

Minutes 120th Convention

Vancouver September 18-22, 2023



2022 – 2023 UBCM Executive

President	Councillor Jen Ford	Whistler
First Vice President	Councillor Trish Mandewo*	Coquitlam
Second Vice President	Vacant	
Third Vice President	Vacant	
Past President	Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg	Quesnel
Vancouver Rep.	Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung	Vancouver
Metro/GVRD Rep.	Councillor Craig Hodge	Coquitlam
Small Community Rep.	Councillor Sarah Fowler	Tahsis
Electoral Area Rep.	Director Ian Morrison	Cowichan Valley RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representatives	Councillor Pete Fry Councillor Margaret Kunst	Vancouver Langley Township
AKBLG	Councillor Keith Page	Nelson
AVICC	Director Penny Cote	Alberni-Clayoquot RD
LMLGA	Councillor Patricia Ross	Abbotsford
NCLGA	Director Steve Forseth	Cariboo RD
SILGA	Councillor Lori Mindnich	Lumby
Directors at Large	Mayor Merlin Blackwell Director Travis Hall Councillor Gord Klassen Councillor Jenna Stoner Mayor Sarrah Storey Mayor Maja Tait Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton	Clearwater Central Coast RD Fort St. John Squamish Fraser Lake Sooke Courtenay

Note:

*as a result of October 15, 2022 Local Government Elections: Mayor Qualizza, Councillor Moglove and Mayor Wickstrom were not re-elected so were unable to continue on the UBCM Executive. As provided for in the Bylaws, Councillor Mandewo moved to 1st VP and three additional Directors at Large were appointed to fill the vacancies.

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Minutes

Minutes of the One Hundred Twentieth Annual Convention of the Union of BC Municipalities held in Vancouver, BC on September 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2023

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Tuesday Clinics

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023 the Electoral Area Directors, Small Talk, Mid-Sized Communities and Large Urban Communities Forums were preceded by the following clinics at 7:30 am:

- Fair AI: Finding the Right Balance
- Improving Collaboration to Develop More Classrooms
- Partners in Saving Lives
- Indigenous BC Public Servant Perspective on Emergency Management from a Lived Experience Lens
- Strengthening Democracy: Balancing Partisanship

Electoral Area Directors Forum

Director Ian Morrison, Electoral Area Representative and Forum Chair, opened the session at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

The Forum began with a panel on rural housing challenges, with speakers Director Grace McGregor, RD Kootenay Boundary; Councillor Ken Young, District of Vanderhoof; Chair Mark Parker, RD of Bulkley-Nechako; Chair Vanessa Craig, RD Nanaimo; and Director Taryn Dixon, Fraser Valley RD. Panelists discussed the housing obstacles that exist in their rural areas, the impact of short-term rentals and the lack of missing middle housing. Following the panel, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Roly Russell, offered his comments on rural housing challenges.

The second presentation at the Forum addressed the water security strategy and the *Water Sustainability Act*. Presenter James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister, from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship provided an overview of the *Water Sustainability Act*, the ground water licensing process and the availability of water for farmers during a drought.

A final presentation was received from Mike Simpson, Forester and consultant to the Fraser Basin Council on wildfire in rural areas. BC Wildfire Service is seeking interest and capacity to develop wildfire fighting capabilities of residents and/or organizations in rural and remote areas.

An open microphone session was held.

Director Morrison adjourned the Forum at 12:00 pm for Lunch sponsored by Archistar.

Small Talk Forum

Councillor Sarah Fowler, UBCM Small Community Representative, called the Small Talk Forum to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Following Councillor Fowler, Small Talk Facilitator Ron Poole welcomed the attendees and provided opening remarks.

Village of Ashcroft Mayor Barbara Roden and Chief Administrative Officer Daniela Dyck, along with Heather Deegan, Director, Population Health, Interior Health, delivered the Forum's first presentation, on extreme heat planning. Interior Health recently partnered with the Village of Ashcroft to develop a Heat Alert & Response System (HARS) pilot project. In addition to discussing the components of HARS, Ms. Deegan also noted other resources and support, available through Interior Health, to help communities plan for extreme heat events.

The next presentation was made by representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on active transportation in small communities. Trish Rorison, Executive Director, Clean Transportation & Programs, and Darrell Gun, Executive Director, Northern Region, Highways & Regional Services, discussed B.C.'s commitment to reduce greenhouse gases and traffic-related casualties, and how these priorities can be advanced through active transportation programs and initiatives. The Province is providing community support through its Active Transportation Design Guide, education, and various grants and rebates.

The Small Talk Forum then moved to a block of four discussion topics. The first topic was brought forward by Councillor Sarah Fowler, who provided an overview of the Tahsis Buyers Club, a local food security initiative. The second topic was raised by Village of Pemberton Mayor Mike Richman, who discussed concerns with the RCMP funding framework that sees policing costs increase substantially when a community surpasses the 5,000-person population threshold. The third topic was introduced by Village of Lions Bay Councillor Michael Broughton, who briefly outlined staffing challenges faced by small communities. The final topic was raised by District of Sparwood Mayor David Wilks, who discussed affordable housing, including a local initiative to build a 30-unit apartment complex.

Following a refreshment break, attendees received a presentation on responsible conduct resources for local governments. Paul Taylor, UBCM's Director of Communications, discussed two key resources: the Foundational Principles of Responsible Conduct, and a model code of conduct and companion guide. He noted that local elected officials could access a self-directed course, *Responsible Conduct Every Day*, via a link on the UBCM website.

The next presentation was delivered by Village of Granisle Mayor Linda McGuire, who discussed a recent project to upgrade a local marina. This project involved collaboration with the Lake Babine Nation prior to seeking, and eventually securing, federal and local grants that enabled necessary upgrades. To compliment this presentation, Louise Pederson, Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. discussed findings from the organization's study on the impacts of outdoor recreation in rural B.C.

District of Port Hardy Mayor Patricia Corbett-Labatt and Chief Administrative Officer Heather Nelson-Smith were next to present, discussing the District's *A Safer Place to Be* project. This project identified a safe public space for community members with minimal or no housing security, who are also impacted by substance use disorders. Through creating this safe space, the District saw a reduction in police calls and conflicts, while affected individuals experienced improved access to health care services.

This discussion was followed by a verbal presentation from Village of Salmo Mayor Diana Lockwood, who raised concerns with current rules for borrowing to purchase new fire equipment. Joining Mayor Lockwood on stage were Joshua Craig, Director, Local Government Finance, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and Brian Godlonton, Fire Commissioner, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor

General. Mr. Craig discussed provincial requirements related to borrowing and the rationale for maintaining these rules.

The final presentation was made by UBCM representatives, Glen Brown, General Manager of Victoria Operations, and Brant Felker, Canada Community-Building Fund Policy and Program Manager. They discussed the work of the Province-UBCM Working Group on Local Government Finance, including recommendations related to infrastructure replacement and funding. Also provided was an update on the renewal of the Canada Community-Building Fund, which is set to expire on March 31, 2024.

The Forum adjourned at 12:00 pm for the Small Talk Lunch sponsored by Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

Mid-Sized Communities Forum

Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish, UBCM Director at Large and Forum Chair, called the session to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday September 19, 2023.

The Forum opened with the first panel called **Community Health Centres and Local Governments** that provided an overview of this local approach to providing health care, and highlighted two communities and their experience supporting CHCs:

- Valerie St. John, Executive Director, BC Association of Community Health Centres
- Mary Dunn President, Sooke Region Community Health Network
- Mayor Maja Tait, District of Sooke
- Christina Camilleri, Founder, Lake Country Health Essentials Clinic
- Mayor Blair Ireland, District of Lake Country

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed. A break was held at 10:30 am and the second panel called **Emergency Management Legislation and Community Responses** got underway at 10:45 am, with the following presenters:

- Councillor Jen Ford, Resort Municipality of Whistler, UBCM President
- Mayor Michael Goetz, City of Merritt
- Chris Johnson, GM of Planning, Climate and Infrastructure, City of Nelson
- Danyta Welch, Manager, Local Government Program Services, UBCM

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed.

The session adjourned at 12 noon for a lunch sponsored by the BC Council of Forest Industries.

Large Urban Communities Forum

Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung, City of Vancouver Representative and Forum Chair, called the session to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday September 19, 2023.

The Forum opened with the first panel called **Strengthening Communities' Services Program in Action** which highlighted two communities and their initiatives:

VICTORIA'S SAFE AND WELCOMING NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Jocelyn Jenkyns, City Manager, City of Victoria
- Jonathon Morris, CEO, Canadian Mental Health Association of BC

DELTA COVID-19 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE PROJECT

- Olga Shcherbyna, Social Planning Manager, Delta
- Alex Atkinson, Poverty Reduction and Homelessness Coordinator, Delta
- Neil Arao, Director, Homelessness with Options, Delta

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed. A break was held at 10:20 am and the second panel called **Community Action on Climate Action** got underway at 10:35 am, with the following presenters:

- Elaine Cross, ED, Climate Partnership and Engagement, Clean BC Roadmap, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Kenneth Porter, Manager, Communities-Local Government Climate Action Program, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Conor Reynolds, Director, Air Quality and Climate Action, Metro Vancouver
- Wil Wedel, Manager, Development Services, Prince George
- Evan Lloyd, Emergency Program Manager, Nanaimo

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed.

The session adjourned at 12 noon for a lunch sponsored by TELUS.

Plenary Session: Exploring the Health Impacts of Wildfires

UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford, opened the plenary session at 1:45 pm She began with an acknowledgement that the Convention was being held on the traditional territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam people. She noted that the topic of wildfire smoke was being raised following the year's unprecedented wildfire season, the most destructive on record. Local leaders who devoted their time and efforts to addressing wildfire-related issues were also acknowledged, and thanked for their work.

President Ford then invited the first speaker, the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, to address the delegates. Minister Dix addressed some of the healthcare impacts experienced this year, including the over 1,000 long-term care and assisted living evacuations. The Minister cautioned that these types of scenarios can be difficult for affected individuals, while also noting the need to continue building B.C.'s healthcare system. Minister Dix also advised of the importance of taking action on climate change.

The second presentation was delivered by Armel Castellan, Warning Preparedness Meteorologist, Meteorological Service of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Mr. Castellan began by summarizing some of the most devastating climate-related events in B.C. over the past several years, noting the role played by climate change. He then examined the increasing prevalence of wildfire smoke, including its causes, air quality impacts, and smoke forecasting conducted by ECCC.

The final presentation was provided by Dr. Angela Yao, Senior Scientist, Environmental Health Services, B.C. Centre for Disease Control. Dr. Yao began by explaining the dangerous mixture of gases and particles that make up wildfire smoke. She cautioned that while B.C. has experienced a significant amount of wildfire smoke, most health effects (e.g., respiratory issues) are experienced in the early stages. Dr. Yao concluded her presentation by outlining several changes that can be implemented in communities, such as better preparing buildings for smoke, increased use of HEPA air cleaners and the development of wildfire smoke and extreme heat action plans.

Delegates were then provided an opportunity to ask questions to the speakers, with President Ford moderating the discussion.

President Ford concluded the session by thanking the speakers. The session was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Address by the FCM President

At 2:45 pm UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford introduced Mayor Scott Pearce, President of FCM, who then addressed delegates.

Following his presentation, Councillor Ford thanked Mayor Pearce.

Provincial Policy Sessions

Four concurrent provincial policy sessions convened at 3:15 pm. The sessions were:

- Climate Action, Forest Management and Your Community
- Preparing for Future Wildfires
- Modernizing Emergency Management Regulations
- Policing and Public Safety Modernization Initiative Overview
- Staying Cybersecure in a Modern, Digital Organization

UBCM Community Excellence Awards

Winners received their awards at a special Awards Ceremony, held from 5:30-6:30 pm. Winners of the 2023 Community Excellence Awards were:

Excellence in Service Delivery

Winner: City of Surrey – *Surrey Anti-Gang Family Empowerment Program ("SAFE")*

Honourable Mention: Thompson-Nicola RD – *Ashcroft Library Service Extender*

Excellence in Asset Management

Winner: District of Summerland – *Water and Road Infrastructure Integrated Asset Management Plans*

Excellence in Sustainability

Winner: Metro Vancouver – *Lulu Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Renewable Natural Gas Facility*

Excellence in Governance

Winner: District of Oak Bay – *Bridging the Gap Between Council's Aspirations and Project Delivery*

Honourable Mention: District of Sparwood – *Organizational Excellence Initiative (OEI)*

Presidents Committee Choice

Winner: City of Kamloops/Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc – *Building Relationships towards Reconciliation*

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception was held from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Emerald & Sapphire Ballroom, Pacific Rim Hotel. The Reception was sponsored by Lidstone & Company Law Corporation.

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Wednesday Clinics

On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the Convention commenced at 7:30 am with the following clinics:

- Building Housing (Safely) in Floodplains
- Collaborating on Festival & Event Production
- Creating the right Conditions
- Renovating the Public Hearing Process – Emergent Learnings
- Advancing the TRC Calls to Action

Convention Opening Session

The UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford, called the 120th Annual Convention to order at 8:30 am on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

President's Address

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, provided the Opening Address to delegates. The President's Address is annexed to these Minutes as Appendix A.

Annual Meeting

The First Vice President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, in the Chair opened the Annual Meeting.

Adoption of Conference Rules & Procedures

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Conference Rules and Procedures as printed in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book were adopted.

Adoption of Minutes of 2022 Convention

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Minutes of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, on September 13-16, 2022 were adopted as prepared and distributed.

Annual Report

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, presented the Annual Report, which, on regular motion, duly moved and seconded, was adopted.

Adoption of Financial Statements

Councillor Craig Hodge presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for the year ending May 31, 2022. On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the statements were adopted. The Audited Financial Statements were circulated in the Annual Report. A copy of the budget for the year commencing June 1, 2023, as approved by the Executive, was also circulated to the membership for their information.

Appointment of Auditors

A regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the Executive be empowered to appoint KPMG as auditors for the year commencing June 1, 2023, was adopted.

Appointment of Committees

In advance of Convention, the following Convention-related committees and officials were appointed:

Nominating Committee

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Immediate Past President, UBCM
Councillor Sheila Boehm, NCLGA
Director Penny Cote, AVICC
Councillor Aimee Grice, SILGA
Councillor Keith Page, AKBLG
Councillor Patricia Ross, LMLGA

Convention Committee

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

Scrutineers

Tom Kadla, CAO, Village of Lumby, Chief Scrutineer
Heather Nelson-Smith, CAO, District of Port Hardy, Deputy Chief Scrutineer (on-site)
Keeva Kehler, CAO, City of Parksville
Robyn Carle, CAO, Village of Hazelton
Wade Archambault, CAO, District of Logan Lake
Mark Fercho, CAO, City of Cranbrook
Mike Younie, CAO, City of Mission
Sheryl Worthing, CAO, Village of Burns Lake
Lina Gasser, CAO, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
Doug Holmes, CAO, Nanaimo Regional District
Barclay Pitkethly, Deputy CAO, City of Mission
Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration, City of Vernon
Jim Martin, CAO, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
Michael Boronowski, CAO, City of Fernie

Parliamentarian

Ian Izard, K.C.
Former Law Clerk and Clerk Assistant, Legislative Assembly of BC

First Report of the Nominating Committee for the Positions of Table Officers

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the first report with nominations for Table Officer positions:

President:	Councillor Trish Mandewo, City of Coquitlam
First Vice President:	Director Art Kaehn, RD of Fraser-Fort George
Second Vice President:	Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook Councillor Jason Lum, City of Chilliwack
Third Vice President:	Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish

Keynote Address: John Herdman

At 9:25 am Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Convention Committee, introduced Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Chair of the Municipal Finance Authority and thanked the Municipal Finance Authority for sponsoring the Keynote speaker. Mayor Brodie addressed the delegates and introduced John Herdman. Councillor Ford thanked Mr. Herdman for his keynote address.

The Keynote Address was sponsored by the Municipal Finance Authority of BC.

Address by the Leader of the Green Party, Sonia Furstenau

At 10:25 am UBCM First Vice President, Councillor Trish Mandewo introduced Sonia Furstenau, MLA, Leader of the Green Party, who then addressed delegates.

Following her presentation, Councillor Mandewo thanked Ms. Furstenau.

Principal Policy Session – Resolutions

The first Resolutions session began at 10:40 am with Councillor Pete Fry, Chair of the UBCM Resolutions Committee, in Chair. Councillor Fry as Chair, provided an overview of the resolutions process and conducted a test question with voting delegates to ensure the integrity of the online voting system.

Councillor Fry was joined by the other members of the Resolutions Committee: Councillor Gord Klassen and Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Ian Izard, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac and other UBCM staff.

Section Extraordinary Resolutions (ER)

Councillor Gord Klassen assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling ER resolutions.

Councillor Klassen commenced consideration of ER resolutions.

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

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Section Special Resolutions (SR)

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling SR resolutions.

Councillor Roodenburg commenced consideration of SR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to amend the enactment clause by removing “call answer” from the first bulleted point, and by adding the phrase “including culturally safe options for Indigenous and other racialized peoples” to the final bulleted point, was endorsed.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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 including culturally safe options for Indigenous and other racialized peoples.***

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

Challenge to the Chair and Vote to Sustain the Chair

Chair Roodenburg was challenged by 10+ delegates when a request to sever SR2 into four separate resolutions was declined. Parliamentarian Izard had advised the Chair against allowing severance. A vote was held on whether to sustain the Chair (i.e. support the Chair’s position to not allow severance into four separate resolutions). Delegates voted to sustain the Chair.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Motion to Admit for Debate

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair and brought forward a motion to admit for debate the Endorse Block of resolutions, the Not Endorse Block of resolutions and the No Recommendation resolutions.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that all Endorse Block, Not Endorse Block and No Recommendation resolutions be admitted for debate, was endorsed.

Section Endorse Block (EB)

Councillor Pete Fry, Chair, reviewed the procedures for handling Section EB resolutions.

Councillor Fry commenced consideration of Section EB resolutions.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolutions in the Endorse Block be considered as a block, was brought to the floor.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution EB3 be removed from the Endorse Block for individual consideration, was not endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolutions in the Endorse Block be considered as a block, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee for all resolutions in the Endorse Block be adopted, was endorsed.

The resolutions in the Endorse Block were endorsed as follows:

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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].

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*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]~~ **first responders**.*

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*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.*

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.~~

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

**EB20 Incentives for Heat Pumps and Other Climate Resilience Retrofits Port Moody
in Multi-Residential Buildings**

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

**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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*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.*

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Section Not Endorse Block (NEB)

Councillor Gord Klassen assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling Section NEB resolutions.

Councillor Klassen commenced consideration of Section NEB resolutions.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolutions in the Not Endorse Block be considered as a block, was brought to the floor.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB1 be removed from the Endorse Block for individual consideration, was not endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB2 be removed from the Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the amended Not Endorse Block be considered as a block, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the recommendation of Resolutions Committee for NEB1 to not endorse be adopted, was endorsed.

The resolutions in the Not Endorse Block were resolved as follows:

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Nominations from the Floor for UBCM Table Officers

At 11:55 am, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and called for nominations from the floor for Table Officer positions in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Table Officer positions were:

President:	Councillor Trish Mandewo, City of Coquitlam
First Vice President:	Director Art Kaehn, RD of Fraser-Fort George
Second Vice President:	Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook Councillor Jason Lum, City of Chilliwack
Third Vice President:	Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish

At the conclusion of nominations, Councillor Roodenburg declared the positions of President and First Vice President elected by acclamation. She advised that an election would be held for the position of Second Vice President and Third Vice President.

The Convention adjourned for lunch at 12:00 pm. All Area Associations hosted lunches during this period.

The Convention re-convened at 2:00 pm.

Address by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, The Honourable Anne Kang

At 2:00 pm the President, Councillor Jen Ford introduced Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs who then addressed the delegates.

First Vice President Councillor Trish Mandewo thanked Minister Kang.

Candidates' Speeches

At 2:30 pm, Councillor Roodenburg called forward the two candidates for Second Vice President and the two candidates for Third Vice President. The delegates heard brief two-minute presentations from Councillors Graham and Lum as well as Councillors Mindnich and Stoner.

Cabinet Town Halls

At 3:00 pm the following concurrent Cabinet Town Hall sessions were held:

Housing

Honourable Ravi Kahon, Minister of Housing
Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Emergency Preparedness

Honourable Bowinn Ma, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
Honourable Bruce Ralston, Minister of Forests
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Honourable Pam Alexis, Minister of Agriculture

Stronger Public Service

Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services
Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Childcare

Energy & Climate Action Awards

At 4:15 pm, the 2023 Energy and Climate Action Awards sponsored by the Community Energy Association were presented.

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Thursday Clinics

On Thursday, September 21, 2023 the Convention commenced at 7:30 am with the following clinics:

- Next Generation 9-1-1 in Your Community
- Digital Transformation of the Housing Development Process

Second Report of the Nominating Committee for Executive Positions

At 8:30 am, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg gave the second report of the Nominating Committee for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative, Vancouver Metro Area Representative and Director at Large. Those nominated were:

Small Community Representative:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
Electoral Area Representative:	Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver Councillor Margaret Kunst, Township of Langley Mayor Nicole MacDonald, City of Pitt Meadows
Director at Large:	Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John Councillor Michael Moses, City of Williams Lake Councillor Cori Ramsay, City of Prince George Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake Councillor Sean Wood, City of Parksville

Address by the Leader of the Official Opposition: Kevin Falcon

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, introduced Kevin Falcon, MLA, Leader of the Official Opposition, who addressed the delegates.

Following his remarks, First Vice President, Councillor Trish Mandewo thanked Mr. Falcon.

Policy Session – Resolutions

The Resolutions session resumed at 8:55 am with Councillor Pete Fry as Chair, provided an overview of the resolutions process and conducted a test question with voting delegates to ensure the integrity of the online voting system.

Councillor Fry was joined by the other members of the Resolutions Committee: Councillor Gord Klassen and Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Ian Izard, UBCM Executive Director Gary Maclsaac and other UBCM staff.

Resolutions Process Review

Councillor Pete Fry then introduced a report entitled UBCM Resolutions Process Review Backgrounder, which was published as Appendix A in the Resolutions Book. Five questions were presented to the membership:

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?

Voting on the five questions contained in the report was conducted using electronic voting. The table below contains the voting results in percentages.

Voting Options	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5
Strongly Agree	15.9%	35.6	44.3	21.8	23.7
Somewhat Agree	42.5	32.6	34.5	21.4	22.4
Neutral	17.5	13.3	8.0	10.5	5.3
Somewhat Disagree	18.7	14.8	6.4	21.4	22.7
Strongly Disagree	5.6	3.8	6.8	24.9	26.0

Results of Election for Table Officers

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and presented the Table Officer election results for:

Second Vice President Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook

Third Vice President: Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to destroy the ballots, was endorsed.

Resolutions - Section No Recommendation (NR)

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling NR resolutions.

Councillor Roodenburg commenced consideration of NR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Motion to Vary the Agenda

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to vary the agenda to consider NR75 Increasing the Existing Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Volunteers, immediately, was endorsed.

NR75 Increasing the Existing Tax Exemption for Volunteer Nanaimo RD Firefighters and Search and Rescue Volunteers

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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:*
 - ~~o 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;~~
 - o *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*
 - o *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.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR8 Exception to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act New Westminster
Exemption to Address Illicit Drug Use in Spaces for
Children and Youth

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.

On motion, was Withdrawn

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to require a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to require a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities **with multi-stakeholder engagement, including but not limited to local and Indigenous governments, community organizations, people with lived and living experience, and health staff as identified by the relevant union authorities with the goal of maximizing the impacts on physical, mental, social and environmental health of the public, including acute and primary care, emergency department needs and surge capacity needs.***

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR11 Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Ratios

NCLGA Executive

Whereas capital costs for healthcare facilities in North and Central British Columbia are shared between the provincial government and Regional Hospital Districts (RHD) at a 60 percent/40 percent split (Province/local RHD);

And whereas the cost share ratio borne by a local Regional Hospital District is not financially sustainable, long term, due to escalating construction/inflationary costs and scope of healthcare capital projects increasing without adequate and proactive consultation with the local RHD Board:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to modernize the RHD Cost Share formula under the *Hospital District Act* with the ability to pay being a key consideration of cost-sharing of healthcare capital projects.

On motion, was Endorsed

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

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider funding the capital and operating costs of medic trucks in ~~municipalities~~ **local governments** 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~~ **local governments**.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR16 Supporting Non-Profit Ownership of Non-Market Housing in Burnaby
Air Space Parcels

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

**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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Motion to Vary the Agenda

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to vary the agenda to consider NR93 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, immediately, was not endorsed.

Challenge to the Chair and Vote to Sustain the Chair

Chair Roodenburg was challenged by 10+ delegates when she made the call that the motion to vary the agenda to bring forward NR93 immediately, was not endorsed. A vote to sustain the chair (i.e. support the Chair's ruling that the vote to vary the agenda was not successful) was held by show of hands. It was unclear if the simple majority threshold was met with a show of hands, so an electronic vote was held. Delegates voted to sustain the Chair, so then debate of NR30 began.

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation that permits ~~municipalities~~ **local governments** to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, without the requirement to go to referendum **or AAP (Alternative Approval Process)**;*

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.

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR34 Implementing a Graduated Tier System for RCMP Cost-Sharing Agreements

Parksville

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Nominations from the Floor for Executive Positions

At 11:30 am Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair.

Councillor Roodenburg called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative, Vancouver Metro Area Representative and Director at Large. Those nominated at the close of nominations were:

Small Community Representative:	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby
Electoral Area Representative:	Director Jerrilyn Kirk, RD Fraser-Fort George Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver Councillor Margaret Kunst, Township of Langley Mayor Nicole MacDonald, City of Pitt Meadows
Director at Large:	Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay Director Travis Hall, Central Coast RD Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John Councillor Michael Moses, City of Williams Lake Councillor Cori Ramsay, City of Prince George Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake Councillor Sean Wood, City of Parksville

Candidates' Speeches

The delegates heard brief two-minute speeches from each of the candidates for the positions of Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative, Vancouver Metro Area Representative and Director at Large.

Delegates Lunch

The Annual Delegates Lunch was held in Ballroom A, Vancouver Convention Centre East.

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, introduced Special Guests, MLAs, and Life Members who were in attendance.

The Local Government Leadership Academy also presented certificates and awards during the lunch. The Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister Anne Kang and LGLA President, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg made the presentations.

The Delegates' Lunch was sponsored by ICBC.

Concurrent Workshops

At 2:30 pm the following concurrent workshops were held:

- Art of the Possible: AI Digital Transformations
- Creating Climate Resilient Communities Through Collaboration
- Legislative Reform Initiative: Next Steps
- Natural Asset Management: Building on Momentum
- Provincial Clean Transportation Action Plan

UBCM Annual Banquet

In the evening, the reception and Annual Banquet were held for delegates and guests at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The evening event was jointly sponsored by: FortisBC (Platinum), Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (Gold), Coastal GasLink (Silver) and Stewardship Agencies of BC (Bronze). The wine was sponsored by Pattison Food Group and the entertainment was sponsored by IBM Canada.

Following dinner, UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford, recognized the Long Service and Special Long Service Award recipients for 2023.

The following recipients were recognized with a Long Service Award:

1. Councillor Leo Facio, Village of Harrison Hot Springs
2. Councillor Chris Hambruch, Town of Golden
3. Councillor Lisa Muri, District of North Vancouver
4. Mayor Teunis Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach

The following recipients were recognized with a Special Long Service Award:

1. Director Hans Cunningham, Regional District of Central Kootenay's
2. Councillor Don Bell, City of North Vancouver

UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford and UBCM First Vice President, Councillor Trish Mandewo recognized recipients for UBCM's Life Membership for 2023.

The following Life Member recipients were also recognized at the Banquet:

- The Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Municipal Affairs, 2022
- Councillor Jen Ford, UBCM President, 2022-23

Friday, September 22, 2023

Policy Session – Resolutions

The Resolutions session resumed at 8:00 am with Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg as Chair, provided an overview of the resolutions process and conducted a test question with voting delegates to ensure the integrity of the online voting system.

Councillor Roodenburg was joined by the other members of the Resolutions Committee: Councillor Gord Klassen and Councillor Pete Fry. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Ian Izard, UBCM Executive Director Gary Maclsaac and other UBCM staff.

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

Councillor Pete Fry then assumed the Chair and introduced the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline which was published in Policy Book 1 and is available on the Convention App and UBCM web site.

On motion, duly moved and seconded, delegates endorsed the recommendations of the Resolutions Committee in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline. In accordance with the recommendations in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline, resolutions LR1 and LR2 were admitted for debate.

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

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Section No Recommendation (NR)

Following the Late Resolutions, Councillor Fry continued as Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

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.

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

**NR45 New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments Comox Valley RD
in Climate Transition**

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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).

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Results of Election for Small Community Representative, Electoral Area Representative, Vancouver Metro Area Representative & Director at Large

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and presented the election results for:

Small Community Representative: Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis

Electoral Area Representative: Director Jerrilyn Kirk, RD Fraser-Fort George

Vancouver Metro Area Representative: Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver
Mayor Nicole MacDonald, City of Pitt Meadows

Director at Large: Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John
Councillor Michael Moses, City of Williams Lake
Councillor Cori Ramsay, City of Prince George
Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake
Councillor Sean Wood, City of Parksville

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to destroy the ballots, was endorsed.

Departing Parliamentarian Ian Izard

Councillor Pete Fry, assumed the Chair and thanked long-time UBCM Parliamentarian Ian Izard, noting that this Convention would be Ian's last as UBCM's Parliamentarian, a role he has held since 1987. Ian was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a gift on behalf of the UBCM Executive and membership for his dedication and service to UBCM.

Councillor Fry resumed consideration of NR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to consider and prioritize local governments **and Indigenous governments** in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process when lands are being disposed of in communities.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

Councillor Gord Klassen assumed the Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

**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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

**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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish a rental limit increase on commercially zoned properties **operated by small businesses** similar to the rental increase limitation(s) that govern residential rental properties.*

On motion, as amended, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Motion to Vary the Agenda

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to vary the agenda to consider resolutions NR92 Provincial Sales Tax Levied on Private Used Vehicle Sales and NR93 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, immediately, was not endorsed.

NR72 Deferral 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 deferral program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to expand the existing property tax deferral program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Withdrawn

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.

On motion, request to sever NR80 into two resolutions, was Endorsed

NR80.1 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.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR80.2 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 if interim zero emission vehicle sales targets for 2030 are not met by the Province, then the Province may reconsider their 2040 objectives.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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.

On motion, was Endorsed

Challenge to the Chair and Vote to Sustain the Chair

Chair Klassen was challenged by 10+ delegates when he indicated that a motion to refer NR93 to the UBCM Executive would be voted upon. A vote was held to sustain the Chair (i.e. support the Chair's ruling that the motion will be referred to the UBCM Executive). Delegates voted to sustain the Chair.

A vote was held on the motion to Refer to UBCM Executive. The motion to refer was defeated. So the delegates then voted on NR93.

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.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

Federal Address: Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, introduced The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, who addressed the delegates.

Following his remarks, Councillor Ford thanked Minister Wilkinson.

Installation of President-elect

At 10:55 am the President, Councillor Jen Ford introduced the President-elect, Councillor Trish Mandewo from the City of Coquitlam.

Port of Vancouver Prize Draw

The President, Councillor Jen Ford, invited Naomi Horsford, Municipal Executive Liaison of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority representing Port of Vancouver to present the prize draw. Councillor Tom Duncan, from the City of Duncan, was announced as the winner of the prize draw.

Address by the Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia

At 11:15 am the President, Councillor Jen Ford introduced the Premier of British Columbia, the Honourable David Eby.

Following the remarks from the Premier, the Premier joined Councillor Ford to answer questions from the delegates. UBCM President, Councillor Jen Ford thanked the Honourable David Eby.

Convention Closing

Councillor Trish Mandewo closed the Convention. The Convention adjourned at 12 noon.

Certified Correct

Gary Maclsaac

Executive Director

President's Address: Councillor Jen Ford

When we gather as local governments and First Nation members at UBCM, we are part of a story.

That story is about the ever-changing dynamic between the Province and local government.

It's a story worth knowing because every aspect of our work as Councils and Boards, as individual Mayors, Councillors and EA Directors, is shaped and defined by decisions made in Victoria.

What that story shows – from the building of the Cariboo wagon road during the gold rush to the issues we are talking about this week – is that there are two basic questions for every local government issue:

- Is the Province providing local governments with sufficient powers to deliver the services residents need? And,
- Is the Province providing us with the fiscal tools we need to fulfill our mandated responsibilities?

Getting it right really is a balancing act - to make sure there is the right mix of powers between the province and local government.

And the answer to these questions is never settled. Instead, it moves like a pendulum - back and forth.

In 1996, when the government of the day decided that all local government grants would be eliminated to balance the provincial budget – well, the pendulum swung one way.

And in 2001, when the Province launched the process that led to the Community Charter, the pendulum took another swing.

From the first local government until now, that is how it has unfolded. And let me say, the pendulum swings aren't a partisan issue. No matter which party is in power, the pendulum can swing either way.

I have a bias of course. I believe British Columbians are better served when the province's focus is on empowering local government. Give us the powers & responsibility along with the tools necessary and we will deliver.

That's why in 2021 we invited the province to join us to review key cost drivers in the local government finance system. Premier Horgan saw the need for this, and the province entered into an MOU with UBCM to do the work.

The key areas of consideration - housing, community safety and climate change – are pressurizing local budgets across the province. As you have heard this week, the work continues.

But local government finance review is just a part of the story right now. There are multiple provincial initiatives underway which are shifting the reality for local governments.

As you reflect on what you are hearing this week, I invite you to keep the pendulum in mind. Which way is the dynamic with the province swinging?

Because we are just looking for the pendulum to swing to the middle – to a place of balance where we can fulfill our responsibilities – not at the expense of the Province, but in support of provincial mandates and for the benefit of the people we serve.

Housing

I want to thank Minister Kahlon for participating in our policy session on Monday and the Cabinet town hall on Tuesday to hear our questions and provide a voice for the province's direction on housing policy.

One thing that was made clear at the Housing Summit back in the spring is that there is an urgency both provincially and locally to improve the housing system and increase the supply of homes needed most by British Columbians.

The crisis in housing attainability continues to worsen, and we know the system has to change.

Let me be clear: by the system, I mean the *whole* system:

- federal tax policy;
- policies to limit speculative demand;
- programs to increase the supply of skilled labour or building inspectors;
- federal and provincial investment in supportive housing;
- aggressive investment in schools, public transit, and core infrastructure to build complete communities; and yes, along with all of those,
- important matters like zoning and development approvals.

One of the best things that have happened since the Housing Summit is that the federal government appears to be becoming more engaged.

The Housing Accelerator fund announced its first project approval last week. The GST rebate for new rental construction is a welcome move and aligns with one of the key proposals from our 2018 housing strategy.

We welcome all federal parties becoming more involved in housing.

Minister Kahlon continues to call for federal programs to distribute funding relative to the number of new Canadians the provinces and territories are welcoming. I think that makes sense.

You can no longer have a federal immigration policy without a housing policy to go with it.

I am very glad to see the federal government back on our agenda this year and look forward to Minister Wilkinson's comments on housing in his address on Friday

As we move further into the Fall we will learn more about how the Housing Supply Act is developing.

UBCM will be very attentive to the feedback from the first ten communities on the process followed to identify targets - there will be a lot to learn.

The province has been sharing information with UBCM since the Housing Summit on additional legislation to come.

Our staff have signed confidentiality agreements to participate in those briefings, so I am not in a position to comment on those discussions.

What I can tell you is the direction that the UBCM Executive has provided to staff:

The housing situation is in a crisis, British Columbians need solutions and we all orders of government to work together to make things better

So we directed staff to do everything possible to make the provincial legislation successful.

After a generation of housing policy that has not moved the needle, we have to do everything we can to make provincial policy better.

Sometimes that means saying things that our provincial partners don't want to hear.

But the goal has been to move things forward to increase the supply of homes needed most in our communities.

Emergency Act, Wildfire Mitigation

Because of the severity and extent of the fire season this year, we wanted to create as much room as possible in our agenda.

It is important to reflect on this year's fire season to consider the toll it is taking on our residents and on our emergency services.

But we should also take a moment to say thank you to those who have served diligently throughout to keep communities safe. The BC Wildfire Service, EMBC, firefighters from communities across the province, those who ran the operations centres and evacuation centres and countless others – we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Those of us who live in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, have had a glimpse and a taste of the poor air quality that has had a much greater impact on the rest of the province. The health impacts of repeated wildfires are considerable, and I welcomed the comments from Minister Dix and the others who contributed to that session on Tuesday.

When it comes to the aftermath of wildfires, we stand with impacted communities struggling to recover. West Kelowna and the Shuswap of course, but I am also thinking of the Village of Lytton, where the rebuild is barely underway. We need the federal and provincial governments to take a closer look at how they can remove barriers so that residents in places that have been devastated can look forward to the future with some hope.

Another aspect of this is the changes coming to the Emergency Act. These have been discussed now for several years, and the province has not stated its intention to introduce legislation on October 3.

Last Friday we provided a detailed update through our newsletter summarizing the new responsibilities that will impact local governments.

We also shared details on UBCM's steady advocacy to get the province to commit to a long-term funding and a capacity-building framework for those responsibilities.

Minister Ma has heard that message, but as of yet, there is no commitment to such a framework. We will need to stay focused and continue to communicate impacts to the Minister as the changes to the Act move into implementation.

This isn't an academic exercise. One thing we know is that when the province adds responsibilities to local government without ensuring that resources are in place to undertake them, the results can be disastrous.

Consider the consequences of the download of Diking authority years ago without any consideration of fiscal capacity. Again this year there is a resolution to have the province re-established as the diking authority because the cost of maintaining dikes in many places is far beyond local government's capacity to finance the work needed.

We don't want to see the same thing happen with emergency services and UBCM will continue to advocate for our members so that a long-term funding and capacity building framework is in place.

Decriminalization

Something else I want to touch on today is the ongoing discussion on decriminalization and what is missing in its implementation.

At a previous convention, local governments endorsed a resolution calling for decriminalization. That is well known. What is less well known is that in the same breath, we also called for adequate treatment programs and a housing plan to support it.

I thought Monday's discussion with Dr. Henry was excellent. I think the local government panellists brought a compassionate perspective that made it clear that more support is needed to make decriminalization a success.

To continue that discussion, UBCM's Executive has identified two special resolutions to be brought before you for consideration.

The province has indicated that provincial legislation to further regulate public drug use is expected this Fall. Your decisions about these resolutions will be timely.

Conclusion


There are more topics I would like to touch on today, but we need to get into our resolutions so I will end with some final thoughts about our work together as local government.

First of all, I am aware that for nearly half of our delegates, this is your first UBCM convention.

As we deal with overlapping crises right now there is a sense of overload with the complexity of the challenges before us.

But when I look at you, and when I see the energy, and the ideas, and the good spirit that you have been bringing into our sessions this week, I feel hope.

I know that is something my mentors – Laurey Anne Roodenburg and Maja Tait – felt during their terms as president as well.



Monday evening's discussion among women in elected leadership also lifted my spirits. The strong turnout tells me that we need to keep moving to build networks of support.

So too does UBCM's continuing work with Cambodia's National League of Communities to empower women in elected leadership.

It is a challenging time for all who serve in elected office. But that also means it is a meaningful time for the work that we do.

The pendulum continues to swing and we will work together to ensure it finds a place of balance that helps us deliver for our communities with the responsibilities and tools commensurate to the challenge.

Thank you for attending this year's Convention and for taking part in this year's proceedings.

Report on Attendance at the 2023 Convention

The registration for the One Hundred Twentieth Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities held in Vancouver, BC, September 18 – 22, 2023, was as follows:

UBCM Members

	Represented at Convention	Voting Delegates	Non-voting Delegates	Partners	Total
53 Cities	53	304	93	29	426
52 Districts	51	246	58	18	322
14 Towns	14	62	15	8	85
42 Villages	39	108	36	16	160
28 Regional Districts	28	153	55	30	238
8 First Nations	7	25	8	0	33
197 Members	192	898	265	101	1,264
Member Representation 97%					

Non-Members

	Non-voting Delegates	Partners	Total
Federal MPs or Senators	1	0	1
Provincial Ministers and MLAs	79	3	82
Provincial or Federal Staff	353	0	353
Observers	339	1	340
Sponsors	78	2	80
UBCM Staff or Contracts	34	3	37
Students	11	0	11
	895	9	904

Appendix C

Resolutions Not Admitted For Debate

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part One

RR1	Child Care	Courtenay
RR2	Universal Child Care	Port Edward
RR3	Accessible Child Care	Strathcona RD
RR4	Child Care - Multi-Year Funding to Local and Indigenous Governments and Non-Profit Organizations	Salmo
RR5	Early Child Care Support	Delta
RR6	Provincial Funding for Universal Child Care	Quesnel
RR7	Resolve Health Care Shortages in Rural Communities	Merritt
RR8	Rural, Remote Paramedic Sustainability	Zeballos
RR9	Treatment for Mental Health and Addictions in Rural Communities	Smithers
RR10	Withdrawal Management Services	Terrace
RR11	Addiction Treatment in Rural and Remote Communities	Fort St. John
RR12	Physician Assistants	East Kootenay RD
RR13	BC Health Attraction and Retention	Zeballos
RR14	Rural Health Care Provider Crisis	Williams Lake
RR15	Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers	Kitimat
RR16	Health Authorities Performance Review	Taylor
RR17	911 Levy	Nelson
RR18	Protection and Restoration of Biological Diversity in Local Communities	Saanich
RR19	Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities	Esquimalt
RR20	ICI Packaging and Paper Products Recycling Regulation	Sunshine Coast RD
RR21	Enabling Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Legislation	Saanich
RR22	Vacant Property Tax on Commercial Properties	White Rock
RR23	Inclusion of First Nations in Section 90 of the <i>Community Charter</i>	Powell River

RR24	Creation of Independent Municipal Ethics Commissioner	Harrison Hot Springs
RR25	Offsite Wood Construction	Courtenay
RR26	BC Affordable, Net Zero, Offsite Wood Housing Industrial Development	Vancouver

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part Two

RR27	Equitable BC Hydro Pricing in Distribution Energy Policy for Missing Middle Housing	Vancouver
RR28	Supporting Biodiversity in Local Communities	Victoria

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part Three

RR29	Stand-Alone Mental Health and Addictions Facility	Fraser-Fort George RD
RR30	Jasper National Park West Gate Upgrade	Valemount
RR31	South of Fraser Interurban Rail	Langley Township

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part Four

RR32	Working Committee for Flood Disasters	Harrison Hot Springs, Kent
RR33	Local Government Financial Resiliency - Consumption Tax Review	Coquitlam
RR34	A New Fiscal Framework for Sustainable and Predictable	Vancouver

Pre-Conference Study Sessions & Tours

Monday, September 18, 2023

Study Tours

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Agriculture Study Tour

Study Sessions

9:30 am – 11:30 am Shared Path of Reconciliation – Negotiations Updates, Upcoming Treaties, and Post-treaty Opportunities for Local Governments (9:30 – 10:30)
Implementing UNDRIP: Guidance for Local Governments (10:30 -11:30)
Building Economic Resiliency
A Conversation on Decriminalization and Public Use

2:15 pm – 4:15 pm Tools, Funding & Resources for Local Governments
Building Homes, Building Communities
Tools for Mindfulness and Stress Reduction
Fire Risk Reduction Initiatives and the *Fire Safety Act*

2023 – 2024 UBCM Executive

President	Councillor Trish Mandewo	Coquitlam
First Vice President	Director Art Kaehn	RD of Fraser-Fort George
Second Vice President	Councillor Wes Graham	Cranbrook
Third Vice President	Councillor Jenna Stoner	Squamish
Past President	Councillor Jen Ford	Whistler
Vancouver Rep.	Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung	Vancouver
Metro/GVRD Rep.	Councillor Craig Hodge	Coquitlam
Small Community Rep.	Councillor Sarah Fowler	Tahsis
Electoral Area Rep.	Director Jerrilyn Kirk	RD of Fraser-Fort George
Vancouver Metro Area Representatives	Councillor Pete Fry Mayor Nicole MacDonald	Vancouver Pitt Meadows
AKBLG	Councillor Keith Page	Nelson
AVICC	Director Penny Cote	Alberni-Clayoquot RD
LMLGA	Councillor Patricia Ross	Abbotsford
NCLGA	Councillor Sheila Boehm	Williams Lake
SILGA	Councillor Aimee Grice	Oliver
Directors at Large	Councillor Gord Klassen Councillor Michael Moses Councillor Cori Ramsay Mayor Sarrah Storey Councillor Sean Wood	Fort St. John Williams Lake Prince George Fraser Lake Parksville