify and expand grants that are more efficiently and effectively delivered on a non-application basis, and for those application based grant programs, that the delivery program be reviewed to increase certainty for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current application based grant funding programs;*
- 2021-EB21 which encouraged the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs; and*
- 2018-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments to restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding and it identifying the burden of having limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements.*

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

- 2020-EB35 - Doubling the Gas Tax;*
- 2018-B109 - Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access;*
- 2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants;*
- 2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;*

- 2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria;
- 2012-B69 - Local Government Funding; and
- 2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.

See resolution NR54

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

## **EB50 Sustainable Canadian Local Governments Asset Management Fund Langley City**

Whereas Canada's infrastructure deficit is estimated to be as high as \$570 billion with almost 60 percent of the deficit within local government jurisdictions;

And whereas the costs to replace and repair local government infrastructure for critical services such as roads, arenas, bridges, drinking water and wastewater systems are estimated to be \$141 billion, which is well beyond the financial capacity of local governments across the country due to limited revenue generation options, and all while costs for infrastructure renewal continue to escalate at an exponential rate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of Canada to create a sustainable and reliable local government asset management fund, like the permanent Building Canada's Public Transit Future Fund, to increase investments in infrastructure renewal, which is essential to enhance public safety, reduce health risks, ensure economic sustainability, and lessen the financial burden on future generations to pay for the infrastructure deficit.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously supported resolutions asking the federal and provincial governments to improve and/or enhance the delivery of funding programs, including resolution 2020-EB35 which states: Therefore it be resolved that UBCM and FCM respectfully lobby the federal government to continue to support grass root community quality of life by permanently doubling the Gas Tax Fund transfer to support local infrastructures. The Canada Community Building Fund (formally the Gas Tax Fund), is considered a permanent and reliable funding program for local governments.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed several more resolutions that request improvements and/or enhancements to both federal and provincial funding programs (2020-B36, 2020-B40, 2018-B111, 2014-B19, 2012-B13).*

*Additionally, endorsed resolution 2018-B74 supported the development of a common asset management approach to support local governments in building capacity to develop and implement asset management best practices.*

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

## **EB51 Top-Up to Provincial Grants Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to rising global inflation, labour shortages and supply-chain issues, which in turn have led to higher costs for consumers;

And whereas provincial grants provided to local governments for projects will likely not cover the increased costs associated with supplies and construction, therefore leaving jurisdictions unable to complete projects aimed to benefit their communities and citizens:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC top up those grants given to local governments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that projects can be completed.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to top up those grants given to local governments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that projects can be completed.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions seeking grant funding around COVID-19, including:*

- 2021-EB22 which asked the Province to provide regional districts with the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities;*
- 2021-NR21 which asked the Province to provide more equitable safe restart grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas in comparison to the funding provided to local municipalities; and*
- 2020-SR7 which asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort.*

*Further, the membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to recognize an inflation component in some grant allocations (2013-B18, 2005-B101).*

*UBCM manages a number of provincial grant programs. The funding threshold for new applications under several grant programs was increased with 2021 intakes in recognition of general cost increases. The increases did not apply to previous applications as no additional funding for closed intakes was received from the Province.*

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

## **EB52 Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments**

**Sechelt**

Whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased community growth in many areas;

And whereas the revenue from property transfer tax is due in large part to the attractiveness of the local community to homebuyers which is in part the result of local government efforts, as such local governments should benefit from this tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share property transfer tax revenue with local governments in British Columbia for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed a resolution asking the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax revenue with local governments for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure. 2012-B18 requested the provincial government to grant an equitable share of BC Property Transfer Tax revenues to local governments, both to diversify their revenue sources and support the increasing levels of community-based services, aging infrastructure maintenance and replacement they are required to provide. 2005-B87 also requests the provincial government to share the proceeds from the property transfer tax with local governments.*

*Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions that call on the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax with local governments to address affordable housing and homelessness (2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).*

*In 2013 the UBCM membership endorsed expansion of local government revenue tools as a foundational concept of the Strong Fiscal Futures report on strengthening the BC local government finance system. Sharing a portion of the property transfer tax with local government was specifically identified as a way to expand revenue tools for local government.*

*In 2021 the UBCM membership endorsed the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that included a working partnership between the Province and UBCM to strengthen the local government finance system. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Finance Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing opportunities for sharing taxation/revenues.*

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

## **EB53 Downtown Revitalization Grant Program**

**Port Hardy**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has historically administered a downtown revitalization program that generated incredible long-term benefits and returns to those communities who participated in the program and to the Province through increased commerce, tourism, and tax revenues;

And whereas forestry, fishing, and mining-oriented rural communities have been significantly economically impacted in relation to the economic vitality of these industry sectors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program and to provide adequate financial resources to enable rural resource communities to improve their downtowns for the benefit of residents, businesses, and tourism.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program and to provide adequate financial resources to enable ~~rural resource~~ communities to improve their downtowns for the benefit of residents, businesses, and tourism.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program (2009-B22, 2006-B36) and to fund a revitalization program for resource communities (2007-B114). The Committee has proposed an amendment to remove the reference to “rural resource” to broaden the resolution to apply to all communities facing this issue.*

*The Committee also notes that members more recently endorsed B37 in 2016 asking the Province to re-implement the Business Façade Improvement Grant Programme that will provide each local government an annual intake to a maximum of \$20,000 so local businesses may participate in a programme that would see the rejuvenation of business areas with the end goal of enhancing community appearance and pride which are integral to economic activity and growth. The resolution being considered for 2023 does not specify a dollar amount or indicate what would be considered adequate financial resources.*

*The Province’s response to previous resolutions has noted that Section 226 of the Community Charter provides a revitalization tax exemption tool that allows councils to encourage economic, social or environmental revitalization within a community. However, this tool does not provide any provincial funding to the community, and reduces the municipality’s tax revenue for the duration of the exemption.*

*The Committee is proposing an amendment as downtown revitalization is an issue in many communities, not just in rural resource communities.*

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

## **EB54 Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries**

**Powell River,  
qathet RD**

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources including Internet, computers, digital tools and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to provincial government funding in subsequent years.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public 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).*

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

## **Land Use**

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### **EB55 Protection of Old Growth Forests**

**Metchosin**

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors." (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking protection of old growth forest areas in BC (2021-SR2, 2019-B36, 2017-B66, 2016-C27).*

*However, recognizing the significant economic impact that this shift in how old growth and other land, water and resources are to be managed; UBCM has asked that the Province engage and consult with local governments as it implements the Old Growth recommendations specifically noting recommendations 13 and 14 speak to orderly transition planning at the provincial and local level; as well as transition support for communities.*

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

## **EB56      Legislated Mapping and Management Plans in Community Watersheds**

## **Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas communities across British Columbia relying on surface water systems as their only source of drinking water are facing historic droughts and becoming increasingly aware of the need to maintain the integrity and hydrological production capacity of their community watersheds while they continue to be adversely impacted by other tenure holders or developers;

And whereas community expectations are often not aligned with requirements for tenure holders and developers to prepare and provide comprehensive watershed mapping and management plans in collaboration with such water user communities and licencees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation prescribing tenure holders and developers to prepare detailed watershed mapping including LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery and comprehensive community watershed management plans in collaboration with water user communities and licencees prior to any development or incursion into consumptive use watersheds to avoid the risk of adversely impacting the hydrological production capacity of these watersheds.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enact legislation prescribing tenure holders and developers to prepare detailed watershed mapping including LiDAR imagery and comprehensive community watershed management plans in collaboration with water user communities and licencees prior to any development or incursion into consumptive use watersheds to avoid the risk of adversely impacting the hydrological production capacity of these watersheds.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds; most notably as part of the recent Watershed Security Strategy and related Watershed Security Fund (2021-EB28, 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).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:*

- *Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);*
- *Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- *Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding*

- *strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- *Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- *Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

See resolutions EB37, EB38

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

## **EB57 Crown Land User Fee**

## **East Kootenay RD**

Whereas increasing usage of crown land for overnight camping and other recreational uses requires additional amenities, such as pit toilets, to protect the environment and additional trail and road maintenance and litter pick-up, to provide for sustainable and enjoyable usage;

And whereas with increased backcountry use there is additional need for education and compliance resources to mitigate aesthetic and environmental impacts, human/wildlife conflicts, and improve public safety:

Therefore be it resolve that UBCM petition the Province to implement a crown land camping fee structure, with the revenues to be used to provide sustainable use amenities and increased funding to the Conservation Officer service for improved education and enforcement.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement a crown land camping fee structure, with the revenues to be used to provide sustainable use amenities and increased funding to the Conservation Officer service for improved education and enforcement.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2021-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41, 2003-B28, 2003-B94).*

*The Committee notes that on May 1, 2023, the Province provided a one-time grant of \$10 million to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to establish a new endowment fund that will improve and enhance outdoor recreation (sites and trails).*

*As well the 2023 provincial budget allocated \$71 million in operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan to help preserve and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.*

See resolution EB58

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

## **EB58 Better Management and Maintenance of Forest Recreation Sites**

## **Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has a mandate to provide safe, quality recreation opportunities by developing, maintaining and managing a network of recreation sites and trails throughout the province for the use and enjoyment of British Columbians;

And whereas some users of these sites and trails are holding events and gatherings that hinder others' enjoyment of these public assets and threaten to harm the natural and built environments through vandalism and wildfire:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC commit greater resources to the management and maintenance of forest recreation sites, trails and facilities to ensure that user safety and sanitary conditions are maintained and that facilities, infrastructure and the environment are protected.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2021-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41, 2003-B28, 2003-B94).*

*The Committee notes that on May 1, 2023, the Province provided a one-time grant of \$10 million to the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC to establish a new endowment fund that will improve and enhance outdoor recreation (sites and trails).*

*As well the 2023 provincial budget allocated \$71 million in operating and capital funding over the fiscal plan to help preserve and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities in BC Parks and Recreation Sites and Trails BC.*

*See resolution EB57*

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

## **EB59      Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archaeological Requirements      Sechelt**

Whereas local governments acknowledge the critical importance of archaeology to reclaim the history and heritage of the Indigenous Peoples particularly while undertaking critical local government infrastructure renewal;

And whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased archaeological costs, including the cost of project delays:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and
2. Provide local governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the Province to 1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and 2. Provide local governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing archaeological costs, including:*

- 2019-B52 which asked the BC Government to fund additional expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act;
- 2007-B139 which asked the Province to consider providing funding equal to 100 percent of the total expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act; and
- 2013-LR1 which sought funding from the Province for individual property owners are impacted by unregistered and undiscovered archaeological sites on their property.

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

## Transportation

### EB60 BC Transit Expansion Funding

### Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the current Annual Operating Agreements between BC Transit and local governments provide for base service levels that are equal to the previous year but do not reflect agreed upon expanded transit service levels;

And whereas local governments are expected to authorize future commitments for transit expansion which are subject to cost increases at the discretion of BC Transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide a rolling 5-year funding commitment to BC Transit in order to provide and secure longer term funding assurances necessary for local governments to adequately budget and plan for transit expansion beyond the current year.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed almost exactly the same resolution, from the same sponsor: 2017-B9. Resolution 2017-B9 called on the Province to provide a rolling 3-year funding commitment to BC Transit, which would support local governments budgeting and planning for transit expansion beyond the current year. The 2017 resolution requested a rolling 3-year funding commitment, whereas the present resolution calls for a rolling 5-year funding commitment.*

*In response to resolution 2017-B9 the provincial government acknowledged the budget and planning benefits of longer-term funding assurances, but made no rolling funding commitment of any sort.*

*The Committee also notes that more generally, the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).*

*See resolutions EB61, NR76, NR77*

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

### EB61 Provide Funding to Double Transit Services in Rural BC

### Nelson

Whereas adding more routes between our rural communities and more trips on existing routes will benefit our health system by helping seniors and others access healthcare services;

And whereas reliable regional rural transit is a critical component of a British Columbia wide affordable housing strategy;

And whereas improving our rural transit systems will deliver significant economic benefits by providing more reliable transportation for students and frontline workers;

And whereas an expanded rural transit system will deliver significant GHG reduction, by shifting kilometers travelled from costly and polluting single-occupancy vehicles to high-occupancy buses:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide sufficient additional funding to double services in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to fund a doubling of service in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.*

*The Committee notes that in general, the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to fund expansion of public transit across BC, including:*

- more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2005-B7, 2004-B55);*
- public transportation options that specifically provide access to healthcare services (2020-EB17, 2020-EB75, 2018-B16, 2009-B15);*
- a provincial transportation strategy with solutions including both public transit and taxis in rural communities (2013-B15, 2012-B115); and*
- implementation and expansion of interregional transit, to address safety concerns and rider demand (2022-NR56, 2015-B9, 2012-C37).*

*The Committee understands that local governments contribute a share of the costs of public transit. If transit services were to double, would local governments also be faced with a doubling of their cost share for public transit?*

*See resolutions EB60, NR76, NR77*

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

## **EB62 Improved Information Sharing Between Local Governments and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Squamish-Lillooet RD**

Whereas road maintenance contracts between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (the “Ministry”) and its contractors contain a requirement to develop 2-year summer road quantified maintenance plans (the “Road Maintenance Plans”) but the Ministry does not share the Road Maintenance Plans with local governments;

And whereas the Ministry develops Infrastructure Improvement Priorities and Plans (the “Infrastructure Priorities”) but the Ministry does not share the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments until the Infrastructure Priorities are fully developed and funded:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to be more transparent and start to share the Road Maintenance Plans and the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments and that a process be developed to do so.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB14, which asked the provincial government to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways. This request is similar to the concern about MOTI setting Infrastructure Priorities without consulting with local governments.*

*In response to resolution 2021-EB14, the Province committed that for capital projects, MOTI would “conduct public consultations, during project development to ensure the project considers comments and concerns from all interested parties.” However, for rehabilitation projects (described as “like-for-like replacement of highway infrastructure”), the Province stated only that MOTI would “communicate with stakeholders” and did not commit to public consultation processes.*

*With regard to MOTI Road Maintenance Plans, the Committee advises that members have not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to share these plans with local governments.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved road and highway maintenance, including:*

- *regular provincial government audits and performance assessment of highway maintenance services, and communication of the audit findings to local governments (2017-B10, 2008-B113);*
- *improved snow clearing on roads and highways (2022-EB67, 2021-EB15, 2018-B85, 2007-B98);*
- *improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2020-EB20, 2020-EB22, 2017-B58, 2017-B59, 2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17);*
- *improved service level standards and maintenance funding for secondary provincial roads (2020-EB18, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17, 2003-B7);*
- *improved maintenance and funding for roads and bridges (2022-EB69, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2015-B75, 2014-B53, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110); and*
- *with local governments, improvement, expansion, and better maintenance of safe cycling and low carbon transportation infrastructure adjacent to provincial routes (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2016-B57, 2013-B66, 2011-B19, 2010-B17).*

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

### **EB63      Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure**

### **Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards and there is continued concern regarding the state of roads in rural communities including poor road surfaces and drainage;

And whereas the provincial government periodically makes economic investment announcements and it is understood that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure may require assessment of impacts to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development, and which may direct improvements to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request that the Province direct enhanced investment into rural road network improvements in areas where provincial economic investments are made.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to improve safety on provincial roads in rural and remote areas that are experiencing economic growth, including:*

- *base safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70);*
- *implement traffic calming measures in areas designated for growth in electoral areas (2019-B115); and*
- *increase resources for regulation and enforcement of traffic regulations on rural roads (2019-B116).*

*More generally, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to improve service level standards and increase funding for maintenance of secondary roads in the provincial road network (2020-EB18, 2017-B10, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17, 2003-B7).*

*The membership has also endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2022-EB69, 2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).*

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

## **EB64 Public Safety and Speed Limits**

## **Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards, including the setting and adjustment of speed limits;

And whereas rural areas are experiencing traffic management issues including increasing speeding as development and populations increase in areas shared by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; this requires a greater attention to community public safety concerns and necessary safety improvements:

Therefore it be resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to improve safety on provincial roads in rural and remote areas, including:*

- *basing safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70);*
- *traffic calming measures in areas designated for growth in electoral areas (2019-B115);*
- *increased resources for regulation and enforcement of traffic regulations on rural roads (2019-B116); and*
- *a process for regional district boards to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to lower the speed limit on highways that pass through rural communities and neighbourhoods (2015-B12).*

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

## **EB65 Trans-Canada Highway Improvements**

## **Sicamous**

Whereas the Trans-Canada Highway is BC's primary southern east-west corridor and is essential for trade and travel;

And whereas the 400-kilometre section of highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border is home of the most challenging terrain in Canada and is used by up to 12,000 vehicles a day;

And whereas in 2021 the Province committed to \$837 million over the next three years to allow traffic to move more safely and efficiently within the corridor, however, several projects identified in the Provincial plan are not yet underway, including the deteriorating RW Bruhn Bridge that poses significant public safety concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province initiate projects currently identified in the 2021 “Highway 1 - Kamloops to Alberta – Four-Laning” plan to improve the safety, reliability and capacity of the Trans-Canada Highway.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to initiate projects already identified in the 2021 “Highway 1 – Kamloops to Alberta – Four-Laning” plan.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).*

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

## Legislative

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### **EB66 Modernization of the *Local Government Act***

### **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas a comprehensive review of the legislation governing regional districts has not been done; however, the social, political and economic environments in which local governments operate has dramatically evolved in areas including increased populations living in unincorporated areas, response to climate change, and First Nations’ participation in regional governance;

And whereas the accountabilities of regional districts continue to increase, most recently with updates to emergency management legislation, but regional districts lack the tools and authority needed to meet these expanded responsibilities;

And whereas UBCM has endorsed multiple resolutions asking for a review of the *Local Government Act* as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts; most recently in 2015, 2018, and 2022, and the province has been promising these urgently needed legislative updates for over twenty years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional districts to ensure that a comprehensive review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* is prioritized during the current municipal term of office.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for the review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* (2022-EB80, 2018-B4, 2015-B1).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to clarify the authorities assigned to, and improve the relationship between, regional districts and municipalities as well as First Nations (2021-EB53, 2014-B68, 2007-A4, 2007-LR9, 2006-B47).*

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

**EB67 Amendment of Section 744 of the *Local Government Act***

**Powell River**

Whereas climate change induced extreme weather events regularly overwhelm local government infrastructure;

And whereas this creates liability risks, even in the absence of negligence on the part of BC local governments because of the wording of Section 744 of the *Local Government Act*, whose protection is qualified by the inclusion of the phrase "breakdown or malfunction", while every other Canadian province and territory provides local governments with similar protection without this qualification;

And whereas the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia has deemed this is the most extreme climate change liability risk facing local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that Section 744 of the *Local Government Act* be amended to: remove the words "breakdown or malfunction"; include language consistent with other provincial legislation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2021-EB4, which also sought the amendment of Section 744 of the Local Government Act to be amended to remove the words "breakdown or malfunction" to address the liability risk faced by local governments.*

*In its response to 2021-EB4, the Province stated: "The Ministry is committed to working collaboratively with local governments to develop a shared understanding of liability risks resulting from extreme weather events and to better understand the feasibility, effectiveness and implications of potential amendments to the Local Government Act in relation to overland water liability provisions. This work must include consideration of complex public policy issues such as the extent to which the proposed changes would actually address liability concerns and how they would affect the balance of risks (e.g. a potential greater burden shifted onto affected citizens in communities).*

*Local governments are encouraged to share information with the Ministry about specific incidents related to infrastructure damage or inadequacy to further inform the Ministry about specific liability risks associated with overland water flooding and infrastructure failures during and after extreme weather events."*

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

**EB68 First Nation Inclusion in the *Community Charter* Section 90**

**qathet RD**

Whereas First Nations are constitutionally recognized as a level of government in Canada and British Columbia, and have the inherent right to self-government, including decision-making over their own lands, resources, and governance through the provisions outlined in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

And whereas Section 90 of the *Community Charter* provides for the ability for confidential government to government negotiations, but does not include First Nations in this provision:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be called upon to amend Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, to recognize First Nation governments as a level of government, thereby recognizing and affording

equitable protection for government-to-government meetings on par with other levels of government that are already listed within this act.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be called upon to amend Section 90 of the Community Charter, **in consultation with First Nations and in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act**, to recognize First Nation governments as ~~a level~~ **an order** of government, thereby recognizing and affording equitable protection for government-to-government meetings on par with other ~~levels~~ **orders** of government that are already listed within this act.*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Section 90 of the Community Charter identifies specific circumstances under which a part of a council meeting may or must be closed to the public.*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B79 which asked the Province to amend Section 90 of the Community Charter to allow local governments to close meetings to the public in order to consider information received and held in confidence from First Nation governments. At the time, the Province noted that they would undertake a preliminary review of the issue.*

*The Committee is proposing an amendment to request consultation with First Nations and to ensure that amendments to Section 90 are done in alignment with the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

*See resolution RR23*

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

## **EB69        Shared Ethics Commissioner's Office**

**Nelson**

Whereas all local governments are required to decide on the implication of code of conduct within the first 6 months of a new term, which may include the designation of a local ethics commissioner officer;

And whereas local governments may often lack the resources or expertise to develop local ethics commissioner's role:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to create a shared local government ethics commissioner's office(s) to serve local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of Code of Conduct policies.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM's membership has endorsed two related resolutions requesting the Province to establish Ethics Commissioner/Integrity Commissioner offices to assist local governments with matters relating to conduct, including investigation and enforcement of Codes of Conduct:*

- *2022-B77 which asked the Province to create an Office of the Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and*
- *2021-2020 NR1 which asked the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials.*

*The resolution under consideration would allow for a decentralized approach through the establishment of more than one office.*

*The Ministry in its response to the 2021 resolution Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government, stated that “Integrity Commissioners can play an important role in providing education and advice respecting responsible conduct and enforcing a code of conduct. At the same time, there are limits to that role – for example, integrity commissioners do not make the decision to impose sanctions on an elected official in breach of a code of conduct; that decision remains with the elected council or board.” The Ministry also notes that local governments “...are currently able to establish a local Integrity Commissioner to help guide these processes, if they so choose for their community.”*

*In 2021, the Working Group on Responsible Conduct released a guide (Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct) which includes information on the considerations for a local government to develop procedures for the enforcement of a Code of Conduct, including the use of an independent third-party investigator to review alleged breaches of conduct in a manner that ensures procedural fairness for all parties.*

*See resolution RR24*

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

## **Community Economic Development**

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### **EB70      Local Government Involvement in Broadband Improvement Projects      Cariboo RD**

Whereas local governments are the level of government which are closest to the communities they serve and are which best understands local needs, knowledge, and opportunities of these communities;

And whereas the current framework for planning, funding, implementing, and announcing broadband improvement projects excludes local governments at every stage beyond the funding application phase, particularly as projects are implemented, resulting in disconnection between projects being supported and projects being delivered:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the BC Ministry of Citizens Services and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to include local governments at all stages of every internet and broadband improvement project and funding application to provide effective means of keeping local elected officials informed and providing an avenue for local knowledge to be incorporated.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB48, which in part called on the provincial and federal governments to ensure that funding programs for broadband internet engage directly with local government to prioritize areas of greatest need when awarding funding for broadband projects.*

*In response to resolution 2021-EB48, the provincial government referenced a joint study undertaken by the Province, UBCM, and the Northern Development Initiative Trust (NDIT) to understand the differences between internet speeds reported on the federal broadband availability map, and the actual internet speeds people are experiencing in their communities. Local government feedback contributed to the results of this study, which identified geographical areas of concern and helped the Province to strategize further support for underserved communities. The results of the study were also shared with the federal government.*

*The Committee advises, however, that members have not previously considered a resolution calling for direct provincial and federal engagement with local governments at every stage of a broadband internet funding application or improvement project.*

*The Committee would emphasize that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for federal and provincial government action and funding to make broadband internet available in all communities, particularly underserved rural and remote areas (including but not limited to 2022-EB84, 2021-EB47, 2021-EB50, 2020-SR6, 2020-EB69, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72).*

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

## **EB71      Review of Stumpage Rate for Community Managed Forest Tenures**

## **Mission**

Whereas the Province assesses the same stumpage rates against small Tree Farm Licences as it does for large industrial forest tenures;

And whereas smaller tenures near urban centres must manage for multiple resource users at higher costs and typically invest surplus funds within the community for the benefit of the general public and province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider a new approach to calculating stumpage rates that accounts for the higher management costs required to effectively manage forest resources for any tenure that operates in the rural interface areas.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider ~~a new approach to calculating~~ **new allowances to reduce market** stumpage rates that account for the higher management costs required to effectively manage forest resources for ~~any tenure that operates in the rural~~ **municipally held Tree Farm Licences in urban** interface areas.*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to consider a new approach to calculating stumpage rates that accounts for the higher management costs required to effectively manage forest resources for any tenure that operates in the rural interface areas.*

*The Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB82 which asked the Province to maintain the tabular rate structure for community forest agreements.*

*However, the Committee notes that the Mission forest tenure is different from other community forest agreements (CFA) in that it was established prior to community forest agreements coming into place. As a result Mission is paying higher ‘appraiser’ rates, not lower, tabular stumpage rates, as is the case for communities with CFAs. The sponsor has noted in its background documentation, the Province has not been willing to convert its tree farm licence to a CFA to provide for tabular rates, for fear of triggering US lumber lobby concerns. As a result the sponsor is paying a much higher stumpage rate under the appraiser rate; having to manage for multiple resource users in an urban interface; and is therefore seeking a new approach to calculating stumpage that would address their unique situation. The sponsor believes that Revelstoke may be the only other community that finds itself in a similar situation.*

*Recognizing that the sponsor is attempting to address a specific situation, the Committee wants to ensure that this request does not impact those communities with CFAs that wish to maintain their current tabular rate system and is proposing an amendment to the enactment specifically identifying “Tree Farm Licences” so that it is clear that this will not impact the current tabular rates in place for those communities with community forest agreements.*

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

## Selected Issues

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### **EB72 Support for Local Governments Implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act***

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas all levels of government in British Columbia have a role in advancing the principles of reconciliation as set out in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

And whereas local governments have statutory obligations in relation to a number of provincial Acts and regulations, which has resulted in expectations on local government to more broadly consider the principles of reconciliation when exercising those statutory obligations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to provide timely clarification, support, and involvement for local governments regarding the expectations and requirements of local governments in advancing commitments to reconciliation and UNDRIP when fulfilling their statutory obligations under relevant provincial legislation.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions in support of UNDRIP, MMIWG2S and TRC (2022-EB85, 2022-NR70, 2021-EB77, 2019-A4, 2019-LR4, 2018-B150, 2015-B106).*

*Resolution 2019-A4 in particular asked the Province to provide clarity to local governments regarding implementation of UNDRIP processes and framework, as well as asking the Province to provide a clear delineation of the responsibilities of local governments in relation to the implementation of these processes.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting funding or supports for local governments for reconciliation, relationship building and engagement with First Nations (2022-EB86, 2018-B23, 2012-B32, 2009-B143).*

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

### **EB73 Equitable Communities**

**Burnaby, New Westminster,  
North Vancouver City, Port Moody**

Whereas systemic inequities are present in all municipalities and prevent all citizens from fully participating in civic life, but numerous municipalities across British Columbia and Canada have made progress towards becoming more equitable by committing to embed equity in all government action through the use of analytical processes for the assessment of systemic inequities (e.g. Gender-Based Analysis Plus);

And whereas the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada have adopted Gender-Based Analysis Plus to assess how diverse Canadians experience policies, programs, and government initiatives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical process for the assessment of systemic inequalities (i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

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

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution, 2022-NR69, which asked “all relevant Ministries to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, including the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical process for the assessment of systemic inequalities (i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.”*

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

## **Section NEB Resolutions Resolutions Contrary to Existing Policy**

Section NEB are the Not Endorse Block of resolutions. Resolutions in the Not Endorse Block are contrary to existing policy and are recommended as Not Endorse.

NEB Resolutions are:

- resolutions previously considered and not endorsed; or
- resolutions contrary with UBCM policy.

Included in Section NEB are resolutions numbered:

**NEB1 – NEB2**

## Section NEB

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### Environment

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#### **NEB1      Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Program for Rail Lines      Houston**

Whereas the provincial government's approach to invasive species is to find, identify, and systematically eradicate, contain or control new invasive species before they can spread beyond their point of entry;

And whereas the Province does not have jurisdiction to perform noxious weed and invasive plant control activities on CN Rail right of ways;

And whereas current invasive plant management programs for noxious weeds and invasive plants along rail lines are not being effectively performed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to assess and improve the noxious weeds and invasive plant removal program along rail lines throughout British Columbia.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **Not Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to ensure that rail companies communicate with local governments while implementing programs to manage and control invasive plants along rail corridors (2008-B44, 2007-B19, 2007-B107, 2003-B80, 2003-B84).*

*However, the Committee advises that members have not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to take on the assessment and management of invasive plants along national rail lines in BC. This is the responsibility of the rail lines.*

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

### Assessment

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#### **NEB2      Varied Taxation Rate for Residential (Class 1) Properties      Langley City**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia specifies that there is one assessment class for all types of residential properties even though the assessed value of attached and detached residential properties change values at different rates and other jurisdictions, such as Ontario, allow different tax rates for attached and detached residential properties;

And whereas in Langley City, a 4.94 percent property tax increase in 2018 resulted in a 0.4 percent decrease for detached residential properties and a 14.31 percent increase for attached residential property, and in 2022, a 4.35 percent property tax increase resulted in a 12.49 percent increase for detached residential properties and 3.37 percent decrease for attached residential properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to amend the *BC Assessment Act* and the *Community Charter* to allow the residential class to be split into two distinct residential classes so that a different rate may be applied to each type to account for the difference in the rate at which attached and detached residential properties change their value and to allow local government to more accurately charge for the cost of providing services to attached and detached residential properties.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Not Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has consistently elected to not endorse resolutions seeking to split the residential assessment class in order to apply different tax rates to different types of residential property (2021-NEB4, 2020-NEB7, 2019-B35, 2016-B105, 2003-B79).*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed with an amendment, referred resolution 2018-B114, which read: “Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial Government to explore the merits of establishing new property tax sub-classes, or amending the existing residential tax class, as a tool to address housing affordability.”*

*The Province’s response to 2018-B114 noted that “British Columbia already has more property classes than most jurisdictions across Canada, and any changes would further complicate the assessment process. And, unless the Province prescribes the tax rates or a methodology to determine the tax rate ratios, there is no guarantee that the sub-classes or additional classes would be used as the Province intended, particularly when the real estate market shifts or when there is a shift in priorities.”*

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

## **Section NR Resolutions Resolutions Proposing New Policy**

Section NR are the No Recommendation resolutions. Resolutions placed under No Recommendation neither align with, nor contradict, existing policy and are recommended as No Recommendation or No Action Required.

NR Resolutions are:

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

Included in Section NR are resolutions numbered:

**NR1 – NR93**

## Section NR

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### Health and Social Development

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#### NR1 \$10/Day Child Care Coordination and Funding

Nanaimo RD

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day childcare program, and Child Care BC's growing system of universal childcare has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal childcare relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded childcare needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal childcare that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

**No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that requests a move from grant based applications to multi-year funding for local governments involved in the design and implementation of child care spaces.*

*However, the membership has previously endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province create a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2020-NR68).*

*The membership has also endorsed resolution 2016-B49, which in part, requested that local government be invited to collaborate and participate in developing child care solutions, but that it is understood that child care is not a core mandate or service for local governments.*

*See resolutions RR1, RR2, RR3, RR4, RR5, RR6*

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

#### NR2 Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Support for Municipally Owned Child Care Facilities

Vancouver

Whereas the provision and funding of childcare is the mandate of the Province of British Columbia, yet there is no funding provided from the Province of British Columbia for sustainable and sufficient funding related to costs for the ongoing maintenance, repair and replacement of childcare facilities, leaving municipalities to provide land and buildings for the expansion of new childcare spaces to fill the significant gaps in need;

And whereas these facilities are typically provided at nominal lease rates in efforts to keep parent fees more affordable and to ensure long-term operational viability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to adequately fund ongoing operational costs associated with the maintenance, repair and replacement of municipally owned childcare facilities.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to adequately fund ongoing operational costs associated with the maintenance, repair and replacement of municipally owned childcare facilities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently supported resolutions that sought affordable, accessible and quality child care in BC (2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156).*

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

### **NR3 Accessibility Plan Funding**

**Nelson**

Whereas the Province has required all local governments to develop accessibility plans that must be renewed every 3 years:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Action Required**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.*

*Staff note that the Province has created a funding program for local governments through SPARC BC. Funds can be used for the development and implementation of accessibility plans. Therefore, the Committee offer the recommendation No Action Required.*

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

### **NR4 Review of Benefits for People with Disabilities**

**Mission**

Whereas a single person with a disability receives \$1,358 per month in disability assistance from the provincial government;

And whereas the cost of living has increased substantially making it very challenging for a person with a disability to make ends meet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government review the current assistance rates and increase the assistance amount to no less than \$1,800 per month for a single person and that the rate be reviewed annually to keep pace with cost of living increases.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions in support of increased income assistance (2022-EB13, 2018-B163, 2016-B120, 2015-B45, 2014-B12, 2013-B55, 2013-B130, 2011-B175, 2006-B171, 2005-B51, 2004-B134); however, the membership has not considered a request for the specific amount stated in the resolution.*

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

**NR5      Removing the Financial Barrier to Home Support for BC Seniors      Courtenay**

Whereas the Province's Home Support Program allows seniors to stay in their own homes as long as possible, the preference of most seniors and the option which is far more cost-effective for the health care system at \$14,000 per annum than moving to publicly subsidized long-term care at \$60,000/year;

And whereas 70 percent of BC seniors are charged a fee of up to 30 percent of their income for Home Support, which many cannot afford, leading to poor health outcomes, caregiver burnout and premature placement in long-term care, resulting in BC having twice as many people in long term care who could be supported at home than in provinces that don't charge for home support like Alberta and Ontario:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to waive the fees associated with the Home Support Program in order to make it accessible to all seniors regardless of income.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that while the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution seeking to waive the fees associated with home support, they have endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities and to stay in their own homes, including:*

- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and*
- *create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).*

*The UBCM membership has also endorsed numerous resolutions requesting that the Province introduce a Poverty Reduction Strategy. In 2019, the provincial government created a poverty reduction strategy, with legislated targets, to address poverty in key populations, which includes seniors.*

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

**NR6      Transitional Housing with Supports      Kamloops, Kelowna**

Whereas there is a lack of publicly funded, evidence-based and accredited treatment options and outpatient services, including managed withdrawal (detox) and aftercare supports, while ensuring a variety of treatment options to support individual and family needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to urgently provide a substantial increase and investment into affordable, accessible on demand withdrawal management and substance use

treatment programs building on existing community supports with diverse, culturally appropriate, recovery driven transitional housing options (including abstinence and faith based) to support their commitment to wellness;

And be it further resolved that residents committed to a path to recovery, be eligible to participate in an provincially wide expanded version of the Addiction Recovery Program and/or the 'Single Parent Initiative' while being connected with the program coordinators who encourage optimal recovery by assisting with counselling, life skills, job training and more to help individuals to build confidence, hope as well as a sense of purpose, all while living in safe, affordable transitional housing.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered the specific request for transitional housing residents to participate in an Addiction Recovery Program and/or the 'Single Parent Initiative' while being connected with the program coordinators who encourage optimal recovery by assisting with counselling, life skills, job training and more to help individuals to build confidence, hope as well as a sense of purpose, all while living in safe, affordable transitional housing.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 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).*

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

## **NR7 Tackling BC's Toxic Drug Health Emergency**

**Vancouver**

Whereas the continued illegal supply of increasingly toxic street drugs has led to over 12,000 toxic drug overdose deaths since the BC Provincial Health Officer's declaration of a Drug Overdose Public Health Emergency in 2016, and government measures to date have failed to reduce the criminal supply of toxic drugs and toxic drug overdose deaths;

And whereas there is insufficient province-wide access to resources and services that would increase users' safety, which include drug testing and overdose prevention sites as well as detox beds and treatment services on demand, and preventative programs, especially for youth, and now even current safe injection sites are now hampered in providing safety since more users are now inhaling rather than injecting drugs and provincial regulations restrict indoor smoking and vaping:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to work with medical researchers, experts, local service providers, other key stakeholders and people who use drugs to determine a comprehensive, integrated, economically and geographically accessible, and evidence-based province-wide plan to better tackle BC's toxic drug health emergency, including:

- Increasing safety by:
  - Rapidly delivering access province-wide to resources and services that will improve users' and public safety, including drug testing, supervised consumption spaces and overdose prevention sites;
  - Quickly amending the *Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act* to enable supervised consumption and other harm reduction facilities to allow inhalation or smoking of drugs where operations can otherwise be demonstrated as WorkSafe compliant; and

- Preparing for a review of the current 3-year (January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2026) Provincial decriminalization pilot program and the 4-year (2020-2024) Federal Safer Supply Pilot Project to determine how drug policies and programs can be refined to better support people who use drugs in accessing throughout BC a safer and tested drug supply therefore reducing their exposure to the often fatal dangers of the illicit market.
- Increasing economically accessible treatment by supporting the BC Nurses' Union 2023 convention resolution to "develop a system of mental and addiction treatment and recovery services that are regulated, evidence-based, economically and geographically accessible, and are available when people are looking for it"; and
- Increasing prevention by investing in mental health treatment and life-enhancing youth, family and community well-being programs, including early childhood detection, intervention and ongoing supports for learning differences.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to address the on-going toxic drug crisis, including:*

- *2022-SR2, which called for funding and staff for security, clean-up, and social services at harm reduction locations and surrounding neighbourhoods in BC communities, as well as a share of the \$150 million settlement from Purdue Pharma Canada to local governments to help cover the costs associated with the opioid and overdose crisis, such as police, fire and bylaw departments;*
- *2021-EB56 which called for a safe drug supply;*
- *2021-NR44 which called for a safe drug supply and that the supply be free;*
- *2019-B142, which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs; and*
- *2020-SR8, which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 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).*

*See resolutions EB1, EB2, EB3*

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

<b>NR8</b>	<b>Exception to the <i>Controlled Drugs and Substances Act</i> Exemption to Address Illicit Drug Use in Spaces for Children and Youth</b>	<b>New Westminster</b>
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Whereas the BC Government has been granted an exemption by Health Canada from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs;

And whereas an omission to the exceptions for this exemption could result in nuisance illicit drug use in public park spaces designed for and used by children and youth:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the BC Government request Health Canada add "public spaces designed for and used by children and youth" to the list of exceptions to the *Controlled Drug and Substances Act* exemption.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported decriminalization of illicit drugs, through resolution 2021-NR44.*

*However, the Committee advises that the membership has not specifically considered a request that Health Canada add “public spaces designed for and used by children and youth” to the list of exceptions to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act exemption.*

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

## **NR9                    Increasing Rural Health Center Autonomy**

**Logan Lake**

Whereas the Ministry of Health works together with a provincial health authority, five regional health authorities, and a First Nations health authority to provide high quality, appropriate and timely health services to British Columbians;

And whereas most British Columbia hospitals are over capacity and demand for hospital care is at an all-time high;

And whereas all hospitals care for many types of injuries and emergency conditions ranging from minor to severe, but not all Health Centers are designated as a Trauma Center resulting in patients travelling long distances for minor trauma and experiencing long waiting periods in those Centers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to look at granting more autonomy to rural and remote health care centers in order to be able to administer minor trauma care and alleviate pressure on emergency room wait times.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Health to grant more autonomy to rural and remote health care centers in order to be able to administer minor trauma care and alleviate pressure on emergency room wait times.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient’s home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.*

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

## **NR10                  Review of Health Authorities Structure**

**NCLGA Executive**

Whereas access to healthcare services is of paramount importance to all British Columbians, a detailed evaluation of structure/management is required to inform future strategies;

And whereas local governments have limited access to Health Authority reports:



percent project requests from HAs, but they feel that it is risky to do so as the project could be placed at risk and the local community could lose needed investments.

In response to endorsed resolution 2021-EB64, the Ministry of Health advised that “RHDs are expected to contribute 40 percent of capital project costs within their region”. The provincial government noted that “when there is an opportunity to amend the Hospital District Act - the legislative framework for the roles and responsibilities of RHDs - the review of the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC could be considered in consultation with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities”.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the enactment clause asks that the RHD’s ‘ability to pay’ be considering as part of the cost-sharing of projects. However, it is unclear what means test would be required to determine an RHD’s ability to pay.

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

**NR12 Locally Offered Training and Support for Public Health Officers  
In Northern BC**

**Houston**

Whereas there is a lack of Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia;

And whereas the current staffing levels are impacting development approval processes for obtaining public health permits;

And whereas there is limited training opportunities for Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the provision of locally offered training and support for Public Health Officials in rural and northern British Columbia

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase the provision of locally offered training and support for Public Health Officials in rural and northern British Columbia.*

*The Committee would note that this resolution is regional in nature, and would suggest removal of ‘northern’ from the enactment clause.*

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

**NR13 Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers**

**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas British Columbia is one of the last remaining provinces in Canada requiring a vaccine mandate for healthcare professionals;

And whereas the shortage of healthcare workers in the Province of British Columbia has been exacerbated considerably by the dismissal of those healthcare workers who chose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to lift the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work to lessen the strain on the healthcare system.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to lift the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work to lessen the strain on the healthcare system.*

*See resolution RR15*

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

## **NR14 Provincial Funding for Municipal Medic Trucks**

**Mission**

Whereas the provincial investments in the BC Ambulance Service have not kept pace with growth and inflation in BC municipalities;

And whereas municipal fire and rescue services are often the first responders to calls for medical service causing elevated wear and tear on fire apparatus and are unable to leave the scene until an ambulance arrives thus putting the community fire protection services at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider funding the capital and operating costs of medic trucks in municipalities to ensure that an adequate level of fire protection is maintained in the community and the cost of providing purely medical services, a provincial responsibility, are not unfairly burdening municipalities.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to fund the capital and operating costs of medic trucks in municipalities to ensure that an adequate level of fire protection is maintained in the community and the cost of providing purely medical services, a provincial responsibility, are not unfairly burdening municipalities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions which asked for better coordination between BC Emergency Health Services and local governments, whose fire departments may be called upon to provide pre-hospital emergency care (2022-EB3, 2019-SR3).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).*

*Upon speaking with the sponsor, the Committee can advise that the sponsor's intent is to have firefighters staff the medic trucks.*

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

## **Housing**

### **NR15 Expanding Development Permit Powers to Allow for Pre-Zoning**

**Delta**

Whereas there is an urgent need to increase housing supply across BC and the Province has indicated its desire to encourage pre-planning and reduce spot rezonings;

And whereas under the current legislative framework, many local governments rely on discretionary zoning approvals as a means to regulate land use change, obtain road dedications and infrastructure servicing requirements, and negotiate amenity contributions and/or site specific development requirements;

And whereas many municipalities are exploring opportunities to pre-zone lands for increased residential development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to:

- expand the tools for local governments to request road dedications, statutory-rights-of-way and infrastructure servicing upgrades through the development permit and/or building permit process; and
- provide a legislative framework for amenity contributions, tenant relocation requirements, and other requirements to be applied at the development permit or building permit phase rather than being tied to rezonings.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to 1) expand the tools for local governments to request road dedications, statutory-rights-of-way and infrastructure servicing upgrades through the development permit and/or building permit process; and 2) provide a legislative framework for amenity contributions, tenant relocation requirements, and other requirements to be applied at the development permit or building permit phase rather than being tied to rezonings.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB76 which sought to maintain local government autonomy and authority for development approvals.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2013-B114 which asked for a review of planning and development legislation, Part 26 of the Local Government Act, and related legislation and to consult with UBCM regarding appropriate changes. Topics covered within Part 26 are issues that have been the topic of UBCM resolutions over the years, such as development permits/variances; zoning; affordable housing; OCPs; public hearings; landscaping; signage; flood plain areas; contaminated sites; non-conforming uses and siting; farm business regulation; permits and fees (DCCs); land use contracts and parkland provision.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership supported several resolutions which call on the Province to improve enforceability of development permit requirements by enabling local governments to issue tickets, levy fines and/or initiate prosecution when violations occur (2019-B53, 2013-B113, 2011-B45, 2003-B89).*

*The membership has also supported resolutions calling on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to grant local governments the authority of development permit oversight for institutional developments (2017-B33, 2004-B19).*

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

**NR16      Supporting Non-Profit Ownership of Non-Market Housing in  
Air Space Parcels**

**Burnaby**

Whereas municipalities have been asked by the Province to support the development of new non-market housing developments;

And whereas municipalities have adopted policies to encourage the inclusion of non-market housing owned and operated by a non-profit organization as part of market housing developments;

And whereas non-profit organizations are being denied mortgage financing to acquire non-market dwelling units due to lack of title or lease while the building is under construction:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Land Title Act* to enable lot line adjustments for air space parcels, to allow non-profit organizations to obtain title and financing on a provisional air space parcel which may then be further subdivided prior to occupancy to align with the building's elevations as constructed.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Land Title Act to enable lot line adjustments for air space parcels, to allow non-profit organizations to obtain title and financing on a provisional air space parcel which may then be further subdivided prior to occupancy to align with the building's elevations as constructed.*

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

## **NR17 1.0 Hectare Policy/Guidelines**

## **Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline, which prevents the construction of additional housing on properties of less than one hectare without attaching to a community sewerage system, is nearly twenty years old;

And whereas technology and construction standards for septic systems has advanced since the policy/guideline was put into place;

And whereas there are many rural area small holding properties that lend themselves to densification without harming the delicate agricultural balance, which in time could assist to reduce the critical housing shortage:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.*

*The Committee notes that the Provincial government originally introduced the 1.0 hectare policy to end the subdivision of small parcels of land that relied strictly on septic fields as the means of waste disposal. The Province identified one hectare as being the minimum parcel size upon which a septic field for a single residential use should be utilized.*

*The Committee also notes that during the 2000's UBCM was a part of a committee that explored servicing issues, at which time concerns were raised regarding the need to ensure that if land was to be developed with septic systems, it should be done in a way to ensure that septic systems are viable as long term solutions due to the high costs of bringing in community sewer at a later date.*

*The Committee further notes that the 1.0 hectare policy is required to be eligible to receive a capital grant that is used to provide community sewer to an area historically serviced by septic. If local governments choose to not implement a 1.0 hectare policy, they have that ability, but they will not be eligible for funding from the Province.*

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

**NR18      Review of the *Homeowner Protection Act***

**Port Hardy**

Whereas the *Homeowner Protection Act* requires that testing requirements be met as part of the application process for building contractors to obtain continuing education units annually to maintain their license, and communities are seeing a reduction in capacity to provide for housing development in rural and remote communities;

And whereas many rural BC communities provide construction oversight through building inspection services to ensure that Owner Builders and Building Contractors are meeting the minimum BC Building Code Part 9 requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to review the residential *Homeowner Protection Act* regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review the residential Homeowner Protection Act regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.*

*The Committee would note that such an approach, while potentially increasing housing supply, could increase regulatory risk for local governments responsible for building inspections.*

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

**NR19      Large Infrastructure Project Impacts on Housing Crisis**

**Squamish**

Whereas the Province has acknowledged that there is a housing crisis affecting communities across all of British Columbia and has chosen to take unprecedented action to address this challenge by looking for opportunities and taking action to deliver long-term housing supply;

And whereas large infrastructure projects mandated or approved by the Province put immense pressure on available housing rental and ownership stock, and tourism infrastructure by requiring a significant number of temporary workers without appropriate workforce housing plans as a requirement of project approval:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province require robust and detailed workforce housing plans integral to the approval process for large infrastructure projects, to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of temporary workforce housing on communities and deliver a positive housing legacy.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require robust and detailed workforce housing plans integral to the approval process for large infrastructure projects, to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of temporary workforce housing on communities and deliver a positive housing legacy.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing the impacts of workforce housing plans or work camps:

- 2014-A4 which asked the provincial government to establish a “single window approval process” for work camps that allows for stakeholder comment to address the location, operation, safety, health and socio-economic impacts associated with a work camp; and
- 2005-B36, which in part expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities and sought consultation (in this specific resolution) with the Oil and Gas Commission in advance so local jurisdictions were aware of their plans that would affect future community and regional development.

See resolution NR37

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

## **NR20 Provincial Matching of Local Government Land Investments in Affordable Housing**

**Penticton**

Whereas local governments across the Province of BC face an unprecedented housing crisis;

And whereas local governments have limited revenue and capability to address the crisis;

And whereas the Province of BC has made it their priority to provide attainable and affordable housing for all BC communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government of British Columbia to work collaboratively with local governments and establish a model that provides provincial funding equal or greater in value to any donated land a local government contributes for the purpose of attainable and affordable housing projects.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide funding equal or greater in value to any donated land a local government contributes for the purpose of attainable and affordable housing projects.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB25, 2022-EB26, 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).*

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

## **NR21 Increasing Affordable Rental Housing Supply**

**Langley City**

Whereas the Prime Minister, at the National Supply Housing Summit held on February 24, 2022, advised that Canada has a shortage of over two million homes, and that with the increased need of immigration, there is a need to double the volume of housing created in Canada annually to meet the current housing deficit and future demand;

And whereas the Rental Construction Financing Initiative (RCFI) program; an underfunded and underused housing initiative accessed through the Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC), designed to provide funding from the Bank of Canada through CMHC directly to developers and Non-Profit/charities could be implemented more effectively by the federal government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government to modify the current CMHC / Rental Construction Financing Initiative (RCFI) program to further incentivize private enterprise and non-profits to build critically needed affordable rentals.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to modify the current CMHC / Rental Construction Financing Initiative (RCFI) program to further incentivize private enterprise and non-profits to build critically needed affordable rentals.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB24, 2022-EB25, 2022-EB26, 2022-NR14, 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).*

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

## **NR22 Rights of Tenants Facing Displacement Through Redevelopment**

## **North Vancouver District**

Whereas vulnerable tenants are evicted from low-costs rental homes for redevelopment purposes;

And whereas there are insufficient protections within the *Residential Tenancy Act* for tenants to be re-homed in the redeveloped properties they were evicted from:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia enable legislative changes to require developers who evict residents from low-cost rental homes to allow tenants right of first refusal to return to the developed property at either their rental rate at time of eviction or a discounted rental rate;

And be it further resolved that the *Residential Tenancy Act* and any other applicable legislative change be enacted to allow enhanced rights of tenants in British Columbia and that a Municipal Guide for Tenant Relocation Policies be provided to local governments.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*At present tenant assistance policies may be adopted by local governments for application where they have negotiation rights, such as for a rezoning. In contrast, the proposed resolution would see broader protections enacted by the Province for tenants displaced by redevelopment more generally. The Resolutions Committee would note that the proposed legislative changes may have unintended consequences by impacting development finance and discouraging needed redevelopment in some instances.*

*The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions looking to protect tenants' rights, including addressing issues of renovations and demovictions, and to limit rent increases (2020-EB84, 2020-EB85, 2017-B53, 2017-B126, 2016-B121 2016-B137).*

*Membership also endorsed resolution 2020-EB84, requesting that the provincial government review the Residential Tenancy Act and other provincial legislation to provide additional local government powers in relation to tenant assistance. The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2019-B184 which requested the creation of an Office of the Renters Advocate to monitor and analyzes renters' services and issues in BC, and make*

*recommendations to government and service providers to address systemic issues caused by rental shortages, renovictions, demovictions and housing affordability.*

*However, the Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution that asked the Province to require developers who evict residents from low-cost rental homes to allow tenants right of first refusal to return to the developed property at either their rental rate at time of eviction or a discounted rental rate, and, should no rental units be part of the redeveloped site, with an option for right of first refusal with a purchase discount option. Nor has the membership considered a request for a Municipal Guide for Tenant Relocation Policies be provided to local governments.*

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

## **NR23 Advocacy for Pet Friendly Housing**

**Port Moody**

Whereas companion animals have been proven to enhance physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable British Columbians such as women, young people, households with lower incomes, renters and those experiencing homelessness who identify greater reliance on their companion animals for support and greater difficulty finding affordable, pet-friendly housing;

And whereas the lack of pet-friendly housing continues to be the primary reason for the surrender of healthy, loved, adult companion animals to the BC SPCA, despite the provincial government's work to increase housing affordability and supply:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to direct BC Housing to develop strategies and guidance that support pet-friendly housing in the non-profit sector;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to consider pet friendly housing in the BC Housing Strategy update and to work with stakeholders (including but not limited to landlord's and tenant's associations, animal welfare organizations, public health, mental health and seniors organizations, and poverty reduction and homelessness advocates) to find cooperative solutions to increase the availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing for all British Columbians while providing appropriate protections and mechanisms of compensation for landlords.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking BC Housing to develop strategies and guidance that support pet-friendly housing in the non-profit sector. Nor has the membership considered the request to consider pet friendly housing in the BC Housing Strategy update and to work with stakeholders (including but not limited to landlord's and tenant's associations, animal welfare organizations, public health, mental health and seniors organizations, and poverty reduction and homelessness advocates) to find cooperative solutions to increase the availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing for all British Columbians while providing appropriate protections and mechanisms of compensation for landlords.*

*The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2020-NR74 which asked the Province to change the Residential Tenancy Act and Strata Property Act such that landlords and strata organizations may not reject applicants for rental units because their family unit may include pets.*

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

## NR24 Alternatives to Rent Control for Small Landlords

Invermere

Whereas many smaller communities have very little purpose built rental units and rely almost exclusively on secondary rentals provide by "small landlords" (those with less than four units);

And whereas operating costs faced by small landlords have increased dramatically over the last few years (including utilities, maintenance, interest, and land taxes);

And whereas the provincial government has continued to artificially cap and limit the annual rent increases allowed for existing long term tenants, with allowed rent increases not having any connection to increased costs or increased market rental rates;

And whereas many small landlords are selling properties or otherwise ending historic tenancies, the historic rental supply in many communities is quickly disappearing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial Government to design programs that:

1. Provide subsidies and grants to small landlords who are providing affordable and safe long term rental units to entice them to continue to provide a necessary service; and
2. Develop a transparent process to gradually allow small landlords to increase existing rent rates so that over several years they can reach current market rent rates.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

**No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to design programs that 1. Provide subsidies and grants to small landlords who are providing affordable and safe long term rental units to entice them to continue to provide a necessary service; and 2. Develop a transparent process to gradually allow small landlords to increase existing rent rates so that over several years they can reach current market rent rates.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2022-NR10 which asked the Province to explore a vacancy control policy that would limit rent increases between tenancies. Membership has supported resolutions looking to protect tenants' rights and limit rent increases (2020-EB85, 2017-B53, 2017-B126, 2016-B137). Membership has also endorsed resolutions seeking review and standardization of the Residential Tenancy Act to provide clarity and certainty to both landlords and tenants (2017-B120, 2016-B121, 2014-B51). Resolution 2014-B51 in particular urged the Province to "address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants."*

*Overall, UBCM's existing policy thus favors a balanced approach that seeks to protect both tenant and landlord interests, which is further reflected in UBCM's housing strategy that recommended allowing a slightly higher allowable rate of rent increase to landlords under rent controls to provide the basis for continued maintenance and/or more substantial rehabilitation.*

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

## NR25 Encampment Management

NCLGA Executive

Whereas the Province of BC is experiencing a homeless crisis and the number of individuals experiencing homelessness is increasing;

And whereas the number of shelter spaces is not sufficient or lack staff capacity to house our vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness and results in a number of individuals living in encampments;

And whereas municipalities are responsible for land use and mental health, addictions and housing does not fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to direct BC Housing to provide management and oversight of encampments in all communities across BC.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM has endorsed resolutions addressing homeless encampments and rural homelessness (2021-EB74, 2019-B183).*

*However, in both these cases, the resolutions explicitly requested that the Province work with local governments to address encampments. This stands in contrast to the present resolution which states that housing does not fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities and requests that the Province direct BC Housing to take on management and oversight of encampments.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy including plans to address homelessness (2022-NR22, 2022-NR64, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2017-B52, 2017-B98, 2016-B45).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2021-LR5, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21).*

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

## **NR26 “The Village” Model of Supportive Housing**

**Duncan**

Whereas “The Village” project in Duncan has received temporary BC Housing funding since 2021 to offer individual sleeping units, external communal spaces, and shared washroom facilities to 34 previously unsheltered individuals;

And whereas the support services, programs, and opportunities offered at “The Village”, including improved physical and mental well-being, peer outreach, neighbourhood monitoring, improved sanitation, street clean-up, and incident response have made a positive impact on the residents and has helped to reduce the related community impacts in the surrounding neighbourhood;

And whereas “The Village” model can be scaled to house approximately 50 individuals per site, many of whom may not transition well into a traditional multi-unit supportive housing building with individual kitchen and washroom facilities in each unit;

And whereas “The Village” model can be implemented quickly to house the growing unsheltered homeless population and address the acute related impacts in communities across the province, at a fraction of the cost of construction of traditional multi-unit supportive housing, and operated at a lower cost:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to implement “The Village” model, including sleeping units, with communal eating and gathering spaces and washroom facilities, and robust support services, as part of the supportive housing continuum and provide a mechanism for this model to receive continued funding from BC Housing.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling the Province to implement “The Village” model, including sleeping units, with communal eating and gathering spaces and washroom facilities, and robust support services, as part of the supportive housing continuum and provide a mechanism for this model to receive continued funding from BC Housing.*

*However the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21).*

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

## **NR27 Policy and Funding to Increase Resiliency in Schools**

**Port Moody**

Whereas the Province of BC completed a Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for BC in 2019 that found that extreme weather events will continue to worsen across the province in coming years including heat waves;

And whereas some middle and high schools could be used as emergency, disaster or extreme weather shelters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Education to increase funding to school districts with facilities capable of being used as emergency, disaster or extreme weather shelters to implement and increase resiliency measures including but not limited to mechanical cooling and ventilation.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Education to increase funding to school districts with facilities capable of being used as emergency, disaster or extreme weather shelters to implement and increase resiliency measures including but not limited to mechanical cooling and ventilation.*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions that asked the Province to provide funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response shelters and warming and cooling centers (2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).*

*The Committee notes that additional resiliency measures such as those noted could also have valuable benefits for students who are increasingly faced with extreme conditions (smoke, heat) even outside of the summer.*

*Finally, although this resolution calls for additional funding from the Ministry of Education, advocacy may best be directed to the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.*

*See resolution EB18*

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

## **NR28 Temporary Warming Shelter**

**Vernon**

Whereas the provision of funding from the Province to shelter providers through the local government for the provision of temporary, just-in-time warming shelter(s) during cold weather creates ineffective bureaucracy,

places unreasonable pressure on local government resources and creates unnecessary financial and other liabilities for local governments;

And whereas the Province has responsibility and existing funding mechanisms through BC Housing to provide reliable and stable funding to shelter providers for this purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM contact the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide funding for additional shelters and that funding be administered to advise of the challenges with the approach and to recommend that funding for the additional shelters be administered through the currently established Provincial funding mechanisms to social sector agencies, such as BC Housing.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province that funding for the additional shelters be administered through the currently established Provincial funding mechanisms to social sector agencies, such as BC Housing.*

*The Committee notes that the sponsor has provided additional materials that detail how the November 2022 “Warming Centre Guidelines” approach would put local governments in a situation whereby “with fluctuating temperatures and unstable funding, participating municipalities would have to assess, engage, implement, document and pay for social sector services and make claim to the Province to recover costs to access this Provincial funding with each occasion of cold weather.”, with no certainty that all costs would be reimbursed.*

*The Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions asking the Province to work with local governments to fund extreme weather shelters:*

- *2022-EB11 which sought provincial funding for local government cooling centres in extreme heat events;*
- *2021-EB73 which asked the Province to re-establish extreme weather response shelters funding for any extreme weather conditions including cold or heat; and*
- *2012-B94 which asked the Province to supply adequate funding for cold weather shelters.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy as part of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness (2022-NR64, 2020-NR70, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109). As well, the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-LR5.*

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

**NR29      Updating the *Strata Property Act* to Include Allowances for Heat Pumps and Other Mechanical Cooling Systems      Port Moody**

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions, increasing daytime and nighttime temperatures and other vulnerabilities for low-income residents of multi-unit residential buildings;

And whereas the current *Strata Property Act* permits Strata Councils to enact bylaws that permit or restrict the addition of mechanical cooling to an individual unit within a strata property, and therefore this restriction creates an unsafe interior environment in the case of heat domes and other high temperatures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to amend the *Strata Property Act* to allow the addition of heat pumps or other efficient mechanical cooling systems without the need to amend individual Strata corporation bylaws.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Strata Property Act to allow the addition of heat pumps or other efficient mechanical cooling systems without the need to amend individual Strata corporation bylaws.*

*The Committee would note that were the proposed change to be implemented, consideration would need to be given to addressing potential impacts on common property, such as building envelope impacts (e.g. wall penetrations).*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several additional resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2022-EB31, 2022-NR18, 2021-EB40, 2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).*

*See resolutions EB19, EB20*

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

## Community Safety

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### NR30 ***Cannabis Control and Licensing Act***

### **Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas Section 33(1) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* indicates that the British Columbia Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) must not issue or amend a cannabis license without a positive recommendation of the affected local government or Indigenous nation;

And whereas the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* does not require the LCRB to receive a positive recommendation from an affected local government in order to issue or amend a liquor license;

And whereas the public consultation requirements under Section 33(3) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* are seen to result in lengthy referral processing times:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to allow local governments the ability to “opt-out” of providing comment to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Branch with respect to applications for cannabis licenses.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act to provide local governments the ability to opt out of providing comment to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) with respect to applications for cannabis licenses.*

*As part of the Province's liquor licensing framework, local governments have the authority to opt out of the review and public input process. If a local government decides not to participate, the LCRB will assume responsibility for gathering public input. This option does not exist under the Province's cannabis retail licensing framework.*

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

### **NR31 Provincial Cannabis Tax Sharing with Local Governments**

**Port Moody**

Whereas the Canadian federal government has clearly stated its expectation that provincial cannabis tax revenue be shared with local governments and such revenues are currently being shared between the provinces and local governments in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta, but not in British Columbia;

And whereas the sharing of cannabis tax revenue will provide much needed funding for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to share up to 50 percent of provincial revenues generated from the production and sale of cannabis products with BC local governments.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to share up to 50 percent of provincial revenue generated from the production and sale of cannabis products with BC local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking an equitable share of cannabis taxation revenue for local governments to address costs and responsibilities resulting from the legalization of non-medical cannabis (2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3).*

*In August 2021, the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance released its report, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency, focusing on cost drivers related to attainable housing, community safety and climate change. Recommendation #12 in the report is to "seek a targeted consumption tax that provides local governments a share of provincial cannabis taxation revenue."*

*In developing its revenue sharing framework, the federal government agreed to increase the provincial share of cannabis excise tax revenue by 25 percent in recognition of the costs and responsibilities that would be assumed by local governments. The federal expectation was that a portion of provincial cannabis taxation revenue be shared with local governments. The Province of British Columbia, to this point, has not shared any of its cannabis taxation revenue with local governments.*

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

### **NR32 Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition**

**Salmo**

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has indicated that private insurance industry standards are not in the control of the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas current insurance industry guidelines require fire apparatus to be replaced on a maximum 25-year basis or the fire insurance grades of a community will be adversely affected;

And whereas the cost to replace fire apparatus is a large financial burden for small communities;

And whereas a municipality is not permitted to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to purchase new fire apparatus without a costly referendum process:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation that permits municipalities to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, without the requirement to go to referendum;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia work with insurance underwriters and change legislation to allow the use of older fire apparatus that pass an annual inspection without an affect to the insurance grading of the community.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to enact/amend legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, for the purpose of purchasing new fire apparatus, without the requirement to go to referendum.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate challenges faced by fire services, in particular to extend the life-span of fire apparatus (2022-EB38, 2021-EB8, 2021-EB9, 2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).*

*The Committee further notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed related resolutions seeking a PST exemption for the purchase of fire trucks and other life-saving equipment (2022-EB64, 2005-B14, 2003-B14) and for the purchase of fire protection equipment and supplies for fire departments (2019-B20, 2007-B22).*

*The Committee cautions that as the first enactment clause, as currently written, could be interpreted as allowing municipalities to borrow for any reason, not specifically to borrow to purchase fire apparatus. To clarify, the enactment clause would benefit from an amendment to include "to buy fire apparatus". "Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation that permits municipalities to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, **to buy fire apparatus**, without the requirement to go to referendum;"*

*See resolutions NR53, NR56*

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

### **NR33 BC Wildfire Service Firefighting Equipment**

### **Peace River RD**

Whereas the province of British Columbia is prone to wildfires, which pose significant threats to public safety, communities, property, and the environment, and where climate change has contributed to an increase in the frequency, intensity, and severity of wildfires, thereby placing an unprecedented strain on available firefighting equipment;

And whereas the Provincial Government has the responsibility to ensure that the BC Wildfire Service has adequate resources, including equipment, to effectively respond to and manage wildfires to safeguard lives, protect infrastructure, and preserve the natural environment, and where the effectiveness and efficiency of the BC Wildfire Service's operations in the containment of wildfires heavily depend on the availability of adequate equipment and resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Provincial Government take immediate action to ensure that BC Wildfire is provided with all available firefighting equipment, including Coulson Aviation's Next Gen fire suppression equipment, and any other available Canadian company with aviation firefighting equipment, to combat wildfires during increased demand during peak wildfire seasons;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government explore partnerships with federal agencies, neighboring provinces, and available contractors to enhance equipment sharing and mutual aid agreements, ensuring a more robust response to wildfires and promoting regional collaboration in firefighting efforts.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure that the BC Wildfire Service is provided with all available firefighting equipment, including through Coulson Aviation's Next Gen fire suppression equipment and other Canadian companies with aviation firefighting equipment; and, that the Province explore partnerships with federal agencies, neighboring provinces, and available contractors to enhance equipment sharing and mutual aid agreements.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2022-EB36, 2022-NR26, 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).*

*The membership has also endorsed resolution 2013-OF1, which sought for the Province to renew its contract with the Coulson Group (owners of Coulson Aviation), in order to retain the Martin Mars water bomber for fire suppression activities.*

*The Resolutions Committee also notes a process concern with the proposed resolution, which seeks to direct the Province to override its procurement procedures, and hire one specific company to provide fire suppression equipment.*

*The Province's Budget 2022 included financial and operational commitments to improve emergency management, including through shifting the BC Wildfire Service to operate with a year-round workforce, transitioning to a more pro-active approach and also focusing on the four pillars of emergency management (mitigation, preparation, response and recovery) in relation to wildfire management. This year's provincial budget noted an additional \$64 million over 5 years in federal and provincial funding to the BC Wildfire Service, for firefighting equipment.*

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

**NR34      Implementing a Graduated Tier System for RCMP Cost-Sharing      Parksville**  
**Agreements**

Whereas the current RCMP cost-sharing agreement consists of a 70 percent municipal and 30 percent federal government cost-share ratio for municipalities with a population of less than 15,000;

And whereas municipalities experiencing population growth face a sudden and significant increase in financial responsibility when the population threshold of 15,000 is crossed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to the Province of BC and to the Government of Canada for the introduction of additional population tiers to the RCMP cost-sharing agreement to ease the financial burden on municipalities transitioning between the current ratios;

And be it further resolved that the proposed additional tiers should be designed to create a smoother transition in financial responsibility, considering factors such as municipal population growth rates, fiscal capacity, and the specific needs of communities.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking additional population tiers/thresholds in the RCMP Municipal Police Unit Agreement, which are to be developed in consideration of factors such as municipal population growth rates, fiscal capacity, and the specific needs of communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2022-NR33 which requested incremental adjustments as communities grow beyond 5,000, then beyond 10,000 and finally over 15,000 residents. While the proposed resolution has a somewhat similar request to 2022-NR33, it is unclear how "fiscal responsibility" and "specific needs" would be defined and measured as part of the process to create additional tiers/thresholds to help ease the financial burden on local governments.*

*The membership also endorsed resolutions 2020-EB5 and 2016-B75, both of which requested a review of the police funding model for local governments nearing the 5,000 population threshold in order to establish an incremental increase or graduated annual increase in policing costs.*

*Additionally, the UBCM Executive endorsed, with an amendment, referred resolution 2020-NR7, which asked the provincial government to review the current model of funding RCMP police services, with the intent to make police services more affordable for contract partners, including local governments.*

*As part of the ongoing Police Act review, the Province has created the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable as a forum for local governments to share their experience and knowledge and bring forward matters of interest or concerns respecting policing modernization, the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act's recommendations and other public safety priorities. As part of its final report, the Special Committee has recommended that the Province "create a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities," that includes "exploring options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of policing costs." This recommendation will be examined further as part of the Roundtable's work.*

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

### **NR35 Addressing Municipal RCMP Detachment Vacancies**

**Cranbrook**

Whereas municipal RCMP detachments are experiencing ongoing temporary and permanent vacancies across British Columbia, at the same time as they are being asked to respond to calls for service outside their core expertise (e.g. mental health, addictions and complex social issues);

And whereas the provincial government has secured resources for the BC Highway Patrol to provide traffic law enforcement and public education across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province allow for BC Highway Patrol resources to be redirected to support municipal RCMP detachments that are experiencing temporary staffing shortages.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allow for BC Highway Patrol resources to be redirected to support municipal RCMP detachments that are experiencing temporary staffing shortages.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions related to police resource allocation in rural areas and/or the need to increase the authorized strength of the provincial police force (2020-EB7, 2019-A3, 2018-B88, 2017-B6, 2016-B82, 2014-B6, 2013-B7, 2012-A4, 2012-B1). Endorsed*

*resolution 2019-A3 called on the provincial government to increase its funding contribution for the provincial police force.*

*As part of the recent Safer Communities Action Plan, the Province has recently made a 3-year funding commitment for 256 RCMP officers in its provincial police force, notably in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.*

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

### **NR36 Commercial Semi Truck Dash Cams**

**Barriere**

Whereas the amount of time each commercial semi truck spends on the road, the weights they operate with, and the braking distances involved in stopping commercial semi trucks;

And whereas the use of dash cams can encourage commercial truck driver accountability in adhering to safe driving practices and can be affordable insurance in providing undeniable evidence for the almost inevitable near misses that professional drivers contend with in doing their job:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of BC to review the feasibility of requiring all commercial semi-trucks as defined in the *Transportation Act* registered in British Columbia to have dash cams installed and in operation while driving within the Province of BC as a step toward the positive progression of improving our highway safety.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review the feasibility of requiring all semi-trucks registered in BC to have dash cams installed and in operation while driving within the Province of BC, as a means to improve highway safety.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has previously endorsed several resolutions asking the Province to improve highway safety through enhanced commercial vehicle inspection programs (2009-B21, 2007-B104, 2006-B38, 2005-B79, 2005-B38).*

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

### **NR37 Large Infrastructure Project Impacts on Public Safety**

**Squamish**

Whereas in 2019 BC enacted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that Indigenous women and girls experienced violence as a result of industrial work camps in proximity to their communities;

And whereas large infrastructure projects mandated or approved by the Province are in the planning, construction, operation and closure phases across BC;

And whereas significant numbers of temporary workers are required to reside in or near communities to execute these projects, and the provincial government has committed to addressing the public safety concerns of British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that provincial regulation of temporary workforce accommodation be expanded beyond basic servicing and environmental requirements, and that monitoring, evaluation and accountability be expanded for specific recommended mitigation measures to minimize impacts on local communities including but not limited to gender-based violence.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the regulation of temporary workforce accommodations to include enhanced monitoring, evaluation and accountability measures that address gender-based violence and improve community safety.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing the impacts of work camps:*

- *2014-A4, which asked the provincial government to establish a “single window approval process” for work camps that allows for stakeholder input to address the location, operation, safety, health and socio-economic impacts associated with a work camp; and*
- *2005-B36, which in part expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities and sought consultation (in this specific resolution) with the Oil and Gas Commission in advance so local jurisdictions were aware of their plans that would affect future community and regional development.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has also endorsed numerous resolutions addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) Calls for Justice, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including: 2022-EB85, 2021-EB77, 2019-LR4, 2018-B150, 2018-B23, 2015-B106, 2012-B32, 2009-B143.*

*See resolution NR19*

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

## Environment

### NR38 Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver

**Metchosin**

Whereas the Salish Sea is a sensitive marine ecosystem and critical habitat for many species including endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales, and the use of freighter anchorages outside the Port of Vancouver for ships waiting to be loaded in the Port of Vancouver is extremely detrimental to the marine ecosystem;

And whereas ports in other parts of the world have reduced or eliminated the need for freighter anchorages by upgrading infrastructure, increasing efficiencies, and implementing port call optimization systems:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the federal government and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority take all available actions to immediately reduce the use of freighter anchorages along southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands;

And be it further resolved that Transport Canada expand monitoring and inspection of freighters anchored outside the limits of the Port of Vancouver.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the federal government and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to take all available actions to immediately reduce the use of freighter anchorages along southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. Nor has the*

*membership considered a request that Transport Canada expand monitoring and inspection of freighters anchored outside the limits of the Port of Vancouver.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about potential negative impacts of increased marine traffic in the Salish Sea and other BC coastal waters—especially increased tanker traffic (2016-B21, 2012-A8, 2011-LR6, 2010-B139, 2008-B143, 2003-B23).*

*The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-NR45 which sought a Coastal Protection Strategy and law to leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, First Nations, local communities, and stakeholder groups to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.*

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

### **NR39 Log Debris**

### **West Vancouver**

Whereas log debris is a significant and repeated cause of damage to coastlines, natural assets, and waterfront infrastructure and piers, and poses a risk to public accessibility and safety of waterfront areas;

And whereas log accumulation on coastlines is increasing due to more frequent storm events in winter and log removal is cost-prohibitive for local governments to individually and proactively address on a continuous basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to:

1. Establish an inter-agency working group to investigate sources of log debris within the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound; and
2. Determine a collective funding source for the removal of log debris from coastlines to minimize ongoing damage and repair costs for individual local governments.

Submitted Directly to UBCM

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to 1) Establish an inter-agency working group to investigate sources of log debris within the Strait of Georgia and Howe Sound; and 2) Determine a collective funding source for the removal of log debris from coastlines to minimize ongoing damage and repair costs for individual local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2020-NR46 seeking clean up of marine debris including plastics, styrofoam, components of boats, docks, and fishing gear.*

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

### **NR40 Managed Forest Council Representation**

### **Cumberland**

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services to their communities;

And whereas many community watersheds are included in or affected by forest management activities occurring on private managed forests:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* be amended such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for the amendment of the Private Managed Forest Land Act such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to regulate private land logging in the same manner as crown land and to ensure that local governments are consulted in advance of harvesting to prevent damage to watersheds and other infrastructure (2021-EB29, 2020-EB48, 2020-EB65, 2019-B38, 2019-B46, 2019-B48, 2019-B49, 2018-B42, 2011-B50, 2010-B26, 2008-B34, 2006-B102, 2005-B27).*

*In particular, 2021-EB29 titled Drinking Water Protection and Private Managed Forest Land, submitted by the same sponsor, asked the Province to establish programs for local governments to work with private managed forest landowners to assess risks to drinking water systems and priority land acquisition for lands where harvesting is identified as a significant risk to the provision of safe drinking water.*

*The Committee would note that the Managed Forest Council is an independent agency established under the Private Managed Forest Land Act to administer the Managed Forest land program. The five-member Council comprises two members appointed by the Province, two members elected by private managed forest landowners and one chair who is jointly appointed by the other four council members. The Governance Policy states: "The Minister must appoint two members who are knowledgeable in matters related to forest management practices or local government. The terms of appointment for government members are determined by the Minister."*

*Currently one of the two provincial appointments is Councillor Brian Frenkel, District of Vanderhoof. In addition to being a local elected official, Councillor Frenkel has worked in forest and environmental consulting for over 35 years so is able to meet both the local government AND forest management practices appointment criteria. A UBCM Past President, Councillor Frenkel is a past member of UBCM's Environment Committee and previous Chair and member of UBCM's Community Economic Development Committee. Councillor Frenkel has indicated that his term will end on May 31, 2024. So while the two appointments must be knowledgeable in matters related to forest management OR local government there is no guarantee that a future candidate would have the same knowledge /expertise of both forest management and local government.*

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

## **NR41 Riparian Areas Protection Regulation Compliance**

**Sicamous**

Whereas the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation regulates development within a riparian assessment area and a local government cannot approve a development application until an assessment report from a qualified environmental professional (QEP) has been submitted through the Riparian Areas Regulation Notification and approved by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship;

And whereas the Ministry response time to review QEP reports continues to increase, unreasonably delaying local government development and significantly impacting local economies;

And whereas the effectiveness of the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation relies on local government compliance which is compromised by the Ministry's lack of resources and inability to respond in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to grant local governments the authority to accept and review qualified environmental professions QEP reports for developments within its own jurisdiction.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to grant local governments the authority to accept and review QEP reports for developments within its own jurisdiction.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed past resolutions seeking improved staffing and resources at the Provincial level to ensure the effectiveness of Riparian Area Regulations, including:*

- *2013-B70 which asked the Province to, in part, appropriately fund enforcement of the RAR;*
- *2012-B73 which asked the Province to provide the necessary staff resources to review QEPs to fully implement the RAR; and*
- *2011-B97 which asked for adequate funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions seeking a more streamlined approval/permitting process from provincial and federal governments, including:*

- *2021-LR3 which asked the Province to review its permitting processes that relate to local government development and infrastructure projects and investigate opportunities to streamline those processes to reduce delays, provide more certainty for communities and developers, and minimize cost overruns, as it related to approvals under the Water Sustainability Act;*
- *2020-EB52 and 2019-B153 which asked the Province to allocate greater resources (funding and staff) to the processing of Section 11 approval wait times under the Water Sustainability Act, and to initiate a process in order to provide more rapid and timely approvals in cases of urgent situations; and*
- *2011-B127 which asked the Department of Fisheries Oceans commit to a 30 day response time for any development referral from a local government or First Nation; and that any referral not responded to in 30 days be deemed approved.*

*While the membership has asked the Province to increase its staffing resources and capacity to speed up response times, it has not asked that local governments be provided with the authority to accept and review QEP reports.*

*The Committee notes that taking on such an authority may raise questions around local government liability as well as future obligations.*

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

## **NR42      Call for Improvements for Provincial Water Licencing Approvals      Sechelt**

Whereas the changing climate conditions are creating prolonged water restrictions that impact businesses, limit or stop food production and create other issues for many communities;

And whereas licencing for community drinking water systems may take the Province of British Columbia over two years to approve, even when a state of local emergency is in effect for the applicant:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Substantially increase the resources allocated for the processing of water licence applications; and
2. Prioritize water licence applications to give urgency based on health and safety, particularly in light of the current climate conditions.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to 1. Substantially increase the resources allocated for the processing of water licence applications; and 2. Prioritize water licence applications to give urgency based on health and safety, particularly in light of the current climate conditions.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2021-NR30 which asked the Province to provide clarity on what is causing delays in the issuance of water licenses.*

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

### **NR43 Understanding BC Hydro's Electrification Capacity**

### **Squamish**

Whereas BC municipalities are moving quickly to enable electrification through community climate action plans and municipal energy and emissions plans;

And whereas there is currently a lack of funding or incentives to support electrification in existing residential, commercial and institutional building retrofits, and a lack of certainty that the electrical grid has the capacity to accommodate the anticipated electrical demand that will result from future retrofits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM coordinate with the Province, BC Utilities Commission and BC Hydro regarding the need for communities to understand BC Hydro's readiness to meet electrification requirements and to support electrification in retrofits in order for communities to meet climate action goals.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to understand BC Hydro's readiness to meet electrification requirements and to support electrification in retrofits in order for communities to meet climate action goals.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions related to the following BC Hydro/electrification issues:*

- *2022-EB47 and 2020-NR49 which asked BC Hydro to reinstate their electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects from local governments;*
- *2021-NR29 which asked the Province to change the regulatory framework to support communities in partnering with BC Hydro to provide safe reliable clean energy and to generate revenue sources to support local economies;*
- *2019-B142 which in part asked the federal and provincial government to take action to promote and enable GHG reductions; such as progressive and direct funding programs and partnerships for municipal low-carbon initiatives, including building retrofit, transportation, waste management and other priority and shared GHG reduction programs.*
- *2016-B38 which asked BC Hydro to reinstate and adequately fund the BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification program to sustain the economic and social well-being of remote and rural communities throughout BC; and*
- *several resolutions asking the Province and BC Hydro to support extensions of electrical power infrastructure to specific areas of the province that are currently underserved or not presently serviced (2012-B36, 2008-B45, 2004-B25).*

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

**NR44 Increasing BC Hydro's Pricing for Renewable Energy Production****Vancouver**

Whereas British Columbia's new BC Zero Carbon Step Code (effective May 1, 2023) and Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 will accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles, heat pumps and other technologies that will increase the demand for clean electricity;

And whereas BC Hydro's Five-Year Electrification Plan, released by the government in September of 2021, estimates that it has sufficient supply of clean electricity, including from Site C dam, only to 2030, leading government to announce plans to call for new utility-scale sources of renewable, emission-free electricity in BC;

And whereas the BC Government in the past has incentivized the development of clean renewable energy through advantageous feed-in tariffs, such as for Independent Hydro-Electric Power Producers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to require that BC Hydro increase the price they will pay for the municipal, First Nations and private production of renewable energy, including solar, wind, geothermal energy, sufficient to stimulate the increased investment and production at all scales— including household and municipal—needed to tackle the climate emergency, while also ensuring reasonable energy affordability and that natural environments are protected.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling the Province to require that BC Hydro increase the price they will pay for the municipal, First Nations and private production of renewable energy, including solar, wind, geothermal energy, sufficient to stimulate the increased investment and production at all scales—including household and municipal—needed to tackle the climate emergency, while also ensuring reasonable energy affordability and that natural environments are protected.*

*However, the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing BC Hydro and the purchase of power from local governments, including:*

- *2022-EB47 which asked the Province to restore the power purchase call program from BC Hydro to purchase local government generation at a price and term that supports the development of these renewable energy projects;*
- *2021-NR29 which asked the Province to explore changes to the regulatory framework to support communities in partnering with BC Hydro to provide safe reliable clean energy and to generate revenue sources to support local economies;*
- *2020-NR49 which asked the Province to reinstate the BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments; and*
- *2006-LR14 which asked the Province to establish legislation that makes it mandatory for BC Hydro to purchase power created by BC local government-supported, green, renewable power projects.*

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

**NR45 New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments in Climate Transition****Comox Valley RD**

Whereas significant costs for climate mitigation and adaptation are and increasingly will be shouldered by local governments;

And whereas local governments are severely limited to property taxes and grants to fund climate-related costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and BC Cabinet to establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** **No Recommendation**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed numerous resolutions proposing policies and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local governments to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions include: 2022-EB45, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101 and 2010-B140.*

*The Committee also notes that the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action called for a wide range of local government funding and capacity supports in the areas of land-use planning, resiliency, transportation, buildings, solid waste, governance and social mobilization. UBCM has been advocating for the implementation of those recommendations.*

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

## **NR46 BC Resources for Estimating Climate Costs**

**Saanich**

Whereas climate change is collectively and increasingly costing BC local governments billions of dollars in the form of increased maintenance, construction and upgrading of infrastructure, disaster relief, and other climate costs, but the connections between these costs and climate change is often invisible and not adequately considered in planning and budgeting;

And whereas ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) and others have prepared tools and reports to assist local governments in understanding the national costs of climate change, but further work is required to ensure that these tools can allow BC local governments to better understand the local costs that they are incurring and will incur due to climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM explore with ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, senior levels of government and interested British Columbia local governments and other institutions, ways to tailor the available tools and resources, or if necessary, to develop additional tools, resources and/or data sets, aimed at allowing BC local governments to better calculate and understand the financial costs that they are experiencing, or may experience, due to climate change and the need to prepare for climate impacts.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:** **No Recommendation**

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to explore with ICLEI Canada (Local Governments for Sustainability), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, senior levels of government and interested British Columbia*

local governments and other institutions, ways to tailor the available tools and resources, or if necessary, to develop additional tools, resources and/or data sets, aimed at allowing BC local governments to better calculate and understand the financial costs that they are experiencing, or may experience, due to climate change and the need to prepare for climate impacts.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include (2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

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

## **NR47 Planning Tools for Habitat Protection**

**Parksville**

Whereas Vancouver Island communities are facing loss of irreplaceable natural habitat that is crucial to the survival of delicate coastal and land ecosystems, including wildlife and plant life;

And whereas in December 2022, the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government establish a working committee, with local government representation to establish a comprehensive set of urban planning and development guidelines that align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s goals and targets, and recommendations to implement this framework to regulate development at the local level in UBCM member communities and combat the loss of natural habitat in BC, with a goal of protecting 30 percent of natural environment and coastline.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions, including:*

- *2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public;*
- *2010-B35 which asked the Province to develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC; and*
- *2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact a strong Species and Ecosystem Protection Act to safeguard British Columbia’s exceptional biological richness - in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change - recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.*

*The Committee would advise that not all members will be familiar with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s goals and targets cited in the enactment clause. As such, the full extent of the request being made by this resolution is unclear.*

*See resolutions EB32, EB33, RR18, RR19*

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

**NR48 Decreasing Food Waste, Increasing Food Security****Vancouver**

Whereas over 11.8 percent of BC households (485,500 British Columbians) experience some level of food insecurity and about three percent of households (91,100 British Columbians) experience severe food insecurity, leading to more than 163,000 people in BC using a food bank in March of 2022 and the prediction that reliance on food banks and other food charities is expected to increase by 60 percent in BC in 2023, with the non-profit sector bearing the brunt of costs associated with collecting and delivering food that would otherwise be wasted to people in need;

And whereas the National Zero Waste council calculates that 63 percent of all of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten and, according to the Government of BC, about 40 percent of our produce ends up in a landfill, where it breaks down to produce significant greenhouse gases which climate scientists predict will accelerate global warming and greatly reduce food-production capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to:

- Measure, monitor and make publicly available data on food waste in BC in order to inform and develop policies, guidelines and practices to reduce food waste; and
- Support the non-profit sector involved in rescuing and distributing food as an essential interim measure to address food insecurity for vulnerable and equity-seeking populations until more sustainable public interventions address poverty and income insecurity, the primary drivers of food insecurity in BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the BC Government to incorporate measures to reduce food wastage and over-packaging of produce, increase organic waste diversion, and promote the consumption of planet-friendly foods into its climate plan (CleanBC).

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***No Recommendation***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to measure, monitor and make publicly available data on food waste in BC; and support the non-profit sector involved in rescuing and distributing food as an essential interim measure to address food insecurity; and to incorporate measures to reduce food wastage and over-packaging of produce, increase organic waste diversion, and promote the consumption of planet-friendly foods into its climate plan (CleanBC).*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB56 which asked the Province to amend its CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 to include food waste reduction and recovery as, or into, one of the pathways.*

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

**NR49 Ensuring Accessibility Under the Federal Plastic Straw Ban****Vancouver**

Whereas the regulations for the federal plastic straw ban include some provisions intended to ensure accessibility, but will introduce new and significant barriers for persons with disabilities that will conflict with and be paramount to current provincial and municipal plastic straw prohibition regulations in British Columbia, by prohibiting:

- As of December 20, 2023, restaurants and other food vendors from giving out flexible plastic straws, and retailers from displaying packages of flexible plastic straws sold for personal use; and
- As of June 20, 2024, plastic straws attached to beverage containers;

And whereas the above aspects of the federal plastic straw ban regulations are misaligned with the intent of the *Accessible Canada Act* and the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, which empower the federal and provincial governments to set accessibility standards to make an inclusive and barrier-free Canada and British Columbia,

and require federally and provincially regulated organizations, including BC local governments, to adopt accessibility plans to name and remove the barriers for individuals connected with these organizations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and the Province of British Columbia request that the Government of Canada amend the federal Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations (SOR/2022-138) before December 20, 2023 to ensure barrier-free and inclusive services for persons with disabilities by allowing:

- Food vendors to provide a flexible plastic straw to a customer who requests one for accessibility needs;
- Retailers to display packages of flexible plastic straws and sell them without customers having to request them; and
- Flexible plastic straws attached to beverage containers like drink boxes and pouches.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to request that the Government of Canada amend the federal Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations (SOR/2022-138) before December 20, 2023 to ensure barrier-free and inclusive services for persons with disabilities by allowing: food vendors to provide a flexible plastic straw to a customer who requests one for accessibility needs; retailers to display packages of flexible plastic straws and sell them without customers having to request them; and flexible plastic straws attached to beverage containers like drink boxes and pouches.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions, 2019-B42 and 2018-B126, both of which sought a Provincial single-use plastic item reduction strategy, but specifically included the request to exclude all single use items needed for medical use or accessibility needs.*

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

## **NR50      Amendments to the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to Prohibit Exotic Animals**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas exotic animals and their hybrids are not domesticated and suffer physically and psychologically when bred, kept, displayed and sold in captivity, and may pose public health and safety risks to other animals and people;

And whereas the removal of exotic animals from their natural habitat damages fragile ecosystems and threatens the survival of wild populations, and their release from captivity can harm British Columbia's ecosystems and native wildlife:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to immediately amend the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to prohibit all Felids, including Servals, other than the domestic cat (*Felis catus*), and all Canids other than the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), including all hybrids of F1-3 generation;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to further amend the Controlled Alien Species Regulation to create a positive list of permitted species to replace the existing negative list of prohibited species, including only domesticated species and certain hybrids of an F4 generation or greater.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution on this issue.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B126 which asked the Province to amend the Wildlife Act to regulate the keeping and sale of exotic animals in BC by including a list of exotic animals that are prohibited for keeping or sale in BC.*

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

## **NR51 Control of Scotch Broom**

## **Qualicum Beach**

Whereas climate change brings us longer periods of drought and hotter temperatures in which Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*), a highly flammable invasive species with high oil content and dry branches, will thrive and act as a volatile flash fuel, increasing the risk of wildfires and specifically Urban Interface Fires;

And whereas Scotch Broom spreads densely and rapidly, inhibiting forests regrowth, and negatively impacting agricultural production and native species, with a 2021 study for the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) designating Scotch broom as the Top Worse Offender - the invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to establish and implement actionable steps to control the aggressive spread of Scotch Broom all across BC, including implementing Broom-free fire breaks along long stretches of broom;

And be it further resolved that local governments are encouraged to use bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom near and within urban boundaries.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to control the spread of Scotch Broom as a fire safety measure, nor has the membership considered the use of bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom.*

*However, the Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2013-B31 which asked the Province to designate Scotch Broom as a noxious weed under the BC Weed Control Act.*

*Additionally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including other types of plants:*

- *Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B108, 2013-B66, 2011-B44, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);*
- *Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-EB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);*
- *Asian clams (2021-EB27);*
- *Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);*
- *Ban on sale of invasive species (2017-B28);*
- *Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);*
- *Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and*
- *Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49); and*
- *Protection of waterways from invasive aquatic species (2021-EB26).*

*See resolutions EB34, EB35*

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

## Regional Districts

### **NR52      Funding Formulas to Regional Districts for Canada Community-Building Fund-Community Works Fund and Community Growth Fund**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the funding formulas used to allocate funds for programs such as the Canada Community-Building Fund-Community Works Fund (Formerly Gas Tax Fund) and the recent Community Growth Fund is based on a per capita formula with a funding floor, the funding apportioned to regional districts is apportioned based on the electoral areas population only and does not account for the services and associated infrastructure maintained by regional districts for services it delivers to member municipalities such as water, wastewater, transit, recreation and parks;

And whereas the funding apportioned to regional districts compared to member municipalities was much lower, creating a disparate allocation of funds within some regions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and/or federal government to reconsider the design of the funding formulas for the Community Works Fund and Community Growth Fund that considers the services delivered and associated infrastructure of the local government versus just that of population.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution specifically asking the provincial and federal governments to reconsider the design of the funding formulas for the Community Works Fund and Community Growth Fund that considers the services delivered and associated infrastructure of the local government versus just that of population.*

*The Resolutions Committee also advises there would be challenges in designing a funding formula that considers the specific services delivered and associated infrastructure as each local government (regional district) has varying levels of services and associated infrastructure requirements within each local government.*

*The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) is based on and delivered as a per capita funding model. Any changes to the formula would decrease the funding available to municipalities, which receive the same per capital allocation as regional districts. The Community Growth Fund for regional districts is based on both total population of the RD, rural population (electoral areas) and rural population growth.*

*Under the regional district service model, those that benefit from the service are required to pay. Which means those municipalities that receive services from the regional districts are required to pay their portion of the costs. That includes capital, operations and maintenance.*

*Under the CCBF Community Works Fund model, regional districts have the ability to allocate and prioritize funding regional services and associated infrastructure. Under the current CCBF model, the Strategic Priorities Fund provides another opportunity for regional districts to access funding for larger regional services.*

*UBCM and the Province are currently in the process of reviewing the allocation formula and program delivery model as re-negotiations are taking place with the federal governments. UBCM will be considering the feedback received from outreach and engagement that occurred with the membership in the spring 2023.*

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

## **NR53 Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition**

**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas regional district fire services across British Columbia are facing increasing financial pressure with respect to replacing fire apparatus and are not permitted to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to purchase the same without costly referendum processes;

And whereas should these referendums fail, communities will be left without fire protection during a time that sees increasing risk from wildfires as well as increased insurance rates, particularly for those without fire protection services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over the life-span of fire apparatus without the requirement to go to referendum, subject to the service having been established through a referendum process.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to enact legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over the life-span of fire apparatus without the requirement to go to referendum, subject to the service having been established through a referendum process.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services, in particular to extend the life-span of fire apparatus (2022-EB38, 2021-EB8, 2021-EB9, 2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).*

*The sponsor is seeking to remove the referendum requirement for long term borrowing when the purchase is related to a service already approved by the regional district by referendum process. If this resolution was endorsed, would the scope of this apply to a regional district who provides recreation services being able to avoid a referendum to build a new skating arena?*

*See resolutions NR32, NR56*

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

## **Finance**

### **NR54 Provincial Government Funding**

**Oliver**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides a variety of funding and grants to local governments for programs that are not otherwise within the local government funding scope;

And whereas grants usually provide initial financial support, however local governments are often left with the burden of carrying future operational costs at the expense of the taxpayer;

And whereas a phased approach would decrease the financial burden to local governments and would allow local governments more time to determine the effectiveness of programs and if they should be continued:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia provide ongoing operational support, post initial grant funding, for activities and programs within the traditional provincial jurisdiction for a minimum of five years.

Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide ongoing operational support, post initial grant funding, for activities and programs within the traditional provincial jurisdiction for a minimum of five years.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking improvements in the grant processes, including:*

- *2022-EB58 which asked the provincial and federal governments to identify and expand grants that are more efficiently and effectively delivered on a non-application basis, and for those application based grant programs, that the delivery program be reviewed to increase certainty for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current application based grant funding programs;*
- *2021-EB21 which encouraged the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs; and*
- *2018-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments to restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding and it identifying the burden of having limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements.*

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

- *2020-EB35 - Doubling the Gas Tax;*
- *2018-B109 - Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access;*
- *2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants;*
- *2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;*
- *2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria;*
- *2012-B69 - Local Government Funding; and*
- *2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.*

*Finally, the Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2012-B137 - Federal Gas Tax Funding Eligibility which asked specifically for maintenance of roads to be considered eligible. The enactment read: "Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with its federal and provincial partners to amend the Federal Gas Tax Program agreement, specifically to expand the eligibility criteria to include maintenance and replacement of roadways at a sustainable level and to a standard that restores public safety for first responders and the travelling public."*

*See resolution EB49*

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

## **NR55 Flexibility in Growing Communities Fund**

**Invermere**

Whereas many smaller communities rely on not-for-profits and outside agencies to provide affordable (and social) purpose built rental housing;

And whereas the Growing Communities Fund allows for the money to be invested in affordable housing, but requires that the controlling interest in the project must be owned by the local government providing the funding;

And whereas forcing local governments to own rental housing when this is not their expertise, can create future asset management concerns, and can limit the ability to leverage the dollars and limit the ability to support local not-for-profit partnerships:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the funding requirements for the Growing Communities Fund to give local governments more autonomy and flexibility to invest the money in their local communities and to work with local partners, without requiring ownership of projects.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the funding requirements for the Growing Communities Fund to give local governments more autonomy and flexibility to invest the money in their local communities and to work with local partners, without requiring ownership of projects.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (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).*

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

**NR56      Remove Elector Approval Requirements for Borrowing      Central Saanich**  
**Through Municipal Finance Authority**

Whereas BC local governments are entering a period of significant replacement for most of their essential infrastructure and facilities built in the 1950's through 1980's requiring debt in order to do so and regular electoral approval for debt servicing greater than five percent of local government revenues will no longer be manageable, given the staff resources and cost to facilitate approval processes, and more importantly the risks of not being able to fund replacement of essential infrastructure;

And whereas the debt borrowing capacity for BC local governments under Section 174 of the *Community Charter* and BC Order in Council No. 550, 2004, without elector approval, is limited to five percent of eligible revenues to service debt principal and interest;

And whereas construction cost escalation over the last twenty years has far outpaced increases in local government revenues, greatly shrinking the scope and amount of infrastructure replacement that can be completed without approval;

And whereas sufficient debt controls are in place with provincial maximum debt servicing limit of 25 percent of revenues, Provincial Inspector Debt Bylaw approval, requirement for local governments to have a balanced budget, and four-year election process for Mayor and Council:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province remove elector approval requirements for local governments borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA), in favor of MFA financial control based on borrowers maximum liability service limit, and Provincial Inspector Debt Bylaw approval process.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to remove elector approval requirements for local governments borrowing through the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA), in favor of MFA financial control based on borrowers maximum liability service limit, and Provincial Inspector Debt Bylaw approval process.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions seeking an exemption from the public approval process for water works projects, including:*

- *2013-B25 which requested that any borrowing made necessary by an order issued by a ministry official or health authority for drinking water be exempt from a public approval process; and*
- *2012-B53 which sought to amend the Community Charter to provide for the exemption of obtaining elector approval for necessary water works projects if the projects have been previously approved by the Inspector of Municipalities through a Master Water Management Plan.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B77 which sought to amend the Community Charter to permit the purchase of replacement emergency fire fighting equipment that is mandated under the United Laboratories of Canada and the National Fire Protection Standards without the process of seeking the assent of the voters either through a vote or the alternative approval process.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting exemption from referendum and counter-petition requirements when local governments undertake borrowing for works pursuant to ministerial orders or related to public health and safety requirements, property agreements, or sufficiency thresholds (2002 Community Charter Policy Paper, 2002-C46, 1999-A2, 1992-B18). The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.*

*See resolutions NR32, NR53*

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

## **NR57 eGaming Revenue Distribution**

**Burnaby**

Whereas eGaming revenue is increasing as a proportion of overall gaming revenue collected by the Province;

And whereas eGaming revenue is not currently shared with municipalities, unlike casino revenues which are shared with host cities for the purpose of public benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting that BCLC eGaming revenues be used to fund a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support non-host communities with populations of less than 25,000 (2018-B112) and that 10 percent of net revenue from online gambling be shared with local governments on the basis of population (2019-B131).*

*Further, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to share a portion of lottery revenue with:*

- all BC local governments (2011-B28, 2008-B119);
- communities under 10,000 (2020-EB37); and
- host communities who should receive an increased percentage return (2013-B100).

Alternatively, the Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, the following resolutions addressing the share of gambling revenue:

- 2020-NEB1 which asked that revenues generated by online gaming be allocated to local governments to replace lost casino gaming revenues for host local governments experiencing shortfalls due to the closure of gaming facilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- 2012-B135 which asked the Province to redistribute gaming revenue based on the residence of the patron at the gaming facility and the amount played, and share a percentage of gaming revenue with all local governments on a per capita basis while maintaining existing arrangements with casino host local governments to keep the host local governments of gaming facilities whole.

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

## **NR58 BC Hydro Beautification Grant**

## **Lake Country**

Whereas BC Hydro suspended their Beautification Program in July 2022 which provided financial assistance for relocating electrical services to underground facilities;

And whereas overhead electrical services are vulnerable to wildlife interference or emergency events such as fire; require space within municipalities limited right of way area which conflicts with municipal infrastructure, cause barriers to creating active transportation improvements and limit greening projects such as street trees;

And whereas costs to convert overhead electrical services to underground facilities have become unsustainable for taxpayers in local government to carry alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reinstate the BC Hydro Beautification Program funding to support local governments in moving overhead electrical services to underground facilities.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reinstate the BC Hydro Beautification Program funding to support local governments in moving overhead electrical services to underground facilities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions asking that hydro transmission infrastructure be protected from tsunamis (2005-B69), and for the visual impact of power lines to be minimized in areas of high tourism activity (2003-B95).*

*The Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2007-B163 which asked the provincial government and BC Hydro to take remedial measures to ensure that future power outages are minimized, if not eliminated, by taking immediate measures to protect transformers, hydro poles and power lines and to place power lines underground in areas where they are especially susceptible to damage by weather.*

*The membership also did not endorse resolution 2005-B151 which called for the adoption of a policy to route new transmission lines and reroute existing lines away from residential areas and, where this is not possible, to require undergrounding and shielding of such lines.*

*The Committee also advises that BC Hydro's Beautification Program was temporarily suspended in July 2022 to direct technical resources to facilitate critical new customer connections. The Program remains suspended*

*indefinitely. The Beautification Fund provided financial assistance to municipal governments for conversion of overhead service to underground facilities to enhance and improve the use of public spaces.*

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

## Land Use

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### **NR59      Agricultural Land Commission Exclusion Applications**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas amendments to the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and *Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation* were amended such that the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is no longer accepting Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Exclusion Applications from private property owners;

And whereas ALR Exclusion Applications are now only accepted from local governments (or First Nation or other prescribed bodies);

And whereas under the new legislative scheme, the responsibility for submitting ALR Exclusion Applications – including all application requirements such as public hearings, advertising, signage, and review of technical reports – falls to local governments;

And whereas responsibility for ALR Exclusion Applications require considerable administration, staff time, and financial resources;

And whereas ALR Exclusion Applications solely benefit private property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the ALC to rightfully reinstate responsibility for ALR Exclusion Applications back on private property owners.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the ALC to rightfully reinstate responsibility for ALR Exclusion Applications back on private property owners, from being the responsibility of local governments.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2019-B75 which asked the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake fulsome consultation with local governments on the development of regulations, so that local governments can fully understand the implications on their residents and have an opportunity to provide input prior to the adoption of these new regulations. This resolution was addressing amendments made in early 2019 to the ALR Use Regulation that impacted, in part, the types of ALR landowners who may make an exclusion application.*

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

### **NR60      Agricultural Land Commission Expansion of Non-Farm Usage on Farmlands**

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas corporate and non-food crop farming on agricultural land has resulted in a decrease in crop diversity and increased stress on smaller/family-owned farms which produce tree fruit, vegetable, and berry crops;

And whereas smaller/family-owned farms are in need of additional sources of income from non-farm usage of their land (bistros, restaurants, etc.):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.*

*The Committee is aware that present provincial policy allows a winery to establish a restaurant or lounge to promote the products that it produces and sells. This agriculture-tourism business model is intended to provide additional revenue to the winery and promote tourism in the region. Local government is consulted regarding the location of such a facility, and further, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch must approve the facility.*

*Farm retail sales, non-farm use home occupation and gatherings for non-farm use events (i.e. weddings) are also currently permitted in the ALR under certain circumstances. As well under the regulation, seasonal, harvest activities, corn mazes, heritage exhibits, tours, tractor rides, etc. are all permitted. The sponsor has specifically referenced restaurants, but operating a “food and beverage service lounge” is already permitted, with conditions, under the current regulation.*

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

## **NR61 Agri-Industrial Activities**

**Abbotsford**

Whereas the BC Food Security Task Force recommended in 2019 that the Province allocate up to a quarter of a percent (0.25 percent) of the ALR be made available for agri-industrial activities and establish a commissioner for agri-industrial lands;

And whereas creating a dedicated area for agri-industrial activity will give businesses in food and agritech a strategic opportunity to support the modernization of agriculture and enhance food security;

And whereas local governments are unable to consider pilot projects that align with this concept:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of BC to provide an opportunity for communities to pilot agritech opportunities in alignment with the BC Food Security Task Force Findings and Recommendations report.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide an opportunity for communities to pilot agritech opportunities in alignment with the BC Food Security Task Force Findings and Recommendations report.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians (2022-NR8, 2021-EB70, 2020-EB78, 2019-B66, 2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2014-A3).*

*The Committee also notes that the ALR Use Regulation was amended in 2022 to add “controlled environmental structures,” including vertical farming systems, rotating tray systems and other structures intended to intensify crop production, as a permitted farm use that may be prohibited (unless constructed prior to August 31, 2022).*

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

**NR62      Prioritizing Local Governments in the Provincial Land Acquisition Process**

**Houston**

Whereas local governments are currently not prioritized in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process that matches ministry and agency demands with existing surplus properties during the Provincial land disposition process;

And whereas the opportunity to access lands that are being disposed by the Provincial Government would further the ability of local governments to pursue community planning, economic diversification, and asset management efforts within their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to consider and prioritize local governments in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process when lands are being disposed of in communities.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to consider and prioritize local governments in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process when lands are being disposed of in communities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to facilitate public acquisition and ownership of abandoned transportation corridors, including rail lines (2019-B120, 2015-B33, 2014-117).*

*The Committee also notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2009-B135 which requested that the purchase of Crown lands by local governments be expedited in a timely and effective manner.*

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

**NR63      Registering Fees on Title**

**Fort St. John**

Whereas local area service and latecomer fees are not registered on certificates of title and this has caused issues for realtors and new home buyers who may be unaware of these costs until they receive their property tax notice;

And whereas the disclosure of these costs on title provides disclosure to future property owners and protects taxpayers from unknown costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.*

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

**NR64      Removal of Racist and Discriminatory Clauses from BC  
Land Titles**

**Courtenay**

Whereas there are documents and covenants attached to parcels of land throughout the province that are rooted in racism and discrimination;

And whereas the cost to remove racist documents and covenants from land titles is born by the property owners:

Therefore be it resolved be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province instruct the Land Titles Office to eliminate any charges to landowners wishing to remove these offensive clauses and restrictions from their titles, and further request the Land Titles Office conduct an audit of land titles and systematically remove racist and discriminatory covenants and documents.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Action Required**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2022-NR51 which made a similar request of the Province to instruct the Land Titles Survey Authority to search for and identify discriminatory language contained in registered covenants; and for them to have the ability to delete and/or redact any occurrences of discriminatory language identified.*

*In response to resolution 2022-NR51, the Province has advised that:*

*“Discriminating covenants are not enforceable.*

*Section 222 of the Land Title Act operates against any registered covenant that directly or indirectly has a discriminating effect, whenever registered and in whatever form created, making discriminating covenants void and of no effect. If a landowner has questions about discriminating covenants or would like to initiate the process to have an endorsement be made on an existing land title record noting that the covenant is void and of no effect, the landowner should contact the Registrar of Land Titles at the Land Title and Survey Authority of BC (LTSA).*

*When contacted by a landowner, the Registrar will make an endorsement by the covenant indicating that it has been cancelled pursuant to Section 222 of the Land Title Act. There is no cost for this amendment. Because the Registrar is prohibited under the Land Title Act from erasing or rendering illegible the original words on a record, the words are struck through so that it is more apparent on the face of a record that the discriminating language is void.*

*The LTSA has made sustained efforts to amend records over the years; however, with millions of both physical and digital documents the effort to identify documents with discriminating clauses is ongoing. Most recently, the LTSA has engaged with Simon Fraser University to explore other techniques which assist in identifying occurrences of these covenants.”*

*The Province has indicated that there is no charge to landowners who initiate the process, and that the LTSA has initiated a process to identify these discriminatory clauses, and while prohibited from removing, LTSA does use a strike through process to show that the discriminatory clause is void.*

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

**NR65 Public Notification for Rural Subdivision Applications****Cariboo RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure currently does not provide policy guidance to provincial approving officers regarding criteria for determining when to engage in a process of public notification or consultation on rural subdivision applications;

And whereas concerns have been expressed about lack of public consultation and consideration for sufficient water supply where a significant subdivision application is being considered by the Provincial Approving Officer in a rural neighbourhood:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to revise its policies, processes, and guidance documents to require the Approving Officer to provide notification to owners and occupiers of land which may potentially be impacted by a subdivision.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on MOTI to revise its policies, processes, and guidance documents to require the Approving Officer to provide notification to owners and occupiers of land which may potentially be impacted by a subdivision.*

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

- *2022-NR17 which asked the Province to require bare land strata developments meet the same minimum standards set by local governments, as required in their subdivision servicing bylaws, to ensure consistency across all developments throughout the community, in areas such as street lighting, sidewalks, curb heights, paved roads etc.;*
- *2016-B93 which sought to amend the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation to allow boundary adjustments to reduce a parcel size in the ALR to no less than one half hectare or smaller; and*
- *2007-B134 which asked the Province to expand and clarify the legislation that addresses Phased Strata Plan Declarations, so as to provide clear discretionary authority to the approving officer over the declaration approval and the ability to address servicing requirements.*

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

**NR66 Jurisdiction of the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia****Squamish-Lillooet RD**

Whereas provincial legislation enabled the issuing of Crown-grant mineral claims from the mid-1800s until approximately 1960, and then the *Mineral Tenure Act* enabled miners to stake mineral claims on private property (entitling miners to prospect, explore, locate, mine and produce minerals, notwithstanding any negative impact of such activities on the rights of private property owners);

And whereas Section 19 of the *Mineral Tenure Act* relates to “Right of entry on private land and compensation” and sets out a process for resolving disputes involving private property owners and miners undertaking mining activities on private property but does not specifically reference Crown-granted mineral claims, and the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia’s interpretation is that it has no jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Mineral Tenure Act* to clarify that the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia has jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Mineral Tenure Act to clarify that the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia has jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership has considered and endorsed a number of resolutions related to the Mineral Tenure Act, surface and sub-surface rights, including:*

- *2013-B80 which asked for a broad-based public engagement process to determine how best to modernize the Mineral Tenure Act;*
- *2008-B40 which asked for notification and to provide surface land owners the opportunity to comment at the time of an industry request for sub-surface parcels to be posted for sale, in order to facilitate early exchange of information and allow surface owners to inform prospective sub-surface bidders of surface activities that might affect access to sub-surface resources;*
- *2007-B36 which asked to preclude the ability of a miner to stake a claim on private property without the consent of the property owner;*
- *2007-B46 which asked to permit surface landowners with the same opportunity as local government to receive notification and make comments when sub-surface parcels are requested by industry; and*
- *2007-B47 which addressed the rights of surface land owners in relation to the exploration and development of the sub-surface rights holders.*

*The Committee would note that the sponsor has indicated that since the Surface Rights Board is not able to address these Crown-granted mineral claims, the only recourse to the private property owner is through the court system.*

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

**NR67      Cost Recovery from Upper Watersheds/Private  
Managed Forest Lands to Support Watershed  
Stewardship and Climate Change Mitigation**

**Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas the Province initiated a review of Private Managed Forest Lands in 2019 to in part encourage sustainable forest management practices including protection of environmental values;

And whereas forest management practices on privately managed forest lands effect downstream communities and can negatively impact the quality and quantity of water and affect ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province partner with local governments to review taxation and cost recovery options from private managed forest lands to support local governments in watershed management and stewardship to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to review taxation and cost recovery options from private managed forest lands to support local governments in watershed management and stewardship to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions asking that the Province enact legislation requiring private managed forest lands to be regulated and managed to the same*

*standards as crown managed forest lands; referencing the current challenges with water quality and safety of drinking water in community watersheds (2021-EB29, 2020-EB48, 2019-B49, 2018-B41, 2011-B50, 2008-B34).*

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

## **NR68 Public Lake Access**

## **Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas requirements for highway access to water is legislatively required for subdivisions that border a body of water and these accesses become the responsibility of the Province under the *Transportation Act*;

And whereas many of these highway access points on Crown Land have organically developed into public access points such as boat launches which the public desires use of;

And whereas the Province does not maintain these access points and the public continues to express their concern for lack of maintenance to local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province recognize these highway access points established under provincial legislation as official public access points and that the Province maintain these sites to provide the public with access to British Columbia's lakes.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to recognize highway access points established under provincial legislation as official public access points and that the Province maintain these sites to provide the public with access to British Columbia's lakes.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing public access to lakes, including:*

- *2019-B200 which asked the Province to increase investments in repair and maintenance of boat launches in BC parks;*
- *2012-B99 which asked MOTI to survey and provide signs identifying public access points to the Province's lakes and rivers to confirm public access to the foreshore for recreation and emergency purposes; and*
- *2007-B137 which asked MOTI to amend its regulations to provide that rural subdivision development must include protected access to Crown lands, rivers and lakes frequented by the public.*

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

## **Taxation**

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## **NR69 Vacant Property Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties**

## **New Westminster**

Whereas the Province has adopted vacancy taxes on vacant residential properties as one tool to assure land speculation does not result in property standing fallow to the detriment of community livability and other goals;

And whereas commercial property values are inflating province-wide, and increasingly face investment speculation resulting in similar underutilization of commercial property in many municipalities across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to provide local governments with an option to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to commercial and industrial properties.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution asking the Province to provide local governments with an option to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to commercial and industrial properties.*

*The Committee notes that the UBCM Executive considered referred resolution 2019-B181 that asked for local government authority to impose a vacancy tax on both residential and commercial properties. The Executive chose to endorse 2019-B181 with an amendment that removed the reference to commercial properties due to concerns about potential unforeseen consequences with commercial assessment without a comprehensive analysis. Similarly, the membership endorsed resolution 2020-NR69 on a vacancy tax for residential and commercial properties after making an amendment to remove the reference to commercial properties.*

*The membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB19 requesting a review of the Community Charter to grant municipal councils' authority to add a 'vacant land' property tax, and resolution 2016-B13 calling for an amendment to the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation to allow vacant lands to be taxed at a higher tax rate and/or charged a flat tax. The Province's response to 2016-B13 noted that commercial and industrial properties are taxed at a higher rate than residential, and that land values are based on the potential highest and best use of the property regardless of whether or not the property is vacant.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions that ask the Province to empower local governments to: make adjustments to tax rates to address vacant and derelict properties (2017-B14, 2012-B130, 2007-B72); and collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).*

*See resolution RR22*

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

## **NR70      Limitation of Rent Increases on Commercial Properties**

**White Rock**

Whereas given the many challenges facing small "brick and mortar" businesses, including the often financially devastating impact that an increase in rent causes when a lease expires;

And whereas small businesses could plan ahead for operational impacts if they had foreknowledge of future rent increases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish a rental limit increase on commercially zoned properties similar to the rental increase limitation(s) that govern residential rental properties.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a rental limit increase on commercially zoned properties similar to the rental increase limitation(s) that govern residential rental properties.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to assist commercial property owners with their assessments and property taxes or rents:

- 2019-B78 which asked the Province to create new assessment sub-classes for small businesses to allow local governments to apply differentiated non-residential property tax rates to smaller businesses and cultural hubs;
- 2018-B160 which sought a Legacy Business Registry and Grant program to provide relief from prohibitive increases in rent or property tax for independently-owned local businesses; and
- 2018-B115 which sought relief for independent small businesses through Provincial assessment and taxation reform.

The resolution refers to providing businesses with foreknowledge about future rent increases but the enactment clauses does not call for notice periods, and focuses on limiting rental increases without specifying the criteria for deciding what is an allowable increase. There is no existing mechanism similar to the Residential Tenancy Act to manage commercial rents, and it is not clear how the Province would implement this process.

The Province has introduced Section 198.1 of the Community Charter which enables a municipality to provide tax relief to class 6 properties meeting certain criteria that would be passed on to a tenant under a triple net lease.

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

## **NR71 Tax Treatment of Farmland in Municipalities**

**Pemberton**

Whereas farmland plays a vital role in supporting local food production, promoting agricultural sustainability, and preserving green spaces within municipalities;

And whereas farmland located within municipal boundaries faces unique challenges and pressures, such as increased property values, limited space, and proximity to urban development, which can hinder its viability and continuity as productive agricultural land;

And whereas equitable tax treatment of farmland, regardless of its location within a municipality, would promote fairness among farmers and reduce barriers to agricultural activity within urbanized areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed 2018-B105 which sought taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary 'farm uses'.*

*The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2008-B101 which urged the provincial government to increase the tax benefit for those who are using their land for agriculture.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2003-B20 on Farm Classification that questioned the extent of exemptions provided and the eligibility of some properties for tax exemptions citing the strain this can put on other property classes.*

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

**NR72      Deferment Program for Local Government Parcel Taxes  
and Utility Fees**

**Sechelt**

Whereas parcel taxes and utility fees have risen substantially in recent years, adding to the increased cost of living for British Columbians;

And whereas eligible property owners can defer their property taxes under a provincial deferment program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse three resolutions (2000-LR1, 1996-B50, 1997-B45) that called for the deferment of water and sewer utility charges to be deferred. However, in 1990, resolution LR2 was endorsed and it called for the deferral of garbage, water and sewer charges. The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.*

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

**NR73      Tax Sale Cost Recovery**

**Slocan**

Whereas the *Local Government Act* regulates municipal actions for the recovery of unpaid property taxes by means of annual municipal tax sale, and sets out the terms to which a property owner may redeem a property sold at the annual tax sale;

And whereas Section 660(3) of the *Local Government Act* regulates the amounts that must be collected, for a property owner to redeem a property sold at tax sale:

- a) The upset price of the parcel at the time of the tax sale;
- b) Costs incurred by the purchaser, with relation to the property;
- c) Taxes paid by the purchaser; and
- d) Interest to the date of redemption.;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* currently does not have a system of recovery for administrative costs associated to the annual municipal tax sale;

And whereas the tax sale process can be demanding on small rural communities with decreased budget and decreased staff capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the regulations in the *Local Government Act*, to allow for a system of recovery for administrative costs and other expenses in relation to the annual municipal tax sale.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Action Required**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution which asks the Province to amend the regulations in the Local Government Act, to allow for a system of recovery for administrative costs and other expenses in relation to the annual municipal tax sale.*

*The Committee notes that there is currently a provision in Section 649 of the Local Government Act that allows municipalities to recover an administrative fee for tax sales. The Act authorizes the collector to receive, for the use of the municipality, an additional five percent of the delinquent and current taxes plus interest and penalties. As such, the Committee is recommending No Action Required.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that have sought solutions to specific challenges presented by the tax sale process, including:*

- *Province to conduct a survey of municipal tax collectors to obtain their feedback on the effectiveness of the tax sale process (2016-B78);*
- *funding to assist local governments in remediating brownfield sites acquired through tax sale (2014-B91);*
- *shorter statutory timelines for collection of property taxes in arrears, so that local governments may satisfy their budgetary requirements without having to borrow money to compensate for delinquent and arrears tax revenue that they may be owed (2012-B128);*
- *Escheat Act handling of properties in arrears that should revert to the Crown—specifically, enable local governments to transfer such properties to the Crown, while ensuring that the Crown compensates local governments for any unpaid taxes or other government levies on these properties (2006-B58);*
- *replacement of the tax sale with a process based on the forfeiture process in Section 39 of the Taxation (Rural Area) Act (2005-B17); and*
- *local government authority, in the case of manifest error, to set aside a tax sale including proceedings before the tax sale and the entire tax sale procedure (2005-B86).*

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

## **NR74      Provincial Sales Tax on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems      Dawson Creek**

Whereas in 2022 the BC Government initiated a Provincial Sales Tax increase of an extra five percent to be paid on all Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems for heating homes including: central forced air furnaces, unit heaters, fireplaces, boilers, storage water heaters, instantaneous water heaters, air conditioners and all replacement parts for said heating systems or similar systems to those listed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to exempt those who live in the northern regions of British Columbia from paying the Provincial Sales Tax surcharge of five percent on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems in consideration of the climate in this geographical area and the inefficiencies of electric heat pumps in heating northern homes when temperatures drop to -20 degrees Celsius or below.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2022-NR53 which asked the Province to reverse its decision to add the PST back onto all fossil fuel and hot water appliances to encourage BC residents to revert to electric heat pumps and hot water tanks.*

*However, the Committee notes that in 2013 members endorsed B16 which asked the Province to reinstate the PST in an equitable manner to:*

- *provide exemption or reimbursement of PST charges on energy purchased for the purpose of generating energy for resale,*
- *introduce former exemptions on Production Machinery and Equipment for equipment purchased by*

- *district energy systems, and*
- *maintain, as per the former PST regulations, the PST exemption on the sale of heat to residential district energy consumers.*

*The Committee notes that the sponsor has specifically identified the northern regions of BC as the exemption area; what about other regions of the Province that experience extreme cold temperatures that cannot be heated by fossil fuel free systems only.*

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

## **NR75      Increasing the Existing Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Volunteers**

**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas British Columbia's volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members play a critical role in ensuring the safety and well-being of British Columbians, often risking their own lives in dangerous and unpredictable conditions and often contributing their own financial resources to purchase equipment;

And whereas the current tax credit of \$3,000 for volunteers who provide at least 200 hours of volunteer service to a volunteer fire department, an eligible search and rescue organization, or a combination of both, is a small amount on a per hour basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to increase the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.*

*The Committee notes that the membership supported a number of resolutions that sought a tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, prior to the credit of \$3,000 being put into place (2011-B118, 2006-B22, 2005-B15, 2004-B61).*

*The Committee also notes that a federal private member's bill proposing an increase in tax credits from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services was submitted by the MP for Courtenay-Alberni. Bill C-310 received first reading at the House of Commons on December 8, 2022.*

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

## **Transportation**

### **NR76      BC Transit Service Delivery Model Flexibility**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the traditional service delivery models available to local governments through BC Transit do not always meet the needs of rural or smaller communities;

And whereas rural or smaller communities encounter geographical constraints and exhibit lower population densities that create challenges and economical inefficiencies for a conventional transit model:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to provide more flexible and innovative models for service delivery, such as Transit On-Demand, for smaller and rural communities where conventional transit may not be an appropriate service delivery model.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide more flexible and innovative models for service delivery, such as Transit On-Demand, for smaller and rural communities where conventional transit may not be an appropriate service delivery model.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2012-B115, which called on the Province develop a transportation strategy for rural communities, that would assess and determine sustainable solutions for passenger directed vehicle operations including both public transit and taxis.*

*In response to resolution 2012-B115 the provincial government suggested that “local issues relating to public transit and taxis in rural communities are better addressed by local governments and service providers.” The Province invited communities wishing to establish transit service to work with BC Transit, or request a formal feasibility study. Communities with demand for taxi or other commercial passenger transportation services were advised to encourage a service provider to apply for a passenger transportation licence.*

*More broadly, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit in small, rural and remote communities (2020-EB17, 2017-B8, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-C37).*

*See resolutions EB60, EB61, NR77*

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

## **NR77 BC Transit Share of Expenses on Rural Routes**

## **Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas BC Transit works in partnership with 59 local governments to provide transit service;

And whereas regional transit system budgets are controlled by BC Transit and approved each year by local governments;

And whereas BC Transit pays 46.69 percent of expenses for both urban and rural areas;

And whereas rural areas have a higher costs than urban areas for operations, repairs, salary, and fuel as routes are longer and have less revenue due to lower ridership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Transit’s share of the expenses be increased for rural routes.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that BC Transit’s share of the expenses be increased, specifically for rural routes.*

*However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to implement a public transportation strategy and dedicate sustainable funding to public transit, particularly in rural communities (2020-EB17, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B95, 2012-B115, 2012-C37, 2004-B55).*

*More generally, the membership has supported resolutions on sustainable funding and future expansion of public transit services throughout BC (2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2010-B21, 2005-B7, 2003-B65).*

*The Committee would caution members to parse the final “whereas” clause carefully. While it is clear that lower ridership would generate lower revenues for public transit in rural and remote communities, the sponsor suggests that the costs to run a public transit system are higher in rural areas than urban. However, because the urban and rural contexts for public transit are so different, it is difficult to compare the costs between the two.*

*See resolutions EB60, EB61, NR76*

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

## **NR78 Public Transit to Industrial Lands and Business Parks**

**Delta**

Whereas local governments are working to promote the use of public transit and active transportation over traditional automotive commuting;

And whereas industrial areas and business parks are, by design, located some distance away from urban centres and residential areas, and public transit options, such as regular bus services or shuttles, are not provided with the same frequency or convenience for workers in those areas who may have no option but to rely on a single occupancy car to get to and from work:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a comprehensive public transit service plan for industrial lands and business parks to provide better commuting options for workers to those areas.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to develop a comprehensive public transit service plan for industrial lands and business parks to provide better commuting options for workers to those areas.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).*

*The Committee would observe that local governments contribute a share of the costs of public transit service. It is unclear whether local governments across the province would wish to take on further transit costs in order to provide transit routes and services to outlying industrial areas or business parks.*

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

## **NR79 Rural Approval for Ride-Hailing Services**

**Williams Lake**

Whereas there is a chronic labour shortage of qualified class 4 taxi drivers and licensed taxi vehicles in northern communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC swiftly allows for the expansion of ride-hailing services such as Uber or Lyft outside of the major urban centers.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Action Required**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking transportation network services in small, rural and remote communities (2022-NR55, 2019-LR1, 2017-B57).*

*The Committee would observe, however, that the provincial Passenger Transportation Board has already approved a number of transportation network services to operate outside of major urban centers in BC. For example:*

*Region 5: North Central & Other Regions*

*Coastal Rides*

*InOrbis*

*Kabu*

*Lucky to Go*

*ReRyde*

*Ripe Rides*

*Urider*

*Region 4: Okanagan – Kootenay Boundary – Cariboo*

*InOrbis*

*Kabu*

*Lucky to Go*

*ReRyde*

*Ripe Rides*

*Tappcar*

*Urider*

*The Committee understands that, once an application is approved, the operator then has the discretion to decide where in the region they will offer transportation network services.*

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

**NR80      Zero Emission Vehicles**

**Kitimat**

Whereas the provincial government plans to require only zero emission vehicle sales in British Columbia by 2040;

And whereas northern and rural communities may not have the necessary infrastructure, capacity building ability, and related upgrades necessary to support the province's objective for zero emission vehicles:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to recognize the challenges in northern British Columbia and outline their plan for supporting capacity building, improved infrastructure and other upgrades in northern British Columbia to meet zero emission vehicle sales targets;

And be it further resolved that if interim zero emission vehicle sales targets for 2030 are not met by the Province, then the Province may reconsider their 2040 objectives.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to address challenges in operating zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) in northern BC, by outlining a plan to build capacity, improve infrastructure, and make other upgrades in the north to support ZEVs. Nor have members requested that if interim ZEV sales targets for 2030 are not met, then the Province reconsider their 2040 objectives for ZEV sales.*

*However, the Committee notes that in general, the membership has endorsed resolutions supporting increased sales and sales targets for electric vehicles (2020-EB26, 2020-EB27, 2019-B142, 2018-B130, 2018-B131), as well as expansion of charging infrastructure (2022-EB74, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132).*

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

## **NR81 Fuel Pricing**

**Revelstoke**

Whereas in November of 2019 the BC government introduced the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* to help bring transparency to transportation fuel pricing in the province;

And whereas resulting BC Utilities Commission studies and data collection has found higher retail markup margins in specific rural markets, such as in March 2022 the BC Utilities Commission's Exploration Project #3, Retail Margins and Price Factors for Select cities including Golden, Revelstoke, Powell River, Sicamous, Whistler and Squamish, as well as stations in nearby cities found that sampled gas stations in those markets "appeared to earn higher margins on each litre of gasoline sold than the sampled retail stations in Metro Vancouver and the BC average;"

And whereas consumers in these and other rural markets often pay more per litre for transportation fuels such as gasoline and diesel than consumers in Metro Vancouver where there is an additional 18.5 cents per litre TransLink tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to follow through with legislative and/or regulatory action that will provide relief to consumers in rural BC fuel markets that experience chronic unexplained retail transportation fuel markups and higher than average transportation fuel prices.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to enact consumer relief legislation or regulations, for rural BC fuel markets that experience chronic unexplained retail transportation fuel markups and higher than average transportation fuel prices.*

*The Committee also advises that membership considered, and referred to the UBCM Executive, resolution 2008-B150, which in part called on the Province to develop regulatory pricing controls for oil and gas corporations. Upon consideration of the resolution, the UBCM Executive referred 2008-B150 back to the sponsor.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about increasing gas prices (2001-B66, 2000-B46) and calling on other orders of government to develop strategies to deal with escalating fuel costs (2005-LR3). The Committee acknowledges that some of these are dated references.*

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

## **NR82 Bringing Equity to Traffic Enforcement**

**New Westminster**

Whereas the primary deterrent from exceeding speed limits or violating other road safety regulations on municipal roads in British Columbia are fines administered under the Violation Ticket Administration and Fines Regulation;

And whereas fixed rate fines are inequitable, disproportionately impacting people with lower incomes while applying lower deterrent value to people with higher incomes, creating a structural inequity in the application of justice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to implement a means-tested traffic fine system, similar to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden or the UK, where fines may be calculated on the basis of the offender's income.

Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement a means-tested traffic fine system, similar to Finland, Switzerland, Sweden or the UK, where fines may be calculated on the basis of the offender's income.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing fines for speeding and road safety violations, including:*

- *2022-NR62 which asked the Province to increase fines for driving over a fire hose;*
- *2020-NR11 which asked the Province to review and adjust traffic fines for speeding in an effort to make driving above the speed limit 'less attractive' for drivers in BC;*
- *2007-B102 which asked for the reduction in speed limits and to double the fine amount when passing emergency vehicles stopped on roadways; and*
- *2006-B16 which asked to double the fines for speeding in school and playground zones.*

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

### **NR83 MOTI Required Highway Upgrades**

**Cranbrook**

Whereas developers may be required to provide offsite improvements such as Arterial Highway intersection upgrades not owned by a municipality as part of their developments;

And whereas the first developer may be required to install upgrades as directed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure which may also be required by subsequent developers for other projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province to create a legislative framework to allow for latecomer charges or similar mechanism to be collected from subsequent developers to be paid to the first developer (or to the Province) who front ends the initial transportation upgrades.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to create a legislative framework to enable local governments to charge subsequent developers for upgrades to provincial highway interchanges, with the amount collected to be paid to the first developer (or to the Province) who front ends the initial transportation upgrades.*

*However, the Committee notes that a related resolution, 2020-NR23, asked the Province either to enable local governments to collect development cost charges to cover their portion of the capital cost for highway interchanges; or to provide full provincial funding for all provincial highway interchange projects. Due to time constraints, resolution 2020-NR23 was referred to the UBCM Executive. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution.*

*In response to resolution 2020-NR23, the provincial government clarified that although development cost charges (DCCs) are for local government capital costs required to service future growth, including transportation infrastructure, DCCs may not be used for infrastructure that is not owned by the local government. The Province cautioned that expanding DCCs to include provincial transportation infrastructure would increase the allowable scope of DCCs, which could result in cost impacts for developers.*

*The Committee understands that resolution 2020-NR23 proposed to use the DCC system as a collection mechanism; while the present resolution, sponsored by Cranbrook, proposes a framework for latecomer charges that would operate separately from the DCC system.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2009-B83, which called on the Province to reinstate funding to local governments for improvements to major roads that intersect the provincial highway system.*

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

## Legislative

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### **NR84 Building Bylaw Enforcement**

### **Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas local governments face building bylaw enforcement challenges, particularly in low density rural areas;

And whereas Technical Safety BC regularly issue electrical, gas and other permits for installations in buildings which are in contravention of local government building bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to require Technical Safety BC to confirm that necessary building permits have been issued prior to the issuance of installation permits.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to require Technical Safety BC to confirm that necessary building permits have been issued prior to the issuance of installation permits.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 1996-B31 that called on the Province to establish a protocol for sharing building permit and electrical permit information between local government and the Electrical Inspection Branch. The Committee acknowledges that this is a dated reference.*

*As well more generally members have endorsed a number of resolutions seeking greater coordination between the Province and local governments in terms of permit approvals/project coordination (2022-RR3, 2014-A4).*

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

### **NR85 Personal Leaves for Elected Officials**

### **Coquitlam**

Whereas Section 125(7) of the *Community Charter* only exempts elected officials from disqualification due to absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled board or council meetings if the absence is due to illness or injury or is with the leave of the council or board, but does not consider diverse realities or lived-experiences such as providing caregiving or compassionate care for loved ones, or parental leave for new parents;

And whereas it is recognized that the current language in the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* do not protect leave rights for elected officials and require local governments to renew leave policies pertaining to elected officials after every new council composition;

And whereas it is recognized that reducing barriers to inclusion in civic governance requires intentional action to recognize diverse lived-experiences:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM encourage the provincial government to amend the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* to guarantee caregiver, compassionate care, and parental leave provisions that would grant elected officials, who must provide support to loved ones or are new parents, an exemption from being disqualified from office for absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled council or board meetings.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions specifically seeking parental leave for local elected officials (2022-EB79, 2021-NR1, 2016-B99).*

*However, the above referenced resolutions were limited to the topic of parental leave, and did not reference broader personal leaves for elected officials who find themselves in a role as caregiver or providing compassionate care to loved ones.*

*In response to 2022-EB79, the Province provided the following response:*

*“Under the existing legislation, local governments have full authority to grant leave for a wide variety of reasons to elected officials seeking this option. This authority includes the establishment of policies for such leave including handling of appointments (such as to boards and committees), and other duties during the leave and upon return. Furthermore, council members who have received approval for their absence from council attendance will not be at risk of disqualification for non-attendance at council meetings. The existing authority allows individual communities to design leave policies that reflect considerations for their unique circumstances for various types of leave.*

*The Province continues to observe an increase in the number of local governments that have adopted their own specific policies to allow elected officials to go on maternity or parental leave. The province will continue to favour an approach that allows individual communities to determine policies related to various types of leave under existing local government legislation, just as local governments determine remuneration and other benefits for local elected officials. Local governments are best placed to continue to develop policies that best account for circumstances in their communities.”*

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

## Assessment

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### NR86 Valuation of Major Industrial Properties

**Houston**

Whereas there is a lack of transparency for how assessed value is calculated for major industrial properties in British Columbia;

And whereas there is a closure allowance for major industrial and electrical properties in British Columbia that allows for the reduction of improvement value to 10 percent of the cost for major industrial and electrical properties when they cease operations in British Columbia;

And whereas local governments face significant economic and taxation challenges when major industrial and electrical proponents cease operations in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.*

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

## Community Economic Development

### NR87 Foreign Worker Program

Fort St. John

Whereas employers in all sectors across the province are experiencing labour shortages and face challenges filling vacancies with foreign workers;

And whereas the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program Rural Renewal Stream enables local governments to work directly with their business communities promoting a streamlined path for skilled and unskilled workers to enter the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to create an economic immigration program that enables local governments to streamline application and approval to allow foreign workers to work in British Columbia.

Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to create an economic immigration program that enables local governments to streamline application and approval to allow foreign workers to work in British Columbia.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has considered and endorsed resolutions addressing the hiring of internationally trained doctors and nurses to help address the shortage of health care professionals, including resolutions 2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91 and 2009-B148 called on the provincial government to provide greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates (IMGs) to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC. As well as 2022-NR5 which called on the Province to provide greater support to streamline the registration process for internationally educated nurses to the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, set up a financial support process, and bring together all stakeholders to determine how to integrate internationally education nurses and employed student nurses to the workforce.*

*The Committee would note that currently, the provincial government through the Provincial Nominee Program does have two streams to assist with addressing gaps and skills shortages. One stream is for skills immigration (tech, international students, priority occupations i.e. health care) and the second is entrepreneur immigration which supports both immigration and economic development. The latter entrepreneur stream includes a regional pilot program where the Province works directly with small to mid-size BC communities to attract entrepreneurs to fill an identified gap in a type of service /business / worker. It is a collaborative process that allows BC local governments to work with the Province to diversify their economy through entrepreneurship.*

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

## NR88      **Expediting Forestry Approvals**

**Merritt**

Whereas rural communities across British Columbia have historic and ongoing cultural and economic connections to forest and timber industries;

And whereas the closure of major employers such as mills can affect not only the immediately laid-off workers, but their families, and the economic viability of the entire community;

And whereas the Province of BC has committed to multi-million dollar funds such as the Rural Economic Development Fund and the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund;

And whereas spending from these funds can be avoided if rural areas do not lose jobs unnecessarily:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the Province of BC to streamline and expedite the necessary approvals for forestry practices, including cutting permits (CPs), annual allowable cut (AAC), and necessary First Nations consultation within BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and to strictly follow stated approval timelines.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:      **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling upon the Province to streamline and expedite the necessary approvals for forestry practices, including cutting permits (CPs), annual allowable cut (AAC), and necessary First Nations consultation within BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and to strictly follow stated approval timelines.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions seeking a more streamlined approval/permitting process from provincial and federal governments on approvals related to the Water Sustainability Act (2021-LR3, 2020-EB52, 2019-B153); DFO development referral (2011-B127) and mining project referrals (2009-B138)*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2021-SR2, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).*

*In particular, special resolution 2021-SR2 asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper, including matters related to old growth designations and deferrals, recognizing that there will be implications and impacts for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.*

*While the sponsor is seeking to streamline and expedite approvals, the Committee would note that members have also endorsed resolutions that have asked the Province to give local governments a legislated avenue for providing input before cutting permits for forest licensees and woodlot tenures are approved and issued. So while the sponsor is asking to expedite approvals, local governments have also asked to be consulted and part of that approvals process which also takes time, so it is important to understand what streamlining and expediting would mean in the context of ensuring continued engagement and consultation with local governments.*

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

## **NR89      BC Affordable, Net Zero, Offsite Wood Housing Industrial Development      Quesnel**

Whereas BC has yet to develop an effective strategy to address the biggest constraint on new housing supply—our shrinking construction labour force—and offsite wood frame and mass timber construction has potential to deliver improvements of up to 50 percent labour productivity, 50 percent construction time and 20 percent cost savings, net zero and low embodied carbon construction and secure jobs in forest dependent and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the greatest barrier to expanding offsite construction is insufficient market demand from public and private project developers unfamiliar with this novel approach and there are hundreds of strategically located, public land parcels with underutilized land that can be used to cost effectively build affordable housing and grow a predictable pipeline of projects to mobilize investment in manufacturing plant expansion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls on the Government of BC to collaborate with diverse sectors to establish a BC-based Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and steadily grow demand and capacity by working with interested public sector organizations to use offsite construction to build, permanently affordable, zero carbon housing on underutilized public land close to jobs and services;

And be it further resolved that UBCM works with the BC Government to develop an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program with voluntary municipal actions that aggregate demand like pre-approved designs, zoning and permits for different housing types; and voluntary actions for other sectors like developers, builders, school boards, health authorities and forestry companies.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*      **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a BC-based Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions addressing related issues, including:*

- *2022-EB30 which asked the Province to enable, support and promote the development of a zero-carbon standard, wood-frame modular housing manufacturing industry in BC;*
- *2022-EB31 which asked the Province to increase support and funding for trades training programs in deep energy retrofits, including installing solar panels, solar hot water systems and heat pumps, and training in the construction of climate-smart buildings including mass timber, Passive House standard and pre-fabricated net-zero-energy wood-frame modular buildings;*
- *2021-EB40 which asked the Province to provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings; and*
- *2018-B31 which asked the Province to invest in renewable energy technology development and production that would create jobs throughout BC and help local governments and builders meet building code requirements that are moving towards zero-carbon buildings.*

*The Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions which have called upon the Province to support the use of BC wood for construction (2009-A5, 2006-B44, 2003-B29).*

*Both UBCM's Special Committee on Climate Action Recommendations and Housing Strategy have specific recommendations addressing wood frame construction. The Special Committee on Climate Action supports a partnership with other orders of government to build 100,000 zero-emissions, wood constructed new housing units, and the UBCM Housing Strategy calls for the promotion of wood-frame construction as a way of*

*economically constructing new rental. While generally consistent with the intent of these recommendations, the present resolution is highly specific and not fully addressed in existing policy.*

*As noted above, there are elements of the resolution that are in line with previous policy, but the specific requests around establishing an Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and developing an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program have not been requests before the membership previously, and it is not clear what the full scope of the 'asks' are within the enactment clauses, and the Committee has therefore offered no recommendation.*

*See resolutions RR25, RR26*

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

## **Elections**

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### **NR90 Exemptions for Elections Workers**

**Burnaby**

Whereas there is no exemption under the *Employment Standards Act* for temporary municipal election workers hired to work on advance and general voting days;

And whereas the provincial government has an exemption from Part 4 of the *Employment Standards Act* relating to hours of work and overtime, and is therefore not required to meet these legislative requirements for temporary election workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to provide to local governments an exemption from Part 4 (Hours of Work and Overtime) of the *Employment Standards Act*, except Section 39 which refers to excessive hours of work, as it would relate to temporary election workers during the local government elections and by-elections.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide local governments with an exemption from Part 4 (Hours of Work and Overtime) of the Employment Standards Act, except Section 39 which refers to excessive hours of work, as it would relate to temporary election workers during the local government elections and by-elections.*

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

### **NR91 Extending Election Nomination Period**

**Burnaby**

Whereas the manner in which election work is undertaken has evolved and can vary based on the size of the local government, current issues, and voter concerns;

And whereas processing nominations for local government general elections within a compressed period of nine days can be challenging for those local governments with large numbers of candidates choosing to run for office:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to begin the nomination period for local government elections at least three weeks earlier than currently legislated, and allow for a three week nomination period.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution ask the Province to amend the Local Government Act to begin the nomination period for local government elections at least three weeks earlier than currently legislated, and allow for a three week nomination period.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2016-B65 which sought an amendment to the Local Government Act to increase the time period between the end of the candidate nomination period and the beginning of the election period, to facilitate the administration of the mail ballot process and provide greater voting opportunities for citizens.*

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

## Selected Issues

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### **NR92 Provincial Sales Tax Levied on Private Used Vehicle Sales**

**Cariboo RD**

Whereas used vehicle sales are an economical and affordable means of attaining motor vehicle ownership for drivers of all income levels, skills, abilities, and ages, where consideration of the vehicle's actual condition, previous use, and costs of functional repairs can be reflected in a final sales price;

And whereas the Province has revised how Provincial Sales Tax is calculated on the sale of used vehicles, resulting in a disconnect between the real market value of used vehicles and the estimated values used to determine taxable value, making vehicle ownership increasingly unaffordable for British Columbians while unduly increasing tax revenues for the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial Ministry of Finance to discontinue the use of the Canadian Black Book as a means of determining the taxable value for used vehicles sales, and return to using the actual sale price of the used vehicle being sold when determining Provincial Sales Tax payable.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to discontinue the use of the Canadian Black Book as a means of determining the taxable value for used vehicles sales, and return to using the actual sale price of the used vehicle being sold when determining Provincial Sales Tax payable.*

*The Committee would note that the process for determining the taxable value of used cars is very much out of the scope of local governments. Members need to determine if its resolutions discussion time is best spent considering these out of scope issues when there are other important matters of relevance to local governments that should be addressed.*

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

### **NR93 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act**

**Saanich**

Whereas there currently is no provincial legislation that addresses the need for strategic foresight by requiring public bodies to plan and take action in pursuit of economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being in their areas and for interconnected objectives;

And whereas short-term thinking, fragmented decision-making, siloed approaches, and a lack of emphasis on the long-term consequences of these decisions have led to the persistence of social, environmental, and economic issues and inequities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a Wellbeing of Future Generations Act that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.*

*The Committee would note that this resolution is requesting the establishment of an Act that would seek to legislate public bodies to “think about the long-term impact of their decisions”; “work better with people, communities and each other”; and “prevent persistent problems such as poverty health inequalities and climate change.” While the objectives raised by the sponsor are laudable it is not clear how these types of behavioural actions could be enshrined in provincial legislation and monitored in a manner that would allow these objectives to be evaluated.*

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

## Section RR

Section RR contains Referred Resolutions. These are resolutions that are similar to others in the same year; that relate to larger UBCM policy initiatives underway, such as policy papers, working groups or intergovernmental consultation processes; that are being referred back to the sponsor as they require more work; that are being referred to an Area Association as they regionally focused; or that are recommended Refer to UBCM Executive.

Resolutions placed in Section RR will not be admitted for debate.

**Part One** of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to other resolutions within the Resolutions Book.

**RR1 – RR26**

**Part Two** of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred back to the sponsor for fine-tuning.

**RR27 – RR28**

**Part Three** of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to Area Associations due to being of a regional nature.

**RR29 – RR31**

**Part Four** of Section RR contains resolutions that are referred to the UBCM Executive as the request put forward is the decision/responsibility of the UBCM Executive.

**RR32 – RR34**

## Section RR – Part One

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### RR1 Child Care

**Courtenay**

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day child care program, and ChildCareBC's growing system of universal child care has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal child care relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded child care needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR2, RR3, RR4, RR5, RR6*

### RR2 Universal Child Care

**Port Edward**

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day childcare program, and Child Care BC's growing system of universal childcare has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal childcare relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded childcare needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal childcare that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR1, RR3, RR4, RR5, RR6*

**RR3 Accessible Child Care**

**Strathcona RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day child care program, and ChildCareBC's growing system of universal child care has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal child care relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded child care needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR1, RR2, RR4, RR5, RR6*

**RR4 Child Care - Multi-Year Funding to Local and Indigenous Governments and Non-Profit Organizations**

**Salmo**

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day child care program, and ChildCareBC's growing system of universal child care has been life-changing for families, with demand far outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal child care relies on grant applicants to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and Indigenous governments and nonprofit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM-funded child care needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR1, RR2, RR3, RR5, RR6*

**RR5 Early Child Care Support****Delta**

Whereas the Province is taking important steps to deliver quality and affordable child care to more families, as outlined in the Child Care BC Blueprint;

And whereas the Province acknowledges the critical role of municipal governments in this process and financially supported the Community Child Care Planning program and continues to administer the New Spaces Fund;

And whereas municipalities are uniquely positioned to plan, manage, design, and implement programs within their local communities, but are limited in their capacity to implement community child care action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide local governments with funding for human resources to coordinate the implementation of Municipal Child Care Action Plans and projects developed through the New Spaces Funding to support the expansion of quality and affordable child care.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR1, RR2, RR3, RR4, RR6*

**RR6 Provincial Funding for Universal Child Care****Quesnel**

Whereas the Ministry of Education and Child Care is responsible for BC's \$10/day child care program, and ChildCareBC's growing system of universal child care has been life-changing for families, with demand for outstripping supply;

And whereas the current grant-based process to expand universal child care relies on grant applications to coordinate all aspects of design and implementation, and local and indigenous governments and non-profit organizations often lack the resources to successfully manage this process in accordance with UBCM funded child care needs assessments and action plans:

Therefore be it resolved that while the Province continues to rely on individual grant applicants to plan and develop child care expansion, that instead, the Province provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations to support resources to coordinate this process;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care that upholds UNDRIP obligations and supports the involvement of, but does not rely on, local and Indigenous governments and non-profit organizations to coordinate design and implementation.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR1*

*See also resolutions RR1, RR2, RR3, RR4, RR5*

**RR7 Resolve Health Care Shortages in Rural Communities****Merritt**

Whereas the Ministry of Health committed in 2020 that supporting local health care is key to improving life in rural British Columbia in response to resolution 2020-NR64 (Kaslo);

And whereas Emergency Departments in communities across BC have had multiple short notice closures due to staff absences since that reply was issued;

And whereas a shortage of physicians and nursing staff has led to residents being unable to register for primary healthcare and become reliant on Emergency Departments for both emergencies and also issues that could not be dealt with earlier;

And whereas rural and/or non-centralized communities are particularly affected by healthcare shortages due to the distance to another community with healthcare provision and the additional time required to access healthcare can be the difference between life and death:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to investigate and take immediate action on healthcare shortages in rural and/or non-centralized communities, and support Health Authorities to ensure that Emergency Departments across BC have the necessary resources to avoid temporary, short-notice closures.

*Endorsed by the Southern Interior Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14*

## **RR8 Rural, Remote Paramedic Sustainability**

**Zeballos**

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with budgetary means to sustain full-time paramedic positions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Health invest in full-time paid paramedic positions for small, rural, remote communities across British Columbia to enhance these communities' ability to sustain permanent employment for their skilled residents.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14*

## **RR9 Treatment for Mental Health and Addictions in Rural Communities**

**Smithers**

Whereas the number of people in BC, including rural and remote communities, experiencing mental health and addictions issues continues to increase;

And whereas rural and remote communities lack sufficient resources, including treatment beds, detox facilities, and specialized staff to provide adequate quality care, and travel to distant treatments facilities is a barrier to treatment;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to expanding complex care, treatment, and aftercare across the Province to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province commit to establishing mental health and addictions treatment facilities in smaller communities in Northern BC, reducing the barriers to treatment for all residents including Indigenous Peoples.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14*

## **RR10 Withdrawal Management Services**

**Terrace**

Whereas the January 31, 2023 BC Coroners Service report identifies a disproportionately higher illicit drug toxicity death rate outside of large urban centres, and furthermore the First Nations Health Authority identifies that Indigenous people are dying at a rate five times greater than other BC residents;

And whereas the long distances and limited public transportation options required to travel to the nearest withdrawal management facility creates unrealistic access to services for people living in rural communities across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to provide withdrawal management services in rural centres in British Columbia in an expedited manner.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR11, RR12, RR13, RR14*

## **RR11 Addiction Treatment in Rural and Remote Communities**

**Fort St. John**

Whereas substance dependence is viewed as a health concern and the Province has committed to treatment and recovery services that meet the needs of people who are suffering from addiction;

And whereas residents in rural and remote communities are required to travel significant distances for addiction treatment services, including detox, and these services are oversubscribed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to further support the creation of addiction treatment capacity, including detox programs, in rural and remote communities in British Columbia.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR12, RR13, RR14*

## **RR12 Physician Assistants**

**East Kootenay RD**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia is in a healthcare crisis;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is struggling to fill healthcare positions in rural British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to approve physician assistants to work alongside physicians and other health professionals to help produce better outcomes, access for patients and alleviate burnout.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR13, RR14*

### **RR13 BC Health Attraction and Retention**

**Zeballos**

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas rural, remote communities are subject to a loss of services due to position vacancies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC continue to support regional health authorities by increasing the health budget for nursing, physicians, and health care professionals attraction and retention, as well as including opportunities for all other emerging health care providers, such as physician assistants.

*Endorsed by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR14*

### **RR14 Rural Health Care Provider Crisis**

**Williams Lake**

Whereas there is a provincial crisis in health care that is even more pronounced in rural BC, and an estimated one in five BC residents do not have a family physician or primary health care provider;

And whereas rural BC is at increased risk of Emergency Room closures due to lack of health care providers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to address the shortage of physicians and primary care providers in rural BC by providing financial support and implementing policy changes to facilitate additional training opportunities for health care professionals, permitting allied health care providers (i.e. chiropractors, physiotherapists, massage therapists) to provide additional services and to establish incentives to recruit health care professionals to rural BC, such as loan forgiveness and signing bonuses with a minimum time commitment.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution SR1*

*See also resolutions RR7, RR8, RR9, RR10, RR11, RR12, RR13*

### **RR15 Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers**

**Kitimat**

Whereas the COVID-19 Provincial vaccine mandate for health care workers continues and British Columbia's health care system is under severe stress;

And whereas the District of Kitimat wrote a letter to BC's Chief Medical Officer in January of 2023 asking that the vaccine mandate for health care workers be removed or, if the mandate continues, the conditions needed to end the mandate be communicated, to which there has been no response as of March 21, 2023:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to provide the criteria that must be in place in order to remove the vaccine mandate for health care workers.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR13*

**RR16 Health Authorities Performance Review****Taylor**

Whereas accessible health care is a cornerstone for providing quality of life for the residents of British Columbia and supports economic prosperity and sustainability of communities;

And whereas access to quality health care without financial or other barriers is critical to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of all Canadians under the Canada *Health Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government for an independent operational performance review of the Health Authorities to assess: the distribution and level of health care services provided, the distribution of administrative services within services delivery areas, the effectiveness of support services for health care professionals, the scope and effectiveness of recruitment and retention policies, and the sustainability of health care from the scope of emerging trends in the delivery of health care services.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*Refer to resolution NR10*

**RR17 911 Levy****Nelson**

Whereas the 911 dispatch levy is applied to landline subscribers and not mobile subscribers;

And whereas landline subscribers continue to diminish and transition to mobile, resulting in increasing losses of necessary funding for effective delivery 911 dispatch services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to legislate a 911 service levy on mobile phones to the benefit of all dispatch operators in British Columbia.

*Endorsed by the Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*Refer to resolution SR2*

**RR18 Protection and Restoration of Biological Diversity in Local Communities****Saanich**

Whereas British Columbia and Canada have committed to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Together for Wildlife Strategy;

And whereas protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund to support local efforts to protect, restore and acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution**

*Refer to resolution EB32*

*See also resolutions EB33, NR47, RR19*

**RR19 Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities****Esquimalt**

Whereas British Columbia and Canada have committed to protecting and restoring biological diversity, including in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Together for Wildlife Strategy;

And whereas protecting and restoring biological diversity contributes toward more resilient and healthy local communities, as well as ecosystem health, while helping to contain emergency management and infrastructure costs in the context of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution EB32*

*See also resolutions EB33, NR47, RR18*

**RR20 ICI Packaging and Paper Products Recycling Regulation****Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas provincial legislation under the *Environmental Management Act* and the Recycling Regulation requires Extended Producer Responsibility Plans for Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) from residential sources only;

And whereas the Province responded it would consider expanding BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for future inclusion of Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) packaging and paper products as part of their commitment to the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility;

And whereas opportunities for recycling by the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector in rural communities are limited, and in some cases, non-existent due to their distance from large urban areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to take action on amending the Recycling Regulation to expand BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs to include product categories for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional packaging and paper products.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution EB41*

**RR21 Enabling Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Legislation****Saanich**

Whereas Properly Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Programs support building retrofits that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and can reduce the capital cost barrier and streamline access to retrofits for lower income households or those enduring energy poverty by providing low or zero-interest financing that is repaid via property tax requisition, as clearly demonstrated by the successful Saanich Oil to Heat Pump Financing Program pilot;

And whereas the current federal and provincial incentive programs are not fully addressing the capital cost barrier for many households, can be challenging to navigate and access, are temporary, and are not resulting in the rate of building retrofits necessary to meet CleanBC and local government climate targets; demonstrating the value of complementary local government PACE programs such as the Saanich Oil to Heat Pump Financing Program;

And whereas the Province identified PACE as a priority in 2020, but has effectively put that action on hold, restricting local governments in BC from delivering PACE programs at scale and from accessing significant Federal funding administered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which is available to local governments in other Canadian provinces that have enacted enabling PACE legislation, including Alberta, Nova Scotia and Ontario:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province prioritize and move to enact enabling Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) legislation in the immediate future.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution EB44*

**RR22      Vacant Property Tax on Commercial Properties                    White Rock**

Whereas the Province has adopted vacancy taxes on vacant residential properties as one tool to assure land speculation does not result in property standing fallow to the detriment of community livability and other goals;

And whereas commercial property values are inflating province-wide, and increasingly face investment speculation resulting in similar underutilization of commercial property in many municipalities across British Columbia:

There be it resolved that the Province of BC provide local governments with adoption to introduce a vacant property tax applicable to commercial properties.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR69*

**RR23      Inclusion of First Nations in Section 90 of the *Community Charter*                    Powell River**

Whereas First Nations are constitutionally recognized as a level of government in Canada and British Columbia, and have the inherent right to self-government, including decision-making over their own lands, resources, and governance through the provisions outlined in United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and provincial *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*;

And whereas Section 90 of the *Community Charter* provides for the ability for confidential government to government negotiations, but does not include First Nations in this provision:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to amend Section 90 of the *Community Charter*, to recognize First Nation governments as a level of government, thereby recognizing and affording equitable protection for government-to-government meetings on par with other levels of government that are already listed within this act.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                   ***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution EB68*

**RR24      Creation of Independent Municipal Ethics  
Commissioner**

**Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas the UBCM Working Group on Responsible Conduct has worked to support British Columbia local governments in addressing misconduct by elected officials and providing local governments with a set of fundamental principles which can be utilized to enact codes of conduct;

And whereas smaller local governments in British Columbia do not have the financial resources to establish an independent and autonomous Ethics Commissioner to investigate and resolve allegations of misconduct;

And whereas the current legislative framework available to small local governments in British Columbia regarding alleged breaches of code of conduct can result in expensive legal processes which may produce limited conclusions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately create an Independent Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to serve the public, elected officials and officers in an advisory, instructive and investigative role in the application and enforcement of codes of conduct.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution EB69*

**RR25      Offsite Wood Construction**

**Courtenay**

Whereas BC has yet to develop an effective strategy to address the biggest constraint on new housing supply—our shrinking construction labour force—and offsite wood frame and mass timber construction has potential to deliver improvements of up to 50 percent labour productivity, 50 percent construction time and 20 percent cost savings, net zero and low embodied carbon construction and secure jobs in forest dependent and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the greatest barrier to expanding offsite construction is insufficient market demand from public and private project developers unfamiliar with this novel approach and there are hundreds of strategically located, public land parcels with underutilized land that can be used to cost effectively build affordable housing and grow a predictable pipeline of projects to mobilize investment in manufacturing plant expansion:

Therefore be it resolved UBCM calls on the Government of BC to collaborate with diverse sectors to establish a BC-based Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and steadily grow demand and capacity by working with interested public sector organizations to use offsite construction to build, permanently affordable, zero carbon housing on underutilized public land close to jobs and services;

And be it further resolved UBCM works with the BC Government to develop an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program with voluntary municipal actions that aggregate demand like pre-approved designs, zoning and permits for different housing types; and voluntary actions for other sectors like developers, builders, school boards, health authorities and forestry companies.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR89*

*See also resolution RR26*

**RR26 BC Affordable, Net Zero, Offsite Wood Housing Industrial Development**

**Vancouver**

Whereas BC has yet to develop an effective strategy to address one of the biggest constraints on new housing supply—our shrinking construction labour force—and offsite wood frame and mass timber construction has potential to deliver improvements of up to 50 percent labour productivity, 50 percent construction time and 20 percent cost savings, net zero and low embodied carbon construction and secure jobs in forest dependent and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the greatest barrier to expanding offsite construction is insufficient market demand from public and private project developers unfamiliar with this novel approach and there are hundreds of strategically located, public land parcels with underutilized land that can be used to cost effectively build affordable housing and grow a predictable pipeline of projects to mobilize investment in manufacturing plant expansion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls on the Government of BC to collaborate with diverse sectors to establish a BC-based Offsite Wood Construction Industrial Policy Framework and steadily grow demand and capacity by working with interested public sector organizations to use offsite construction to build, permanently affordable, zero carbon housing on underutilized public land close to jobs and services.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM works with the BC Government to develop an Affordable Housing Offsite Wood Construction Early Adopter Program with voluntary municipal actions that aggregate demand like pre-approved designs, zoning and permits for different housing types; and voluntary actions for other sectors like developers, builders, school boards, health authorities and forestry companies.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Similar Resolution***

*Refer to resolution NR89*

*See also resolution RR25*

## Section RR – Part Two

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### **RR27      Equitable BC Hydro Pricing in Distribution Energy Policy for Missing Middle Housing**

**Vancouver**

Whereas as part of the Homes for People Plan, the Province intends to introduce legislation in Fall of 2023, that will allow up to four (4) units on a traditional single-family detached lot;

And whereas to meet the electrical service needs of these new homes, the developer could be required to install a pad-mounted transformer for approximately \$75,000 - \$100,000 under current BC Hydro policy;

And whereas BC Hydro is in the process of updating its Distribution Extension Policy, which specifies how costs related to new or upgraded servicing connections are recovered;

And whereas one option being considered by BC Hydro (Option 3) would see the cost of distribution system improvements spread across all new and upgraded connections, using a modest per-dwelling-unit charge; which would provide upfront certainty and distribute costs more equitably, which in turn would support more affordable and lower carbon new housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM communicate its support for Option 3 for BC Hydro's Distribution Extension Policy Update to BC Hydro, the BC Government, and the BC Utilities Commission, and encourage that option be implemented as quickly as possible.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*                    **Refer Back to Sponsor**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to communicate its support for Option 3 for BC Hydro's Distribution Extension Policy Update to BC Hydro, the BC Government, and the BC Utilities Commission, and encourage that option be implemented as quickly as possible.*

*The Committee notes that BC Hydro is undertaking an engagement process on its distribution extension policy. At a May 2023 workshop, BC Hydro shared three options for amending the current distribution policy, which are highlighted in the following document:*

*<https://www.bchydro.com/content/dam/BCHydro/customer-portal/documents/corporate/regulatory-planning-documents/regulatory-matters/Distribution-extension-policy-booklet.pdf>*

*The Committee questions whether the UBCM resolution process is the appropriate avenue through which to communicate support for a specific option that is under consideration in an open engagement process. In its documentation, BC Hydro has indicated that once it completes its engagement process it will be filing an application to the BCUC in Summer 2023. As this process is open for comment and feedback, local governments have the opportunity to provide their input through this mechanism or through the independent regulatory body, the BC Utilities Commission once BC Hydro has filed its application.*

### **RR28      Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities**

**Victoria**

Therefore be it resolved the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to work with local governments and First Nations to support the protection and restoration of biological diversity in local communities, including establishing a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**Refer Back to Sponsor**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to establish a Local Natural Areas Protection Fund to support local efforts to acquire land for biodiversity and ecosystem health.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking the enactment of strategies or legislation to protect the environment, including:*

- *2022-NR38 and 2022-NR39 which asked the Province to develop and enact new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health in a manner consistent with UNDRIP;*
- *2015-A5 which asked the Province to enact a provincial environmental bill of rights that: a) recognizes the right of every resident to live in a healthy environment, including the right to clean air, clean water, clean food and vibrant ecosystems; b) provides for public participation in decision-making respecting the environment and access to environmental information; c) provides access to justice when environmental rights are infringed; and d) has whistle-blower protection;*
- *2011-B91 which asked the Province to develop a science based nature and climate conservation strategy; and*
- *2022-NR40, 2010-B35, 2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact Species at Risk protection legislation.*

*The Committee advises that this resolution does not meet our criteria for format, as such it is recommended it be referred back to the sponsor for fine tuning.*

## Section RR – Part Three

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### **RR29 Stand-Alone Mental Health and Addictions Facility**

### **Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas the number of British Columbians experiencing mental health issues continues to rise while the current facilities in the North are not equipped to address the current issues surrounding mental health and addictions;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to expanding new complex care, treatment, detox, recovery and after-care facilities across the province in order to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to consider the establishment of a stand-alone mental health and addictions facility in the Prince George area to provide access to treatment and support services for residents of Northern BC inclusive of the First Nations Health Authority to deliver culturally appropriate mental health and substance use services for Indigenous Peoples.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Area Association**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions making a similar request for treatment in rural centres, including:*

- *2019-B61 which asked for more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities;*
- *2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC;*
- *2007-B51 which asked for more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province; and*
- *2006-B8 which asked for more regional detox centres.*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).*

*The Committee is referring this resolution to the Area Association as it is very regional, focusing on the Prince George area and Northern BC. The need for more mental health and addiction facilities is Province-wide.*

### **RR30 Jasper National Park West Gate Upgrade**

### **Valemount**

Whereas all commercial truck traffic that passes through the East gate of Jasper National Park also passes through the West gate of the park;

And whereas Highways 16 and 5, the Yellowhead Highway, are the primary transportation corridors for commercial, tourism and local traffic and the designated over-size route for industrial traffic movements:

Therefore be it resolved that a letter be written to Government of Canada, Parks Canada requesting that the West gate of Jasper National Park be upgraded to be consistent with the East gate improvements that have been recently completed and are proving beneficial to all travellers.

*Endorsed by the North Central Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Area Association**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government and Parks Canada to upgrade the West gate of Jasper National Park to be consistent with recent East gate improvements.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).*

*The Committee also notes that this resolution is very regional in nature, addressing one gate of Jasper National Park. This park gate sits on the Alberta/BC border and separates Jasper National Park (located in Alberta) from Mount Robson Provincial Park (BC). Because of the regional scope, the Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the Area Association, which can engage in advocacy on this issue.*

### **RR31 South of Fraser Interurban Rail**

### **Langley Township**

Whereas the Township of Langley has the highest growth rate in Metro Vancouver and public transit has not kept up with population growth, resulting in inadequate services to support current and future Township of Langley residents and businesses;

And whereas communities south of the Fraser, including Delta, Surrey, Township of Langley, City of Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack have a combined population over 1.2 million and yet there is no interregional public transit connecting these respective Fraser Valley communities;

And whereas existing transit routes and Highway #1 continue to be congested within these respective communities south of the Fraser River, and without greater investment in public transit infrastructure and service congestion will continue to worsen:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to re-activate the interurban rail service along the existing rail corridor that connects Delta, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:*

***Refer to Area Association***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to re-activate interurban rail service along the existing rail corridor that connects Delta, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for expansion of passenger and freight rail service and networks (2010-B15, 2008-B107, 2004-B65, 2004-B58, 2003-B62).*

*The Committee would point out, however, that this resolution focuses solely on the Fraser Valley, as well as selected communities in Metro Vancouver located south of the Fraser River. As written, the resolution is regional in scope, and the absence of interurban rail service in the Lower Mainland has little impact on the rest of British Columbia. Because of the regional focus, the Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the Area Association, which can engage in advocacy on this issue.*

## Section RR – Part Four

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### RR32 Working Committee for Flood Disasters

Harrison Hot Springs,  
Kent

Whereas flooding is one of the most common natural disasters in British Columbia that impacts communities, flood plains, agriculture, and prominent First Nations lands;

And whereas flood risks continue to substantially grow due to climate change and the lack of pro-active flood management and protection such as regional flood risk assessment and flood protection program by the Province of British Columbia and the federal government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be requested to establish a working committee consisting of local government, provincial, federal and First Nation members to address the future flooding disaster and to restore flood protection by completing and implementing a flood risk assessment to develop strategic flood protection for critical infrastructure and to build back resilient communities.

*Endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association*

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to UBCM Executive**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to establish a working committee with local governments, provincial and federal governments and First Nations members to address future flooding risks and protection through the completion of a flood risk assessment, development of strategic flood protection for critical infrastructure, and emphasis on building resilient communities.*

*The Committee is recommending that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, as this is the most appropriate body to make decisions regarding the potential use of UBCM resources.*

### RR33 Local Government Financial Resiliency - Consumption Tax Review

Coquitlam

Whereas the UBCM membership endorsed the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance's report entitled Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency Report in 2021;

And whereas the 2021 UBCM Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency Report included a recommendation to identify emerging sources of revenue and opportunities to share revenue/taxation, including examining province-wide revenue sharing focused on consumption taxation;

And whereas a Memorandum of Understanding on Local Government Financial Resiliency was signed in 2022 between UBCM and the Ministries of Finance and Municipal Affairs, focused on addressing the recommendations within the 2021 Report and included establishing a Local Government Financial Review Working Group;

And whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2023 Annual Conference facilitated an expert panel discussion on a new fiscal framework for municipalities which included ideas for other sustainable funding source;

And whereas in 2020 the Province of Quebec implemented a new funding transfer to municipalities linked to the growth of sales tax revenues to enable municipalities to reduce the tax burden for municipal taxpayers:

Therefore be it resolved that the Provincial Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs and the UBCM Presidents Committee direct the Local Government Financial Review Working Group to review and analyze the Quebec model of sales tax transfer for potential implementation in British Columbia.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Provincial Ministers of Finance and Municipal Affairs and the UBCM Presidents Committee to direct the Local Government Financial Review Working Group to review and analyze the Quebec model of sales tax transfer for potential implementation in British Columbia.*

*However, the Committee notes that that membership has supported resolutions asking for local government to receive a share of other taxation revenues, including:*

- *Cannabis Taxation Revenue (2022-NR30, 2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3);*
- *Provincial Sales Tax (2020-EB34, 2012-B11);*
- *Fuel Tax (2021-EB20, 2013-B99, 2012-B19, 2010-B24, 2007-B21, 2007-A5, 2005-B20, 2003-B60, 2003-B75, 2003-B65);*
- *Liquor Tax (2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2004-B111); and*
- *Property Transfer Tax (2021-EB20, 2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2012-B18, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2005-B87, 2004-A8).*

*The Resolutions Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2015-B82, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).*

*The Committee is recommending that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, as this is the most appropriate body to make decisions regarding the potential use of UBCM resources.*

## **RR34      A New Fiscal Framework for Sustainable and Predictable Local Government Funding**

**Vancouver**

Whereas local governments and their representative organizations, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), have noted for over a decade that the current municipal funding model and overreliance on property taxes are neither sustainable nor resilient;

And whereas the Province and UBCM have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Local Government Financial Resiliency, establishing a joint provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group, focused on addressing the 20 recommendations within the 2021 UBCM Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency Report:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the joint provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group explore developing a multiyear funding framework for local governments similar to Quebec's 2020-2024 Partnership: Building Even Stronger Municipalities and Regions framework whereby the Province would transfer an amount corresponding to the growth in revenues it derives from one point of the provincial sales tax (PST) to local governments as a sustainable, predictable, and reliable source of funding.

*Submitted Directly to UBCM*

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

**Refer to UBCM Executive**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the joint provincial-UBCM Local Government Financial Review Working Group explore developing a multiyear funding framework for local governments similar to Quebec's 2020-2024 Partnership: Building Even Stronger Municipalities and Regions framework whereby the Province would transfer an amount corresponding*

*to the growth in revenues it derives from one point of the provincial sales tax (PST) to local governments as a sustainable, predictable, and reliable source of funding.*

*However, the Committee notes that that membership has supported resolutions asking for local government to receive a share of other taxation revenues, including:*

- *Cannabis Taxation Revenue (2022-NR30, 2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3);*
- *Provincial Sales Tax (2020-EB34, 2012-B11);*
- *Fuel Tax (2021-EB20, 2013-B99, 2012-B19, 2010-B24, 2007-B21, 2007-A5, 2005-B20, 2003-B60, 2003-B75, 2003-B65);*
- *Liquor Tax (2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2004-B111); and*
- *Property Transfer Tax (2021-EB20, 2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2012-B18, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2005-B87, 2004-A8).*

*The Resolutions Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2015-B82, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).*

*The Committee is recommending that this resolution be referred to the UBCM Executive, as this is the most appropriate body to make decisions regarding the potential use of UBCM resources.*

## Appendix A – Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review



### Report on UBCM Resolutions Process Review Convention Backgrounder

*This resource provides background for a survey that voting delegates will be asked to undertake during the Resolutions session on the morning of Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the UBCM Convention.*

Union of BC Municipalities  
September, 2023

## Resolutions Process Review

The impetus for this review of the resolutions process was a resolution from the City of Campbell River that was submitted for consideration at the 2019 UBCM Convention. Due to a lack of time the resolution was not considered by the membership, and was referred to the UBCM Executive following the Convention, as per UBCM process. Following its deliberations, the Executive endorsed the resolution with amendments as follows:

### **B176      Review of Resolutions Procedures**

**Campbell River**

Whereas the volume of resolutions admitted for debate from each area association, various local governments and the UBCM Executive, is excessive and does not provide time for wholesome debate on the UBCM convention floor;

And whereas the vetting of resolutions is inadequate and leads to a lack of rational, structured arguments to present a compelling case for government to act:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM conduct a thorough audit and review of its resolutions procedures to ensure that ~~the resolutions on the floor of the UBCM convention are reduced in number, repetition and are focused on priority use.~~ **it responds to members' concerns that have been expressed about the quantity, repetition and lack of priority focus.**

Convention Decision: **Not Considered – Automatic Referral to UBCM Executive**

Executive Decision: **Endorse as Amended**

Following adoption of this amended resolution the UBCM Executive built a resolutions review into the work plan for the following year, held a workshop to receive UBCM Executive input and made plans to engage Area Associations in the Spring of 2020. However, this project was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was re-started in the 2021-22 UBCM work plan and continues in the 2022-2023 work plan.

A similar report to this one was presented at the 2022 UBCM Convention in Whistler. The plan was to survey the members during the Thursday morning Resolutions session with the five questions noted later in this report. Due to the failure of our electronic voting devices, we were unable to poll those present on the five questions contained in the Report. That same day, UBCM sent out an invitation to members to answer the five questions via on-line survey. The response rate was not high, and the UBCM Executive determined more feedback was needed in order to accurately gauge members' interest in updating the resolutions process.

## Current Policy and Approach to Resolutions

UBCM's resolutions process is driven by the membership. It provides all members with an equal opportunity to bring forward policy issues that are important to their communities to be considered and voted on by the broader membership. This grass roots process assists the Secretariat in formulating UBCM policy positions on a plethora of issues.

The consideration of resolutions is an integral part of the UBCM Convention as it assists in setting the policy direction for the association's advocacy efforts. The Conference Rules and Procedures for Handling Resolutions are informed by UBCM's governance documents such as UBCM's Bylaws and Executive Policies. The current approach to resolutions can be summarized as follows:

- any member may bring an issue forward for consideration by full membership;
- no limit on the number of resolutions a member can submit;
- individual members trust full membership to set UBCM priorities;
- UBCM responds to member needs; and
- all members of UBCM are equal.

The above philosophy, in combination with a high level of member participation in the resolutions process, has resulted in a consistently high number of resolutions to be considered each year at Convention. UBCM staff did a comparison of annual resolutions considered by UBCM to other provincial/territorial local government associations across Canada:

### Five-year average, annual number of resolutions (2015-2019)

Association(s)	Annual Average
UBCM	205
AMM* (next-highest)	45
5 closest PTAs* + FCM*	27
All other PTAs + FCM	17

\*AMM: Association of Manitoba Municipalities

PTAs: provincial + territorial local government associations

FCM: Federation of Canadian Municipalities

## **Area Association Outreach in 2022**

In 2022, workshops were developed and held at all of the Area Association Spring conferences. Each workshop was about an hour in length and involved a presentation followed by a comment and feedback segment. In four of the Area Association meetings, the attendance was good and in the fifth session it was not well attended due to where it was placed in the Area Association program. The following three questions were posed at each session to seed the discussion:

1. Should we be dedicating more time to resolutions at Convention or do we have too many resolutions going to Convention?
2. Should we apply more rigour or structure before we bring a resolution for debate at the UBCM Convention?
3. Is this an effective way to conduct advocacy with the Province?

## **Feedback From Area Associations**

The feedback was thoughtful and varied. In some cases, there were themes that were supported in the session, and in other instances there were not. Here are some examples of the themes that we heard at the 2022 Area Association conferences:

- There is broad support for retaining the grass roots approach to resolutions. Some members reflected on the importance of individual local governments being able to bring a resolution to the floor. As one delegate commented “local priorities are important, so tread lightly on proposed changes”.
- A number of delegates spoke of enjoying the resolution debates at the UBCM convention, and some spoke about the value of learning about issues and challenges in other parts of the province. Some of these delegates supported more time being devoted to resolutions.
- There was a comment that some members do not find the process effective and prefer to spend their time at Convention in Minister meetings. There was also considerable feedback about the logistical challenges of attending resolutions sessions while meetings with provincial officials are being scheduled concurrently.
- There is frustration that a resolution from their local government has been enacted, but there appears to be limited follow-up from UBCM or an unfavourable response from the Province.
- There was an opinion voiced that there are too many resolutions and as a result the Province dismisses the resolutions process. This is not an effective way to conduct our advocacy. This was countered in some measure by statements that all of the resolutions reflect topic matters that are important to local governments, and these should not be limited in any manner.
- At one Area Association (AVICC), the idea of a funnel was suggested where there would be no limitations on the number of resolutions submitted to the UBCM Convention, but that the

delegates would funnel or set priorities on which resolutions are advanced to the Province. There was a level of support for some sort of funneling process within the feedback from this Area Association.

- In a follow-up response after the session, one chair of an Area Association resolutions committee suggested that Area Associations could also do more to add rigour to the resolutions process, through combining resolutions where appropriate, focussing on provincial rather than local resolutions, and consider limiting the number of resolutions to advance to UBCM.
- There was another Area Association (AKBLG) that debates resolutions and at the end of their conference votes and establishes priorities among the adopted resolutions. It was suggested this could be a useful model to follow elsewhere.

## Questions for the 2023 UBCM Convention

In order to provide guidance to its deliberations and forthcoming recommendations, the UBCM Resolutions Committee is seeking input from delegates to the 2023 Convention with regard to the following questions:

1. The current resolutions process is effective and responds to the needs of UBCM members?
2. In order to ensure that all resolutions are debated each year, criteria should be developed to limit the number of resolutions considered at the UBCM Convention?
3. Area Associations should prioritize the resolutions that they submit to UBCM?
4. A system should be put in place whereby the UBCM Executive chooses resolutions to be debated, up to a set limit, and in accordance with criteria to be developed?
5. A system should be put in place whereby an endorsed or defeated resolution cannot be sent in again for a certain number of years?

Response options:

- a) Strongly Agree      b) Agree      c) Neutral      d) Disagree      e) Strongly Disagree

## About the Questions

**Question One** is intended to measure the memberships satisfaction with the current process. On the one hand there seems to be broad support for the current grassroots approach, while on the other hand our convention evaluations consistently return comments expressing frustration with the current process for a variety of reasons as noted above.

**Question Two** is intended to gauge membership support for limiting the number of resolutions that are submitted for debate each year from the membership. No criteria has been developed to date but examples of criteria could be a cap on the number of resolutions submitted from an individual local government or an area association.

**Question Three** is intended to determine whether there is membership support for an increased role to be played by Area Associations. Currently one Area Association prioritizes the resolutions adopted at their Spring conference, but this prioritization is not reflected in the UBCM resolutions process that is followed at the UBCM Convention.

**Question Four** is intended to gauge membership support for an increased role for the UBCM Executive, through the Resolutions Committee, to set limits on the number of resolutions and select which resolutions received from the membership would be advanced for debate at the UBCM Convention. Criteria has not been developed at this time, but could include within the scope of local government jurisdiction, relevance to advocacy files being worked on by UBCM or identification of emerging issues for local governments.

**Question Five** seeks to gauge membership support for establishing rules around repeat resolutions. Currently there are no limitations on re-submitting resolutions that are: already endorsed by the membership and thereby established UBCM policy or those resolutions that have been defeated at past conventions.

### **Timing at Convention**

These questions will be posed to members during the resolutions session at the 2023 UBCM Convention on Thursday morning, September 21.