UBCM Budget

Special Resolutions

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

SEPTEMBER 2023 POLICY BOOK 1

PLEASE REFER TO THIS BOOK DURING THE AGM AND RESOLUTIONS SESSIONS





Policy Matters to be Considered at the 2023 UBCM Convention

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Table of Contents

Policy Book 1 (blue cover)

1.	UBCM Budget for Fiscal Year June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024 To be considered during the Wednesday, September 20 Annual Meeting beginning at 9:00am.	p. 2
2.	Special Resolutions Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg	р. З
	To be considered during the Wednesday, September 20 policy session beginning at 10:40am.	
3.	Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline Councillor Pete Fry	p. 11
	To be considered during the Friday, September 22 policy session beginning at 8:00am.	

UBCM GENERAL FUND

Revenue and Expenditures for the year ended May 31, 2023 And Budget for the Fiscal Year June 1, 2023 to May 31,2024

	Actuals Year Ending May 31,2023	Preliminary Draft Budget 2023/2024			
REVENUE					
Annual Dues	1,302,415	1,356,551			
Investment Income - General	72,566	325,000			
Group Benefits Plan	733,730	750,000			
Member Services	51,664	56,000			
GTMS & LGPS Admin Fees	415,696	458,052			
TOTAL REVENUE	2,576,071	2,945,603			
EXPENSES					
Staff Salaries and Benefits Staff Salary Recovery	3,576,975	4,474,542			
GTMS/LGPS/AVICC/LGLA	(1,362,166)	(1,652,279)			
Convention	(401,700)	(517,850)			
	1,813,109	2,304,413			
Executive	313,391	277,000			
Staff Travel	61,483	68,000			
Office Administration - Richmond	329,461	335,500			
Group Benefits	274,726	287,500			
Member Services	29,141	30,000			
Contingency	66,631	75,000			
Office Administration – Victoria (LGH)	355,629	383,905			
Operations Recovery	(271,861)	(390,579)			
	1,158,601	1,066,326			
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,971,710	3,370,739			
TOTAL REVENUE LESS EXPENSES	(395,638)	(425,136)			
Transfer Reserves/Investments/Funds	395,638	425,136			
FINAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$0	\$0			

The following are three additional Special Resolutions to be considered during the Wednesday, September 20 policy session beginning at 10:40am.

Health and Social Development

SR3 Addressing BC's Toxic Drug Health Emergency UBCM Executive

Whereas BC local governments recognize the urgent need to address the opioid crisis, and support decriminalization as one of the tools to tackle BC's toxic drug health emergency;

And whereas there is insufficient province-wide access to resources and services to support and ensure the safety of persons who use illicit drugs:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government immediately provide financial investments to ensure the provision of geographically accessible, on-demand mental health and addiction treatment, detox and recovery services; overdose prevention sites with inhalation; and access to safe supply and drug testing for all regions of BC.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2021-NR44, which asked the provincial and federal governments to:

"declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop appropriate comprehensive, holistic Pan-Canadian overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, safe supply, suitable medical treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in local governments across Canada".

Additional resolutions have also been endorsed in an effort to address the opioid crisis, including 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 membership has also identified the need for safe inhalation spaces, given that smoking and inhalation are increasingly common modes of consumption for persons using illicit drugs (2019-B172).

The Resolutions Committee further advises 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 (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).

Background

While the membership has supported decriminalization through resolutions 2021-EB56 and 2021-NR44, the UBCM Executive is proposing 2023-SR3 to address current gaps in the provision of services and supports for persons using illicit drugs.

UBCM also received resolution 2023-NR7 which asks the Province 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.

UBCM Policy Position

In addition to the Resolutions Committee comments, the UBCM membership will consider resolution 2023-EB3 on Safe Drug Supply, which asks that:

- 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 that 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.

Current Status

UBCM will be hosting a 2023 Convention session on decriminalization and public use on Monday, September 18. The description for the session is below:

Earlier this year, the BC government received a three-year exemption by Health Canada from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs. While local governments endorsed resolution 2021-NR44, in support of decriminalization as one of the tools to address the overdose crisis, local governments are also raising concerns about the use of these drugs in parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces. This session will explore the complex issues of the drug toxicity crisis, decriminalization, stigma, and public substance use.

Conference decision: _____

SR4 Decriminalization and Public Use

UBCM Executive

Whereas BC local governments recognize the urgent need to address the opioid crisis, and support decriminalization as one of the tools to tackle BC's toxic drug health emergency;

And whereas concerns have been raised by local governments since the pilot project began in January 2023 on the public use of illicit drugs in child focused spaces such as parks and playgrounds;

And whereas the federal government recently announced that effective September 18, 2023 the Health Canada exemption will be expanded to prohibit the possession of illicit drugs within 15 meters of any play structure in a playground, a spray park or wading pool, or a skate park:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government introduce Fall 2023 legislation to further regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in parks, beaches, sports fields and bus stops where children also gather.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2021-NR44, which asked the provincial and federal governments to:

"declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop appropriate comprehensive, holistic Pan-Canadian overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, safe supply, suitable medical treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in local governments across Canada".

Additional resolutions have also been endorsed in an effort to address the opioid crisis, including 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.

On the decriminalization of other substances, the UBCM membership considered and endorsed resolution 2012-A5 calling for the decriminalization, regulation and taxation of marijuana.

The Resolutions Committee is providing the recommendation of 'No Recommendation' for SR4, as the Executive is seeking direction from the membership as to whether the provincial government should further regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in parks, beaches, sports fields and bus stops in the Fall legislation. The Executive wishes to determine if members would like to see the scope broadened in response to the recent announcement by Health Canada.

Background

The UBCM Executive is proposing 2023-SR4 given the growing concerns of local governments since the decriminalization pilot period began in January 2023.

UBCM received two (2) resolutions (NR7, NR8) on this issue for consideration at the 2023 Convention.

Resolution 2023-NR8 asked the BC government to 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.

Resolution 2023-NR7 asks the Province 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.

UBCM Policy Position

UBCM and BC local governments have provided feedback on decriminalization since 2021 through:

- Participation on the provincial Decriminalization Core Planning Table.
- A webinar for local governments on October 13, 2021. This webinar offered an opportunity for local governments to ask questions and highlight local concerns to provincial staff, prior to the government's submission to Health Canada.
- Delegations from Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions staff to UBCM's Health and Social Development Committee in 2022 and 2023.
- A 2022 Convention session on Decriminalization and Harm Reduction.
- Local Government Working Group on decriminalization co-chaired by UBCM and MMHA.
- A webinar on February 15, 2023 for local government elected officials and staff to discuss decriminalization and key implementation considerations.
- Two webinars in July 2023 to discuss proposed provincial legislation.

UBCM has also worked with the Ministry to create two local government specific documents on decriminalization. The first provides background information on decriminalization and second is a Frequently Asked Questions report.

UBCM will be hosting a 2023 Convention session on decriminalization and public use on Monday, September 18. The description for the session is below:

Earlier this year, the BC government received a three-year exemption by Health Canada from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs. While local governments endorsed resolution 2021-NR44, in support of decriminalization as one of the tools to address the overdose crisis, local governments are also raising concerns about the use of these drugs in parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces. This session will explore the complex issues of the drug toxicity crisis, decriminalization, stigma, and public substance use.

Current Status

Given the concerns being raised by local governments, police and community members on decriminalization, the provincial government is pursuing Fall 2023 legislation.

Currently, the Province regulates where people can smoke tobacco, drink alcohol, and use cannabis, but does not have rules about public use of other controlled substances.

Local government elected officials and senior leadership staff were invited to participate virtual engagement sessions on July 13 and 19, and to provide written responses by July 31. Feedback was requested on where drug use should be restricted, where it should not be restricted, whether there should be differentiation based on mode of use, and what enforcement should look like. The Province has closed the opportunity for feedback, and is working towards the Fall 2023 legislation.

The federal government recently announced that effective September 18, 2023, the Health Canada exemption will be expanded to prohibit the possession of illicit drugs within 15 meters of any play structure in a playground, a spray park or wading pool, or a skate park. The Province also advised they are planning to introduce provincial legislation to further regulate public drug use in Fall 2023.

Conference decision: _____

SR5 Funding and Capacity for Police Training in BC UBCM Executive

Whereas changes to the Justice Institute of BC's (JIBC) Police Academy funding model have included the Province limiting its contribution to approximately two million dollars per year, with remaining costs transferred to UBCM members with municipal police departments;

And whereas the demand for new police officers continues to increase, as does the population of British Columbia, creating additional demand on the JIBC Police Academy with resulting impacts on all municipal police departments in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC increase its annual contribution to the JIBC Police Academy to help build additional capacity and offset training costs for communities with municipal police departments.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking the Province of BC to increase its annual contribution to the Justice Institute of BC Police Academy to help build additional capacity and offset training costs for communities with municipal police departments.

However, the Committee understands that in June 2021, UBCM wrote to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, expressing concerns with the decision to limit annual provincial funding to the Justice Institute of BC Police Academy. In response, the Minister advised that a shared funding model with local governments was aligned with responsibilities set out in the Police Act.

Background

The UBCM Executive is bringing forward this resolution in response to the changing circumstances with respect to municipal policing in BC, including the Province's decision to require the City of Surrey to continue with its police model transition to the Surrey Police Service (SPS), and potential impacts on policing in other communities. Notably, UBCM members with municipal police departments may be impacted by the limited availability of police training.

There are also cost impacts: the Province's 2021 decision to limit its funding to the JIBC Police Academy to two million dollars annually effectively transferred a portion of police training costs to communities with municipal police agencies. The JIBC Police Academy is currently the only option in BC for training municipal police officers.

When the 2021 funding decision was first announced, the Province indicated that affected communities would be paying approximately \$19,095 per recruit sent to the JIBC Police Academy. In just over two years, that cost has risen to over \$23,000 per recruit. At the time, the Province also committed to providing additional short-term funding over three years to assist communities with the transition to the new funding framework. However, the Province subsequently cancelled the transitional funding.

According to the most recent provincial data, from 2021, municipal police departments in BC had a combined authorized strength of 2,496 officer positions. The Surrey Police Service, as of August 2023, has hired 332 police officers, and has indicated its intent to hire over 800 police officers in total. Even with the Province placing restrictions on the number of police officers the SPS can hire per year, and the JIBC Police Academy increasing its class size, it is understood that there remain challenges in meeting the demand for police training.

UBCM Policy Position

As previously indicated, the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking for the Province of BC to increase its annual contribution to the Justice Institute of BC Police Academy to help build additional capacity and offset training costs for communities with municipal police departments. UBCM, through correspondence, has expressed concerns regarding the new shared funding framework implemented by the Province.

A June 2021 UBCM letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General expressed concerns with the decision to limit annual provincial funding to the Justice Institute of BC Police Academy. UBCM's letter advised that communities were facing financial challenges related to the delivery of police services and managing related cost drivers. It was also noted that the Province had moved to limit JIBC Police Academy funding in advance of the final report of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act, which was mandated to examine relevant issues such as police funding and training.

In response to UBCM's letter, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General indicated that the previous JIBC Police Academy funding framework was not sustainable, and that a shared funding model with communities aligned with responsibilities set out in the current Police Act. The Minister also noted that associated changes could allow police boards and policing partners to assume a more significant leadership and decision-making role related to police training. The Minister also acknowledged that the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act was still completing its work, but asserted that it was important for the Province to address longstanding funding issues immediately.

The UBCM membership endorsed the 2009 policy paper "Police Services in British Columbia: Affordability and Accountability," which serves as foundational policy for how local governments in BC approach policing costs. In part, the policy paper called on the provincial government to:

- Take measures to make police costs more affordable for local governments;
- Increase direct funding for police services; and
- Change the way police services are financed.

These requests continue to be relevant to the question of funding and capacity for police training in BC.

Broadly, the UBCM membership has also endorsed resolutions seeking for the Province to increase its level of funding for first responders such as volunteer fire departments (2018-B20, 2011-B6, 2001-B46) and paramedics (2022-EB7, 2008-B127, 2003-B33).

Current Status

Last year, the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act delivered its final report and recommendations. With respect to police training, the Special Committee has recommended that the Province "enhance and standardize initial and ongoing police education and training to reflect key values and competencies in order to shift police culture." This could, among other things, entail adding new training components that address issues such as anti-racism, cultural competency and trauma-informed practices.

Through the Local Government Policing Roundtable, the Province has been engaging with communities to discuss policing modernization, including the recommendations of the Special Committee. Issues related to the JIBC Police Academy and police training more broadly are being discussed by the Roundtable. UBCM's Community Safety Committee has also met with the Justice Institute of BC to discuss police training, and local government concerns.

Conference decision: _____



Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

This report will be considered during the Resolutions session on the morning of Friday, September 22, 2023 at the UBCM Convention.

Union of BC Municipalities September, 2023

2023 Report on Resolutions Received after the Deadline

Three resolutions were received by UBCM after the regular June 30 resolutions deadline and prior to the 12:00pm, September 15 submission deadline for late resolutions. These resolutions are late, and the Resolutions Committee has applied the policies for dealing with resolutions received after the June 30 deadline.

The Resolutions Committee reviewed each resolution in accordance with the Conference Rules and Procedures:

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.

Any resolutions with the recommendation "not admit for debate" relate to issues that could have been submitted for consideration prior to the regular June 30 resolutions deadline. In keeping with procedures, these resolutions would be forwarded to the appropriate Area Associations for consideration in the 2024 resolutions cycle, pending approval of the sponsor.

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the late resolutions be dealt with in the following manner:

A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE

LR1	2023 Wildfire Season – Economic Impacts to the Forestry Sector – Request for Inventory	Bulkley-Nechako RD

LR2 Economic Relief for Commercial and Industrial Business Port Alberni Sectors Impacted by Wildfires within British Columbia

B. REFER TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

None

C. LATE RESOLUTIONS: NOT APPROPRIATE FOR DEBATE (Issues known before the June 30 deadline for resolutions)

None

A. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS: ADMIT FOR PLENARY DEBATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AS ISSUES EMERGING SINCE THE DEADLINE

LR1 Wildfire Season – Economic Impacts to the Forestry Bulkley-Nechako RD Sector – Request for Inventory

Whereas 2023 has been the worst wildfire season in BC's history with over 2.2 million hectares burnt, and close to \$1 billion spent to combat the wildfires;

And whereas in April 2018 the Province received the Abbott/Chapman report titled *Addressing the New Normal: 21st Century Disaster Management in British Columbia* whereby recommendation 104 states: "Following wildfire events, promptly undertake timber supply reviews to enable industry response and adaptation to a new allowable annual cut, and to allow BC to better understand and respond to impacts on habitat, fibre availability and community stability.";

And whereas there has not been a provincial inventory of land base assets since the 2007 fire season; however, within the last 2 years the Province has undertaken several new forest and land based initiatives such as the Old Growth Strategic Review, Forest Landscape Plans, and B.C. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework proposals that are being conducted in the absence of accurate inventory data:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC immediately defer its current land base initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season recognizing that the impacts of wildfire to wildlife habitat, timber, fish, water, First Nations Reconciliation, and community stability need to be examined and prioritized to understand if the current land base initiatives remain in the best interest of the Province.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Admit for Debate

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to immediately defer its current land base initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season, in order to understand if the current land base initiatives remain in the best interest of the Province.

The sponsor has advised that most of the wildfires in its Regional District began in July and therefore they couldn't have written and submitted this resolution prior to the June 30 submission deadline. The Committee therefore recommends that the resolution be admitted for debate.

LR2 Economic Relief for Commercial and Industrial Business Port Alberni Sectors Impacted by Wildfires within British Columbia

Whereas British Columbia has endured the most devastating wildfire season to date;

And whereas impacts experienced across the province related to wildfires and associated highway closures are numerous and far reaching, particularly as it relates to economic development and the tourism sector, adding additional burden to ongoing challenges related to recruitment and retention, supply chains and inflation; And whereas local commercial and industrial businesses within the Alberni Valley and neighbouring coastal communities have been particularly hard hit as a result of the ongoing closures and unpredictability of Highway 4, the one major road serving as the primary entry and exit point to the Region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate assistance and financial aid to the commercial and industrial business sectors within the province that have been impacted by the wildfires and associated highway closures;

And be it further resolved that government programs, such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to acknowledge both the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters to ensure support of affected businesses during and following natural disasters.

UBCM Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Admit for Debate

UBCM Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate assistance and financial aid to the commercial and industrial business sectors within the province that have been impacted by the wildfires and associated highway closures. Nor has the membership considered the request that government programs such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to acknowledge both the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters to ensure support of affected businesses during and following natural disasters.

However the Committee notes that the membership endorsed a late resolution that was submitted during the 2017 wildfire season. Resolution 2017-LR4 called on the federal and provincial government to establish a \$1 billion recovery fund to assist BC communities, including First Nations communities, impacted by the unprecedented record-breaking wildfire season of 2017 and that this fund be called the Rural Fire Recovery Fund 2017, with the federal and provincial governments encouraged to act quickly to provide financial assistance to encourage economic recovery in all BC communities impacted by wildfires in 2017.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing disaster financial assistance for local governments and for businesses, including:

- 2019-B103 which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster;
- 2019-B104 which asked the Province to change the Disaster Financial Assistance program criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners;
- 2019-B97 which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments;
- 2017-B86 which asked the Province to increase its share of emergency recovery costs, so that the Province is responsible for 90% and local governments are responsible for 10% of emergency recovery costs.

The full impact of many of the wildfires this year were not yet realized by the June 30 resolutions submission deadline. The Committee therefore recommends that the resolution be admitted for debate.