

# RESOLUTIONS LIST

Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
A2	REGIONAL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FLOOD MANAGEMENT	Chilliwack
B1	USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL	Surrey
B2	REDUCED LIABILITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONDUCTING BUILDING INSPECTIONS	Burnaby
B9	FEDERAL MEDICINAL GROW LICENSES	Mission
B16	PST LEGISLATION IMPACTS TO DISTRICT ENERGY UTILITIES	Richmond
B24	INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS NEGOTIATIONS	Squamish
B25	DRINKING WATER APPROVAL PROCESS	Harrison Hot Springs
B36	PROVINCIALY FUNDED SUPPORT PROGRAMS	Delta
B53	REQUEST TO AMEND THE SAFER PROGRAM	Vancouver
B54	SOCIAL HOUSING	Burnaby
B57	INDEPENDENCE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SENIORS ADVOCATE	Maple Ridge
B71	COORDINATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS	Delta
B81	GREEN JOBS PLAN FOR BC	Vancouver
B82	SUPPORT FOR BC ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS	Maple Ridge

# RESOLUTIONS LIST

Number	Resolution Title	Sponsor
B83	MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT INTAKE PROCEDURES & FACILITIES	Delta
B84	HOARDING & ITS IMPACTS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS	New Westminster
B86	PERSONAL INFORMATION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS	New Westminster
B102	MEDICAL MARIHUANA LAND USE ASSESSMENT & TAXATION	Chilliwack
B120	EARLY INTERVENTION CENTRES FOR MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION	Delta
B121	REINSTATING RIVERVIEW	Maple Ridge
B126	TETHERING OF DOGS	Surrey
B130	SUPPORT FOR RAISE THE RATES COALITION	Vancouver

WHEREAS many communities in the Lower Mainland face similar economic, environmental and/or social challenges with respect to mitigating flood risk, and significant efficiencies can be realized by working to address flood mitigation on a regional basis;

AND WHEREAS the Fraser Basin Council is preparing a business plan for a regional flood management strategy for the Lower Mainland to mitigate flood risk associated with sea level rise, storm surge and rivers;

AND WHEREAS other coastal and inland communities in BC may benefit and learn from a regional approach to flood mitigation in the Lower Mainland:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support a regional integrated approach to flood management in the province, and advocate for dedicated multi-year senior government flood protection funding for associated studies and capital works that result from the program.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

#### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

##### *Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations*

*Flood management is a shared responsibility and its success depends on the funding support and collaboration of all levels of government. The Province is prepared to contribute technical staff time, use of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations' (Ministry) Fraser River hydraulic model and will consider cost-share funding of priority projects subject to budget availability.*

*The Province agrees that the Lower Mainland needs a regional flood management strategy to mitigate flood risks associated with sea level rise, storm surge and increased river flooding due to climate change. To be effective, the strategy must integrate the three major elements of flood management: floodplain management (hazard mapping and development planning), structural mitigation (diking and river channel management) and flood emergency planning, response and recovery. The Ministry is working with local stakeholders to develop this strategy.*

*While the Lower Mainland is a priority because of the population density and the billions of dollars of infrastructure exposed to flood hazards, other communities could benefit from a similar regional approach.*

WHEREAS the current definition of the word “mail”, as contained in Section 29 of the Interpretation Act, restricts a local government’s means for forwarding statutorily prescribed notices and other communications to regular mail delivered by way of Canada Post, and does not recognize the efficacy that more modern electronic means of communication allow;

AND WHEREAS local governments are being called upon by their residents and business owners to introduce electronic means of communication for reasons related to better service, sustainability and cost containment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government enact legislation that allows local governments to electronically mail statutorily prescribed notices and other communications and documents.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development*

*In spring 2013, government responded to past UBCM resolutions by enacting legislation to allow for electronic delivery of municipal property tax notices. Some municipalities implemented voluntary electronic delivery of property tax notices for the 2013 tax year.*

*Based on stakeholder consultations and previous UBCM resolutions, government determined that electronic delivery of property tax notices offers the greatest opportunity for achieving cost-savings and efficiencies. Whereas other statutorily prescribed notices are typically delivered to one or a few residents, property tax notices must be mailed to every property owner annually. Expanding electronic delivery of statutorily prescribed notices would require further consideration and consultation by government.*

**2013 B2 REDUCED LIABILITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONDUCTING BUILDING INSPECTIONS**

**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has recently updated the Limitation Act to be generally consistent with limitation-period related requests made by both the UBCM and the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC), which is a significant improvement to the previous legislation;

AND WHEREAS the Local Government Act [Chapter 323, Section 290] provides for specific liability exceptions to local governments in certain circumstances, and in particular for the approval of building plans submitted by a professional engineer or architect:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia consider changes to appropriate legislation to further protect local governments from liability exposure in conducting building inspections when field reviews are carried out by professional engineers or architects registered in British Columbia.

CONVENTION DECISION:      **ENDORSED**

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

***Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development***

*Local governments have advocated for a change to the nature of liability apportionment arising from municipal oversight of building construction for many years.*

*While UBCM acknowledges that the Province has taken some significant steps in addressing local government liability issues with the enactment of a new Limitation Act in 2012, they have continued concerns with the impact of joint and several liability flowing from local government's role in approving the design and construction of buildings and undertaking inspections. In past policy papers, UBCM has taken the position that local government liability should be apportioned on a proportionate basis, such that individuals and organizations would be responsible for the consequences of their own actions and not for the actions of others and that liability should be limited to the degree of responsibility of the participant.*

*The Negligence Act provides for the apportionment of damages on the basis of joint and several liability. Joint and several liability is a mechanism to ensure that the plaintiff may recover from all defendants. The purpose of joint and several apportionment is to ensure that the plaintiff does not ultimately bear the loss for the negligent act of another. This has resulted in increased local government risk aversion to avoid disproportionate damage awards being assessed in cases of building failures. Some local governments have responded by considering withdrawing from the area of building code inspections and enforcement, particularly in the area of complex structures.*

*This resolution advocates for a more limited approach to proportionate liability within the context of limiting local government liability exposure in conducting building inspections when field reviews are carried out by professional engineers or architects. However, this approach would result in a shift of liability to one set of parties (professional architects and engineers) for a broader spectrum of possible building faults than is currently contemplated in s. 290 of the Local Government Act. Section 290 currently limited the responsibility of certified professionals to plan review which is directly related and limited to their function and expertise. Additionally, this proposal does not address the need to fairly apportion responsibility across all parties involved in design and construction. Government is focused on addressing the issue of proportionality through system improvements that are intended to result in improved construction and safety outcomes.*

*In this regard, and in addition to the recent amendments to the Limitation Act to reduce the ultimate limitation period the Office of Housing and Construction Standards is continuing to work with industry and*

limitation period, the Office of Housing and Construction Standards is continuing to work with municipal and local governments to address issues of roles and responsibilities, competencies, minimum qualifications for building officials and residential builders, approval of alternative solutions and a proposed random audit of construction projects to assist in assessing risks. Government encourages UBCM to continue to work with the Province in addressing these important issues.

**2013 B9 FEDERAL MEDICINAL GROW LICENSES**

**Mission**

WHEREAS the federal government has issued medicinal marijuana grow licenses to an exceptionally high number of individuals throughout British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has not provided sufficient resources to ensure that medicinal marijuana grow license operators are adhering to the conditions of their licenses;

AND WHEREAS local government's employees and residents are regularly put in hazardous and at times dangerous situations as they discover licensed medicinal marijuana premises that far exceed their license approvals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the federal government to ensure each and every medicinal marijuana licence issued is required to notify their local governments before operating and further that federal resources are used to perform physical inspections of the premises.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

WHEREAS district energy utilities provide sustainable energy sources for British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the reimplementation of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) as proposed creates inequities for district energy utility providers that will impact their ability to compete on the basis of their respective system efficiencies, technical merit, and carbon emissions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Finance reinstate the PST in an equitable manner that will (i) provide exemption or reimbursement of PST charges on energy purchased for the purpose of generating energy for resale, (ii) introduce former exemptions on Production Machinery and Equipment for equipment purchased by district energy systems, and (iii) maintain, as per the former PST regulations, the PST exemption on the sale of heat to residential district energy consumers.

CONVENTION DECISION:     **ENDORSED**

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Finance*

*The PST applies to the same goods and services which were subject to tax under the previous PST.*

*There was no PST exemption under the previous PST for energy purchased for the purpose of generating energy (or any other good) for resale. No change to this policy is under consideration.*

*All production machinery and equipment exemptions under the former PST are again available under the re-implemented PST, including the exemption formerly available for district energy systems operated by a local government body or local government corporation to generate electricity or electricity and heat at a cogeneration plant.*

*The PST exemption on the purchase of heat by residential consumers has been re-implemented. Heat, steam or cooling produced through a district energy system is exempt from PST when purchased for residential use in a residential dwelling.*

WHEREAS the arbitration process laid out in the Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act does not appear to be in the best interest of individual local governments;

AND WHEREAS the process appears to be heavily weighted to the interest of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the results of the arbitrator's decisions are escalating career firefighter wages and benefits beyond what many local governments can afford and does not recognize the ratepayer's ability to pay or afford:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act* to provide direction to arbitrators to more fairly represent and consider the individual interest and abilities of local government.

CONVENTION DECISION:    **ENDORSED**

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training & Minister Responsible for Labour*

*The purpose of the Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act (Act) is to provide access for unions and employers to binding interest arbitration to resolve a collective bargaining dispute. By proceeding to arbitration, the parties are able to maintain the ability to engage in face-to-face negotiations and avoid a strike or lockout which would interrupt the delivery of services critical to the protection of human life and property. The Act has achieved this objective.*

*The Act contains specific provisions establishing criteria to which an arbitrator must have regard in making his/her decision. While these criteria are purposely broad and allow the parties to raise before the arbitrator the appropriate weight to be given to each of them, they do include specific direction for the arbitrator to consider the "interest and the welfare of the community" (i.e., section 4(6)(e)). In addition, where a party applies to the Minister for direction to proceed to arbitration in a particular dispute, it is free to request that the Minister consider specifying additional terms of reference.*

*It should be noted that in applying the Act, arbitrators are to have regard to the terms and conditions of employment for other groups of the employer's employees. As a result, employers should be mindful about the outcome of freely negotiated collective agreements when engaging in collective bargaining with police and fire unions.*

*At this time, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour has no plans to amend the Act. The Ministry will continue to actively monitor collective bargaining in the sectors covered by the Act.*

WHEREAS the municipality was issued a Public Health Order under s. 26 of the Drinking Water Protection Act to treat the Village's finished water supply to a specific standard, and to achieve that standard, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs must construct a water treatment facility, possibly requiring a loan authorization bylaw and approval of the electorate;

AND WHEREAS if the order had been issued under s. 25 of the Act, public approval would not be required:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any borrowing made necessary by an order issued by a ministry official or health authority be exempt from a public approval process.

CONVENTION DECISION:     **ENDORSED**

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

*Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development*

*Currently, the only exemption from obtaining electoral approval for necessary water works projects is provided through the Municipal Liabilities Regulation (Community Charter) under sections 4 & 8.*

*The intent of the regulation(s) is to eliminate the requirement for elector approval when there is an immediate public health hazard. Under the Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA), an order issued under s. 25 is directed towards an existing drinking water health hazard or a significant risk of an imminent drinking water health hazard. An order issued under s. 26 reflects contraventions of the DWPA and does not necessarily reflect an immediate public health hazard.*

*The Ministry has been working with the Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities through the Drinking Water Leadership Council to further identify this issue and ensure that all parties understand the purpose of the public assent/loan authorization process, the role of the Liabilities Regulation(s) and the impact orders under the DWPA have on local governments. Part of this work is to ensure that orders issued by Drinking Water Officers (Health Authorities) appropriately reflect the respective public health issue and further support the affected local government to implement the order appropriately.*

*The Ministry continues to be interested in further discussions on how the development of a Master Water Management Plan could be utilized, analogous to the development of a Liquid Waste Management Plan, in developing a long term plan with public participation/consultation that could potentially lead to an exemption from obtaining electoral approval for the works identified in the plan. These discussions would also need to include the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health.*

WHEREAS the provincial government provides funding to various support programs, including addiction rehabilitation programs;

AND WHEREAS municipal zoning bylaws and other local government legislation may preclude the use of land or buildings for those programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to consult with municipalities to ensure that new or relocating support facilities which are receiving provincial funding are in compliance with local zoning and other municipal bylaws.

CONVENTION DECISION:     **ENDORSED**

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Health*

*Operators of addiction rehabilitation centres are responsible for ensuring they are in compliance with all local bylaws and have acquired the appropriate building permits from the respective municipality.*

*The Ministry of Health, through the Health Authorities, may provide support/treatment within the facility after the program is developed.*

*To be registered as an assisted living residence under the Community Care and Assisted Living Act, an operator must comply with all applicable legislation, regulation bylaws and codes. This includes applicable bylaws in the respective municipality. Standard 2 states: Operators provide a safe, secure and sanitary environment for residents and staff. Further, Standard 2.1 states: Building design, construction and occupancy comply with requirements of applicable legislation, regulation bylaws and codes:*

- Business license or written confirmation from the local government that license is not required (required);*
- Occupancy permit for new buildings and permits for any significant renovations (required); or*
- BC Housing Home Inspection or equivalent (required);*
- Local fire department approval of fire safety plan (required);*
- Permits from local health authority Environmental Health Services for water or sewage disposal systems not on city/municipal/regional district services, hot tubs, and swimming pools (required).*

WHEREAS the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program of BC Housing is intended to help in making rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes by providing monthly cash assistance to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents;

AND WHEREAS the upper limits of the maximum monthly rent levels for the SAFER program in Metro Vancouver have not been changed since October, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the upper limits of the maximum monthly rent levels for the SAFER program no longer reflect the average rental costs for housing in Metro Vancouver which erodes the intended assistance for seniors on fixed incomes;

AND WHEREAS seniors deserve our respect for their decisions in choosing the appropriate community in which to live in order to optimize their opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance quality of life;

AND WHEREAS seniors regardless of their health or abilities are required to re-apply annually to stay in the SAFER program or risk losing months of rental subsidy before reinstatement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia adjust the maximum monthly rent levels under the SAFER program to reflect the actual prevailing cost of housing for seniors across the province and eliminate the requirement of annual re-application.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

#### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

##### *Ministry of Natural Gas Development & Minister Responsible for Housing*

*Increasing affordable housing options is a priority for the B.C. government and an important part of our commitment to seniors. Since 2001, the Province has committed to build close to 21,000 new units of affordable housing for individuals, families and seniors. More than 19,000 are complete, the rest are in development or under construction.*

*SAFER is one program in a range of housing options that the government invests in to meet the diverse needs of seniors in our Province. The Province helps more than 50,000 seniors' households across BC keep their housing affordable through SAFER and subsidized independent housing, as well as supportive housing and assisted living for those who need additional supports.*

*Since the SAFER program expanded in 2005, the Province has invested more than \$1.3 billion (provincial and federal dollars) in affordable, subsidized housing programs for seniors, and launched the Home Adaptations for Independence program, which provides up to \$20,000 per home to help low-income seniors and people with disabilities finance home modifications for accessible, safe and independent living.*

*Assisted living and supportive seniors' units have been built to help seniors remain independent and stay in their home communities, close to family and friends (there are now more than 5,100 units province-wide; 1,760 are in Metro Vancouver) and approximately 1,300 units of new affordable rental housing has been built for seniors and people with disabilities (more than 300 of these units are in Metro Vancouver).*

*An annual reapplication process is necessary as benefits are based on rent paid, the number of people in the household and household income, all of which can change on an annual basis.*

**2013 B54 SOCIAL HOUSING**

**Burnaby**

WHEREAS the anticipated upcoming expiration of subsidy or rent supplement operating agreements with the provincial and federal governments will have a significant impact on the availability of affordable and subsidized rental housing, including some housing units targeted towards persons who are homeless;

AND WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing and the incidence of homelessness is a growing and complex problem affecting all British Columbian and Canadian communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to assess, examine, and renew the subsidy, rent supplements, or other supports for operating agreements set to expire;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM call on the federal government, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to collaborate with provincial, territorial and municipal governments, and non-profit housing providers and other housing stakeholders to ensure the viability and sustainability of all social housing stock through a national action plan on housing for Canada.

**CONVENTION DECISION:    ENDORSED**

WHEREAS the creation of the Office of the Seniors Advocate through the introduction of Bill 10 – 2013, Seniors Advocate Act, was a correct and commendable course of action by the provincial government in response to supporting seniors;

AND WHEREAS parts of the spectrum of seniors services, including housing, transportation and income support, are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health, which the Act has defined as the ministry to which the Office of the Seniors Advocate will report:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM respectfully request that the provincial government amend the Seniors Advocate Act to identify the Office of the Seniors Advocate as an independent office of the Legislature, reporting to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, rather than to the Minister of Health.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Health*

*Input received through the Seniors Advocate consultations in May-July 2012 was used to inform the development of the Seniors Advocate Act (the Act).*

*The Act was introduced in February 2013 and received Royal Assent on March 14, 2013. The new legislation outlines the mandate, accountabilities and authority of the Seniors Advocate and paves the way for the creation of the Office of the Seniors Advocate – the first of its kind in Canada.*

*Once appointed, the Seniors Advocate will be a statutory officer much like the Provincial Health Officer and Auditor General for Local Government who will serve as independent advisor to the minister responsible for seniors – currently, the Minister of Health – and will work to promote positive systemic change that benefits seniors in British Columbia.*

*The Advocate will have a broad mandate that includes monitoring seniors' services generally; promoting awareness; working collaboratively with seniors, policymakers, service providers and others to identify solutions to systemic issues; and making recommendations to government to improve the welfare of seniors.*

*As the voice for seniors, the Advocate will also monitor and advise on a range of seniors' services related to health care, personal care, housing, transportation and income support – topics that reflect what was heard during the consultation process last year.*

*Collaboration and cooperation will be the preferred approach to resolving issues, but where stronger tools are needed to fulfill the mandate, the Advocate will have the power to require information from prescribed providers of seniors' services.*

*To enhance the autonomy of the office, the Advocate will be able to appoint a council of advisors, identify his/her work priorities and plans, make independent recommendations to government, and hire his/her own employees and outside experts.*

*This model strikes a balance between the independence needed to objectively review government policies, and the ability to effect meaningful systemic change – two priorities identified by the public and stakeholder groups during the consultation process.*

**2013 B71 COORDINATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
PROCESS**

**Delta**

WHEREAS the Fraser River Estuary Management Program was discontinued on March 1, 2013;

AND WHEREAS changes have been made to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Habitat Protection Program without consultation with local governments;

AND WHEREAS these changes will result in the loss of the coordinated environmental review process for in-stream works, shoreline development and other projects that may impact the marine ecosystem:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to initiate discussions with the federal government and local government regarding the reinstatement of an independent agency to coordinate environmental review processes for in-stream and shoreline works.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

**PROVINCIAL RESPONSE**

***Ministry of Environment***

*The recent federal changes introduced under Bill C-38 and Bill C-45, along with the downsizing and restructuring of the Fisheries Protection Programs are having an impact on how programs are managed and delivered. The Ministry of Environment is working with the natural resource sector ministries and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to fully understand the implications of the changes to our regulatory framework and to the delivery of programs to ensure that a high level of environmental protection is maintained.*

*The decision to sunset the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) arose from the findings of a program review on the effectiveness and efficiency of the program. The review was contracted in 2012 to Ernst and Young. Post-sunset, the former FREMP's Coordinated Project Review process, continues but is now being provided by agencies directly; this is a more cost effective approach than the former model of agencies funding a third party for that work. The Port of Vancouver (the Port) receives the incoming applications for foreshore and upland developments within the Port area and refers them by email to relevant agencies for review and comment. DFO, Ministry of Education (MOE), Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and the Port continues to coordinate and collaborate on the environmental stewardship of the Fraser River and Burrard estuaries through both a Partner's Committee (focused on strategic direction and inter-agency collaboration, to which MOE is a member), and Management Committee, (focused on addressing more operational issues such as project reviews, to which FLNRO is a member).*

*The Province would welcome UBCM's input on any concerns arising from changes to the Fisheries Act, DFO restructuring and the closure of the FREMP program.*

WHEREAS Green Jobs initiative respects the values of British Columbians in ensuring ecosystem health and strong communities;

AND WHEREAS BC is well positioned to capitalise on this emerging trend and many communities are already showing leadership;

AND WHEREAS Green Jobs will increase resilience and prosperity in our communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM join the call for the Province to create and support a bold Green Jobs Plan for British Columbia.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training & Minister Responsible for Labour*

*Government recognizes the importance of the green economy to job creation and continues its efforts to advance it. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for British Columbia and one of the key priorities of BC's LNG strategy is to maintain our Province's leadership on climate change and clean energy.*

*Together, with industry, communities and First Nations, the Province is committed building the world's cleanest LNG facilities. Natural gas is the world's cleanest-burning fossil fuel and BC's LNG exports can significantly lower global greenhouse gas emissions by replacing coal-fired power plants and oil-based transportation fuels with a much cleaner alternative.*

*The development of BC's LNG sector will create significant employment opportunities in the construction, supply, service, operation and maintenance of LNG facilities and pipe lines. These opportunities will include:*

- 21,600 jobs directly involved in the building of LNG export facilities and associated pipelines at peak construction expected to occur in 2016/2017.*
- 41,900 jobs in the industries that supply goods and services during peak construction.*
- 2,400 permanent jobs to operate and maintain the plants and pipelines.*
- 61,700 jobs to support LNG operations, including workers required to drill, produce, process and transport the natural gas required to feed the export facilities.*

*The Province is working with the BC Natural Gas Workforce Strategy Committee to build the workforce to take advantage of the tremendous employment opportunities created by LNG.*

*Supporting green jobs through training and collaboration across sectors to support green job creation efforts across the economy, the Province provides a range of programs that support sectors in understanding and responding to the emerging human resource opportunities and needs related to the green economy. For example, several sectors have used the provincial Labour Market Partnership Program (LMP) to understand how emerging green technologies will impact their workforce needs. These LMPs include residential construction LMP (changing training requirements related to green building were highlighted as a key driver of a recent LMP that researched the feasibility of developing alternative delivery models for apprenticeship training in the residential construction industry). Identifying essential training needs for aboriginal youth in BC's eco-energy sector, building on a Globe Foundation LMP, which assessed the job creation potential in BC's clean economy and the recent Fraser Basin LMP improved human resources capacity for supporting renewable energy by developing strategies to increase participation among aboriginal youth, young people in general and other under-employed segments of BC's population.*

To support job creation efforts, the Province also provides a range of training programs funded by the Labour Market Agreement. Programs targeting green job opportunities include:

*The Targeted Skills Shortages Program, which targets the clean technology and the green economy sectors. Through the program, local service providers help businesses with fewer than 100 employees identify Labour Market Agreement-eligible, low-skilled employees, develop training plans and access funding for training.*

*The Employment Skills Access program funded the Northern Lights College's Clean Energy Training Program, has trained participants to work with clean energy, including wind and solar energy.*

*Through the Aboriginal Community Based Delivery Program, the Province is funding training for environmental restoration at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Building Restoration at the Kwantlen Polytechnique, and Ecological Restoration at the BC Institute for Technology.*

*At this time, government does not have plans for a stand-alone, green jobs plan. Initiatives to grow the green economy will continue to be captured under the existing, over-arching framework of Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan.*

**2013 B82 SUPPORT FOR BC ASSOCIATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS**

**Maple Ridge**

WHEREAS BC's agricultural fairs and exhibitions are in the strategic position to continue and enhance their work of educating and promoting BC agriculture awareness through serving excess of 1.5 million visitors to BC's agricultural fairs, exhibitions and related festivals each year;

AND WHEREAS in over 50 communities throughout BC, the use of a combined total of 20,000+ volunteers has resulted in affordable family entertainment and agriculture awareness;

AND WHEREAS agriculture, food production and food security is an important economic contributor to the British Columbia economy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government negotiate a viable funding envelope with the BC Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions to be included in the Ministry of Agriculture budget, in order to preserve the existence of agriculture fairs and exhibitions across the province.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

*Ministry of Agriculture*

*The Ministry of Agriculture (Ministry) is aware of the positive impacts that BC's agricultural fairs and exhibitions have in educating and promoting BC agriculture awareness and that agriculture, food production and food security are important economic contributors to the British Columbia economy.*

*The BC Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions (BCAAFE) has received verbal and financial support from previous Ministers of Agriculture, resulting in ongoing and sustained financial assistance over the past decade.*

*The Ministry provided annual grants averaging \$210,000 between 1997/98 and 2009/10. In 2010/11, BCAAFFE received a grant of \$75,000 to implement their 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. Part of BCAAFFE's Strategic Plan was to identify non-government long-term funding solutions. The Ministry encourages BCAAFFE to continue to identify alternative funding opportunities.*

*In 2013, BCAAFFE succeeded in receiving funding from other sources including \$20,200 from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC for a study on BC's agricultural fairs and their impact in BC communities. In addition, Community Gaming Grants (Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development) provided BCAAFFE with \$105,000 to sustain core operations in 2011 and 2012.*

WHEREAS police have become front line mental health workers responding to calls for service where, in many cases, the subject of complaint requires specialized medical or psychiatric care rather than police attention;

AND WHEREAS the amount of time police spend in hospital guarding mental health clients can be significant and represents a poor use of police resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to invest in resources to create an efficient process of mental health patient intake, including the provision of secure holding facilities and security personnel trained to guard patients in order to reduce the use of police resources in this capacity.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Health*

*The Province recognizes the difficulties that police officers face dealing with persons with severe mental illnesses and/or substance use problems. As well, this client population consumes a disproportionate amount of health care resources, through repeat visits to hospital emergency rooms and other crisis response services.*

*Whenever appropriate, redirection of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use problems in contact with police to appropriate mental health, substance use, social and support services is essential. This process should be effective, efficient and based on best practices.*

*In 2010, the Province released Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia. The Plan takes a whole systems approach to mental health promotion, prevention of mental illness and problematic substance use, harm reduction and care, treatment and supported recovery. A specific action in the Plan recognizes the need for improved and coordinated responses for people experiencing mental health and substance use problems who are in contact with the criminal justice system.*

*In February 2013, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) released the BC Policing and Community Safety Plan (BCPP) that identifies actions to work with stakeholders to promote best practices and expand integrated police/health initiatives across the Province and to develop resource-efficient and effective strategies for interaction between police officers and persons with a mental health and/or substance use problem.*

*In response, the Ministry of Health and the MoJ are working collaboratively on a number of joint projects at the provincial and regional level, including:*

- Development of a provincial Framework that will assist police and health authorities in developing local/regional protocols for people experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis that come into contact with police. This Framework will support improved information sharing and continuity of care through better integrated approaches and efficient and effective strategies to improve police and health care service interaction. This Framework will build on existing best practices and evidence-based models of care and include an efficient process of mental health patient intake.*
- Development of protocols between local hospital emergency and police departments in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Fraser Health Authority. These protocols include changes to the sharing of information between police and the hospital emergency department and intake process of mental health patients detained under section 28 of the Mental Health Act.*

- *In larger urban centres, mobile crisis team partnerships between health authorities and local police have been established to provide improved, community-based crisis care for those struggling with mental illness, such as Car 87 in Vancouver and Car 40 in Kamloops.*
- *Thirteen Assertive Community Treatment teams exist in BC providing 24/7 wrap-around tertiary level community care to individuals with severe mental illness and concurrent substance use disorders, who have high hospital bed days, challenges in functioning with daily living, maintaining safe and appropriate housing and are often in contact with the correctional system.*

*The Province recognizes that the safety and security of the police, health care staff, the general public and clients is paramount when dealing with complex and potentially aggressive behaviours. Health authorities have secure facilities in in-patient units designated under the Mental Health Act in every major community in the Province.*

*Hospital standards and guidelines are under development for secure rooms that exist in all designated facilities, including rooms in the Emergency Department of the designated hospital. These standards will address health and safety risks of clients with complex behaviours requiring a safe environment, including training requirements for health care staff.*

WHEREAS compulsive hoarding is a psychological condition which is estimated to occur in about 5% of the population and is associated with fire, health and safety hazards which pose an extreme risk to the hoarder but also to first responders and others living in close proximity to the hoarding unit;

AND WHEREAS local government, through fire protection, licensing and/or standards of maintenance bylaws, must inspect hoarding units and issue orders to address any fire, health and safety hazards;

AND WHEREAS local government staff do not have the mandate or skill set to deal with the psychological condition of hoarding and often observe deteriorating conditions between inspections;

AND WHEREAS the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health have established a Hoarding Action Response Team, in which mental health workers are assigned to work hands-on with hoarders to reduce fire, health and safety hazards and to do follow-up maintenance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the health authorities work with local government to address the increasing prevalence of hoarding by allocating appropriate resources and staff and by providing care and support to hoarders to enable them to manage and reduce risks associated with their psychological condition.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Health*

*Hoarding is a behavior characterized by excessive acquisition and the inability to discard or part with possessions, regardless of their actual value. For some people, their living spaces become so cluttered that the risk of fire, health problems such as mold and pests, and structural problems become a major concern. Hoarding is not only a risk to the resident's home, but also to their neighbours, and to first responders such as firefighters.*

*People with hoarding conditions are often distressed, their ability to function is usually affected, and they have varying levels of insight into their problems. About 75 percent of those with a hoarding disorder also have a mood and/or anxiety disorder. However, not everyone who is collecting excessively is considered to have a hoarding disorder.*

*As indicated in Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in BC, the Province is working to incrementally improve mental health and substance use services across the province. The plan calls for integrated evidence-based primary and community care for people with severe and complex mental disorders and/or substance dependence.*

*In April 2012, Vancouver became the first city in North America to launch a formal integrated approach to help people diagnosed with a hoarding disorder through the development of a Hoarding Action Response Team (HART) program.*

*The program consists of a city property use inspector, a fire inspector and two mental health workers employed by Vancouver Coastal Health. The HART team is a pilot project, the effectiveness of which is being evaluated by UBC. The study is expected to be completed by June 2014, and will inform municipalities and health authorities regarding ways to support citizens with a hoarding disorder.*

*Meanwhile, people with serious mental disorders receive treatment through the health authorities' mental health and substance use services.*

*Given the potential benefits of this collaborative approach to support British Columbians with a hoarding disorder to maintain their housing in a safe manner and improve their quality of life, the Province supports collaboration between local governments and health authorities to plan and provide appropriate effective and efficient services for this client population based on local demands and available resources.*

## **OTHER RESPONSE**

### ***Vancouver Coastal Health***

*I want to thank UBCM for highlighting Vancouver Coastal Health's (VCH) Hoarding Action Response Team (HART) within Resolution B84 as an example that others may choose to follow. We know that compulsive hoarding poses significant health and safety risks for individuals, families, and communities. HART, a partnership between VCH and the City of Vancouver, provides a coordinated response to those impacted by hoarding. Any decision to establish similar programs in other municipalities will be a matter for discussion between health, local government, and other agencies based on need, resources and other factors.*

### ***Interior Health***

*In consultation with the Ministry of Health we were advised that the Provincial Government has already responded to this resolution. Where resolutions impact health authority operations the Ministry has included relevant language within their response.*

WHEREAS during the “open delegation” portion of a recent council meeting, a member of the public broadcast the private residential address of a member of council as part of a PowerPoint presentation;

AND WHEREAS this experience raised concerns about the personal privacy and security of elected officials:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend s. 73(7) of the Local Government Act to exempt, when special circumstances are presented, the public release of an elected official’s home address.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

### PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

#### *Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development*

*Government recognizes the need to establish a balance between transparent government and protecting council members’ privacy and safety. The residential address that candidates must provide under Local Government Act, section 73 is important information for some voters. For example, some voters take candidates’ places of residence into account when deciding which candidates would best represent the interests of their neighbourhood.*

*The Local Government Act does include safeguards intended to protect the personal information that candidates must provide under section 73. Section 77 requires local government Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) to issue a public notice of election that includes candidates’ residential addresses. Under section 77, candidates can request that the CEO replace their residential address in the public notice with information about the jurisdiction in which the candidate lives.*

*Additionally, Local Government Act, section 153 (6) limits the use of personal information provided in section 73 to purposes authorized by the Local Government Act. If there is uncertainty about whether an intended use of personal information is permitted, local governments and members of the public are encouraged to seek legal advice before using the personal information.*

**2013 B102 MEDICAL MARIHUANA LAND USE  
ASSESSMENT & TAXATION**

**Chilliwack**

WHEREAS the *Assessment Act* may allow land with any land use zone to be classified as farm for assessment and taxation purposes;

AND WHEREAS the production and distribution of marihuana should be classified as an industrial use and not a farm use, as it will create a tax burden on the community similar to other industrial uses, at a much greater level than the tax recovery on farm property would produce:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government amend the *Assessment Act* so that land and uses cannot be classified as a farm for assessment and tax purposes, if the land is used for the production and distribution of marihuana for medical purposes;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that farmland in BC not be used for the growth of medical marihuana.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE**

**EXECUTIVE DECISION:      REFERRED BACK TO AREA ASSOCIATION**

WHEREAS the Mental Health Commission of Canada developed a framework for a national Mental Health Strategy in response to the growing mental health problem in Canada;

AND WHEREAS police departments across Canada have become the front line response for many mental health related crises as a costly alternative to proactive, harm-reduction approaches;

AND WHEREAS there are many instances where mental health patients that have been attended to by the police and emergency services are released back onto the streets without adequate support:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to work with the federal government and local governments to establish early intervention centres where a person suffering mental health issues or substance and drug abuse can be housed or assigned, when a doctor feels that a person may do harm to himself/herself or others.

CONVENTION DECISION:     **ENDORSED**

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Health*

*The Province of British Columbia (the Province) is committed to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental health and substance use problems. Health authorities have developed a continuum of mental health and substance use services including crisis response and emergency mental health and substance use services such as Crisis Lines, Mobile Crisis response teams, Community Crisis Stabilization beds and partnerships between health and police services. As well, the Province has 872 inpatient psychiatric beds located in acute care hospitals providing treatment for people with severe forms of mental illness and substance problems and annually over 22,400 people are treated in these facilities and supported in the community following discharge.*

*The provincial Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A Ten-Year Plan to Address Mental Health and Substance Use in British Columbia takes a whole systems approach to mental health promotion, prevention of mental illness and problematic substance use, early intervention, harm reduction and care, treatment and supported recovery. Priority has been given in the Plan for improved and coordinated responses for people experiencing mental health and substance use problems who are in contact with the criminal justice system.*

*In response, the Province is actively working with common stakeholders including health authorities, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation, BC Housing, Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission and police agencies to explore priority issues in response to provincial priority. Targeted work is underway to determine the demographics of this identified population, analysis of key issues and identification of best practice approaches with the intention of improving services, outreach and supports to clients with severe mental health and substance use issues, including those who may pose a risk to the public and/or themselves.*

*Specific provincial initiatives are presently underway to better support people with mental health and substance use problems in contact with the criminal justice system, including police. These inter-ministerial initiatives aim to improve continuity between the health and the justice systems of care through the provision of appropriate services, integrated planning, improved service linkages and enhanced information sharing. This work includes the development of a provincial framework, information sharing and transition protocols for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use problems and in contact with provincial corrections. In addition, an overarching provincial police-health framework will provide guidance in the development of local/ regional protocols for people experiencing a mental health and substance use crisis that come into contact with police. This framework will build on existing best practices and evidence-based models*

come into contact with police. This framework will build on existing best practices and enhance other models of care.

*A number of local initiatives involve partnerships with Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) services and local police agencies with the aim to improve service delivery and response for individuals experiencing mental illness and/or substance use problems both in the community and the emergency department. The development of protocols between local hospital emergency and police departments in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Fraser Health Authority (FHA) include changes to the sharing of information between police and the hospital emergency department and intake process of mental health patients detained under section 28 of the Mental Health Act. This results in more streamlined patient intake processes, reduced wait times for police and facilitation of more timely and comprehensive patient care. In addition there are collaborative initiatives improving the support, urgent response and follow up to individuals in mental health and substance use crisis situations such as the New Westminster Community Health Intervention Partnership between the FHA and the New Westminster Police Department through a dedicated police officer and designated mental health professionals.*

*This work will result in strengthened MHSU services and supports through an integrated and coordinated approach that responds to the individual care needs of the patient. This will assist in the reduction of MHSU crises and involvement with the criminal justice system.*

WHEREAS the lack of adequate treatment and housing for those suffering from serious or severe mental illness is a reality experienced province wide, resulting in a less efficient system, with unacceptably poor outcomes for the most needy citizens of BC, as well as severe financial and social burdens on local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Riverview facilities and grounds have a proven history of providing a very suitable environment for such treatment and housing, with much of the necessary infrastructure already in place:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government immediately begin to undertake all necessary action, including funding, to reinstate Riverview as a **patient-centred, wrap around care**, modern centre of excellence for mental health care and support.

CONVENTION DECISION:     **ENDORSED AS AMENDED**

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Health*

*Government is committed to providing the best supports for people facing challenges associated with mental illness and or substance use. That is why the Ministry of Health has made it a priority to build a comprehensive system of mental health and substance use services across the Province.*

*The Province committed a total of \$138 million of capital funding to building or expanding tertiary care mental health facilities in communities around BC as part of the Riverview Redevelopment Project. A total of 826 community-based tertiary care replacement beds have been developed throughout the Province of British Columbia offering former Riverview patients better living environments, closer to their home communities and regions.*

*Current mental health research suggests that individuals living with serious and persistent mental illness respond better to care in smaller, community-based facilities rather than in large institutions. Decentralizing specialized mental health care for people with serious mental health problems brings the care and support that they need closer to their homes and into their communities.*

*In addition to the 826 community-based tertiary care beds, new adult community based residential care beds have been developed for people with severe mental illness and concurrent substance use problems. Since 2001 the number of community mental health residential care beds has increased from 4,940 beds to 9,835 beds, an increase of 99 percent. Since 2006 the number of adult substance use community beds has increased from 880 to 2,479, an increase of 182 percent.*

*In terms of the Riverview lands, government is now developing a heritage conservation plan for the lands. Public consultation began in May 2012 and BC Housing expects to begin broader consultation for the future land use planning in 2014.*

*The public, local government, First Nations and other stakeholders will have a say on the future of the Riverview lands. The information in the Heritage Conservation Plan will also be considered. Any future plans for the land will recognize and respect their key features—both natural and built heritage. Local government, the Kwikwetlem First Nation, and other stakeholders will be informed when a timeline for consultation and associated steps are established.*

**2013 B126 TETHERING OF DOGS**

**Surrey**

WHEREAS the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 372, includes a definition for “animal in distress” that specifies, among other things, that an animal that is being deprived of space or exercise or is being neglected is in distress;

AND WHEREAS the tethering of dogs is not specifically referenced under provincial legislation;

AND WHEREAS such restraint can cause distress and suffering to dogs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 372 (the “Act”) to specifically reference “tethering of dogs” and to permit enforcement actions under the Act in situations where tethering causes a dog(s) to be “in distress” within the meaning of the Act.

**CONVENTION DECISION: NOT CONSIDERED - AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO EXECUTIVE**

**EXECUTIVE DECISION: NOT ENDORSED**

WHEREAS Raise the Rates is a coalition of community groups and organizations concerned with the level of poverty and homelessness in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS although the poverty rate for people of all ages in BC fell slightly to 11.5 percent in 2010 from 12 percent in 2009, the province has had the worst poverty rate in Canada for 12 consecutive years and the worst child poverty rate in Canada for the past eight years;

AND WHEREAS a 2011 report estimated the cost of poverty in BC at \$8.1 - \$9.2 billion a year wasted on health care, the justice system and in lost economic opportunities, with equally significant social costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support the Raise the Rates Coalition in urging the provincial government to:

- remove arbitrary barriers that prevent people in need from receiving provincial income assistance such as the 2-year independence test and 3-week work search;
- end claw-backs that prevent people from supplementing their welfare with paid work and single parents receiving support from the absent parent up to the Market Basket Measure; and
- increase provincial income assistance rates to the Market Basket Measure, the minimum monthly cost required for food, shelter and transportation.

CONVENTION DECISION: NOT CONSIDERED - AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO EXECUTIVE

EXECUTIVE DECISION: ENDORSED

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

### *Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation*

*Income and disability assistance is intended to help eligible British Columbians temporarily while they look for work and to provide support for those who are not able to work due to a disability. Eligibility requirements such as the 2-year independence test and the work search are intended to ensure that individuals actively look for work and pursue self reliance prior to relying on income assistance. The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (Ministry) recognizes that these requirements must be flexible enough to accommodate the unique needs of individuals receiving assistance. There are several exemptions in place to ensure that vulnerable individuals (e.g., those fleeing abuse) can receive immediate assistance.*

*In October 2012, the Province introduced a \$200 earnings exemption for all expected-to-work clients to give employable individuals a chance to build job skills and experience, take advantage of short-term or temporary work and better provide for their families while receiving assistance. The earnings exemption for Persons with Disabilities was also increased from \$500 to \$800 for a single individual and from \$750 to \$1,600 for a couple or family. Deducting family maintenance payments, which is consistent across Canada with the exception of Quebec and Alberta's AISH program, ensures that individuals are accessing all other forms of income before relying on assistance. For individuals on assistance who are receiving monthly family maintenance payments, the Ministry may provide a top-up to ensure that an individual's total monthly income is equal to current assistance rates.*

*Rates need to be sustainable and at a level that provides an incentive for employable clients to find and keep full-time jobs. The Province must also balance what is fair to individuals seeking assistance and what can be supported by the current fiscal plan.*

*The current rate structure takes into account all provincial and federal tax credits, child benefits and other available programs and support for low-income families and families on income and disability assistance. All clients are eligible for health and other supplementary benefits to meet a variety of unexpected or additional needs and Persons with Disabilities clients receive significant additional health benefits including dental and*

needs and persons with disabilities clients receive significant additional health benefits, including hearing and optical coverage and medical supplies and equipment.

*Although the Province is not in a financial position to consider a rate increase at this time, exploring innovative, low-cost ways to improve services to people receiving assistance continues. The new policies implemented in October 2012, have allowed people receiving assistance, especially families with children, to increase their monthly income. Government will continue to work with communities, stakeholders and individuals to explore other initiatives to improve the income and disability assistance system.*