

Minutes 121st Convention

Vancouver September 16-20, 2024

2023 – 2024 UBCM Executive

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First Vice President	Director Art Kaehn	Fraser-Fort George
Second Vice President	Councillor Wes Graham	Cranbrook
Third Vice President	Councillor Jenna Stoner	Squamish
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Electoral Area Rep.	Director Jerrilyn Kirk	Fraser-Fort George RD
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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 Director Michael Moses (<i>on leave</i>) Councillor Cori Ramsay Mayor Sarrah Storey Councillor Sean Wood	Fort St. John Williams Lake Prince George Fraser Lake Parksville

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Minutes

Minutes of the One Hundred Twenty-First Annual Convention of the Union of BC Municipalities held in Vancouver, BC on September 17, 18, 19 and 20, 2024

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Tuesday Clinics

On Tuesday, September 17, 2024 the Electoral Area Directors, Small Talk, Mid-Sized Communities and Large Urban Communities Forums were preceded by the following clinics at 7:30 am:

- Make the Money you Spend Matter
- Bridging the Gap: Innovative Solutions for Rural Healthcare Access
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention and Response
- Youth Voices: Catalyzing Climate Action and Policy Reform
- Strengthening Responsible Conduct

Electoral Area Directors Forum

Director Jerrilyn Kirk, Electoral Area Representative and Forum Chair, called the session to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

The Forum began with a panel on Regional Hospital Districts with presenters Chris Calder, CAO, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George and Curtis Helgesen, CAO, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. The speakers outlined challenges and concerns regarding Regional Hospital Districts including the rising costs to local taxpayers.

This was followed by a session on cooperative community wildfire response. Speakers for this session were: Kaitlin Baskerville, Provincial Operations Manager of Preparedness, BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forests; Scott Hildebrand, CAO, Thompson Nicola Regional District; and Jamie Vieira, GM of Operations, Thompson Nicola Regional District.

BC Housing offered the third presentation on housing in rural areas, with Amy Wong, Regional Development Director; Tyler Baker, Regional Development Director; and Rod Hill, Director of Indigenous Relations.

A final presentation was received on BC Transit and Rural Communities with speaker Chris Fudge, Director, Government Relations, BC Transit.

An open microphone session was held.

The Forum adjourned at 12:00 pm for a lunch sponsored by Teladoc Health.

Small Talk Forum

Councillor Aimee Grice, UBCM SILGA Representative and Forum Chair, called the session to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. Following Councillor Grice, Small Talk Facilitator Ron Poole welcomed the attendees and provided opening remarks.

Candace Witkowskyj, Executive Director, Local Government Management Association, delivered the Forum's first presentation, on the LGMA's Local Government Internship Program. This three-year (2025-2027) pilot program is open to local governments with a population under 25,000, who can apply to host an intern for a twelve-month period. For each year, six local governments will be selected to receive \$42,000 to put towards the intern's compensation, and an additional \$5,000 for professional development.

The next presentation was made by Village of Ashcroft Mayor Barbara Roden regarding the Village's pocket guide, as a local marketing tool. Mayor Roden outlined the need to attract tourism and boost the local economy following the COVID-19 pandemic. The solution was to develop an aesthetically pleasing pocket guide that emphasized the beauty of the community, while also promoting local businesses and tourist attractions.

The third presentation came courtesy of the City of Rossland. Mayor Andy Morel and Brian Teasdale, Chief Administrative Officer, discussed the Rossland Yards Project, an initiative to provide mixed-use affordable housing as part of the newly constructed City Hall. This net zero initiative will generate enough money per year in property taxes from the new affordable housing to offset the operating costs of City Hall.

Following the refreshment break, attendees received a presentation on Sparwood's Skating Loop, delivered by Mayor David Wilks. This innovative recreation idea was also hatched during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a response to residents' need for new exercise and socializing opportunities. The District was able to turn a walking trail into a skating loop, with the eventual addition of lighting to permit night skating.

The next presentation was delivered by Sharon Gregson, Spokesperson for the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of British Columbia, who discussed opportunities to address child care in small communities. She outlined challenges with the current system, as well as the demands placed on local governments to help improve child care in their communities. A solution proposed by Ms. Gregson was for the Province to fund local government staff capacity to assist with the expansion of child care across BC communities.

Jodee Dick, Indigenous Engagement Advisor, and Jason Wilson, Manager of Economic Development and Acting Director of Operations, We Wai Kai First Nation, made the next presentation, discussing economic reconciliation. Their presentation emphasized the value of partnerships with First Nations, including through various initiatives with both the public and private sectors. The collaborative approach to development is helping ensure certainty and provide economic stability and benefits for all parties.

The final presentation was made by Councillor Erika Bird from the Village of Kaslo, who discussed the importance of improving fire protection for essential businesses. Councillor Bird discussed the need to provide a Firesmart rebate program for small businesses similar to the existing program for homeowners. This will help small businesses, many of which lack necessary funds to complete work on their own, conduct necessary wildfire preparedness work.

The Forum adjourned at 12:00 pm for a lunch sponsored by Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

Mid-Sized Communities Forum

Councillor Sean Wood, UBCM Director at Large and Forum Chair, called the session to order at 9:00 am on Tuesday September 17, 2024 and noted that this Forum is designed for communities with a population between 5,000 and 20,000.

The Forum opened with a panel on Local Approaches to Climate Action. The panel began with the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy reviewing provincial

climate initiatives, in particular the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). Delegates then heard from three communities with examples of local government leadership for initiatives on resilience and adaptation at the community level. The presenters were:

- Stacey Miranda, Director of Community Services, City of Williams Lake
- Cynthia White, CAO, City of Merritt; and
- Luisa Burhenne, Manager, Climate & Environment, Resort Municipality of Whistler

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed. A break was held at 10:30 am.

The second panel discussed Local Leadership in Addressing Homelessness and got underway at 10:45 am. Delegates heard from three communities who have found themselves devoting significant time and resources responding to homelessness, mental health and addiction issues in their communities. The panel finished with the Homelessness Services Association of BC sharing statistics around the causes and extent of homelessness, and suggestions on how local governments can help. The presenters were:

- Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook
- Mayor Sean Bujtas, City of Terrace
- Councillor Todd Patola, City of Port Alberni
- Stephen D'Souza, Executive Director, Homelessness Services Association of BC

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

The Forum adjourned at 12:00 pm 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 17, 2024.

The Forum opened with the first panel called Transit-Oriented Development and Meeting the Need for Transit which highlighted how Bill 47 has impacted local government's current plans for managing growth and development and the corresponding impact on transit service providers within communities. The panel included the following presenters:

- Ryan Smith, Divisional Director, Planning and Development Services, City of Kelowna
- Deanna Wasnik, Director of Planning and Development, City of Prince George
- Matthew Boyd, Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning, BC Transit
- Don Luymes, General Manager, Planning and Development, City of Surrey
- Lee-Ann Garnett, Deputy General Manager, Planning and Development, City of Burnaby
- Matt Craig, Director, System Planning, TransLink

Following the panel presentations, a question-and-answer session followed. A break was held at 10:20 am and the second panel called got underway at 10:35 am under the theme of Collaboration for Community Electrification, which was hosted by BC Hydro. Following introductory remarks from Chris O'Riley, President and Chief Executive Officer of BC Hydro, Diana Stephenson, Senior VP, Customer and Corporate Affairs, BC Hydro facilitated the following three case studies:

CASE STUDY #1- Lowering Costs: Improving Multiplex Electrical Connections

- Ranjeet Gill, Director Distribution Design Customer Connect, BC Hydro
- Chris Higgins, Senior Green Building Planner, City of Vancouver

CASE STUDY #2 Digging Up the Road Once: Utility Co-Construction to Minimize Community Impact and Reduce Costs

- Jesse Brown, Director of Program & Contract Manager, BC Hydro
- Victor Jhingan, Director of Construction, City of Surrey

CASE STUDY #3- Early Sharing of Infrastructure Plans: Collaborating on Southern Vancouver Island

- Karl Sherry, Sr Program Manager, Vancouver Island and North Shore Coast Projects, BC Hydro
- Jacqueline Spray, Director of Customer Engagement & Sales, BC Hydro

Following the three case studies, a question-and-answer session followed.

The Forum adjourned at 12:00 pm for a lunch sponsored by TELUS Living.

Plenary Session: Public Safety, Mental Health and Addictions

UBCM President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, 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 local governments play a crucial role in maintaining public safety and addressing mental health and addiction issues in BC communities. She also advised the plenary session would explore the complex intersection of the toxic drug crisis, public use concerns and the impacts on communities, and their police, fire departments, and other local first responders.

President Mandewo then invited the first speaker, the Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, to address the delegates. This was followed by a panel discussion with:

- Mark Lysyshyn, Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Deb Haggard, Councillor, City of Port Alberni
- Milo MacDonald, CAO, City of Fort St. John
- Tom Dyas, Mayor, City of Kelowna
- Inspector Phil Heard, on behalf of Deputy Chief Fiona Wilson, Chair of the BC Association of Chiefs of Police Drug Advisory Committee

President Mandewo directed questions at each of the panelists. Dr. Lysyshyn provided a public health perspective and shared the status of the toxic drug crisis with delegates. He also advised on what is needed in communities to ensure that harm reduction, addiction and mental health services are available. Local governments were asked about the key public safety, mental health and addictions concerns in their communities; as well as the impacts to their first responders such as police and fire departments. Inspector Heard offered a policing perspective and shared his position on the role of police in mental health, addictions, and public safety issues.

The audience also provided their feedback using the SLIDO app and were asked:

1. What are the key public safety, mental health, and addictions concerns in your community?
2. What are the impacts on your first responders such as police and fire departments?
3. What do you see as the path forward to addressing this complex crisis?

President Mandewo concluded the session by thanking the speakers. The session was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Provincial Policy Sessions

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

- Strengthening Resilience in the Face of Drought
- Homelessness and Encampment Response
- Building FireSmart Communities Through Post-Fire Learnings
- Addressing Systemic Racism and Advancing Reconciliation in BC
- Tools to Implement New Housing Legislation

UBCM Community Excellence Awards

Winners received their awards at a special Awards Ceremony, held from 5:30-6:30 pm. Winners of the 2024 Community Excellence Awards were:

Excellence in Service Delivery

Winner: City of Victoria – OUR DWTN: Victoria Downtown Revitalization Program

Honourable Mention: City of Richmond – Community Services Pop Ups Program Model

Excellence in Asset Management

Winner: City of Kelowna – Enterprise Asset Management System Implementation

Excellence in Sustainability

Winner: City of Nanaimo – Nanaimo Reimagined: City Plan, Integrated Action Plan and Monitoring Strategy

Excellence in Governance

Winner: Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Modern Communications Approach and Financial Infographics Help Residents Understand TNRD Services, Their Costs, and "Who Does What"

Honourable Mention: Fraser Valley Regional District – Financial Plan and Public Engagement

Presidents Committee Choice

Winner: District of Central Saanich – Integrated Planning and Reporting

Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception was held from 6:30-8:30 pm in Ballroom C/D, Vancouver Convention Centre West. The Reception was sponsored by Lidstone & Company.

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Wednesday Clinics

On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the Convention commenced at 7:30 am with the following clinics:

- Closing the Gender Pay Gap: Understanding *Pay Transparency Act* Requirements for Local Government Employers
- Cyber Crime Investigation, the Trends in Cyber Crime – A Case Study

- Service Focus at the Residential Tenancy Branch
- Let's Go Surfin' Now, Everybody's Learning Meeting Etiquette
- Promising Opportunities: NG9-1-1 and Mental Health

Convention Opening Session

The UBCM President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, called the 121st Annual Convention to order at 8:30 am on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

President's Address

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

Annual Meeting

The Second Vice President, Councillor Wes Graham, 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 2023 Convention

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Minutes of the One Hundred and Twentieth Annual Convention of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, on September 18-22, 2023 were adopted as prepared and distributed.

Annual Report

The President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, 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, 2023. 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, 2024, 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, 2024, was adopted.

Appointment of Committees

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

Nominating Committee

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Past President, UBCM
Director Judy Greenaway, NCLGA
Councillor Ben Geselbracht, AVICC
Councillor Louise Wallace-Richmond, SILGA
Councillor Keith Page, AKBLG
Councillor Paul Albrecht, LMLGA

Convention Committee

Councillor Jenna Stoner, Chair
Councillor Jen Ford, Vice Chair
Director Jerrilyn Kirk
Councillor Keith Page
Councillor Patricia Ross

Scrutineers

Tom Kadla, CAO, Village of Lumby, Chief Scrutineer
Wendy Hunt, CAO, Village of New Hazelton, Deputy Chief Scrutineer
Wade Archambault, CAO, District of Logan Lake
Michael Boronowski, CAO, City of Fernie
Robyn Carle, CAO, Village of Hazelton
Mark Fercho, CAO, City of Cranbrook
Lina Gasser, CAO, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
Heather Nelson-Smith, CAO, District of Port Hardy
Barclay Pitkethly, Deputy CAO, City of Mission
Kevin Poole, Director, Community Safety, Lands and Administration, City of Vernon
Daniel Sailland, CAO, Alberni Clayoquot RD
Sheryl Worthing, CAO, Village of Burns Lake

Parliamentarian

Claire Moglove

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

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and presented the first report of the Nominating Committee noting that Director Art Kaehn had withdrawn his nomination for UBCM President. As a result the Chair advised that she had reached out to all current candidates advising that if they were interested in seeking a different position on the UBCM Executive they would need to withdraw from their current nomination. It was noted that to date two candidates had withdrawn their nominations in addition to Director Art Kaehn; including:

- Councillor Jenny Tan, City of Maple Ridge for Vancouver Metro Area Representative; and
- Councillor Tasha Henderson, City of New Westminster for Director at Large.

Councillor Roodenburg advised that an additional step would be added prior to the Call for Nominations off the Floor on Wednesday and Thursday morning to provide time for current candidates to withdraw their nominations, as needed. After outlining the process, the Chair, then shared the updated list of nominations for Table Officer positions:

President:	Vacant
First Vice President:	Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook
Second Vice President:	Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish
Third Vice President:	Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby

Councillor Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford
Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

Keynote Address: George Stroumbouloupoulos

At 9:25 am Councillor Jenna Stoner, 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 George Stroumbouloupoulos. Councillor Mandewo thanked Mr. Stroumbouloupoulos for his keynote address.

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

Nominations from the Floor for UBCM Table Officers

At 10:25 am, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and asked if any current candidates wished to withdraw their nominations. At that time, Councillor Cori Ramsay came forward to withdraw her nomination for Director At Large. No further nomination withdrawals came forward. Then Chair Roodenburg proceeded to conduct a call for nominations off 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:	Councillor Wes Graham, City of Cranbrook Councillor Cori Ramsay, City of Prince George
Second Vice President:	Councillor Jenna Stoner, District of Squamish
Third Vice President:	Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby Councillor Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

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

Principal Policy Session – Resolutions

The first Resolutions session began at 10:30 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 Cori Ramsay. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Claire Moglove, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac and other UBCM staff.

Section Special Resolutions (SR)

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

Councillor Klassen commenced consideration of SR resolutions.

SR1 Unsustainable Local Government Contributions to Regional Hospital Districts

UBCM Executive

Whereas local governments are facing significant financial pressures due to the expansion of services which are being downloaded by the provincial and federal governments on many issues including housing, community safety and climate change;

And whereas local governments must share the capital infrastructure project costs for healthcare facilities with the provincial government through their Regional Hospital Districts with 60 percent contributed by the Province and 40 percent contributed by Regional Hospital Districts;

And whereas local governments must provide the 40 percent 'voluntary' contribution towards the provincial government's health care capital costs, including any cost overruns, or risk losing those projects to other areas of the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government work with Regional Hospital Districts and UBCM to review the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC, and acknowledge that the reliance on property taxes to fund areas of provincial health care responsibility is inconsistent and unsustainable for BC local governments.

On motion, was Endorsed

SR2 Infrastructure Funding to Support Provincially-Mandated Housing Growth

UBCM Executive

Whereas Bills 44 and 47 mandated increased housing density across the province, requiring local governments to expand infrastructure to support the new housing and ensure complete communities;

And whereas an infrastructure deficit already exists with risks of failure that could impact health and safety, and threaten growth of the provincial economy;

And whereas local governments do not have financial tools linked to population and economic growth that could fund the capital renewal, expansion, and ongoing maintenance that will be required;

And whereas local governments are increasingly taking on tasks that have historically been the responsibility of the provincial and federal government including providing lands and other financial supports for non-market and supportive housing, while also bearing costs related to medical emergency response, and managing encampments for growing numbers of unhoused British Columbians:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province invest in a long-term, predictable allocation-based funding program to support expansion and operation of local government infrastructure services to support provincially-mandated housing growth including, but not limited to, water and sewer, transit, police and fire, and recreation;

And further that the Province invest in its own areas of responsibility where there are already service deficits that will be further affected by housing-related population growth, namely health care (family doctors, ambulances, hospitals, etc.) and education (classrooms, teachers, etc.).

On motion, was Endorsed

SR3 Temporary Shelters for Asylum Seekers

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

Motion to Admit for Debate

Councillor Cori Ramsay 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 endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that the resolutions in the amended 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 amended Endorse Block be adopted, was endorsed.

The resolutions in the amended Endorse Block were endorsed as follows:

EB1 Mental Health Supports

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas social issues in the province such as the opioid crisis, mental health issues, the lack of affordable housing, and a shortage of family physicians has led to increasing pressures on fire departments to respond to first response calls;

And whereas communities need more support and resources to deal with the impacts of the opioid crisis and mental health issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to allocate resources to improve access to mental health supports, harm reduction sites, detox and treatment facilities, family doctors, walk-in clinics, community health centres and affordable housing.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB2 Mental Health Liaison Officers

Nanaimo City

Whereas RCMP members continue to respond to a significant number of calls for service for individuals dealing with mental health challenges and mental health liaison officers have proven to be an effective resource for assisting vulnerable citizens requiring support;

And whereas local governments are not provided funding to pay for healthcare and social services and there has been no increase in the Provincial funding model to support these officers responding to chronic/crisis mental health calls:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund RCMP Mental Health Liaison Officers within local detachments.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund RCMP Mental Health Liaison Officers within ~~local detachments~~ the RCMP and local police departments.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

EB4 Additional Funding for Overdose Prevention Sites Across Local Governments

New Westminster

Whereas the Province of British Columbia declared a drug toxicity public emergency in 2016, acknowledging the rapid increase in overdose deaths and the need to deploy the necessary harm reduction strategies with urgency to prevent additional deaths;

And whereas over 13,000 people have died of toxic drugs since 2016 in communities across British Columbia, including at least 2,500 people in 2023, about two-thirds of which were from inhalation, yet only about 40 per cent of supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites in British Columbia offer inhalation services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for Health Authorities to augment existing, and to open new, supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites, including related inhalation services, across British Columbia and including local governments which do not currently offer this service to residents.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB5 Additional Rapid Access to Detox Beds

Abbotsford

Whereas in 2022, the BC Emergency Health Services reported a 75 per cent total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events since the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in 2016 and the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort reports that brain injury is 15 times more likely among people who had experienced drug poisoning than those who had not;

And whereas the number of supports available for individuals requiring complex care due to health challenges related to substance use disorder has proven grossly inadequate for the ever-increasing demand in communities all across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to increase investment in complex care beds to address the growing demand from those who have suffered serious health impacts from substance use disorder.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB6 Investment in Complex Care Beds

Nanaimo City

Whereas in 2022, the BC Emergency Health Services reported a 75 per cent total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events since the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in 2016 and the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort reports that brain injury is 15 times more likely among people who had experienced drug poisoning than those who had not;

And whereas the number of supports available for individuals requiring complex care due to health challenges related to substance use disorder has proven grossly inadequate for the ever-increasing demand in communities all across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to increase investment in complex care beds to address the growing demand from those who have suffered serious health impacts from substance use disorder.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB7 Complex Care Facilities

**Okanagan-Similkameen RD.
Penticton**

Whereas the toxic drug crisis continues to surge across the province and the lasting effects of overdose can potentially lead to acquired brain injury which can include organ failure, nerve damage, paralysis, memory loss, mental disorientation, diminished motor skills, reduced physical and cognitive functioning, and behavioural changes;

And whereas communities across the province are implementing many initiatives in support of all residents' safety and wellbeing such as Public Safety and Social Development Frameworks;

And whereas the Province has developed a complex care framework that acknowledges the growing number of people in our communities who require housing and have overlapping health, mental health, trauma and acquired brain injuries; yet there are no established timelines and residents continue to suffer in the interim;

And whereas the Province has appointed Health Authorities as the lead for plan implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province provides immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB8 Community Safety Resources

Terrace

Whereas local governments are facing increased pressures to address immediate, emerging and persistent social issues in their local communities that impact the safety, security and well-being of residents;

And whereas the provincial government does not respond as quickly as needs arise, forcing local governments to take increased action to address community mental health and substance misuse/toxicity challenges with limited and often inadequate resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding in order to support local government needs for community safety.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding **for mental health and addictions services** in order to support local government needs for community safety.*

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

EB9 Additional Funding for Overdose Prevention Sites Across New Westminster Local Governments

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls while there is inadequate funding for the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do so on a community-by-community basis creating an inconsistent provincial approach to emergency medical assistance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a cohesive financial emergency medical assistant framework, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, province-wide consistency, and the replacement of consumed supplies for fire rescue service departments, as part of advocacy for a modernized financial framework for local governments in BC.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB10 Housing is Healthcare Vancouver

Whereas every year hundreds of British Columbians are diagnosed with chronic conditions and diseases that necessitate specialized medical treatment requiring long term stays near but not in hospital, there are disparities in health outcomes between rural and urban patients;

And whereas residents of rural and remote communities in British Columbia requiring specialized medical treatment for complex care in urban centres face significant challenges including high travel and accommodation costs, the psychosocial impacts of healthcare away from home and community, the loss of income during treatment period, and increasingly limited availability of affordable accommodations, hotel rooms, or short term rentals;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia, reflected in its 2024 mandate, is committed to both improved health care for British Columbians when they need it, and attainable and affordable housing to deliver more homes for people faster:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Provincial Government of British Columbia to alleviate the financial and logistical burdens associated with seeking specialized medical care far from home by developing and implementing comprehensive policies and programs to assist patients needing to travel for healthcare, and ensure that patients have access to affordable, comfortable, and convenient accommodations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province consider and implement ways to deliver and dedicate subsidized accommodations in and adjacent to large urban health centres specifically purposed for longer term specialized medical treatment.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB11 Healthcare Worker Shortage - Reducing Barriers to Training Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas there is a shortfall of qualified staff to provide healthcare services, particularly in rural and remote communities, across the province;

And whereas some of the training requirements for healthcare workers pose significant barriers in terms of time, cost, and accessibility, thereby hindering the potential influx of qualified individuals into the healthcare workforce;

And whereas reducing unnecessary barriers and streamlining training opportunities for healthcare workers would promote professional growth, enhance healthcare delivery, and ultimately benefit the residents of our communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province and relevant authorities to put in place the necessary framework, tools and incentives to address the shortfall of qualified healthcare workers and reduce the barriers for healthcare training opportunities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB12 Additional Funding for Overdose Prevention Sites Across New Westminster Local Governments

Whereas the Province is currently experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers, and there are qualified individuals among international residents who despite being internationally trained, educated, and experienced, are encountering certification and financial barriers preventing them from joining the healthcare workforce in the province;

And whereas the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills is responsible for providing leadership and direction for post-secondary education and skills training systems in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to expedite the credential approval process and provide financial assistance for internationally trained, educated and experienced healthcare providers to remove the unnecessary credential and financial barriers to integrate them into the provincial health system to help address the shortage.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB13 Eliminating Barriers to Publicly Owned and Operated Home New Westminster Care Services and Long-Term Care

Whereas seniors, families and seniors organizations have been advocating to improve access to public home care services and supports to assist seniors to live at home, in their communities, longer and to delay or prevent premature admissions to public long-term care facilities;

And whereas finances can become an impediment to access the required home care services such as housekeeping, more frequent bathing and meal preparation necessary to age in place, and community programs that have been designed to try and meet seniors' needs are unable to fulfil the increasing demand:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to eliminate financial and accessibility barriers by investing in more publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit home care services and social supports required to age in place, and by further investing in publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit long-term care to ensure seniors are well supported in the continuum of care.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB14 Seniors' Support Assisted Living

Saanich

Whereas Statistics Canada reports confirm that both the number and percentage of seniors will grow significantly during the next two decades, both in numbers and overall proportion of the population;

And whereas most serious illnesses requiring either assisted living options and/or hospital care occur later in life and there is a significant shortage of supportive assisted living spaces for seniors, affecting both hospital availability/accessibility and housing options for vulnerable seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the number of supportive assisted living units across British Columbia in a manner aligned with the demographic data to ensure that all seniors can be housed in dignity as they age and to reduce the pressures of the hospital system by so doing.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB15 Implementing Accessibility BC Act Recommendations

Parksville

Whereas the *Accessible British Columbia Act* passed by the provincial government in 2021 requires local governments to develop accessibility plans to identify, remove and prevent barriers;

And whereas local governments have limited financial abilities and staff resources to implement accessibility recommendations on an ongoing basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province create an annual funding model (accessibility fund) designed to assist local governments to implement accessibility recommendations.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB16 Universal Basic Income

Victoria

Whereas municipalities are increasingly expected to respond to gaps in Canada's social safety net resulting from growing economic, racial and health inequalities;

And whereas a basic income program, in addressing key social determinants of health, such as income and housing, can alleviate pressures on municipalities to address poverty and fill gaps in social supports, such as shelter, housing, food security and mental health;

And whereas evidence from basic income research and pilots shows that when people have a sufficient and secure income their mental and physical health improves, they have the capacity to secure more affordable, suitable, and safe housing, childcare, healthy food, and transportation, and poverty rates decrease;

And whereas the provision of a basic livable income would benefit individuals, families and communities and protect the most vulnerable in society, and support community resilience;

And whereas evidence shows that a federally funded basic income that improves people's financial stability is possible, as successful income transfer programs already exist in Canada for seniors (Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement) and parents (Canada Child Benefit), and to aid in recovery post-COVID (Canada Emergency Response Benefit):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to individually and/or collectively implement a Universal Basic Income, ensuring everyone has sufficient income to meet

their needs, helping British Columbia and Canada lessen poverty and homelessness, alleviating the pressure on municipalities to use their limited resources to fill gaps in our social safe net.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB17 Provincial Funding for Child Care Facilities

Burnaby

Whereas recent provincial housing legislation, specifically Bills 44 and 47, will mean increased population growth leading to greater need for child care spaces;

And whereas barriers to accessing provincial funding exist for local governments and the private sector:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to review its funding model and work with local governments and the private development sector to streamline its process for the disbursement of provincial funds to facilitate the construction of new public or non-profit owned child care facilities, including facilities within new private development.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB18 Incentivizing Non-Market Housing

Maple Ridge

Whereas local governments are seeing the need for increased housing affordability for vulnerable residents, students, families, and seniors;

And whereas there is a need for building a broad spectrum of housing supply and supports in rapidly growing communities such as in the Lower Mainland region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province and federal government work with not-for-profits to further incentivize not-for-profit partnerships and the building of non-market housing, such as below market rentals and co-ops, through financial tools like low interest rate loans, long-term 25 year rates and expanded tax credit eligibility.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB19 Housing Support in Northern and Small Communities

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas there is a housing crisis throughout BC requiring a range of solutions that address housing affordability issues in large and small communities;

And whereas the Province's Homes for People's plan focuses on addressing housing supply issues in larger communities in high growth areas of the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to engage with small and northern communities to identify housing solutions outside of high growth areas.

On motion was Endorsed

EB20 Funding for Seniors Housing in Rural Areas

Gold River

Whereas seniors, in the increasing demographic of those over 65, in rural BC have limited range of options for housing;

And whereas rural BC local municipalities have limited financial resources to support seniors housing options that allow seniors to age in place in their home community due to financial, social, health and housing vulnerabilities experienced by this increasing demographic:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to provide BC Housing with additional funding and support to facilitate new affordable seniors' housing in rural areas.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB21 SAFER Funding for Seniors

Vancouver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia's Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program is intended to help make rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes;

And whereas the Office of the Seniors Advocate has identified that the BC Housing Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and Seniors Subsidized Housing programs are not keeping pace with inflation, the growing seniors population, and changing market conditions, including a notable lack of culturally appropriate supports and inclusive care environments for 2SLGBTQ+ residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to increase funding and resources for the SAFER Program and Seniors Subsidized Housing programs, including affordable seniors housing projects, to reflect current market conditions, meet the needs, and improve the quality of life for seniors and older persons across the province.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB22 Expanding the Rental Protection Fund

**Nakusp,
New Denver**

Whereas the current parameters of the Rental Protection Fund only provides funding for the purchase of rental buildings that have a minimum of 5 units and 4 in rural Fund communities;

And whereas many small rural and remote communities do not have properties that are for sale with a minimum of 4 units;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to expand the Rental Protection Fund to allow for the purchase of individual units in communities that are less than 5,000 in population classified as remote or very remote.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB23 Strengthening Provincial-Local Government Collaboration
for Homelessness Solutions**

NCLGA Executive

Whereas local governments across British Columbia continue to collaborate with provincial authorities in addressing homelessness and housing challenges, recognizing the Province's responsibility for housing, healthcare, and encampments;

And whereas initiatives led by the Province through various programs aim to provide housing solutions and support services for unhoused individuals, requiring close coordination between provincial and local government agencies;

And whereas local governments acknowledge the complexities of responding to homelessness and the critical role of the Province in providing resources and expertise, with a commitment to supporting these efforts and advocating for effective collaboration between all stakeholders:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM emphasize to the provincial government the importance of expediting proposed transitional shelter facilities and supportive housing projects in partnership with relevant provincial agencies to address immediate and long-term housing needs.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB24 Expansion of Homeless Response and Shelter Support
 (Heart and Hearth)**

Langley City

Whereas the BC 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time count recorded the largest measured increase of individuals experiencing homelessness since 2005 (Metro Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District); with individuals experiencing homelessness for longer periods of time, and with more individuals in unsheltered environments due to insufficient permanent, temporary shelter or emergency beds throughout the regions;

And whereas the provincial government, having outlined the strategic plan “Belonging in BC: A collaborative plan to prevent and reduce homelessness”, has invested over 2 billion dollars since 2022 outlining commitments to “prioritized” communities, based on provincial qualifying assessments of local government homeless encampment impacts, to address immediate supports and shelter needs in those selected local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB25 Extreme Weather Response Shelter System

**Courtenay, Comox Valley RD,
Cumberland, Powell River**

Whereas the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter system was developed more than a decade ago to support community organizations in providing life-saving warm, safe places for unhoused community members to sleep in cold and wet weather, the EWR model does not provide any funding for facility rental costs, security, equipment or resource purchases, nor does it provide any funds for these community organizations to plan for, develop, and deliver EWR shelters in their communities;

And whereas since the EWR program was developed the number of community members experiencing homelessness has grown substantially, and the needs of those community members have, often due to addiction and mental health challenges, become increasingly complex, community organizations in many communities have been unable to provide life-saving EWR shelters with the limited resources available:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to recognize that the EWR program is insufficient to address current social challenges and community capacity to meet those

challenges; and that a provincially driven solution be determined in collaboration with community leaders to ensure that:

1. service delivery by existing provincial agencies that are tasked with providing social service supports, including shelter spaces and wrap-around services, is strengthened; and
2. funds are available to rent facilities, provide security and necessary equipment such that the community organizations that are tasked to deliver this program are appropriately resourced.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB26 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

EB27 Local Government Funding Through Speculation and Vacancy 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 revenue collected from the Speculation and Vacancy Tax is directed into the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account where BC Housing is the primary recipient of the funds rather than local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit local governments to receive a portion of the funds collected through the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account, with funds to be used by the local government towards affordable housing projects.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB28 BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC government implemented a BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax to turn vacant homes into housing for BC residents;

And whereas the BC government continues to expand the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program to include new communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the provincial government that all BC communities, including electoral areas, be given the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB29 *Residential Tenancy Act Review*

Sicamous

Whereas British Columbia is in a housing crisis and the *Residential Tenancy Act* is intended to provide a fair balance between the right of tenants to safe and secure affordable housing and the right of landlords to maintain their property and see a return on their investment;

And whereas the current *Residential Tenancy Act* was enacted in 2004 and the last comprehensive review was completed over 20 years ago (2001-2002), and there is no indication from the Province that a new review will be conducted;

And whereas the Province is investing \$15 million over three years to hire and train more Residential Tenancy Branch staff and the Province reports a growing caseload for adjudicating disputes between renters and landlords:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to conduct a formal review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* that includes meaningful consultation with stakeholders and considers tenancy legislation enacted in other Canadian jurisdictions.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB30 *Development Cost Charges for Fire Protection Facilities*

Lantzville

Whereas the provincial government has passed Bill 46 *Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act*, 2023 amending Section 559, subsection (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act* to include "fire protection facilities" in the collection of Development Cost Charges (DCCs), but does not specifically define "fire protection facilities";

And whereas many smaller local governments have a limited number of brick-and-mortar fire protection buildings, but a large number of other capital expenses related to fire protection, such as vehicles and equipment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that "fire protection facilities" be specifically defined in the relevant documentation and/or legislation to include the purchase and maintenance of all capital items related to fire protection including, but not limited to, fire trucks, duty vehicles, hoses, breathing apparatuses, communications equipment and all other capital expenditures that may be required to equip and maintain fire protection services.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB31 *BC Homeowners Solar Power Incentive Program*

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas meeting the need for additional power sources in BC with industrial scale wind and solar installations is expensive, potentially damaging to environmentally sensitive land, and insufficient;

And whereas private solar installations would reduce these negative economic and environmental impacts;

And whereas solar installation is costly and often beyond the financial ability of many property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province create a Provincial Solar Power Rebate Program for homeowners.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB32 *Victim Services Program Delivery*

East Kootenay RD

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has primary responsibility for the Victim Services Program delivered throughout the Province of British Columbia in close collaboration with policing services;

And whereas a variety of agencies and local governments deliver/manage the Program in different communities, with varying degrees of expertise and limited connection to services to be able to provide adequate supervision and support of victim service workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of the Victim Services Program, with oversight from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of the Victim Services Program, with oversight from **police-based victim services programs in BC that, among other things, includes additional provincial funding and assigns full responsibility for delivery of these programs to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.***

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

EB33 Disaster Financial Assistance for Victims of Climate Related Events

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have a robust policy to assist victims of climate related events whose losses are not covered by insurance or Disaster Financial Assistance;

And whereas the time of decision making on claims to the Province of British Columbia is a significant and life changing hardship to British Columbians and Indigenous communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to take urgent steps to develop a policy to assist victims of climate events with their claims in a timely manner, not exceeding 12-months post-disaster.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB34 Provincial Support for Rebuilding Following Disasters

Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas the Province of BC faces the worsening effects of climate change, the disasters resulting from which impact more residents and properties with each year;

And whereas many residents and properties impacted by wildfire and flooding are located within regional districts;

And whereas disasters do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries (as was the case with Lytton Creek wildfire):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit to ensuring that in the case of disasters such as wildfire and flooding, all of those who are impacted—regardless of jurisdictional boundaries—receive the same access to, and level of, support as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB35 Flood Protection Funding and Management

Mission

Whereas the majority of communities, either in whole or in part, within British Columbia are situated on floodplains;

And whereas the cost of mitigating flood risk has increased to levels that are no longer affordable by Local Governments, Regional Districts or Improvement Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the province and federal governments commit to allocate adequate funds to mitigate the flood threat to British Columbia communities and that the Province consider assuming control of, and responsibility for, flood protection and mitigation infrastructure including diking and pump stations.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB36 *Emergency and Disaster Management Act Capacity Funding* Hudson's Hope

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has enacted legislation known as the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) that constitutes a significant download of responsibilities and addition of new legislative and regulatory requirements that will significantly and permanently add to the workload of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas the opportunities for local governments to raise funds required to support these legislative changes are limited, and where the provincial government has provided some proactive capacity funding in specific areas, such as First Nations consultation, but has not provided any guarantee of ongoing capacity funding to support the legacy of these legislative changes:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to providing long-term sustainable capacity funding to municipalities and regional districts to fulfill their emergency management duties, including responsibilities under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB37 *Enacting the Safety Amendment Act* Fort St. John

Whereas ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities is of utmost importance, and recent events in the province highlight the urgent need for proactive measures to tackle emerging social and criminal challenges;

And whereas the Province of BC previously created and did not enact the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act, providing authorities with effective tools to respond to chronic and illegal behaviour from problematic properties;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM actively lobby the provincial government to bring into force the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act to address challenges related to crime and illegal activity and associated threats to public safety.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB38 *Bylaw Offence Notice Limits* Summerland

Whereas the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation has been amended to increase maximum Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) fine amounts from \$1,000 to \$3,000, but the maximum fine amount for Bylaw Offence Notices (BON) under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act*

remains at \$500, which is inconsistent with inflation rates and is not enough of a financial disincentive for many bylaw infractions, especially for short-term rentals;

And whereas BONs are more commonly used for bylaw enforcement as they require less evidentiary and administrative work than MTIs and can be disputed through a neutral adjudication process rather than tying up the court system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to increase the maximum penalty for Bylaw Offence Notices and amend the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* accordingly.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB39 Allocating Resources Towards Cyber Security Health and
Protection of Privacy**

Logan Lake

Whereas public bodies are responsible for the management and protection of personal information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA);

And whereas personal information is stored and gathered through many methods including digital technology;

And whereas local governments face major challenges with digital technology including capacity and the lack of knowledge and awareness around cyber security;

And whereas Section 69 (5) of FOIPPA legislation, which states that local governments are required to conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) on new initiatives for which no PIA has been conducted or before implementing a significant change to an existing initiative, places hardship on local governments to allocate more staff and resources to meet these requirements, along with costs of upgrades to digital technology;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB40 E-Comm Governance Review

New Westminster

Whereas E-Comm has struggled to provide service levels that meet established standards or the expectations of the communities they serve, while the cost of E-Comm is increasing at an unsustainable rate, creating budget uncertainty for local Police and Fire services;

And whereas the imminent introduction of next-Gen 911 will represent the single largest change in emergency communications delivery since the introduction of 911, with uncertain cost and operational impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to engage local governments in a comprehensive review of the governance structure and delivery model of 911 emergency call taking, related non-emergency call taking, and emergency dispatch services across BC with a goal to assure reliable, affordable, and sustainable services for all communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB41 Intersection Safety Camera Program Expansion

Dawson Creek

Whereas due to the high frequency of crashes at intersections in British Columbia, the province implemented an Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program to save lives and reduce injuries;

And whereas the ISC program consists of 140 red light and speed cameras at high-risk intersections in British Columbia, with only one of the locations being in North Central British Columbia thus limiting the opportunity for remote municipalities to use red-light or speed cameras as a traffic safety feature:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB42 Management of Fireworks

Mission

Whereas the misuse and abuse of fireworks causes property damage, personal injury, community disturbance and is a threat to first responders;

And whereas a province-wide approach is needed for the safe manufacturing, transportation, retail, wholesale and use of fireworks:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to regulate the use and sale of fireworks in British Columbia, including public education, enforcement, and transportation.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB43 Federal Consultation Prior to Issuing Medical Cannabis Production Certificates

Cariboo RD

Whereas Health Canada may issue a registration document to an individual based in part on a health care provider's initial assessment and document supporting the individual's use of medical cannabis which can permit an individual to grow cannabis plants at designated locations for the purpose of producing cannabis for personal medical use;

And whereas the number of plants which may be possessed under a medical certificate can permit a person to possess a number of plants similar to an industrial marijuana grow facility:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on Health Canada to consult and share information with local governments prior to authorizing any individual to produce cannabis for medical purposes at any location within a given local government's jurisdictional boundaries.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB44 Enhancing the Environmental Assessment Process

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the environmental assessment review and permitting process for major projects does not adequately identify, consider and proactively address the cumulative social, economic, and infrastructure impacts of these projects on communities;

And whereas the environmental assessment process defers consideration of community issues to the management planning and permitting stage where the issues that arise are inadequately addressed in a reactive manner during project implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to ensure that the environmental assessment review process ensures the proactive identification and mitigation of cumulative community impacts in a proactive manner based on an inclusive and collaborative review process with impacted communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB45 Improved Local Government Capacity for Environmental Assessment Participation

Squamish

Whereas the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes are not the direct jurisdiction of local governments and therefore not subject to associated service cost recovery fees;

And whereas environmental assessment processes, while of critical importance to communities, are very time-consuming, expensive, and onerous for local government staff, community, and council:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish proponent fees to support the participation of local governments in environmental assessment processes, including compensation associated with the research and review of applications, participation in technical and working groups, augmented community engagement, and post-decision regulatory processes should a project Certificate be issued.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB46 Reducing Regulatory Complexity in Freshwater Sources

Nelson

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 across British Columbia;

And whereas securing a new water source involves the navigation of complex provincial regulations:

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 and simplify the associated regulatory process, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB47 Water Infrastructure Funding

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, is responsible for establishing the standards for drinking water quality as codified by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has adopted the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the standard for drinking water quality under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which community water systems are required to meet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia to provide ongoing, long-term, and stable funding for local governments to upgrade community water distribution and treatment systems to enable compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and all subsequent amendments thereto.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB48 Urgent Protection of Urban Waterways

Burnaby

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides powers to local governments to regulate protection of the environment and levy maximum fines for offences:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide urgent protection to watercourses from dumping and discharge, including by providing authority to local governments to impose higher fines.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB49 Water Management for Agriculture

Comox Valley RD

Whereas in response to persistent drought conditions and other climate change effects that are placing considerable stress on supplies of safe, reliable water, the Province of British Columbia has launched new regulatory and enforcement tools as well as funding programs targeting the agricultural sector;

And whereas efforts by the agricultural sector to develop more efficient water infrastructure, management, supply and storage to maximize available water is being impeded by lengthy, costly, and complex grant application and water licencing processes as well as conflicting guidance from different ministries involved in water management:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to mandate the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to work together in a concerted manner to simplify administrative processes, remove excessive requirements, reduce processing times, ensure consistent policy and enforcement, and provide greater support to farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers in improving water management, supply and storage.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB50 Non-Compliant and Illegal Buoys

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas many BC local governments continue to experience an ongoing significant proliferation of non-compliant and illegal buoys on our lakes, which has led to an untenable enforcement and public safety situation as well as diminished environmental and fisheries values;

And whereas both the Province of BC and Government of Canada have a shared jurisdictional authority and responsibility regarding enforcement and removal of these structures because:

- the buoys are placed on Crown lands (being anchored to the lake bottom),
- the landowners are using Crown lands for exclusive ongoing use without tenure; and
- the buoy float and its placement/adjacency on the water to other buoys and structures is regulated by Transport Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to utilize their enforcement powers and authorities to remove non-compliant and illegal buoys which are in trespass on Crown lands, through a multijurisdictional project between the Province of BC, Government of Canada, and impacted local governments.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB51 Top-Up to Provincial Grants

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas bodies of water in British Columbia are at very high risk for infestation of invasive mussels, particularly following the discovery of quagga mussels in a tributary of the Columbia River in Idaho;

And whereas an infestation of invasive mussels would cause significant economic and environmental losses, with economic losses alone estimated at \$64 million to \$129 million annually across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC take action based on the Okanagan Basin Water Board's recommendations to the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship for invasive mussel prevention, dated September 25, 2023, including requesting the federal government enhance inspections, increasing funding and staffing for the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program, introducing provincial "pull-the-plug" legislation, and updating the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan ;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC work with the federal government to increase long-term funding and support to prevent invasive mussels from entering waterways in British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB52 Wildlife Safety Response Officer Program Funding

Pemberton

Whereas the Province is responsible for preventing and responding to natural resource law enforcement infractions and human-wildlife conflicts through the BC Conservation Officer Service;

And whereas the Province created the Wildlife Safety Response Officer program, funded by communities, to support BC Conservation Officers and communities in proactively managing human-wildlife interactions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to fully fund the Wildlife Safety Response Officer program to ensure that all communities have access to the tools they need to protect wildlife and reduce the risks associated with human-wildlife interactions.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB53 Sustainable Funding for Solid Waste Management Compliance Comox Valley RD

Whereas increasing environmental standards for solid waste management are placing considerable financial strain on local governments and their taxpayers;

And whereas the provincial government should consider the financial implications of such regulatory changes on local governments and provide corresponding and accessible opportunities for local governments to receive financial support:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia for the establishment of an annual funding model to assist local governments in adequately preparing for and responding to new provincial environmental standards for solid waste management.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB54 Produce Stickers in Composting Facilities

Summerland

Whereas the Government of Canada, Province of BC, and 17 regional districts, municipalities and local First Nations have together invested up to \$30 million through the Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) to keep organic waste out of landfills and to increase organic composting capacity in BC;

And whereas the organic composting process is hindered by the difficulty of screening out non compostable plastic Price Look-Up (PLU) stickers applied to fruit and vegetable items that inevitably end up in curbside collection bins:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the governments of British Columbia and Canada to require the use of certified industrially compostable PLU stickers on all fresh produce.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB55 Youth Climate Corps

Port Moody

Whereas local governments recognize the urgent need to address climate change and the impact that climate change is having on communities through extreme weather such as wildfires, floods, extreme heat, which is causing major infrastructure damage and loss of life to residents;

And whereas there is a need to engage young people by local governments, and train the next generation of low carbon sector workers and leaders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia for an expanded Youth Climate Corps that will provide green living wage jobs and training to young adults to support important work on climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their own communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement;

And be it further resolved that the Province work with local governments, Indigenous communities and nations, youth groups, industry, union associations and environmental organizations to scaleup, design programming and provide resources for a BC-wide Youth Climate Corps.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB56 Heavy Duty Vehicle Climate Emissions

Central Saanich

Whereas many local governments in BC have set Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas like other local governments, the District of Central Saanich has made progress in reducing emissions, yet has findings to indicate that heavy-duty truck emissions have increased, while there are few available local government legislative or financial powers to change this trajectory:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to use its financial and legislative powers to take further action to reduce the emissions from the heavy-duty trucks, which may include requiring a higher mixture of biodiesel, electrification, or further incentives to decarbonize heavy-duty vehicle fleets.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB57 Small Scale Commercial Contaminated Sites

Kitimat

Whereas the contaminated site remediation process is required when an application is made for many types of redevelopment;

And whereas the environmental remediation process is so onerous and costly for small scale commercial development that it can delay development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to reassess the contaminated sites provincial legislation to alleviate the negative economic impacts for small scale commercial redevelopment and provide more options for economic development opportunities on these properties.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB58 Advancing Local Government Actions Toward the Declaration on

Courtenay

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and Reconciliation

Whereas the Province of BC is implementing the 10 Principles within the *Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) and local governments and Indigenous organizations are collectively working towards reconciliation actions;

And whereas many local governments and Indigenous organizations do not have the capacity for the extensive work required for effective partnership building in the spirit of reconciliation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC provide an ongoing funding stream for local governments and Indigenous partners to advance the *Declaration of Rights on Indigenous Peoples Act* and local reconciliation actions.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB59 Grant Processing Timelines

Summerland

Whereas local governments are required to meet tight and firm deadlines for submissions to provincial and federal application-based grant programs;

And whereas after submitting a grant application, local governments are left to wait indefinitely due to the absence of established timelines for grant adjudication and approvals, thereby affecting local governments' ability to plan projects with certainty and financial accuracy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to establish and adhere to processing timelines and award decision dates for all application-based grant programs.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB60 Streamlining of Grant Applications and Reporting

Nelson

Whereas local governments in BC are increasingly reliant on a wide variety of grant programs to support the delivery of services, programs and projects in their jurisdictions;

And whereas the administrative burden of managing increasingly complex criteria and requirements, from application to final reporting, can be overwhelming, time consuming and sometimes prohibitive for some local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB61 Stable Local Government Funding in BC

Fernie

Whereas local governments across British Columbia face challenges in securing stable funding for essential services;

And whereas a consistent and reliable source of funding is crucial for the effective functioning of local governments;

And whereas alternative funding mechanisms, such as a municipal sales tax or alternative tax be directly allocated to BC local governments, can contribute to financial stability and local autonomy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for the exploration and implementation of alternative funding options, including, for example, a municipal sales tax, to ensure stable and predictable funding for local governments in British Columbia, with a specific focus on directing funds directly for local government budgeting;

And be it further resolved that UBCM engage in discussions with relevant provincial authorities to develop and implement a sustainable funding model that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by local governments, promoting financial resilience and supporting the delivery of essential services.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB62 Rethinking Local Government Taxation for Equitable and
Effective Crisis Response**

Langford

Whereas local governments, often on the front lines, bear the brunt of addressing shared crises such as climate issues, housing affordability, inequality, public health, and infrastructure challenges;

And whereas the burden on local governments has intensified due to provincial shortcomings in fulfilling their responsibilities, leaving many local governments grappling with insufficient revenue sources, resulting in an over reliance on regressive property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to promptly fulfill its responsibilities in providing health care, including mental health care, as well as social services and the management of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities;

And be it further resolved that in the absence of immediate provincial action, UBCM advocate for a comprehensive and immediate review of local government taxation and revenue sources recognizing the pivotal role of local governments, which, despite these being provincial responsibilities, are left to deal with the repercussions without adequate support from the Province.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB63 Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services

Port Alberni

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

And whereas public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time:

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

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

On motion, was Endorsed

EB64 Drought

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas climate change is causing increasingly unpredictable and extended summer droughts throughout Vancouver Island and the Coastal Region;

And whereas water is a shared resource required by all residents, industry sectors, agriculture and the environment to both sustain life and conduct business:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship conduct a current inventory of surface and groundwater availability, as well as projected future needs, in order to facilitate planning of freshwater storage requirements to supply all residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, emergency and environmental needs to a minimum 50-year threshold.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB65 Groundwater Protection in the Province of British Columbia

Metchosin

Whereas over one million British Columbians rely on groundwater for daily use and that groundwater presents significant challenges in terms of monitoring, defining (classifying/characterizing), and demonstrating water viability, including water-use budgets/allocations;

And whereas the impacts of climate change, population growth and industrial activity are intensifying, and all three factors can negatively impact groundwater sustainability and sources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government prioritize the following:

1. Renew the work to identify aquifers at risk in terms of productivity and vulnerability to contamination, climate change, population growth and other criteria;
2. Continue to build in the province's groundwater monitoring capacity, including installation of additional observation wells for high risk aquifers;
3. Develop a regular reporting process on the health and viability of high-risk aquifers; and
4. Develop a funding program for local governments to support local monitoring of groundwater resources.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB66 Rainwater Management in Road Rights of Way

Comox Valley RD

Whereas residential development in portions of unincorporated areas designated as suitable for increased dwelling density through regional growth strategies and official community plans will enhance the supply of housing in British Columbia;

And whereas a key constraint in increasing dwelling density in these areas is locating adequately sized green infrastructure such as rain gardens and infiltration swales that protect stream systems and overall watershed health, and reduce risk to downstream property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC investigate options to permit green infrastructure and low impact development rainwater management measures for private property and public roads within provincial public highway rights of way in alignment with policy direction set out in the March 2023 Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB67 Addressing Shoreline Erosion Concerns in Coastal Communities North Coast RD

Whereas coastal communities in BC are experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, adverse weather events, and eroding shorelines:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the BC government to dedicate more resources toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and shoreline erosion in coastal communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB68 Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Wildfires Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas the current forest ecosystem contains significant unnatural old growth forest, excluding Interior Cedar Hemlock and Coastal Rainforest, and experiences damage from devastating wildfires and insect epidemics;

And whereas the biodiversity and sustainability of forests in British Columbia is at risk, impacting human and wildlife health, ecosystem health, and the economy of the forest sector:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC, in conjunction with Indigenous Nations, to modernize forest management policies and regulations, update biodiversity targets, and promote environmental stewardship, which are key in creating healthy forests, reducing fire hazards, and protecting community safety and critical infrastructure;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to support education on the value of reintroducing fire plan strategies to responsibly manage fuel sources as a healthy way to maintain the forest, ungulate, bird, and amphibian populations, and protect community safety and infrastructure.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB69 Salvage Logging of Wildfire Impacted Areas Fort St. John

Whereas the 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in British Columbia's recorded history, with more than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned, and there is limited time to recover value from fire-impacted standing timber before the wood quality deteriorates, and the forest industry in British Columbia is facing significant timber shortage challenges leading to mill closures across the province;

And whereas the fire-impacted standing timber poses a significant threat to public safety through the potential for future wildfires:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to work with the forest industry and relevant agencies to enhance access and utilization of fire-impacted standing timber across the province.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB70 Registration of Notice of Latecomer Charges on Property Title Squamish

Whereas if a local government pays all or part of the costs of excess or extended services (road, water, sanitary or storm drainage systems) it may, under *Local Government Act* (LGA) s. 508(3), recover its costs through latecomer charges against owners of land that is to be subdivided or developed;

And whereas the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) does not currently have authority to register Notices of Excess or Extended Services Agreements against property title and does not accept such notices, creating risk for property developers or purchasers and for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to give the Land Title and Survey Authority statutory authority to accept Notices of Excessive or Extended Services Agreements (also known as Latecomer Agreements) for registration on property title.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB71 Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Lands

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas British Columbia currently has no legislation restricting foreign ownership of agricultural land in the province, resulting in concern among British Columbians that unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land in British Columbia may cause speculation in land prices and compromise the security and sustainability of food production in British Columbia;

And whereas additional concerns resulting from unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land include: pressures on the limited protected agricultural land in BC; unmanaged lands with no local oversight leading to invasive species issues; whether the tax rate on non-resident ALR ownership should be different; and whether foreign ownership of ALR lands is in the long-term interest of the agricultural industry in British Columbia;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support Recommendation 24 of the Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission Report, December 2018 and lobby the provincial government to adopt policies restricting foreign ownership of ALR land in British Columbia, similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB72 Keep BC Parks Open Longer

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas provincial parks serve a vital recreational, cultural, social and economic role in the lives of many British Columbians;

And whereas the Province of BC closes many of its parks to campers in September each year, limiting the ability of British Columbians access to those parks at a time of year when they continue to be functionally usable:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to extend the season for all provincial parks, including campgrounds, by keeping them open until the end of October to enable the access to parks for all visitors to enjoy these recreational benefits for a longer period and to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB73 Volunteer Firefighter and Search and Rescue Members Income Tax Credit

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members perform a critical, lifesaving role in the safety of British Columbians while receiving no pay and are increasingly difficult to recruit and retain;

And whereas the Province of BC passed legislation in 2017 that enabled these volunteers to receive a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to increase the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members to \$10,000 per annum.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB74 Improved Road Design for Vulnerable Road Users

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road design standards prioritize the efficient movement of motor vehicles over the safety of vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists;

And whereas narrow road rights-of-way and topographic challenges in rural areas often make it impossible for active transportation infrastructure to be built to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Active Transportation Design Guide of separated paths along road corridors;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will not approve, fund, or maintain any road improvements that don't meet their Active Transportation Design Guide:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to instruct the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users in their road design standards;

And be it further resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognize the practical challenges of active transportation in rural areas and approve, fund and maintain minor road improvements that increase safety for vulnerable road users, such as paved shoulders and crosswalks.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB75 Active Transportation Within Provincial Highway Rights of Way

Langford

Whereas according to CleanBC's Roadmap to 2030, transportation is our largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) which accounts for approximately 40 per cent of our annual total, and to address this the Province has committed to doubling the proportion of trips using active transportation by 2030;

And whereas given the urgency of the climate crises, the fast-approaching 2030 deadline and the fact that safe active transportation infrastructure provides economically accessible transportation for more individuals of all ages and abilities, there is a pressing need for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide stronger leadership, accountability, and equitable investment in infrastructure for all modes of transportation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to take on the responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of all active transportation infrastructure within provincial highway rights of way to align with active transportation planning of Indigenous and local governments, thus ensuring equitable commitment to active transportation infrastructure commensurate with infrastructure focused on motor vehicles.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB76 Engagement with Local Governments with Respect to Road Network Planning

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure lacks the funding, staffing and mandate to plan overall road networks in unincorporated areas and to proactively deal with transportation and development planning issues in the "fringe" interface areas of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas problems with runoff from roads and development are increasingly severe across the province, and are significantly impacted by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure decisions around subdivision approvals and road infrastructure;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not proactively engage with local governments on future planning and maintenance of numbered routes that run through local governments and often through downtown cores:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to engage with local governments on overall road network planning and subdivision planning in order to improve decision-making to reduce cumulative negative impacts on communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB77 Culvert Restoration on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure qathet RD
Managed Roads Funding**

Whereas the public relies on the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managed culverts to ensure road safety and mitigate risk;

And whereas many failing and clogged culverts present a future flooding risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide realistic asset management and funding to restore culverts on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managed roads.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB78 Funding for Rural Road Maintenance Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas secondary roads in unincorporated areas of BC are typically maintained on a break/fix basis despite deteriorating conditions and increasing traffic;

And whereas there is no publicly available plan for the upgrade and replacement of rural roads, culverts, and bridges:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to establish a capital asset management plan for secondary road networks across the province.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB79 Resource Roads Penticton

Whereas several communities across the province have single or limited access/egress routes leaving them vulnerable during extreme events such as wildfire, rock slides or flooding;

And whereas some communities are required to use resource roads on an ongoing basis to remain connected;

And whereas resource roads are built for industrial purposes or access to natural resources in remote areas and the Province, or its contractors, do not maintain these to the same standards as paved public roadways:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to define standards of maintenance and construction that supports the economic continuity and connectedness of residents across the Province where these resource roads are being used as alternate commuter routes or would be used in the event of an emergency.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB80 Emergency Routes

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas on June 6, 2023, Highway 4 was closed at Cameron Lake Bluff, near Koen Road, due to a wildfire, and that a detour route from Port Alberni through Lake Cowichan via Bamfield, using forest-service and privately owned industrial roads was established by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) on Wednesday, July 7, 2023, and was actively maintained until August 31, 2023;

And whereas the highway closure that occurred between June 6, 2023, and August 31, 2023, resulted in significant negative impacts on our residents' health, safety, and well-being, and it had devastating economic impacts resulting in the loss of jobs and permanent closure of local businesses, and that similar communities having only one access road in and out of their community experienced similar negative impacts during emergency activations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness work with communities, that have only one access road in and out of their community, to ensure the permanent establishment and maintenance of alternative or emergency transportation routes for use in the event of an emergency;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and appropriate local governments to conduct an inventory of active forestry roads that could be maintained for emergency evacuation purposes, and that the roads meeting the criteria for emergency evacuation purposes be maintained for these purposes by the Province in perpetuity.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB81 Adjustment of Funding Formula for Small Rural Transit Services

Ashcroft

Whereas operational costs for the provisions of rural transit services continue to escalate in this inflationary environment;

And whereas BC Transit budget projections for existing small rural transit services appear to have a higher percentage cost increase for community partners than the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider the unique challenges faced by small rural transit services and consider the diverse needs of these communities;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government through BC Transit adjust the funding formula for anticipated annual operational increases to a fair and equal cost-share formula between BC Transit and community partners.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB82 Enhanced Transit Support

Fernie

Whereas communities across British Columbia are struggling with a housing crisis and a labour shortage; And whereas communities in rural British Columbia are poorly served by public transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the appropriate British Columbia ministries to enhance transit in and between rural communities to improve citizen mobility and to assist those who may already have housing in and adjacent to rural communities, or who can only afford housing in proximity to rural communities, to access available employment more readily in a sustainable, GHG friendly fashion.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB83 Increasing Reliable Transit Funding to Support Growing Communities Squamish

Whereas access to reliable, frequent public transit is critical to achieving shared local and provincial objectives of supporting community growth in an equitable, healthy, connected, low-carbon way:

And whereas communities serviced by BC Transit haven't been able to realize public transit expansion plans due to lack of matching funds from the Province since 2021:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC and BC Transit to commit to funding transit service expansions where requested and to move from annual funding agreements to 3-year funding agreements to allow for more certainty.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB84 Better Support for Public Transit Maple Ridge

Whereas TransLink relies on gasoline taxes to fund their services and those revenues can be expected to decline as the provincial and federal government move towards requiring all new passenger vehicles to be electric by 2035;

And whereas there is a need for more predictable funding and increased investments in transit services; to address traffic congestion and equitable access to transportation in our rapidly growing and increasingly densifying communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the Province to devise a new formula for funding transit services, that does not rely on gasoline taxes and supports the continued improvement of transit services across BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocates to the federal government for earlier and increased permanent transit funding, including for infrastructure projects.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB85 Provincial Funding for Electric Vehicle Charger Deployment Metro Vancouver RD

Whereas Metro Vancouver has identified that by 2035 up to 350,000 existing parking spots in multi-unit residential buildings in the region will be retrofitted to be electric vehicle (EV) charging ready, and 2,200 to 2,900 public direct current fast charging (DCFC) ports and 32,000 to 47,000 public Level 2 ports will be needed to support anticipated demand for EV charging, requiring significant capital investment in both public charging and multi-unit residential buildings retrofits totalling approximately \$1.2 billion in Metro Vancouver alone by 2035;

And whereas the Government of BC has provided funding for the purchase and installation of EV chargers for home and public charging through the Go Electric EV Charger Rebate Program to complement the rapid increase of EV sales required through the BC *Zero-Emissions Vehicle Act* reaching 100 per cent by 2035;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand and enhance the funding available through the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program to offer sufficient rebates for charging in multi-unit residential buildings and public charging to support the expected rapid uptake of EVs in BC.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB86 Provincial E-Bike Rebate Program Continued Funding Saanich

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has a goal of improving affordability for British Columbians and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), and has set sectoral targets to reach GHG emissions from transportation by 27 per cent to 32 per cent below 2007 levels by 2023, but is so far still seeing an increase in those emissions;

And whereas the 2024 University of British Columbia's Research on Active Transportation (REACH) Lab Study on the Saanich E-Bike Incentive Pilot Program demonstrates that e-bike incentives effectively motivate new bike riders; significantly reduce weekly car travel, GHG emissions and Vehicle Kilometres Travelled (VKTs) from personal transportation; are extremely cost competitive compared to other climate transportation incentive programs in BC; and overcome cost barriers for idle and lower income households:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province commit sufficient funding for the continuation of the successful BC E-Bike Rebate Program for middle and low income households in BC in 2025 and beyond.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB87 Enhanced Provincial Government Engagement Practices

Coquitlam

Whereas the provincial government establishes the legislative framework under which all local governments derive their operational authority;

And whereas the provincial government has recently enacted significant new, or amended, laws, regulations and/or policies which have had a profound effect on local governments across the province;

And whereas the provincial government has signaled its intent to undertake a significant review of all provincial statutes over the coming years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government commit to review its consultation processes with/involving local governments, especially as they relate to legislative or regulatory changes that impact local governments, in order to facilitate better engagement practices, increase transparency amongst all interest holders, and, as a result, enable the richer, more timely exchange of information in order to benefit all parties involved in such processes.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB88 Local Government Ethics Commissioner

Port Moody

Whereas the City of Port Moody strongly supports fair and unbiased resources for local governments;

And whereas in support of this principle, the City of Port Moody called upon the Province to establish an "Office of the Local Government Ethics Commissioner", which would provide fair and unbiased guidance to local governments on issues such as legality, conflict, code of conduct violations, and bullying:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province establish an Office of the Local Government Ethics Commissioner and require mandatory ethics training for all new elected officials.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB89 Parental Leave

Vancouver

Whereas current provincial legislation does not adequately protect the parental leave rights of local government elected officials, requiring local governments to adopt their own policies for approving leaves for elected officials who become parents;

And whereas the Province of BC collectively, and through its various ministries, recognizes that parental leave for elected officials is an important issue and that it is important for new parents to have adequate time and energy to spend with their child:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of BC to amend all relevant pieces of provincial legislation, such as the *Community Charter*, the *Vancouver Charter*, and the *Local Government Act*, in order to establish common, province-wide minimum entitlements for parental leave for locally elected officials following the birth or adoption of a child, consistent with the *Employment Standards Act* provisions following the birth or adoption of a child, and inclusive of leave provisions that would grant an elected official an exemption from any disqualification from office for absences of sixty consecutive days or four consecutive regularly scheduled council or board meetings.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB90 New Assessment Classification for Vacant Residential Lands Gold River

Whereas there is a housing crisis in British Columbia that affects all local governments in varying degrees;

And whereas there are limited tools to discourage speculation and encourage development of undeveloped property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create a new assessment classification for undeveloped residential properties to allow local governments to establish a different tax rate for vacant residential land.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB91 Short-Term Rental Tax Class Revelstoke

Whereas a dwelling unit that meets the definition of a short-term rental within BC's *Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act* can be rented out, but places additional demands on local government infrastructure, such as water and sewer, and should pay extra tax commensurate with the additional demand;

And whereas tourist overnight accommodation uses such as motels, hotels, and resorts are classed and taxed as businesses:

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that ~~municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.~~ the Province continue to explore ways to reduce commodification of housing, in consultation with local governments.

On motion, with amendment as recommended, was Endorsed

EB92 Tourism Diversification Needs

Oliver

Whereas tourism provides great value to the provincial economy as it is one of the largest employers and largest small business generators;

And whereas the impacts of climate change have created hardship in numerous tourism destinations throughout the province;

And whereas the hardship is prolonged in rural destinations as the economy is slower to renew than in urban destinations;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide financial investments to local governments to identify how to diversify tourism in impacted communities throughout British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB93 Economic Resiliency for Tourism-Dependent Communities

Sicamous

Whereas tourism is the primary industry for many rural communities in BC and these communities rely on peak travel periods during the summer months to support their local economies;

And whereas natural disasters such as wildfires and resulting smoke have an impact on travel, and enforced travel restrictions further discourage visitors from traveling to regions with active wildfires;

And whereas tourism is supported by small businesses that breathe life into local economies by creating jobs and employment opportunities, supporting local supply chains, and generating tax revenue for local governments;

And whereas the business cycle for tourism-dependent communities, is limited to a short window during the summer months, and the loss of one summer season can be detrimental to the economic vibrancy of a community;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to:

1. Develop economic recovery supports for tourism-dependent rural communities, and
2. Consult with local governments, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Destination BC to develop long-term economic supports that focus on building resiliency for tourism-dependent rural communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB94 Increasing Investments in Tourism

NCLGA Executive

Whereas the timber harvest levels across British Columbia have declined to the projected low levels in the mid-term timber supply;

And whereas the need to diversify rural economies and enhance the attractiveness and livability of our communities is more crucial than ever;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to significantly increase the funding and mandates for BC Tourism, BC Parks, and Rec Sites and Trails BC to support communities across the province in accelerating economic diversification.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB95 Review of Timber Allocation to Mitigate Economic Impact
on Local Communities**

Fort St. James

Whereas the closure of all timber processing facilities that cause significant economic hardship within the affected community and its surrounding area;

And whereas the sustainability and vitality of local economies are intricately linked to the health and prosperity of timber processing facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests to review the Timber Allocation quota upon the closing of a facility, prioritizing the mitigation of adverse impacts on the economics of the affected community.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB96 Industry Shutdown - Timber Rights

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the closure of sawmills in the region has caused significant economic distress within local communities that has led to a decline in local employment opportunities which negatively impacts the livelihoods of residents and local businesses;

And whereas recent shutdowns provide a concern that wood harvested in one area will be transported to another for processing, thus jeopardizing the local economic value for communities most impacted:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests that the Province considers policy to ensure that timber rights that can reasonably be considered “attached” to a sawmill that is being closed, or that were originally provided to the company (or companies) that owned that sawmill, be transferred to local and/or Indigenous governments upon closure in order to foster economic diversification and community resilience.

On motion, was Endorsed

**EB97 Expansion of Community Forests for Increased
Access to Fiber**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas community forests play a vital role in supporting local economies, fostering community resilience, and promoting sustainable forest management practices;

And whereas mill closures, curtailing operations, and significant job losses have devastated rural communities, resulting in severe economic decline, decreased community stability, and limited opportunities for economic recovery;

And whereas there is an urgent need to expand the size of community forests and increase access to land and fiber around communities to enhance economic opportunities, promote resilience, and support sustainable development, alongside fostering improved collaboration in FireSmart initiatives and the effective implementation of wildfire mitigation measures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province of BC to support the expansion of community forests, facilitating increased access to land and fiber resources and streamlining regulatory process to promote sustainable development and economic growth in rural and Indigenous communities across British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB98 Local Consultation for Provincial Impacts to Resource Sector Jobs Pouce Coupe

Whereas the provincial government does not currently have the obligation to meaningfully consult with municipalities and/or regional districts regarding provincial policy changes or decisions that impact employment for people that live in those municipalities and/or regional districts;

And whereas the recent provincial policy changes and decisions have and will continue to negatively impact resource sector-based employment that disproportionately impacts rural, northern, and remote communities;

And whereas rural, remote and northern communities local tax bases are dependent on a strong resource sector in order to provide services to those that live there:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with the municipalities and/or regional districts whose people's employment in the resource sector may be negatively impacted by those provincial policy changes.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB99 Enhanced Economic Support for Forestry Communities NCLGA Executive

Whereas the economic landscape of forestry communities is constantly evolving, requiring proactive measures to ensure their continued growth and prosperity;

And whereas it is imperative to invest in the people and opportunities of the future to foster resilience and sustainability in these communities;

And whereas discussions with provincial counterparts in Victoria have highlighted the importance of addressing the challenges faced by forestry communities, including the need for transitioning local economies towards sustainability;

And whereas the Ministry of Forests has recognized the potential of a decentralized model to revitalize forestry communities, leveraging their expertise and resources to become hubs of value-added products and services:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to provide additional economic assistance and support to forestry communities to facilitate the transition towards a diversified and sustainable economy.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB100 Enhancing Communications for Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents Port Alberni

Whereas fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and that both EMCR and the local government have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders;

And whereas one of the significant challenges faced by local fire departments is the lack of adequate [or any] communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other agencies and hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as low-earth orbit satellite internet, to responding agencies that are

handling motor vehicle incidents on the Province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB101 Highway Cellular Infrastructure

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the lack of cellular service along many highways throughout British Columbia poses significant safety concerns, impeding the ability of motorists to communicate in emergencies, access navigation services, or contact roadside assistance; and hampers economic development by limiting opportunities for businesses and travelers to stay connected and conduct transactions while on the move;

And whereas advancements in cellular and satellite technology have made it increasingly feasible to extend coverage to previously underserved areas, including highways, through the deployment of new cell towers and signal booster infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to advance the installation of new cellular infrastructure along sections of Highway 16 East from Prince George to the Alberta border, and other British Columbia highways, without adequate cell service, prioritizing the safety, connectivity, and economic well-being of our citizens and travelers, and to work collaboratively with telecommunications companies, government agencies, rail transportation sectors and other stakeholders to identify optimal locations for new cellular infrastructure, ensuring efficient deployment and minimal disruption to surrounding communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB102 Supporting the Expansion of Cell Coverage in Rural and Remote Areas

NCLGA Executive

Whereas rural and remote areas across British Columbia continue to face challenges in accessing adequate cell coverage, hindering connectivity and safety for residents;

And whereas initiatives to extend cell coverage, such as the proposed Telus tower near Puntzi Lake, present opportunities to address these challenges and improve connectivity in underserved communities;

And whereas community engagement and environmental considerations are crucial in the development of such projects to ensure they meet the needs of local residents and mitigate potential impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM extend their full support to initiatives aimed at expanding cell coverage in rural and remote areas to enhance connectivity and safety for residents;

And be it further resolved that UBCM encourage telecommunications providers, such as TELUS, to engage in ongoing consultation with local communities and stakeholders throughout all stages of project development to ensure transparency, address concerns, and maximize benefits for residents.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB103 Local Government Online Voting

North Vancouver District

Whereas the *Local Government Act* does not support online voting for local government elections;

And whereas local government elections historically have low turnouts, and being that online voting provides a broader audience the ability to vote:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiative legislative changes to allow online voting for local government elections.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB104 Improved Assessment of Cumulative Effects of Major Projects on Communities

Squamish

Whereas major projects cause compounding impacts that are obscured when assessed in isolation from existing and planned projects in a given region;

And whereas current legislation creates significant demands on local governments by allowing for the isolated planning, assessment, and permitting considerations of wholly interdependent projects with interconnected timelines and demands on local services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of BC require the assessment and mitigation of cumulative effects, whether temporary or residual, as part of major project assessments and subsequent permitting processes where impacts arise within regions;

And be it further resolved that interdependent projects are required to undergo combined assessment and permitting processes.

On motion, was Endorsed

EB105 Increased Funding for Rural Colleges

Port Alberni

Whereas colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province, including a closer to home education for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

And whereas rural colleges face increasing demands and challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs;

And whereas adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries, while being challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services and develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

Resolution Removed from Endorse Block (EB) for Individual Consideration

EB3 Amendment to the BC *Mental Health Act* to Relieve Officers from Attendance at Hospitals

View Royal

Whereas Section 28 of the British Columbia *Mental Health Act* specifies a police officer should accompany to hospital persons with apparent mental disorders and acting in a manner likely to endanger the safety of themselves or others;

And whereas the opioid and mental health crisis in British Columbia communities has resulted in an increase in the number and length of times police officers are immobilized to the service of the greater community to sit in hospital waiting rooms while accompanying apprehended individuals until they are seen by a physician:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the Provincial government to amend Section 28 of the British Columbia *Mental Health Act* so that trained hospital staff be given special constable status and peace officer status to relieve police officers of the responsibility of attending hospital emergency departments with apprehended individuals.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the Provincial government to amend Section 28 of the British Columbia Mental Health Act so that trained hospital staff be given special constable status and peace officer status to relieve police officers of the responsibility of attending hospital emergency departments with **individuals** apprehended ~~individuals~~ under the Mental Health Act.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

Motion to Admit an Off-The-Floor Resolution

Councillor Pete Fry continued as Chair for consideration of a request to admit an Off-The-Floor resolution:

OF1 Modernize Carbon Pricing to Support Local Government Climate Action

A motion, duly moved and seconded, to admit for debate resolution OF1 from Off-The-Floor, was endorsed. The Chair noted that Off-The-Floor resolutions would be considered on Friday morning immediately following consideration of Policy Book 1 – Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline.

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 NEB2 be withdrawn from consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB3 be removed from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB5 be removed from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB7 be withdrawn from consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB8 be removed from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB10 be removed from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB13 be removed from the Not Endorse Block for individual consideration, was endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution NEB14 be removed from the Not 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.

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

NEB1 Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas British Columbia continues to have a healthcare worker shortage from a growing and aging patient population, impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing need to recruit, retain and train more healthcare workers at a rapidly growing pace to mitigate the healthcare crisis for the Province's population;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has taken steps to expand the healthcare workforce and increase patient access through its BC's Health and Human Resources Strategy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to expand the healthcare workforce by lifting the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work immediately lessening the strain on the healthcare system and providing better access and healthcare for everyone in the province.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NEB2 Provincial Vaccine Mandate

Kitimat

Whereas British Columbia is one of the last remaining provinces in Canada requiring a vaccine mandate for healthcare professionals;

And whereas British Columbia's healthcare system is under severe stress:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province for the provincial criteria that must be in place in order to remove the vaccine mandate for healthcare workers.

On motion, was Withdrawn

NEB4 Speculation and Vacancy Tax

Prince Rupert

Whereas housing availability and affordability challenges all municipalities in British Columbia;

And whereas these housing challenges impact the health, social and economic well-being of all British Columbia communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to amend the *Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act* to have all British Columbia municipalities included in the applicable areas where the tax applies.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NEB6 One Hectare Limit for Septic Services

Summerland

Whereas British Columbia is facing a housing crisis and part of the reason for the housing crisis is lack of developable land;

And whereas additional land for housing could be available but for the requirement of a minimum of one hectare of land for the installation of a septic field;

And whereas this one hectare minimum is an arbitrary rule which is in no way related to the ability of a location to support a septic system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields may be located.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NEB7 Emergency and Disaster Management Act for Regional Districts

Cariboo RD

Whereas the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* seeks to set out a comprehensive framework for the management of wildfires, floods, and other disasters in a manner consistent with the SENDAI Framework;

And whereas the statutory responsibilities, geographic disparity, and legal powers of regional districts are not recognized by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of BC to develop regulations under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* in collaboration with representatives of each regional district, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional districts are designed in consideration of their powers, jurisdiction, and areas of responsibility.

On motion, was Withdrawn

NEB9 Zero Emission Vehicles and Gas Tax Revenue

Pemberton

Whereas the rapid increase in the use of zero-emission vehicles and corresponding decrease in the use of gas- and diesel-powered vehicles will significantly reduce revenue from taxes collected at the gas pump within only a few years;

And whereas gas tax revenue collected through federal and provincial excise taxes, carbon taxes, and, in some cities, transit taxes, funds public services and infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved UBCM ask the Province to work with the federal government to develop a fair, creative, and financially viable solution to replace declining gas tax revenue to support public services and infrastructure projects as revenue from gas taxes declines.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NEB11 Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

Saanich

Whereas there currently is no provincial legislation to address the need for strategic foresight by requiring public bodies to plan and take action in pursuit of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing 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

NEB12 Provincial Government Water Panel

Lake Country

Whereas BC faces real threats to a sustainable water supply, droughts flood and fire to name a few;

And whereas increased water supply will be necessary to accommodate the housing growth that the BC Government is mandating, and maintaining and growing the agricultural sector to feed this new population;

And whereas UBCM is the voice of the local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strike a water panel to advocate to the provincial government on water issues pertaining to their local government members.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

Resolutions Removed from Not Endorse Block (NEB) for Individual Consideration

NEB3 Vacancy Control

Victoria

Whereas communities across the province are unable to find desperately needed workers in the trades, healthcare, education, and childcare because of the unaffordability of housing;

And whereas the loss of affordable rental housing is inextricably linked to the dire social and public health concerns that municipalities across the province are struggling to adequately address;

And whereas the unaffordability of housing limits the ability of renters to contribute to local economies, as noted by Leilani Farha (the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on housing and current Global Director of THE SHIFT, a housing initiative to actualize the housing as a basic human right):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement vacancy control on rental units owned by “financial landlords,” including but not limited to corporate landlords and real estate investment trusts.

On motion, was Endorsed

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair to provide closing remarks for the first resolutions session.

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.

Candidates' Speeches

At 2:00 pm, Councillor Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, called forward the two candidates for First Vice President and the three candidates for Third Vice President. The delegates heard brief two-minute presentations from Councillors Graham and Ramsay as well as Councillors Mindnich and Ross and Mayor Storey.

Address by the Minister of Municipal Affairs: Honourable Anne Kang

At 2:15 pm the President, Councillor Trish Mandewo introduced Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs who then addressed the delegates.

President, Councillor Trish Mandewo thanked Minister Kang.

Cabinet Town Halls

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

Housing

Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

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

Stronger Public Service

Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Honourable George Chow, Minister of Citizens' Services
Honourable Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Childcare

Energy & Climate Action Awards

At 4:15 pm, the 2024 Energy and Climate Action Awards sponsored by the Community Energy Association were presented.

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Thursday Clinics

On Thursday, September 19, 2024 the Convention commenced at 7:00 am with the following clinics:

First Nations Property Taxation & Assessment

For 45 years, First Nations in Canada have been developing property tax jurisdiction on their land and experienced remarkable growth. This growth is largely attributable to the work of First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC), which has provided leadership and regulatory support, and the involvement of key regional assessment service providers such as BC Assessment (BCA), who support assessment solutions and services for 100 taxing First Nations. The joint FNTC/BCA presentation provided information on assessment solutions for services agreements between local governments and neighbouring Indigenous communities, building a regional economy that works for all.

Speakers: Bill Dawson, Manager Indigenous Relations, BC Assessment; and Trenton Paul and Jesse James from First Nations Tax Commission

Measuring Social Impact of Public Libraries

Everyone loves libraries – but how do we ensure they're funding to keep pace with the demand for their services? How do we measure the impact of this investment? And with shared governance of these valuable community resources, how do we make sure that the key funding partners (local government and provincial government) realize shared benefit? This clinic explores learnings from other provinces and municipalities and how they can be applied to BC's public libraries to support stronger partnership between local governments and the Province.

Speakers: Alison Gu, Board Trustee, Burnaby Public Library; Cari Lynn Gawletz, Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors; Sarah Felkar, Executive Director, BC Libraries Cooperative; Rob Bennie, Director, BC Public Library Partners; and Heather Evans-Cullen, Vice-Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors.

Second Report of the Nominating Committee for Executive Positions

At 8:30 am, Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg Chair of the Nominating Committee, 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. Councillor Roodenburg reminded delegates that Councillor Jenny Tan, City of Maple Ridge had withdrawn their nomination for Vancouver Metro Area Representative; Councillor Tasha Henderson, City of New Westminster had withdrawn her nomination for Director at Large; and Councillor Cori Ramsay had withdrawn her nomination for Director at Large. As well the Chair advised that she had received an email from Councillor Scott Elliott, City of Quesnel advising that he was withdrawing his nomination for Director at Large. Those nominated were:

Small Community Representative:	Councillor Denise O'Connor, Village of Lytton
Electoral Area Representative:	Director Jerrilyn Kirk, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Director Mark Vonesch, Strathcona RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver
Director at Large:	Councillor Sheila Boehm, City of Williams Lake Director Penny Cote, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton Councillor Cindy Elliott, City of Powell River Councillor Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke Councillor Marsh Stevens, Town of Ladysmith

Councillor Keith Thom, District of Peachland
Mayor David Wilks, District of Sparwood
Councillor Keith Yacucha, City of Langford

Policy Session – Resolutions

The Resolutions session resumed at 8:35 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 Cori Ramsay. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Claire Moglove, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac and other UBCM staff.

Resolutions - Section Not Endorse Block (NEB)

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

Councillor Klassen continued consideration of Section NEB resolutions.

Resolutions Removed from Not Endorse Block (NEB) for Individual Consideration

NEB5 Updating the Provincial Minimum Standards of Maintenance Port Moody

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, especially for low-income renters, and the majority of 2021 heat dome deaths were in low-income and multi-unit residential buildings that lacked access to cooling, and poor building maintenance contributes to poor occupant health;

And whereas the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA) states in general terms that landlords must comply with health, safety, and housing standards required by law, including heat but not cooling;

And whereas the Province of BC enables local government to enact standards of maintenance to enforce basic levels of maintenance for rental accommodation, but many local governments either do not have bylaws or bylaws that are inadequate in a changing climate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to make the necessary changes to the Standards of Maintenance Guide to align the BC Building Code regulations for maximum and minimum temperature standards and ensure that considerations of health and climate hazards such as mould, precipitation, extreme heat and cold conditions, are included;

And be it further resolved that the guidance be converted to regulation, with associated regional and/or provincial supports for investigation and enforcement such that communities of every size have protection for renters.

On motion, was Endorsed

NEB8 Derelict Vehicles in Remote Coastal Communities North Coast RD

Whereas remote coastal communities in BC are struggling with the accumulation of numerous derelict vehicles;

And whereas disposal facilities in coastal communities have limited capacity and a lack of infrastructure to internally manage derelict vehicles or ship to end-markets:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of BC for grant funding to be made available for remote coastal communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province of BC for grant funding to be made available for remote ~~coastal~~ communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.

On motion, as Amended, was Endorsed

NEB10 Free Transit for Students

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the BC Government's fare-free transit program for youth aged 12 and under grade 6 saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the province and municipalities reach carbon neutrality targets;

And whereas expanding eligibility to those in grade 12 and under would promote equitable access to transit despite economic disparity amongst youth and families in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to expand the fare-free transit program for youth in grade 12 and under.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to expand the fare-free transit program for youth in grade 12 and under **and provide permanent sustainable funding to do so.***

On motion, as Amended, was Endorsed

NEB13 Request for the Province to Set Standards for Municipal Council Remuneration

Victoria

Whereas UBCM has developed a Council and Board Remuneration Guide and despite excellent best practice suggestions Councils are still required to vote on their remuneration;

And whereas this system creates political pressure due to perceived conflict of interest by the public, which often results in remuneration rates not adequately compensating the workload;

And whereas accurate compensation for time commitment could help to reduce barriers to running for local office and attract diverse candidates:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province set a standardized rates grid based on transparent criteria for local government elected-official remuneration.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NEB14 Union of BC Municipalities Name Change

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Union of BC Municipalities ("UBCM") was established to provide a common voice for local governments across BC and has done so since 1905;

And whereas the membership of UBCM consists of more than just municipalities, including regional districts, Indigenous governments, and improvement districts, for which the name of UBCM does not adequately represent:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Union of BC Municipalities Executive, as empowered by the bylaws of the Union of BC Municipalities, to initiate the process of formally requesting an amendment to the *Union of BC Municipalities Act* to change its statutorily established name to be reflective of the diversity of local governments in BC by means of an Extraordinary Resolution to be considered at Convention 2025.

On motion, was Endorsed

Candidates and Withdrawals for Executive Positions

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair to announce candidate withdrawals, which included:

Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Jenny Tan, City of Maple Ridge
Director at Large:	Councillor Tasha Henderson, City of New Westminster Councillor Scott Elliott, City of Quesnel

Given the above withdrawals, those now nominated are:

Small Community Representative:	Mayor Denise O'Connor, Village of Lytton
Electoral Area Representative:	Director Jerrilyn Kirk, RD Fraser-Fort George Director Mark Vonesch, Strathcona RD
Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver
Director at Large:	Councillor Sheila Boehm, City of Williams Lake Director Penny Cote, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton Councillor Cindy Elliott, City of Powell River Councillor Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke Councillor Marsh Stevens, Town of Ladysmith Councillor Keith Thom, District of Peachland Mayor David Wilks, District of Sparwood Councillor Keith Yacucha, City of Langford

Councillor Roodenburg indicated she would be back at noon to receive any further nomination withdrawals, and to accept any nominations from the floor.

Resolutions - Section No Recommendation (NR)

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair and reviewed the procedures for handling NR resolutions.

Councillor Fry commenced consideration of NR resolutions.

NR1 Addressing the Impact of Provincial Policy on Local Governments, Langford
Taxation Equity, and Interim Policing Cost Support

Whereas the City of Langford acknowledges the vital role of health care, mental health care, and social services in building a resilient and safe community;

And whereas the Province's failure to meet its commitments in these areas has unfairly burdened local governments, straining local resources and compromising public safety, thus exacerbating social inequity through heightened property taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly urge increased provincial funding and support for health care, mental health care, and comprehensive housing initiatives to alleviate the strain on local government resources and enhance public safety;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to demonstrate good faith by covering the heightened share of policing costs, recognizing the provincial responsibility in shifting these public safety costs to local governments due to inadequate provision of social services and health care.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR2 Downloading Costs by the Province to Local Governments for Cariboo RD
the Resulting Solutions for Homelessness, Mental Health
and Addictions Support

Whereas local governments are dealing with the results of homelessness without financial supports due to new legislative changes by the Province of BC and funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet the growing demand for services in our communities;

And whereas not enough supports have been put in place by the Province of BC for mental wellness, increased appropriate healthcare workers in communities, and addiction recovery services and supports:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC pay for costs incurred by local governments to address the lack of homelessness support, mental health and wellness issues, and addictions recovery services and supports;

And be it further resolved that UBCM mandate their Executives to engage in discussions with the Province of BC to negotiate a fair and equitable reimbursement framework for downloading services related to homelessness and mental health and addictions;

And be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of BC, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and all relevant stakeholders to advocate for immediate action.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR3 Resolving the Toxic Drug Crisis Kamloops

Whereas it has been eight years since the declaration of the toxic drug crisis as a public health emergency;

And whereas local governments need their provincial partners to move from reaction to action by developing and implementing a holistic plan that brings into balance all four pillars: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province develop and implement a balanced holistic plan, based on these four pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement) for resolving the toxic drug crisis.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR4 Impact on Local Government from the Decriminalization of Drugs in BC Merritt

Whereas the Province of BC was granted an exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* for the personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs for a trial period beginning January 31, 2023 until January 31, 2026;

And whereas communities have seen increased pressure on RCMP and first responders since the implementation of the decriminalization pilot program;

And whereas no statistics or reporting dashboard has been provided to support the continuation of the program or demonstrate the decrease in harm associated with decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of illegal substances:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to create a workable dashboard which reports statistics of the impact decriminalization has had on reducing the harm of criminalization and demonstrates whether the continuation of the pilot program is of benefit to communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR5 Advocacy for Brain Injury Awareness Victoria

Whereas Acquired Brain Injury (traumatic and non-traumatic) casts a profound impact on the cognition, personality, and overall well-being of British Columbians and there are over 1.5 million Canadians grappling with this condition;

And whereas in British Columbia alone, more than 180,000 individuals are affected, with brain injuries often serving as a catalyst for mental health challenges, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, violence, and suicide and a staggering sixty people in British Columbia will acquire a brain injury today:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorses the content of, and supports, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR6 Mental Health Mandate for Health Authorities Nelson

Whereas the number of people in BC, including in rural and remote communities, experiencing mental health and addictions issues continues to increase and there is a distinct lack of resources and treatment options for such individuals;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to expanding complex care, treatment, and aftercare across the province to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed but there appears to be a disconnect in how regional Health Authorities are advancing this commitment in rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues **and provide funding to do so.***

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR7 Standard of Care Discrepancies in Healthcare Services NCLGA Executive

Whereas there has been a noticeable increase in delays in treatment and testing for all British Columbians, with a particularly significant impact on residents in rural areas;

And whereas there is an expectation of a standard of practice that every individual should be able to rely on, ensuring that test results are promptly reviewed; however, delays in testing and review processes are causing undue stress and potential health risks, especially in rural communities;

And whereas the discrepancy in wait times for test result reviews, such as heart halter monitors, between urban and rural locations can lead to adverse health outcomes, including increased mortality rates:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM jointly lobby the provincial government to compel the Health Authorities to review and address the discrepancies in the standard of care, particularly in wait times for test result reviews, across the province, with a specific focus on addressing the disparities between rural and urban areas;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocate for shared patient records between health authorities.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR8 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population as shown by closures of beds in local hospitals and closures of emergency rooms at times when no qualified staff are available to work;

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have governed the provision of health care in their respective areas but are not held accountable for poor policy decisions and the negative impact those decisions have on local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to consider augmenting Health Authorities with Regional Hospital Oversight Committees responsible for providing strategic guidance and oversight concerning the operation of their regional hospitals;

And be it further resolved that Regional District Boards appoint Committee members from all areas involved in the delivery of hospital health care including, but not limited to, the Provincial Health Authority, Elected Officials, and Local hospital healthcare providers (ie: doctors, nurses, lab technicians, etc.).

On motion, request to sever NR8 into two resolutions, was Endorsed

NR8.1 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees

Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population as shown by closures of beds in local hospitals and closures of emergency rooms at times when no qualified staff are available to work;

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have governed the provision of health care in their respective areas but are not held accountable for poor policy decisions and the negative impact those decisions have on local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to consider augmenting Health Authorities with Regional Hospital Oversight Committees responsible for providing strategic guidance and oversight concerning the operation of their regional hospitals.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR8.2 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees

Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population as shown by closures of beds in local hospitals and closures of emergency rooms at times when no qualified staff are available to work;

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have governed the provision of health care in their respective areas but are not held accountable for poor policy decisions and the negative impact those decisions have on local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that Regional District Boards appoint Committee members from all areas involved in the delivery of hospital health care including, but not limited to, the Provincial Health Authority, Elected Officials, and Local hospital healthcare providers (ie: doctors, nurses, lab technicians, etc.).

On motion, was Not Endorsed

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:

First Vice President Councillor Cori Ramsay, City of Prince George

Third Vice President: Mayor Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake

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

NR9 Grants to Named Health Facilities

Comox Valley RD

Whereas regional hospital districts are empowered to direct capital funding grants only to hospitals and hospitals facilities named by the Ministry of Health;

And whereas rural, remote and Indigenous communities often rely upon community health clinics for medical care in the absence of any nearby health-authority owned and operated facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC review the *Hospital District Act* to provide enhanced authority to regional hospital districts to direct capital and operational grants to non-profit community health clinics and centres in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

**NR10 Addressing Challenges Faced by Rural Seniors in
 British Columbia**

NCLGA Executive

Whereas a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing;

And whereas rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032;

Whereas the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the NCLGA and UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

1. Develop and implement strategies on rural seniors housing, rural health, rural seniors home and community care, and rural transportation.
2. Create and implement a long-term care and assisted living plan and community care based on equity.
3. Improve upon and better promote the Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to facilitate access to healthcare services for rural seniors.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that the NCLGA and UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

1. *Develop and implement strategies on rural seniors housing, rural health, rural seniors home and community care, and rural transportation **including the recommendation of an increase to direct patient care hours.***
2. *Create and implement a long-term care and assisted living plan and community care based on equity.*
3. *Improve upon and better promote the Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to facilitate access to healthcare services for rural seniors.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR11 Ministry for Rural Seniors

NCLGA Executive

Whereas a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing;

And whereas rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032;

Whereas the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM call upon the provincial government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

- Establish a ministry or minister devoted to addressing the unique needs of rural communities in BC.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR12 Ensuring the Implementation of the Recommendations Found in the Seniors Advocate Reports

Burnaby

Whereas the Ministry of Health set a guideline that residents in senior long-term care facilities should receive, on average, at least 3.36 hours of direct care daily;

And whereas direct care hours include all care provided by registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), health care assistants (HCAs) and professional and non-professional allied health providers (such as physiotherapists);

And whereas not-for-profit facilities delivered 93,000 more direct care hours than they were funded to deliver, and for-profit facilities failed to deliver 500,000 hours of direct care they were funded to deliver:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to create a standardized funding formula and reporting system to ensure that funding for seniors' care is spent on direct care only.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR13 Fighting Period Poverty and Endorsing the Period Promise Campaign

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas almost one quarter of Canadian menstruators say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children (period poverty), and that people who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience social isolation, financial instability and increased mental health concerns by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame;

And whereas the United Way's Period Promise is a campaign that calls for increases to access to menstrual products in our community, and that local governments play a pivotal role in addressing period poverty within their communities, and may need support implementing practical solutions to provide free menstrual products to community members:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Period Promise Campaign, and work with menstrual equity advocates and community partners to facilitate the development of, and help disseminate, a Period Promise Local Government Toolkit that will help provide local governments with the tools necessary to make menstrual products freely available in their washrooms and beyond.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR14 Gender Equity: Provisions for Menstrual Supplies

**Port Coquitlam,
Port Moody**

Whereas the 2024 British Columbia Building Code contains updated accessibility features for universal washrooms and that they must contain full-sized adult changing tables; and no new updates were made to the provincial Building Code and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations to include accessibility features for free menstrual supplies or sanitary disposal bins for those who menstruate;

And whereas equity-based policies around access to menstrual products as a health and human rights imperative will support inclusion, accessibility, mobility, reduce stigma, and promote gender equality for all people;

And whereas in December 2023, the Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations were revised to include free menstrual products in all federally regulated workplace restrooms:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to update the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and the British Columbia Building Code to include provisions for sanitary disposal bins, and courtesy menstrual supplies as is currently required for toilet paper in restrooms outside the home, thus supporting accessibility and gender equity for people who menstruate.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR15 Routine Mammogram Screening Program

Harrison Hot Springs

Whereas access to regular routine mammogram screening is inadequate within the Province of BC;

And whereas an increasing number of women are being diagnosed with more aggressive breast cancer between the ages of thirty to forty;

And whereas early detection of breast cancer is paramount to diagnosis and treatment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to increase the number of mobile mammogram screening units available to rural and remote communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to lower the age of MSP coverage for routine mammogram screening to the age of thirty and modify the program so that participation in the screening program can occur whether or not the person has a primary care provider.

On motion, was Endorsed

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

NR16 Reducing Neurodevelopment Assessment Wait Times

Mackenzie

Whereas the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions is unacceptable at 2 years;

And whereas these extended wait times puts delays on youth getting the support they need and deserve and puts pressure on other institutions to fill the gaps while families wait:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to reduce the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR17 Barrier Free Hearing Health

Saanich

Whereas a large and growing proportion of our citizens has hearing loss, including three quarters of seniors;

And whereas hearing loss leads to delayed speech and language development in children, as well as affecting social development;

And whereas a significant factor contributing to lack of hearing aid usage is the high cost of hearing aids, with BC lagging behind other provinces and territories when it comes to consistent hearing health coverage:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government for improved access to hearing health care, including funding support for hearing aids for vulnerable populations most adversely affected by hearing loss: children and seniors.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR18 Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccine

Port Hardy

Whereas in 2024, the availability of Arexvy, a vaccine approved by Health Canada in August for adults aged 60 and over, marks a significant milestone in protecting older adults against the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV);

And whereas Arexvy has demonstrated nearly 83 per cent efficacy in preventing lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV and a 94 per cent efficacy in preventing severe RSV-associated illness, according to the FDA's analysis of data;

And whereas the authorization of Arexvy for use in Canada addresses the critical need for preventing RSV in older adults, who may face greater risks of severe outcomes, including hospitalization, and the potential overwhelming of the hospital system, as experienced during the pandemic, underscores the importance of safeguarding the health of older adults by preventing RSV infections:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia to treat the RSV vaccine as an essential preventative measure, similar to other critical vaccines, and work towards subsidizing its cost to eliminate the burden of a \$300 per full dose on individuals seeking protection against RSV.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR19 Reasonable Access to Insured Medical Services

Elkford

Whereas one of the five principles of the *Canada Health Act* is portability with the intent that residents who are temporarily absent from their home province or territory, such as on business or vacation, are permitted to receive necessary services in relation to an urgent or emergent need when absent;

And whereas British Columbia residents are restricted from accessing specialized or non-urgent services in Alberta, even when the services are located geographically closer than services in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petitions the Province to work toward a solution to ensure that all residents of British Columbia also have reasonable access to insured specialized or non-urgent medical services in Alberta in cases where the services are geographically closer.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR20 Consultation and Review of Recent BC 2023 Fall Housing Legislation

Maple Ridge

Whereas the provincial government recently introduced a suite of new housing legislation, Bill 44 – Residential Development, Bill 46 – Development Financing and Bill 47 – Transit Oriented Areas;

And whereas there is a need for more municipal consultation to reflect on the impacts of legislative implementation and identify policy gaps:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate the Province review the new housing legislation after 2 years from introduction; immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated; and increase the Official Community Plan review requirement to every 7 years.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR21 Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 - Financial Assistance for Local Governments

Langley City

Whereas local governments allocated the Building Community Funding to various community needs prior to the introduction of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 and the Province has provided some limited funding support to assist local governments in implementing the housing initiatives;

And whereas local governments have limited staffing, resources, and budget capacity to undertake the required updates to their Official Community Plans (OCP), updates to their Engineering Servicing Plans (ESP), as well as review and analyze the impacts on all local government infrastructure with the implementation of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 on communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM demand the provincial government expand the scope and provide local governments additional financial support for the hiring of additional staff and or consultants to complete the required updates to Official Community Plans, Environmental Servicing Plans as well as to review the impacts on all community infrastructure, including but not limited to public amenities, recreation centres, hospitals, schools, first responders and aging infrastructure in order to comply with provincial mandates as stipulated in the legislation.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR22 Funding to Offset the Cost of Waiving Development Fees for Attainable Housing

Pemberton

Whereas local governments are increasingly expected to contribute financially to the development of attainable housing by waiving development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions;

And whereas local governments rely on revenues from development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions to provide the infrastructure, amenities, and services that support housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province, as part of their housing initiatives, to provide funding to local governments to offset the revenue losses resulting from the waiving of development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions associated with the development of attainable housing.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR23 Incorporating Tree Canopy and Climate Goals into Housing Action Port Moody

Whereas the Province of BC, along with the rest of the world, is experiencing increasing incidents of extreme weather, including deadly heat waves which are intensified by the urban heat island effect and lack of neighbourhood greenness;

And whereas the Province has committed to addressing climate risk mitigation and adaptation at the same time as providing needed housing but may not be foreseeing potential negative consequences that can be ameliorated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revise Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy and ensure local governments retain clear authority to:

- protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods; and
- implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR24 Provincial Funding for Energy Efficient and Zero Emissions Metro Vancouver RD Equipment for Existing Buildings

Whereas energy efficient and zero emissions building equipment provide benefits such as lower annual energy costs and improved resilience to extreme heat events;

And whereas the CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings programs provide incentives and rebates to reduce the significant cost barriers to implementing energy efficiency and zero emissions retrofits for existing buildings, yet multi-unit residential buildings including affordable housing have limited access to these incentive programs:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Government of BC to significantly increase funding for provincial incentive programs to support energy efficient and zero emissions equipment for existing buildings, to ensure that incentives can leverage pre-2030 replacement cycles for residential and commercial building equipment;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to ensure that existing and future incentives and support programs are available for all building types, prioritizing multi-unit rental, affordable and non-market housing, and building types that are not covered in current incentives and rebates.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR25 Housing Authority Feasibility Study Work

**Comox Valley RD, Courtenay,
Cumberland, Powell River**

Whereas non-market housing is in critical need throughout the province, and the provision of such housing is currently severely challenged by supply conditions, lack of adequate funding, and lack of capacity by local governments to support the provision and management of such housing;

And whereas some municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia have created entities, such as housing authorities, which successfully increase the supply of non-market housing by providing and managing such housing, the process of planning and then creating these entities involves significant staff time and other costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of BC to provide grant funding for municipalities and regional districts to plan and create entities that provide and manage non-market housing in their communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR26 Provincial Housing Coordinator

Nanaimo City

Whereas the number of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability across the Province has been increasing at an unprecedented rate;

And whereas the Province has invested considerable funds in supportive housing, the majority of which operate as low barrier facilities making it challenging for individuals in recovery to secure housing options that support an addiction-free lifestyle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to establish a Provincial Housing Coordinator to work directly with those persons who are experiencing homelessness and who are not in need of supports, to find suitable housing.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR27 Cold Weather Shelters

Kamloops

Whereas the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) reports people at risk of hypothermia include:

- People experiencing homelessness (persons who are unsheltered, unhoused, or living in places not fit for human habitation)
- People who use substances, including alcohol, that modify their ability to feel the effects of cold exposure or to respond or modify their responses to cold conditions
- People who spend long hours outside for work or recreation
- People with disabilities, limited mobility, certain medical conditions such as diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, and diseases affecting blood vessels and people taking certain medications
- Older people (over 60 years of age), infants and young children;

And whereas the BCCDC has established guidelines to open cold weather shelters when temperatures drop below 0° C or enacted at higher degrees when the weather forecast includes wet, snowy, or windy conditions as recommended by the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response **and provide necessary funding to local governments and NGO's.***

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

**NR28 Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code
 and BC Fire Code**

Nanaimo City

Whereas many communities are experiencing a crisis-level influx of homeless individuals and the existence of emergency shelters is critical to addressing the safety of people experiencing homelessness;

And whereas due to the urgent nature of the need and the lack of suitable building stock in many communities, emergency shelters are frequently operating from buildings that do not meet the major occupancy classification requirements of the BC Building Code, nor the requirements of the BC Fire Code, placing local governments at risk of incurring liability if they do not enforce the codes and risking shutting down emergency shelters if they do enforce the codes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province work with the Building Safety Standards Branch to establish some reasonable variances to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code to enable emergency shelters to remain open.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR29 BC Secondary Suite Incentive Program

North Coast RD

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions, increasing daytime and nighttime temperatures and other vulnerabilities for low-income residents of multi-unit residential buildings;

Whereas the BC government aims to create more housing in all of BC through the introduction of the pilot Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP);

And whereas eligibility for the Secondary Suite Incentive Program does not include properties within many regional district electoral areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the BC government to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include all electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

*Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocate to the BC government to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include all **municipalities and** electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.*

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR30 Increased Fine for Short-Term Rentals

Burnaby

Whereas short-term rentals (STRs) are taking away from long-term rental housing stock and in turn contributing to the housing crisis in Burnaby;

And whereas the Province intends to increase the maximum fine a local government may issue to any bylaw non-compliant operator from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per day utilizing the Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system;

And whereas under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* (LGBNEA), the current mechanism to enforce bylaws in Burnaby, a maximum fine of \$500 per day is permitted, with no increase proposed by the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000;

And be it further resolved that local governments have the ability to add unpaid bylaw violation penalties to property taxes, to better allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR31 Agricultural Land Commission and BC Builds

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the BC Building Code contains a definition for floor area, and floor area measures the total inside space of a building;

And whereas the Agricultural Land Commission has resolved on a definition of “total floor area for principal residences” and “total floor area of an additional 90m² or 186m² residence” that is not consistent with the BC Building Code:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Agricultural Land Commission to adopt the definition of floor area within the BC Building Code Regulations for buildings in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

On motion, was Endorsed

Councillor Cori Ramsay assumed the Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

NR32 Achieving Complete Streets through Building Permit

Burnaby

Whereas the *Local Government Act* permits municipalities, as part of rezoning and subdivision, to secure land dedication for highway purposes, and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services, and public access;

And whereas there is a desire on behalf of the Province to reduce rezoning applications by having municipalities permit higher density developments as-of-right as per recent provincial legislation to expedite housing delivery;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* does not currently permit a municipality to obtain dedications for highway purposes, or the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services and public access as conditions of Building Permit issuance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to allow municipalities to obtain highway dedications, and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way

for works and services, and public access through Building Permit issuance without the approval of subdivision or rezoning.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR33 Managing Fire Risk on Crown Land

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia needs to review its policy for backcountry closures during periods of extreme wildfire risk;

And whereas Regional Districts have no ability to mitigate the considerable risks associated with Crown land hazards nor respond to emergencies on Crown land under the Regional District service area model;

And whereas Regional District electoral area lands have the largest Crown to community exposure to these hazard areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to aggressively pursue strategic proactive messaging strategies about restricting access to vulnerable areas during periods of extreme wildfire risk to mitigate human-caused wildfires on Crown land;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province to update their policy for backcountry closures to ensure proactive closures are a priority during periods of wildfire risk and in advance of conditions reaching unacceptable risk levels and include a process that ensures access by First Nations who use forest service roads to travel to and from their residences and territorial areas, as well as businesses who require access to Crown land.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR34 Initial Fire Attack Crew Relocation

**Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope,
Mackenzie, Tumbler Ridge**

Whereas the BC Wildfire Initial Attack Crews are a critical component of the wildfire response and rapid wildfire suppression in the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas Initial Fire Attack Crew Base locations are key to providing timely wildfire suppression efforts; especially in remote and rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to maintain the Initial Fire Attack Crew Bases in their current locations, and not relocate them without significant local stakeholder consultation.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR35 Year-Round Forest Fire Management Program

Fort St. John

Whereas current fire management practices do not adequately address the unique challenges posed by holdover fires, necessitating a comprehensive and year-round approach to forest fire management;

And whereas a comprehensive and year-round forest fire management program can help reduce the risks associated with holdover fires, protect ecosystems, and enhance the safety and well-being of communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to allocate the appropriate resources and adopt a comprehensive and sustainable year-round forest fire management program to address the threat of holdover fires.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR36 Priority of Post Wildfire Debris Cleanup in Riparian Areas Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas BC has experienced unprecedented wildfire activity resulting in significant detrimental and toxic environmental impacts, especially within riparian areas;

And whereas many homeowners who have been impacted by wildfires are unable to afford the expensive assessments due to financial constraints thereby not proceeding with cleanup on their properties;

And whereas the lack of a timely and flexible Riparian Area Protection Regulation (RAPR) permit process has not only hindered legitimate cleanup efforts but has also given rise to an increase in reports of illegal dumping causing additional environmental harm;

And whereas the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship was responsive to developing an expedited and flexible assessment process for wildfire debris cleanup:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to prioritize the development and implementation of an expedited process for cleaning up wildfire debris in riparian areas and develop clear policy guidelines to support the post-wildfire debris cleanup in riparian areas in preparation for future wildfires.

On motion, was Endorsed

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair to provide closing remarks and a reminder of the 8:00 am start time for Friday's resolutions session.

Address by the Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia

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

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

Nominations from the Floor for Executive Positions

At 12:00 pm Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair and asked if any current candidates wished to withdraw their nominations besides the earlier withdrawals from Councillors Tan, Henderson, Ramsay and Elliott. No further nomination withdrawals came forward. Then Chair Roodenburg proceeded to conduct the call for nominations off 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:	Mayor Denise O'Connor, Village of Lytton Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby
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Electoral Area Representative:	Director Jerrilyn Kirk, RD Fraser-Fort George Director Mark Vonesch, Strathcona RD
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Vancouver Metro Area Representative:	Councillor Pete Fry, City of Vancouver Councillor Tasha Henderson, City of New Westminster
Director at Large:	Councillor Sheila Boehm, City of Williams Lake Director Penny Cote, Alberni Clayoquot Regional District Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton Councillor Cindy Elliott, City of Powell River Councillor Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John Councillor Patricia Ross, City of Abbotsford Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke Councillor Marsh Stevens, Town of Ladysmith Councillor Keith Thom, District of Peachland Mayor David Wilks, District of Sparwood Councillor Keith Yacucha, City of Langford

At the conclusion of nominations, Councillor Roodenburg declared the two positions for Vancouver Metro Area Representative elected by acclamation. She advised that there would be elections for the positions of Electoral Area Representative, Small Community Representative and Director at Large.

Candidates' Speeches

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

Delegates' Lunch

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

The President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, 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:

- Mental Health and Local Elected Leaders
- Shocking Realities: Trends in Electrifying Transportation
- Anticipating Emerging Challenges
- Floods! Drought! Watershed Security! Working Together Towards Resilient Communities
- Planning for Local Food Supply and Security

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 Trish Mandewo, recognized the Long Service and Special Long Service Award recipients for 2024.

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, Central Kootenay Regional District
2. Councillor Don Bell, City of North Vancouver

UBCM President, Councillor Trish Mandewo recognized recipients for UBCM's Life Membership for 2024.

Friday, September 20, 2024

Policy Session – Resolutions

The Resolutions session resumed at 8:00 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 Cori Ramsay. They were assisted by Parliamentarian Claire Moglove, UBCM Executive Director Gary MacIsaac and other UBCM staff.

Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline

Councillor Pete Fry, continued as 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.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution LR3 be admitted for debate, was not endorsed.

A motion, duly moved and seconded, that resolution LR5 be admitted for debate, was not endorsed.

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, resolution LR1 was admitted for debate, while resolutions LR2 to LR11 were not admitted for debate.

LR1 Canadian Coast Guard Lighthouses Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas the Canadian Coast Guard has suddenly, and without prior notice, announced on July 31, 2024, that it intends to remove staff from Carmanah Point and Pachena Point, two west coast light stations in the immediate future at two very strategically located sites at the entry to the Juan de Fuca Strait and along the

West Coast Trail, posing a serious threat to the safety of coastal communities, mariners, aviators, the general public, hikers (8,000 per year) and the marine environment;

And whereas there has been no consultation with First Nations, user groups, the light keepers, the union nor any of the effected communities, and this will put the lives of many residents and users of our coastline at serious risk due to the reduction of the myriad of safety services provided by these keepers and it is all based on a flawed report from 2018 which has not been released by the Coast Guard for review, and goes against the previous Ministers direction and that of the Senate report, "Seeing the Light", which endorses staffing at light stations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Minister, the Commissioner and the Canadian Coast Guard management to immediately halt any plans to shut down light stations and maintain the essential levels of staffing at these and all stations on the entire coast of BC, and that this matter be, in addition, referred to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their immediate consideration.

On motion, was Endorsed

Section Off-The-Floor (OF)

Councillor Pete Fry continued as Chair for consideration of an Off-The-Floor resolution.

OF1 Modernize Carbon Pricing to Support Local Government Climate Action Nelson

Whereas the Premier announced on September 12 that the Province would remove the individual portion of the carbon tax if given the opportunity;

And whereas this poses a threat to the effectiveness of the Province's climate strategy as an essential tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition the province to a low-carbon economy;

And whereas local governments face significant financial challenges in addressing the costs of transportation, increasing energy efficiency in homes, adapting new and existing infrastructure and adapting to the impacts of climate change from wildfires, floods, and shifting ecosystems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to immediately engage with local government to develop a modernized carbon pricing framework;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request a significant portion of carbon pricing revenue be directed to local governments to support climate action initiatives such as transit, energy efficiency programs for homes, and adaptation of critical infrastructure, thereby directly helping local communities and their residents prepare for the impacts of catastrophic climate change.

On motion, was Endorsed

Section No Recommendation (NR)

Following the Off-The-Floor Resolution, Councillor Cori Ramsay assumed the Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

NR37 Provincial Funding for PFAS-Free Firefighting Gear in BC Vancouver

Whereas the health and safety of firefighters across British Columbia are routinely compromised by exposure to Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), through the use of PFAS-containing fire retardant foam and through dermal absorption from the water-repellent inner liner of their turnout (bunker) gear, particularly

during periods of extreme heat and high physical exertion commonly experienced by firefighters in the line of duty;

And whereas the City of Vancouver recently approved a one-time budget increase of \$2.8 million to procure Per-and-Polyfluoroalkyl free (PFAS-free) bunker gear for all Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) personnel, thereby becoming the first fire department in North America to transition to PFAS-free turnout gear to significantly reduce the health risks associated with PFAS exposure and the persistent nature and resistance to degradation of these "forever chemicals" in the environment and the human body:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the province of British Columbia to allocate provincial funds specifically for the procurement of PFAS-free bunker gear for all BC firefighters, to prioritize their health and safety while ensuring their gear meets the highest standards of protection and safety without the use of PFAS and exposure to the harmful effects of these forever chemicals, and work towards the introduction of alternatives to PFAS-containing fire retardant foam.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR38 Search and Rescue - Capability Approval Process

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas the current response capability approval process for individual ground search and rescue (SAR) teams is hindering the ability of teams to respond to known hazards and utilize local capabilities and innovative technology;

And whereas while the Province is responsible for administration of the SAR Program, local SAR expertise, community needs, and local authorities and agencies input must be a greater part of the capability approval process;

And whereas capability decisions must not include call volume, as saving one life makes the investment of time and money worthwhile, and strengthens the overall SAR capacity to assist our counterparts across the region and province when called upon:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to change the search and rescue capability approval process from the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Search and Rescue (EMCR SAR) Unit, to a collaborative process involving the ground search and rescue team, local authorities, and the EMCR SAR Unit.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR39 Search and Rescue Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Moratorium

Fort St. James

Whereas the current search and rescue director of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) imposed a moratorium on all of the Province's search and rescue teams, prohibiting those groups from expanding their capabilities until the Province has conducted a needs assessment study;

And whereas Search and Rescue groups provide invaluable services crucial to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, tourist safety, and overall community well-being:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to promptly lift this moratorium and allow Search and Rescue groups to add to their list of capabilities.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR40 Equitable Funding of Police Services

Port Alberni

Whereas the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other local governments in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

And whereas systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR41 Funding of RCMP Services for Small Municipalities

Pemberton

Whereas the current funding model for municipal RCMP police services imposes an immense financial burden on small municipalities when their census population reaches 5,000;

And whereas implementation of the Province's Homes for People plan, accelerating housing development and population growth, will push many small municipalities to the 5,000 census population trigger point sooner than previously anticipated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to immediately increase the population threshold for RCMP contract policing costs payable by local governments from 5,000 to 10,000 and to develop, in partnership with local governments, a more fair and equitable shared funding model between all policing partners in British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR42 Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas

View Royal

Whereas inflation, officer burnout, rising equipment costs, and rapidly increasing officer salaries have made the existing cost sharing formulas and RCMP policing costs unsustainable for local governments;

And whereas the Province's housing legislation, including Bill 44 and Bill 47, could potentially lead to increased policing costs, while Bill 46 will allow for police facilities to be funded through development cost charges, but will not help address the issue of police capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments to develop a new RCMP funding framework that gradually increases the cost-share rate for local governments at the 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 40,000 population thresholds.

And be it further resolved that the above amendments be implemented immediately, prior to the 2026 federal census.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR43 Port Policing

Delta

Whereas the Ports Canada Police was disbanded in 1997 and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority discontinued its financial contribution to the RCMP-led Waterfront Joint Forces Operation in 2015;

And whereas this loss of police resources has weakened the security of Canada's ports and allowed organized crime elements to proliferate, as evidenced by the 2023 Peter German report Policing our Ports;

And whereas the provincial and federal governments have statutory authorities in respect of taxation and fees related to the port and the transportation of shipping containers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with the Canadian government and port municipalities to develop a shipping container levy as a funding mechanism to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, including the Port of Vancouver, in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports.

A proposed amended read:

*Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with the Canadian government and port municipalities **and industry** to develop a ~~shipping container levy as a~~ funding mechanism to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, ~~including the Port of Vancouver~~, in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports.*

On motion, a proposed amendment, was Not Endorsed

On motion, the resolution as originally presented, was Endorsed

NR44 Fail to Appear Charges

Duncan

Whereas 100 per cent of Fail to Appear charges at provincial courthouses are assigned to the policing statistics of the local government in which the courthouse is located, having a disproportionate impact on the policing costs assigned to small municipalities with courthouses that serve a much broader area outside their jurisdiction;

And whereas this inflates the Criminal Code case load for all local governments with courthouses within their jurisdiction and results in an unfair burden to the taxpayers of those local governments, especially considering that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to direct that Criminal Code Section 145(2)-(5) and 732.1(2b) and 3(a) be excluded from the policing statistics of local governments with courthouses.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR45 Equitable Court Access

Langley City

Whereas gaps in service within the Provincial Courts continues to deny timely and equitable access to justice services for all British Columbians and will only be exacerbated by rapid population growth; thus, resulting in harms by prolonging closure for individuals awaiting court judgements, inefficient use of police time for travel, and greater challenges for those with limited access to public transit or transportation;

And whereas although recent investments made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) have increased capacity at specific courthouses, the investments have not facilitated equitable access for all British Columbians or met service level requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM direct the Province of BC to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and further, release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR46 Automated Licence Plate Recognition Funding

Langford

Whereas the City of Langford recognizes the importance of safety and compliance to the *Motor Vehicle Act* for all road users;

And whereas the discontinuation of vehicle licence plate validation decals in British Columbia has negatively impacted law enforcement officers in their ability to detect and enforce uninsured motor vehicle violations:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition to the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funds to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition to the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funds to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR47 Noise Camera Pilot Project

Port Moody

Whereas noise pollution has wide-ranging and well documented negative effects on public health and well-being and social connectedness, and vehicular noise pollution, from such sources as aftermarket exhaust systems are a particularly acute source of noise pollution, and these impacts disproportionately affect residents living near major thoroughfares, which are often more affordable housing types;

And whereas many jurisdictions have sought to address the numerous challenges to the effective monitoring and enforcement of existing vehicular noise regulations through conventional law enforcement approaches by deploying noise cameras:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia explore the feasibility of using noise cameras to effectively enforce vehicular noise regulations through the creation of a noise camera pilot project for municipalities to opt into.

On motion, was Endorsed

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

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

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

Director at Large: Mayor Spencer Coyne, Town of Princeton

Councillor Aimee Grice, Town of Oliver
Councillor Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John
Councillor Sheila Boehm, City of Williams Lake
Mayor David Wilks, District of Sparwood

The Chair advised that there was a tie vote for Small Community Representative, so as a result a run-off election would take place between the two candidates, Mayor O'Connor and Councillor Mindnich. She also advised that ballots were now available for those delegates eligible to vote for the position of Small Community Representative; and that voting delegates would have until 10 am to complete their electronic voting.

Federal Address: Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson

At 8:45 am, the President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, introduced The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, who addressed the delegates.

Following his remarks, Councillor Mandewo thanked Minister Wilkinson.

Address by the Leader of the Conservative Party: John Rustad

At 9:00 am, UBCM President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, introduced John Rustad, MLA, Leader of the BC Conservative Party, who then addressed delegates.

Following his remarks, Councillor Mandewo thanked Mr. Rustad.

Installation of President-elect

At 9:30 am Councillor Trish Mandewo from the City of Coquitlam was reinstalled as President of UBCM for a second year.

Address by the Leader of the Green Party: Sonia Furstenau

At 9:40 am UBCM President, Councillor Trish Mandewo introduced Sonia Furstenau, MLA, Leader of the Green Party, who then addressed delegates.

Following her remarks, Councillor Mandewo thanked Ms. Furstenau.

Results for Run-Off Election for Small Community Representative

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Chair of the Nominating Committee, assumed the Chair to advise that following a second ballot, Mayor Denise O'Connor, Village of Lytton had been elected to the position of Small Community Representative.

Policy Session – Resolutions

The Resolutions session resumed at 10:10 am with Councillor Pete Fry as Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

NR48 Metal Theft

Mission

Whereas the theft of copper wire costs the local taxpayers of British Columbia thousands of dollars each year to repair and can create a danger to public safety through the loss of electricity, lighting and communications;

And whereas the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* is more than 10 years old and metal thefts are an ongoing problem:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province, in collaboration with police agencies in BC, to complete a review of the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* to address metal theft.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR49 Provincial Funding Program for Radon Mitigation

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking amongst Canadians and many British Columbians are exposed to unsafe levels of radon within their own homes every day;

And whereas professionally-installed radon mitigation systems are effective at reducing radon exposure levels in homes but are financially prohibitive for many British Columbians to pursue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to establish a funding program to help residents with the costs of installing radon mitigation measures in their homes to increase the health and safety of British Columbians from the harmful effects of radon.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR50 Diking Standards

Pemberton

Whereas diking authorities in British Columbia are currently mandated to design, repair, construct, and maintain dikes to a 200-year event standard, which entails significant financial and logistical burdens;

And whereas a 100-year event standard would provide a sufficient level of protection against flooding and associated risks and allow for the development of more diking infrastructure, while reducing the financial strain on local governments and enabling diking authorities to allocate resources more efficiently, prioritize critical infrastructure projects, and enhance community resilience against natural disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to amend existing regulations pertaining to diking requirements, relaxing the current 200-year event standard to a more practical and financially sustainable 100-year event standard, or to a lesser return period that can be shown to provide valuable protection and phased implementation through engineering, geomorphological and geotechnical professional review and recommendations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, diking authorities, and interested parties to develop and implement revised standards that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and mitigating undue financial burdens on local governments.

On motion, request to sever NR50 into two resolutions, was Endorsed

NR50.1 Diking Standards

Pemberton

Whereas diking authorities in British Columbia are currently mandated to design, repair, construct, and maintain dikes to a 200-year event standard, which entails significant financial and logistical burdens;

And whereas a 100-year event standard would provide a sufficient level of protection against flooding and associated risks and allow for the development of more diking infrastructure, while reducing the financial strain on local governments and enabling diking authorities to allocate resources more efficiently, prioritize critical infrastructure projects, and enhance community resilience against natural disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to amend existing regulations pertaining to diking requirements, relaxing the current 200-year event standard to a more practical and financially sustainable 100-year event standard, or to a lesser return period that can be shown to provide valuable protection and phased implementation through engineering, geomorphological and geotechnical professional review and recommendations.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR50.2 Diking Standards

Pemberton

Whereas diking authorities in British Columbia are currently mandated to design, repair, construct, and maintain dikes to a 200-year event standard, which entails significant financial and logistical burdens;

And whereas a 100-year event standard would provide a sufficient level of protection against flooding and associated risks and allow for the development of more diking infrastructure, while reducing the financial strain on local governments and enabling diking authorities to allocate resources more efficiently, prioritize critical infrastructure projects, and enhance community resilience against natural disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, diking authorities, and interested parties to develop and implement revised standards that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and mitigating undue financial burdens on local governments.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR51 Addressing Climate Challenges in Agriculture and Supporting Farmers NCLGA Executive

Whereas farmers across British Columbia face escalating challenges due to climate change, including increasingly frequent and severe droughts, highlighting the urgent need for regionally relevant agricultural research to address these issues effectively;

And whereas the government of British Columbia has demonstrated commendable leadership by allocating substantial funding, including an additional \$80 million, to expand the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program, aimed at enhancing water management practices and resilience in the agricultural sector;

And whereas while investments in infrastructure are crucial, there is also a critical need for targeted funding for regionally relevant agricultural research to develop innovative solutions tailored to the specific challenges faced by farmers in different regions of British Columbia;

And whereas regionally relevant research is essential for identifying sustainable agricultural practices, crop varieties, and water management strategies that are best suited to the unique climatic conditions and agricultural landscapes of each region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the federal and provincial governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia.

On motion, was Endorsed

**NR52 Availability of Replacement Parts for Agricultural
Equipment Leased and Sold in BC**

Fraser-Fort George RD

Whereas the increasing cost of agriculture equipment has lead to agricultural producers having to finance and utilize equipment over longer periods of time, resulting in replacement parts no longer being available even before the lease or loan is paid off;

And whereas there are currently limited legislative standards in only a few provinces that have legislation in place requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment to have replacement parts available for a 10-year period, and this is placing increased financial hardship and, in many cases, affecting the overall financial viability of producers' operations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact legislation requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment leased or sold in BC to be required to have replacement parts available for a 20-year period.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR53 Black Bear Cub Conflict Response

North Vancouver District

Whereas the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service currently can independently decide how to handle black bears and cubs in conflict situations, without the oversight of an independent external public board;

And whereas there is no mandate for orphaned black bear cubs to be taken to a Wildlife Sanctuary for health assessment and treatment by a qualified wildlife veterinarian, and be the sole authority to perform a humane euthanasia of black bear cubs if needed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiate changes to the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, Human-Black Bear (Single) Conflict Response Guideline, to include a review of actions through an independent civilian-led oversight board, orphaned bear cubs to be transported to a wildlife sanctuary for health assessment of cubs by qualified wildlife veterinarian, for treatment or euthanasia, and an audit done by the Solicitor General of British Columbia Conservation Officer Service actions, policies and procedures.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR54 Ban on Rodent Glue Traps

**Saanich,
View Royal**

Whereas glue traps are an ineffective method for controlling rodents as they fail to address the root causes of an infestation, including access to food and shelter, and they cause fear, pain and distress for captured animals, including rodents and non-target animals like birds, bats, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and household pets;

And whereas most users are not capable of humanely killing trapped animals, leaving them to suffer for hours, and even days, before dying of suffocation, dehydration, starvation, exhaustion, or exposure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps.

On motion, was Endorsed

**NR55 Provincial Funding for Accessible and Transparent
Natural Resources Data**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

Whereas accurate understanding and management of British Columbia's natural resources are essential for informed decision-making;

And whereas there is a need for an updated and objective data on natural resources such as aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams and timber, for various aspects of the Province's natural resource management and for sustainable development and environmental stewardship:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province of BC allocate funding to ensure that objective data on natural resources is easily accessible by all stakeholders, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and ongoing maintenance.

On motion, was Endorsed

**NR56 BC Hydro Projects - Establishment of Funding for Climate
Action Ecosystem Restoration**

Saanich

Whereas the BC *Hydro Power and Authority Act* and associated statutes references other Acts within its scope, including the *Climate Change Accountability Act* and *Environmental Management Act*;

And whereas various communities have experienced that their operations do not fully comply with these Acts or the provincial government's Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets to protect land, preserve nature, and reverse diversity loss;

And whereas the Authority does not allocate a budget for adequate eco-restoration in areas where its activities have harmfully impacted biodiversity, and financial support is crucial to the success of hydro projects and the realization of provincial climate change targets;

And whereas to prepare the Province for the impacts of climate change, it is essential that BC Hydro collaborates with local governments, stakeholders, and landowners, and the *Hydro and Power Authority Act* must also prioritize ecosystem retention in its mandate to provide affordable power while minimizing environmental impact, restoring biodiversity and in the process support local governments' Climate Action Plans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM recommend the provincial government mandate an amendment to the *Hydro Power and Authority Act* to incorporate a budget for Climate Change Ecosystem Restoration as well as technologies that support tree retention and/or re-planting in all its projects, thus demonstrating the provincial government's commitment to its Nature-Based 2030 Climate Change targets.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR57 Soil Fill Location Sourcing

Central Saanich

Whereas in January of 2023, the provincial government implemented Protocol 19 of the *Environmental Management Act* which increased the definition of contaminants in soil and fill provisions;

And whereas since this legislation has come into effect, municipal infrastructure projects and housing projects have seen a 200+ per cent increase to civil costs due to unavailability of placement locations for fill deemed contaminated under the new legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC source regional contaminated soil fill locations, for the storage of contaminated soil from locations slated for priority infrastructure and priority housing projects.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR58 Restrict Export of Non-Compliant Waste to Foreign Waste Disposal Sites

Cache Creek

Whereas the province of British Columbia has stringent regulations governing the disposal of municipal solid waste;

And whereas the transportation of waste containing recyclables to the United States serves as a loophole in these regulations, undermining their effectiveness:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the provincial government for comprehensive measures to close the loophole allowing waste disposal in the United States and the implementation of stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with provincial waste management regulations.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the provincial government ~~for comprehensive measures to close the loophole allowing waste disposal in the United States and the implementation of stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with provincial waste management regulations~~ that any waste being exported to landfills outside of British Columbia must have the same rules and regulations applied to waste being received at landfills within BC.

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR59 Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice

Islands Trust

Whereas there have been barriers to uptake of alternatives to plumbed sewage disposal systems despite their allowance under the Sewerage System Regulation and the 2016 Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice;

And whereas these barriers to uptake may include overly conservative requirements (and their application) for onsite application criteria for residuals in the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners' professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR60 Boat Launch Fees to Fund Watercraft Inspection Stations at Boat Launches

Lumby

Whereas the provincial government has only six permanent and two mobile watercraft inspection stations and these stations are the last point of potential inspection before a watercraft enters a body of water or waterway;

And whereas stopping at watercraft inspection station is the obligation of the individual transporting the watercraft;

And whereas the fine for failing to stop at an inspection station carries a maximum fine of \$345;

And whereas the cost to mitigate invasive zebra and quagga mussels exceeds the cost of the fine by millions of dollars:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to establish additional watercraft inspection stations at boat launches to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR61 Allow Regional Districts to Become Taxing Authorities

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas regional districts are not taxing authorities and not able to change the tax multipliers, unlike municipalities that are allowed to adjust to swings in assessments between residential and business classes;

And whereas municipalities are able to change the multiplier which creates a consistency in taxes from year to year, while regional districts are not;

And whereas the taxpayers within a regional district are charged by the Province a 5.25 per cent collection fee, which for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is over \$900,000:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry to allow regional districts, at their discretion, to become a taxing authority.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR62 Permissive Tax Exemptions for Not-For-Profit or Community Housing gathet RD

Whereas offering permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies is a valuable tool to support the creation of non-market housing;

And whereas municipalities have the authority to grant permissive tax exemptions to non-profit societies which create non-market housing but regional districts do not:

Therefore be it resolved the UBCM urge the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* to expand regional districts' authority to include granting permissive tax exemptions to not-for-profit societies for non-market housing.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR63 Municipal and Regional District Tax Fund Overhaul to Enable Investment in Infrastructure

Fernie

Whereas the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) serves as a vital revenue source for communities in British Columbia, particularly in resort areas, through its application to short-term accommodations;

And whereas recognizing the evolving needs of communities, there is a growing demand for flexibility in utilizing MRDT funds to address critical infrastructure projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for a comprehensive overhaul of the Municipal and Regional District Tax funding framework to expand the allowable usage of funds, including directing a portion towards essential infrastructure projects;

And be it further resolved that UBCM collaborate with relevant provincial authorities to review and amend existing legislation, ensuring that Municipal and Regional District Tax funds can be strategically utilized for infrastructure development, thereby enhancing the resilience and sustainability of communities.

On motion, was Withdrawn

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

NR64 Tax Restrictions for the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program Revelstoke

Whereas local governments collect taxes through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT);

And whereas the current restrictions on what this money can be spent on are restrictive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to investigate expanding the eligible expenditures of the funds collected through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program, to allow each local government to have a larger say in what projects these funds should go towards to directly support their community and impacts of tourism, allowing for better long term planning and the ability to adapt the funds to the specific needs of the community it serves.

On motion, was Withdrawn

NR65 Equitable Distribution of Gaming Revenue Port Moody

Whereas the City of Port Moody advocated for more equitable distribution of gaming revenues, and was subsequently asked by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide viable options for the Ministry's review and consideration to remedy significant funding inequities created by revenue sharing agreements with local governments hosting casinos;

And whereas more broadly and equitably sharing gaming revenue with municipalities will reduce the financial inequity that has been inadvertently created by providing significant revenue windfalls to host municipalities and support non-host communities in enhancing the livability of their communities across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend gaming revenue distribution policies to include advancing equity;

And be it further resolved that the Province establish a working group with Port Moody and other non-host communities to discuss gaming revenue sharing and equity policy changes.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR66 Servicing Agricultural Land Reserve Properties Summerland

Whereas the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) plays a critical role in protecting and promoting food security for all British Columbians;

And whereas distances between agricultural parcels makes the cost of maintaining infrastructure to those properties disproportionately expensive and cannot be recovered from farm-class property taxes;

And whereas as a result, the cost of servicing farmland for the benefit of all British Columbians falls unfairly on residential taxpayers within agricultural communities and limits the ability of the local governments of those communities to adequately serve their residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the government of British Columbia to develop a reliable and consistent revenue source for local governments to adequately service their Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR67 Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries

**Nanaimo City, Oak Bay,
Powell River, gathet RD**

Whereas core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

And whereas the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, and increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;

And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

The resolution, as amended, then read:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, ~~and increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;~~

~~And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.~~ **by establishing an Advisory Body per section 52(1) of the Library Act, the objectives of which will be to:**

- 1. Undertake a review of core annual provincial funding of public libraries in the Canadian context;**
- 2. Make recommendations to the Minister with respect to core, sustainable funding approaches for BC's public library sector.**

On motion, as amended, was Endorsed

NR68 Enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission Decisions Langley Township

Whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the administrative tribunal that adjudicates applications in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), the provincial zone in British Columbia that preserves agricultural land;

And whereas the ALC ultimately determines the usage of the ALR land, taking precedence over other legislation and bylaws applying to the land;

And whereas the responsibility for ALC decisions, including rectifying violations and enforcing decisions, often falls to local governments, regardless of whether the local government supports the decision, which transfers provincial responsibilities and costs down to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Government of British Columbia to assume responsibility for the enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decisions and any local government costs incurred as a result of ALC decisions.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR69 Agricultural Land Commission Notice of Intent Requirements for Ancillary Residential Structures Cariboo RD

Whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has unilaterally changed their interpretation of the ALC regulation, requiring a notice of intent for the import of soil or fill onto properties and its subsequent approval prior to construction of any detached ancillary residential structure;

And whereas local governments are prohibited from issuing building permits prior to receipt of such approvals, creating an unnecessary regulatory burden on both land owners, local governments, and ALC staff for structures which are regulated through size restrictions in local government zoning bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Agricultural Land Commission to cease requiring notices of intent to be made under section 20.3 of the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* for residential ancillary buildings and structures on lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve;

And be it further resolved that any future requirements conform clearly with the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* and enabling Regulations, and changes to requirements be done through legislative and regulatory amendments, not interpretive judgment.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR70 Farming Event Rules Squamish-Lillooet RD

Whereas events can support the feasibility of farming in BC;

And whereas current Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Use Regulations are permitting events that hinder farming, and further local regulation is hindered by large geographic areas and limited resources, especially in Regional Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):

- number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;
- stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and
- ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR71 Provincial Watershed Security

Lake Country

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services and most supply irrigation for agriculture to their communities and BC faces real threats to the health, security and supply of water to our rapidly growing communities over the next decade and beyond, and all BC municipalities have high growth targets to achieve;

And whereas the \$100 million announced in the BC 2023 budget to kickstart support for watershed security is insufficient to ensure adequate restoration and long-term security for drinking water, cultural heritage values, and agriculture needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province of BC build on their initial investment in the BC Watershed Security Fund to create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source that provides \$100 million annually for community-driven watershed security initiatives.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR72 Funding Mechanism for Small Community Water Systems Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas BC regional districts, at the direction of the Province, have assumed responsibility for many small community utility systems (water and wastewater);

And whereas small community utility systems are not sustainable if funded by user fees alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish an annual funding mechanism for small community utility systems (less than 500 connections) which matches the revenue from user fees charged by the regional district;

And be it further resolved that the Province consider using funding from Property Transfer Tax of the homes connected to the utility systems for this purpose.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR73 Enhanced Stormwater Management Requirements, North Vancouver District Bills 44 and 47

Whereas provincial and municipal stormwater management guidelines were developed and implemented prior to the introduction of Bill 44 and Bill 47, the subsequent rapid increase in density will be accompanied by a dramatic rise in impermeable surfaces on a wide array of landscapes throughout the province;

And whereas urban stream health is directly impacted by stormwater runoff that is both increased in volume and reduced in quality by impermeable surfaces associated with development;

And whereas public education, outreach and environmental protection legislation, bylaws and regulations have not been successful in protecting our streams and environment, current resources available to municipalities to support stormwater management under the implementation of these bills will prove inadequate to ensure protection of these fragile resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province amend current legislation to include enhanced stormwater management through zoning bylaws and development permit requirements to slow, sink and spread stormwater.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR74 Amendments to the *Land Title Act*

Courtenay

Whereas the BC Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16 per cent below 2007 levels by 2025, 40 per cent by 2030, and 80 per cent by 2050;

And whereas the *Land Title Act*, RSBC 1996, c 250, permits the registration of a building scheme that imposes restrictions consistent with a general scheme of development;

And whereas these building schemes have been used to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels;

And whereas such prohibitions or restrictions are a barrier to the generation of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General to consider amendments to the *Land Title Act* that would prohibit and render void any portion of building schemes that purport to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels, or any other renewable energy systems.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR75 Taxation on School District Property

Prince George

Whereas there does not readily appear to be a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property, a placement that is encouraged by provincial policy;

And whereas local governments need every opportunity to collect the appropriate revenue for providing our wide range of services considering inflationary pressures and the challenges posed by asset management:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Minister of Education and Child Care that a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property be established.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR76 School Tax Exemption

Pitt Meadows

Whereas the *School Act* exempts 50 per cent of the assessed value of a parcel of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from school taxation if the land is vacant and unused, or used only for a residential purpose;

And whereas to encourage farming in the ALR to ensure local food security, school tax exemptions should only apply to ALR land that is being used for a farm purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the *School Act* to remove the 50 per cent school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR77 Unfarmed Land Tax**Pitt Meadows**

Whereas the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is to preserve much-needed land for farming to ensure local food security, and not real estate speculation;

And whereas speculation in the ALR can lead to increased land values and the underutilization of ALR land for farming:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR78 Allowing Local Governments to Apply Commercial Rent Controls**New Westminster**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia regulates annual allowable residential rent increases through the Residential Tenancy Regulation, BC Reg. 477/2003, to protect lower income renters from housing insecurity;

And whereas there is currently no similar provincial policy to protect small businesses or community-serving commercial tenants from unsustainable, unpredictable, and increasingly significant rent increases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR79 Traffic Count Systems Improvements**Saanich**

Whereas the provincial government has set a Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction target as part of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, and local governments are expected to act to help achieve this important climate target;

And whereas many municipalities and regional districts may not have adequate traffic count systems in place to rigorously evaluate Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction interventions and measure progress towards achieving this target, and that will be a financial cost to design, create and operate improved traffic count systems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government support local governments to improve traffic count systems for evaluating Vehicle Kilometre Traveled reduction interventions and measuring progress towards the CleanBC Vehicle Kilometres Traveled reduction targets.

On motion, was Endorsed

Councillor Cori Ramsay assumed the Chair and continued consideration of NR resolutions.

NR80 Road Usage Charge for Vehicles**Kent**

Whereas the provincial government continues to advocate for drivers to switch to zero-emission vehicles from internal combustion engine vehicles;

And whereas the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) receives dedicated funds through the sale of fuel products for transportation infrastructure;

And whereas zero-emission vehicles use the same transportation highways and impacts infrastructure as internal combustion engine vehicles but do not contribute to funding of the BCTFA:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government consider implementing a road usage fee per kilometre driven by vehicles to maintain funding levels for the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority.

On motion, was Not Endorsed

NR81 Provincial Funding for Active Transportation Infrastructure Metro Vancouver RD

Whereas BC local governments face significant capital funding challenges in delivering new active transportation infrastructure, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide lower-cost transportation options to BC residents, bring economic and health benefits to BC communities, and increase resilience of transportation networks, as demonstrated by similar investments in other jurisdictions;

And whereas the Government of BC has invested over \$40 million since 2014 to fund new active transportation infrastructure, has committed an additional \$30 million to fund active transportation infrastructure in Budget 2022, and has introduced rebates to support BC residents in choosing e-bikes which were quickly over-subscribed, demonstrating that there is significant latent demand by residents across BC for active transportation options, and Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities for TransLink calls for \$1.5 billion over the next ten years for capital investments for active transportation infrastructure in the Metro Vancouver region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand funding for active transportation infrastructure to at least \$300 million annually over the next ten years to support the development of protected, connected, and accessible local cycling and walking infrastructure networks across BC, that are integrated into larger regional active transportation and public transit networks.

On motion, was Endorsed

NR82 Provincial Funding for Active Transportation Planning and Infrastructure Pemberton

Whereas the provincial government offers grant funding to support the development of active transportation network planning and infrastructure, based on local governments contributing between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of project costs;

And whereas a local government's required contribution to an active transportation infrastructure project can far exceed a small community's financial capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government fund 100 per cent of the cost of active transportation network planning and infrastructure projects for communities with a population of less than 15,000.

On motion, was Endorsed

End of Resolutions Session

Councillor Pete Fry assumed the Chair and at 11:15 am called for an end to debate and concluded the resolutions session.

He noted that any resolution for which the Resolutions Committee had provided no recommendation would be referred automatically to the UBCM Executive.

The disposition of the remaining Section NR resolutions is as follows:

NR83 Provincial Highway Construction and Maintenance Princeton

Whereas private highway contractors primarily aim to generate profit, which can lead to compromised safety and quality in highway construction and maintenance;

And whereas the essential goal of highway management should be to prioritize public safety and infrastructure integrity over financial gains;

And whereas recent evidence suggests that highways under private management are experiencing deteriorating conditions, posing risks to public safety and transportation efficiency;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call for the re-establishment of public management of highway contracts to prioritize safety, durability, and public service over private profit;

And be it further resolved that a review and transition plan be developed for existing private highway contracts, ensuring effective public sector oversight and safeguarding the rights and employment of the current workforce.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR84 Support for Transit Services Related to Housing Growth Acceleration Pemberton

Whereas implementation of the Province's Homes for People plan, designed to accelerate housing development and population growth, will increase pressures on local governments to provide transit services necessary to develop and support new housing;

And whereas local government transit service deficits may pose barriers to the development of attainable housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for transit services integral to the development of attainable housing.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR85 Free Transit for Seniors in BC Langford

Whereas transportation costs can serve as significant barrier to mobility for many British Columbian seniors, and this barrier can contribute to social isolation and adversely affect mental and physical well-being;

And whereas removing barriers to seniors using transit encourages a shift towards more sustainable transportation, helping lower emissions and reducing congestion, while simultaneously increasing affordability, access to essential services, social inclusion, health, and well-being;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to make all public transit free for seniors (aged 65 years or older).

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR86 Ports Maintenance

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for maintaining the roads leading to public ports and continues to approve subdivision applications for water-only access residential developments;

And whereas evolving transportation technology and climate change requires a complete reconsideration of the design of small ports to meet future needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to fund the creation of engineering best practices for building ports to meet future transportation needs and climate resilience and provide financial support for the primary access ports.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR87 Ports Prioritization

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the federal government divested government wharves, and the responsibility for maintenance and management of public ports has fallen entirely on local taxpayers and nonprofit groups, and the provincial government does not have a ministry responsible for dealing with for the complex issues involving public ports, especially in unincorporated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to review BC's marine network as a whole and identify ports that are vulnerable to long-term funding concerns as well as extreme weather events for more sustained public support to maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline to meet the long term economic, social, and emergency needs of coastal residents.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR88 Strengthening the Legislation for Alternative Approval Processes Nanaimo City

Whereas the Alternative Approval Process as a means to obtain approval of the electors as outlined in Section 86 of the *Community Charter* is lacking clarity as it relates to public notice requirements stated in Section 94.2;

And whereas the document "Alternative Approval Process: A Guide for Local Governments in British Columbia" states that "local governments may choose to allow electors to submit response forms by e-mail or by fax" but provides no clear process or guidelines though noting that these electronic response forms are not covered by provincial legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of British Columbia amend the legislation in the *Community Charter* pertaining to Alternative Approval Processes to clarify:

1. how Section 94.2 interacts with Section 86 in terms of publication of the first and second notice;
2. the timing as to whether a local government can receive a completed elector response form before

- the second publication; and
3. clear requirements for accepting elector response forms electronically including:
 - a) acceptable methods of receipt;
 - b) whether electronic elector response forms require an original copy to be submitted with the original signature; and
 - c) if electronic elector response forms are received and an original copy is required if the original copy must also be received before the deadline.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR89 Harassment of Elected Local Government Officials Central Kootenay RD

Whereas in recent years, there has been an alarming rise in incidents of harassment, intimidation and acts of violence aimed at local elected officials, compounding the already strenuous work conditions faced by many local leaders and hindering their retention;

And whereas severe abuse, both online and in-person, has the potential to discourage candidates for local governments from joining and remaining engaged in local politics, limiting the diversity of opinion needed in healthy democracies:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC government, work with UBCM, to identify and implement measures to protect all elected local government officials from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR90 Bullying and Harassment by Local Elected Officials Kamloops

Whereas there is currently no legislation in place that effectively safeguards local government staff or elected officials from bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of other local elected official;

And whereas Worksafe BC does not include local elected officials as “workers” pursuant to the *Workers Compensation Act*, thus preventing municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from utilizing Worksafe BC policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And whereas local government codes of conduct are ineffective against a local elected official who chooses to blatantly ignore and disregard council or board resolutions, including protective measures put in place to safeguard local government staff and elected officials from that local elected official;

And whereas the absence of statutory or common law authority to practically and effectively prevent a local elected official from continuing to bully, harass, and mistreat municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board can seriously jeopardize the mental health and safety of staff and other members of council or the board;

And whereas due to the risk of continued and unconstrained bullying and harassment of staff at the hands of local elected officials, local governments and their taxpayers face significant legal exposure arising out of the unsafe workplaces in the form of costly investigations, wrongful termination claims based on constructive dismissal law, and increased legal costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of British Columbia amend the *Workers Compensation Act* to include local elected officials in the definition of “worker” as defined in section 1 of that

Act, thereby affording access to Worksafe BC's existing policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And be it further resolved that the Government of British Columbia adopt statutory provisions to effectively safeguard municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from the ethical misconduct of local elected officials, including, without limitation, repeated bullying, harassment, and inappropriate treatment, up to and including suspension or disqualification from participation in elected office.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR91 Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders Osoyoos

Whereas local governments recognize the importance of fostering respectful and constructive dialogue within the community;

And whereas personal and defamatory attacks on local government leaders, including both senior staff and elected officials, undermine the integrity of the democratic process and create a hostile working environment;

And whereas current legislative and legal frameworks, including those of WorkSafeBC and *Workers Compensation Act*, do not provide adequate protection against such attacks, thereby hindering the ability of local government leaders to carry out their duties effectively:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks by members of the public on local government leaders;

And be it further resolved that these changes should aim to strengthen protections for local government leaders against unfounded, defamatory and malicious accusations by members of the public while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency;

And be it further resolved that UBCM is encouraged to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR92 Minimum Income Requirements for Farm Classification Pitt Meadows

Whereas the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation establishes minimum gross income requirements for farm operations to be classified as Farm under the *Assessment Act*, that were last increased in 1993;

And whereas farm property tax reform that confers tax benefits to farm operations would help to encourage farming and support local food security:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR93 BC Assessment Property Value Accuracy

Squamish

Whereas assessing and appraising real estate is primarily an information business and the *Assessment Act* requires BC Assessment to value similar properties consistently and equitably recognizing that similar unsold properties are consistently under-assessed, sometimes for consecutive years;

And whereas the *Assessment Act* has no meaningful consequences for withholding information vital to BC Assessment to obtain critical information necessary to properly assess properties and this results in taxation rates based on flawed assessment/valuation data:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to update the *Assessment Act* to significantly reduce the number of drastically under-assessed properties year over year.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR94 BC Forestry Sector

Kamloops

Whereas BC's broader forest sector (including harvesting, pulp and paper product manufacturing, and wood product manufacturing) continues to make a vital contribution to BC's overall economic and social well-being, supporting some 44,000 direct jobs and close to 100,000 more jobs in total, generating billions of dollars in wages, exports, and government revenues, and forming the economic foundation of dozens of rural and remote communities;

And whereas in the last two decades, BC's forest industries have experienced a perfect storm of repeated and interesting crises, and a combination of economic, environmental, and global challenges continues to destabilize the broader forestry sector:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be lobbied to enact measures for stronger BC forestry sector, including:

- creating a permanent province-wide Forestry Sector Council;
- developing a province-wide plan for stable, sustainable, economic fibre supply;
- creating a Forest Adjustment Bureau to redesign and integrate worker and community adjustment supports; and
- developing a strategy to maximize value-added jobs from stable fibre harvesting.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR95 Equitable Stumpage Rates to Support Local Economies

NCLGA Executive

Whereas stumpage rates play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the timber industry and local economies;

And whereas while increases in stumpage rates may generate additional revenue for the Provincial Government, there is a risk of unintended consequences, including economic hardship and reduced revenue for local businesses and governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for equitable stumpage rates that balance the need for provincial government revenue generation with the economic sustainability of forestry-dependent communities.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR96 Tourist Information Centres

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas museums across British Columbia are providing tourist information services and promoting our province for free to thousands of visitors each year;

And whereas without the designation of “Tourist Information Centre,” these museums do not receive funding from the province and must assume the costs involved with providing services to visitors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to provide funding to museums that act as Tourist Information Centres and simplify and expedite the process for museums to receive Affiliate Information Centre status.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR97 Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

Vernon

Whereas burning carbon-based fuel causes climate warming with harmful socio-economic and environmental consequences; and in response Canada and BC have developed legislation, targets and incentive programs to rapidly decarbonize the economy; and local governments must assist in achieving these goals, and have developed Climate Action Plans and decarbonization programs to do so;

And whereas the fossil-fuel industry funds conventions and meetings of local government associations, which benefits the industry while the rising costs of delay are borne by governments and society:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM will no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR98 Provincial Employee Support

Zeballos

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide subject specific provincial employees on a regional level to support local governments with the increased legislative changes.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

**NR99 Provincial Service Level Expectations to Prioritize
Customer Service**

Fraser Valley RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have reliable modernized call for service systems or channels for the Ministry of Environment (Report All Poacher and Polluters (RAPP) Line), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Agricultural Land Commission, or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;

And whereas the lack of a reliable call for service system or channels creates public confusion, frustration, and safety concerns over service level expectations due to a lack of communication regarding queue status, outcome of reporting feedback, or additional follow-up:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to modernize call for service systems by implementing a variety of contact channels, including digital interfaces, and establish service level

expectations amongst the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to support customer service.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR100 Mandatory Holocaust Education in BC's Elementary Schools Prince George

Whereas Statistics Canada reported that there were 750 police-reported hate crimes targeting religious minorities during 2022, of which 502 or 66.9 per cent were aimed at Jews;

And whereas Ontario recently became the first province to introduce mandatory Holocaust education into the elementary school curriculum:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM recognizes the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion, which so often targets our young people, and urges the Ministry of Education and Child Care to introduce mandatory Holocaust education to elementary schools.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR101 Implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure Nelson

Whereas Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), comprising of smart meters, data management systems, and communication networks, is a key tool in providing efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable utility services;

And whereas the implementation of AMI comes at a significant cost for public utilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to begin exploring a funding model to support the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across public utilities in the province.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR102 Legislative Changes to Permit Alkaline Hydrolysis Funerals Cariboo RD, Williams Lake

Whereas Alkaline Hydrolysis Process funeral services present an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of preparing and interring human remains by significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from burials and land use requirements for storing human remains;

And whereas the *Cremation, Interment, and Funeral Services Act* does not permit Alkaline Hydrolysis as an acceptable process for preparing a deceased person's remains:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier to prepare and introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly of BC to amend the *Cemetery, Interment, and Funeral Services Act* to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR103 Reactivation of Public Library Association Model New Denver

Whereas many BC libraries are currently operating efficiently under the 'grandfathered' Public Library Association model;

And whereas BC libraries not currently operating under the PLA model but wishing to, are not allowed to apply:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC reactivate the Public Library Association model.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

NR104 BC Arts Council Funding

North Vancouver City

Whereas investing in arts, culture, and heritage has proven social, economic, and educational benefits for communities small and large across the province;

And whereas the arts, culture, and heritage sector has been chronically underfunded in BC compared to other regions in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC increase the BC Arts Councils' annual budget to a minimum of \$55 million in the 2025/26 budget.

No Recommendation – was Referred to the UBCM Executive

Port of Vancouver Prize Draw

The President, Councillor Trish Mandewo, 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.

Convention Closing

Councillor Trish Mandewo closed the Convention. The Convention adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Certified Correct

Gary MacIsaac

Executive Director

President's Address: Councillor Trish Mandewo

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 Program 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.

Appendix C

Resolutions Not Admitted for Debate

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part One

RR1	Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Split	Peace River RD
RR2	Transparent Cost Estimates for Healthcare Infrastructure Projects	NCLGA Executive
RR3	Equitable Funding for Healthcare Infrastructure Projects	NCLGA Executive
RR4	First Responder Calls by Fire Rescue Departments	Tofino
RR5	Pre-Hospital Care - Cover Costs of Local Governments	Port Alberni
RR6	Medical Emergency Service Alarm Calls Cost Recovery	Langley City
RR7	Pre-Hospital Care - Demands on Local Governments	Port Alberni
RR8	Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire Department First Responder Programs	Okanagan-Similkameen RD
RR9	Fighting Period Poverty	Radium Hot Springs
RR10	Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Shelters	Richmond
RR11	Provincial Support for Services Associated with Housing Development	Pemberton
RR12	Development Cost Charges for Affordable Housing	Comox Valley RD
RR13	Increased Funding for the Implementation of New Provincial Housing Development Requirements	Okanagan-Similkameen RD
RR14	Intersection Safety Cameras	Delta
RR15	Intersection Safety Cameras	Lake Country
RR16	Intersection Cameras for Safer Streets	North Vancouver City
RR17	Creating Safer Streets for Everyone with Intersection Safety Cameras	New Westminster
RR18	Intersection Safety Camera Process Transparency	Saanich
RR19	Provincial Regulation of Fireworks	Delta
RR20	Fireworks Sales Ban During Wildfire Season	Cariboo RD
RR21	Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities	Nelson
RR22	Funding for Youth Climate Corps	Nelson
RR23	Funding Increase for Invasive Mussel Defense Program	Salmon Arm

RR24	Provincial Funding Towards Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention	Nelson
RR25	Federal Funding for BC's Invasive Mussel Defence Program	Sicamous
RR26	Prioritizing Infrastructure Investments to Support New Housing in Municipalities	Vancouver
RR27	Increased Funding for Local Government Infrastructure	Comox
RR28	Funding for Community Infrastructure	Maple Ridge
RR29	Core Funding for BC Libraries	New Denver
RR30	Free Transit for Young People in BC	Langford
RR31	Free Transit for Young People in BC	Saanich
RR32	Supporting Free Transit for BC Youth	Metchosin
RR33	Free Transit for Youth 18 and Under	Vernon
RR34	Free Transit for Seniors	Saanich
RR35	Expanding Transit in Rural Communities	Nelson
RR36	Highway Active Transportation	Central Saanich
RR37	Legislative Changes Consultation Process	Zeballos
RR38	Consultation with Local Governments	Fort St. John

Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part Three

RR39	Urgent Investment in Healthcare for Central and Northern British Columbia	NCLGA Executive
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Section Referred Resolutions (RR) – Part Four

RR40	Addressing the Needs of Rural Seniors in British Columbia	Port Alberni
RR41	UBCM First Nation Membership	Zeballos

Section Late Resolutions (LR)

LR2	Fighting Period Poverty	Squamish
LR3	Child Care Licensing Regulations	Oak Bay
LR4	Maximum Municipal Bylaw Ticket Fines	Whistler

LR5	Creating a Future for Tiny Homes and RV Living	Nanaimo RD
LR6	Fire Resilient Forest Practices	Nanaimo RD
LR7	Prohibiting the Breeding and Keeping of Hybrid Wolfdogs	Nanaimo RD
LR8	FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Funding	West Kelowna
LR9	Transit Fees for Youth	Oak Bay
LR10	Transit Fees for Seniors	Oak Bay
LR11	Codes of Conduct	Whistler

Pre-Conference Study Sessions

Monday, September 16, 2024

Study Sessions

9:30 am – 11:30 am	EDMA in Action What's Next for Housing?
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Changing Climate, Rising Costs Communities in Transition: Responding to Changes in BC's Resource Sector
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	W.E. Talk: Women Electeds Finding Solutions Together

Province-Wide Community to Community (C2C) Forum

UBCM co-hosted with First Nations Leadership Council a Province-wide Community to Community Forum on September 16, 2024, in Vancouver. This was the 7th Province-wide C2C Forum with the last one held in 2017. All local government and First Nation leaders from across the province were invited to attend this event on the Monday of the UBCM Convention. There was overwhelming interest in the Forum, which was at capacity with 360 registrants, the largest Province-wide C2C forum to date, with at least 1/3 of the participants Indigenous leaders.

This forum aimed to advance reconciliation and, foster dialogue, collaboration and understanding between local government and First Nation leaders across British Columbia. It provided a platform for meaningful discussions on shared priorities, challenges, and opportunities that affect all communities, with a focus on implementing UNDRIP. UBCM and FNLC also signed a Relationship Protocol at the event.

The agenda was engaging and included presentations from local governments and First Nations who are demonstrating Reconciliation in Action by implementing UNDRIP at the local level and a dynamic keynote from Jody Wilson Raybould. The Forum also included a facilitated breakout session with Andrea Reimer who used Appreciative Inquiry for talking about implementing UNDRIP in your community. You can find the full agenda for the forum on the UBCM website.

We were able to hold the event with support from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs through the Community-to-Community Forum program and sponsors. We were also pleased to offer a limited number of travel subsidies for First Nation leaders.

2024 – 2025 UBCM Executive

President	Councillor Trish Mandewo	Coquitlam
First Vice President	Councillor Cori Ramsay	Prince George
Second Vice President	Councillor Jenna Stoner	Squamish
Third Vice President	Mayor Sarrah Storey	Fraser Lake
Past President	Vacant	
Vancouver Rep.	Councillor Lisa Dominato	Vancouver
Metro/GVRD Rep.	Councillor Craig Hodge	Coquitlam
Small Community Rep.	Mayor Denise O'Connor	Lytton
Electoral Area Rep.	Director Jerrilyn Kirk	RD of Fraser-Fort George
Vancouver Metro Area Representatives	Councillor Pete Fry Councillor Tasha Henderson	Vancouver New Westminster
AKBLG	Councillor Keith Page	Nelson
AVICC	Councillor Ben Geselbracht	Nanaimo
LMLGA	Councillor Paul Albrecht	Langley City
NCLGA	Director Judy Greenaway	Bulkley-Nechako RD
SILGA	Councillor Louise Wallace-Richmond	Salmon Arm
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