

providers, high use of police, corrections and emergency services, high rates of homelessness and concerns for public safety. In response, the Government developed a provincial Action Plan: “Improving Health Services for Individuals with Severe Addiction and Mental Illness” with immediate and longer-term actions to improve outcomes for this client population.

Since the announcement of this provincial Action Plan in November 2013, the Ministry has provided \$20.25 million beginning in 2014/15 for health authorities to expand services for this client population and the following new mental health and substance use services have been developed throughout BC:

- Two new Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams in Vancouver for a total of five.*
- A new nine-bed Acute Behavioural Stabilization Unit at St. Paul’s Hospital to provide specialized, short-term, intensive mental health and addiction treatment.*
- An Assertive Outreach Team in Vancouver – offering short-term intensive transition support, linking high need patients from emergency rooms to the appropriate community care.*
- Expansion of the Inner City Youth Team in Vancouver to support up to 240 youths.*
- A new youth group home – Renfrew House – in Vancouver offering housing, social supports and clinical care for vulnerable youth aged 16-24.*
- New rehabilitation and recovery program on the Riverview grounds - 40 beds in total (14 beds as part of the Action Plan funding and 26 beds transferred from the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addictions).*
- New ACT teams in Kamloops, Kelowna, Abbotsford/Mission, and Surrey/North Delta.*
- A new 14-bed transitional Regional Tertiary Care Facility in Victoria. Three new Intensive Case Management Teams (ICMT) serving Mount Waddington area (Port Hardy, Port McNeill, Alert Bay), Courtenay/Comox, and South Island.*
- Three new ICMTs in the communities of Prince George, Fort St. John and Terrace.*
- New Psychiatric Liaison Nurse rotations based in Emergency Departments in Prince George, Fort St. John, and Prince Rupert.*

In addition, the Province has invested additional capital funding to upgrade and expand mental health facilities for this client population, such as:

- \$38 million toward the \$62 million Greta & Robert H.N. Ho Centre for Psychiatry and Education (the HOpe Centre) at the Lions Gate Hospital, which opened in December 2014.*

- *\$57 million toward the \$82 million 100-bed Joseph & Rosalie Segal Family Health Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, which is expected to be complete in 2017.*
- *A new 75-bed mental health and substance use building replacing the aging Sherbrooke Centre is expected to be open in 2019 as part of the \$259 million first phase of the Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH) Redevelopment project. The provincial capital contribution to this project is \$250 million.*
- *\$101 million for the Centre for Mental Health and Addictions (CMHA) Replacement Project, a new purpose-built 105-bed facility to replace the Burnaby CMHA, and planned to complete in 2019. The CMHA provides services to the severely addicted and mentally ill patient population.*

Also, the Ministry, health authorities, and Ministry of Justice are committed to addressing the needs of this client population in contact with the justice system through a collaborative and integrated response. BC Corrections is linking offenders with MHSU problems to community resources, and it has partnered in a number of integration projects such as the Prolific Offenders Management Project integrating resources from criminal justice, health and social services in six communities (Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, Williams Lake, and the Victoria Capital Regional District). This initiative started in 2008 and has demonstrated reduced recidivism; best practices learned from this initiative will be incorporated throughout the province.

Partners in Change, an inter-ministry partnership initiative with the Ministry of Justice, will improve the continuity of care for adults with mental health and substance use problems in contact with Corrections, both in custody and community corrections. Deliverables include a provincial service framework, transition protocols and information-sharing protocols between health authorities and BC Corrections.

Also, mobile crisis response teams provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis (e.g., Car 87 in Vancouver) to provide on-site psychiatric assessments, interventions and linking people to appropriate services. These mobile response teams are located in five BC communities and provide a joint health and police response to people in a mental health crisis with on-site crisis intervention, assessment and referral to appropriate services (Kamloops, Prince George, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria).

There are also 20 Assertive Community Treatment Teams in BC that work in partnership with local police to support individuals with complex care needs. Vancouver Coastal Health, West Vancouver and Vancouver Police Departments, and the RCMP are collaborating to address the needs of mental health and substance use clients in crisis when presenting to the emergency department. Island Health is also working on processes to ensure smoother transitions for individuals brought to emergency departments by police.

The Ministry has partnered with the health authorities and the Ministry of Justice’s Policing and Security Branch, to develop overarching guidelines to support the development or enhancements of local protocols between police agencies and MHSU services. These protocols will outline their respective roles and responsibilities to provide an effective, resource-efficient and integrated response to the needs of people with MHSU problems who come into contact with police.

A3 Provincial Responsibility For Fire Services Act And Regulations Squamish-Lillooet RD

WHEREAS the provincial government has enacted various building and fire code regulations for public buildings, including the *Fire Services Act* and regulations under that Act;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is considering requiring regional districts to enforce the *Fire Services Act* and its regulations in the unincorporated areas of the province, including the obligation to provide for a regular system of inspection of hotels and public buildings;

AND WHEREAS regional districts do not have the capacity to take on an inspection and enforcement role in the rural areas without significant additional financial and human resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide the resources necessary to inspect and enforce provincial safety regulations, including the *Fire Services Act* and its regulations, through either the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than pursuing options to download the responsibility for inspections and enforcement of provincial regulations on local governments.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Emergency Management BC

The current review of the existing Fire Services Act includes stakeholder input and feedback on possible options for each component of the Act. The province is committed to ensuring that public safety is addressed across BC, including the issue of compliance monitoring. The province will continue to consult with stakeholders as the process continues.

**A4 Resourcing Local Governments For Oil And
Hazardous And Noxious Substances
Emergency Planning Response**

City of Vancouver

WHEREAS oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) are being transported through or near communities in British Columbia, and proposals to increase the volume of these substances are currently being considered without adequate consideration for the risks to local communities;

AND WHEREAS the increased transport of these products translates to an increased risk to local communities from incidents such as fires, explosions and spills, with the potential to cause significant impacts to health and safety of citizens, first responders and the environment, and require the involvement of local governments to minimize the consequences to their communities;

AND WHEREAS despite their vital role in safeguarding their communities and identifying the local risks and consequences of potential incidents, local governments have not been adequately involved in risk assessment and response planning carried out by industry, project proponents and other tiers of government, and are not sufficiently resourced to participate in the risk assessment and planning process, let alone respond to the impacts of oil and HNS incidents on their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments to expand the scope of oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) risk assessment and response planning to include all impacts and consequences on local communities and governments, and introduce additional funding for the resources and locally-specific capacity building required to ensure that local governments are in the best possible position to plan for and protect communities and the environment in the event of fires, explosions, spills and related incidents as a result of increasing transportation of oil and HNS.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call upon the federal government to develop a comprehensive emergency response plan and procedure for hazardous and noxious substance spill related emergencies that includes due recognition of and compensation for the role of local government emergency response services.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED, WITH AMENDMENT AS PROPOSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

On June 15, 2015 the Ministry announced plans to implement a world-leading land-based spill regime by February 2017. Many of the new requirements would ensure that local governments are supported in preparedness, response and

recovery for spill events. The Ministry is currently engaged in detailed planning and design work that will inform the regime, including the legislation, regulations, funding model and creating a Preparedness and Response Organization. As the design phase of the project proceeds, it will include further engagement with local governments, First Nations, industry, and other stakeholders.

The requirements for the world leading spill response regime are informed by research commissioned by the province from Nuka Research which assessed the current marine spill preparedness and response capabilities for B.C.'s coastline. Further, the province has sought another report that will identify specific world leading practices.

The new world-leading regime would ensure an effective response to a spill of any hazardous material. Requirements for planning and response also include expanded roles for local governments and First Nations. This will be supported by new preparedness requirements for companies with spill risk. The requirements will include the need to have detailed spill response plans, including geographic response plans, to minimize any impacts of a potential spill. Additionally, equipment staging, trained personnel and practice drills and exercises will be required.

A5 Environmental Bill Of Rights

City of Richmond

WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are the government nearest to people and the natural environment, and therefore share a deep concern for the welfare of the natural environment and understand that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the health of individuals, families, future generations and communities;

AND WHEREAS fostering the environmental well being of the community is a municipal purpose under section 7(d) of the Community Charter and regional district purpose under section 2(d) of the Local Government Act:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia enact a provincial environmental bill of rights that:

- a) Recognizes the right of every resident to live in a healthy environment, including the right to clean air, clean water, clean food and vibrant ecosystems;
- b) Provides for public participation in decision-making respecting the environment and access to environmental information;
- c) Provides access to justice when environmental rights are infringed; and
- d) Has whistle-blower protection.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment

Government is strongly committed to maintaining a healthy environment for British Columbians. As noted in the Ministry of Environment Service Plan, protecting the environment, along with sustainable economic growth, are top government priorities.

The Ministry's position is that an environmental bill of rights is not needed in BC because the province's existing and continually evolving environmental and natural resource regulatory regimes protect the public interest. The government sets and enforces requirements, prohibitions and standards designed to protect public health and safety and the environment – the air, land, water and all other external conditions or influences under which humans, animals and plants live.

**B20 Additional Use Of Funds Collected In Lieu District of Mission
Of Parkland Contributions**

WHEREAS the Local Government Act under section 941(4) allows local governments to collect from an owner of land being subdivided monies in lieu of the provision of parkland, which is not to exceed 5% of the land value being proposed for subdivision;

AND WHEREAS the funds taken for this purpose can only be utilized for the purchase of actual parkland and not for the improvement of parkland;

AND WHEREAS monies collected in lieu of the provision of parkland are often better spent on parkland improvements such as landscaping, playground structures, etc., for new and/or existing parks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government through legislation allow local governments to utilize funds collected in lieu of parkland on subdivision approvals for parkland improvements not just for the purchase of parkland.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

Funds in lieu of parkland dedication are specifically for the acquisition of land only. This is to support a policy goal that up to 5% of all new development area is devoted to urban greenspace, which is critical to maintaining liveable and sustainable communities in BC. If some of this money is diverted to

improvements for existing parks, there would be less money for parkland acquisition thus, defeating the purpose of the policy.

The Province fully understands that there is more to a park than land. A park also requires improvements for public use and enjoyment (e.g. trails, playgrounds, picnic tables, playing fields, and parking). However, acquiring improvements is not the purpose of parkland acquisition levy. The parkland acquisition provisions are designed to ensure that sufficient green space is available for public development and use. Because developing improvements on these lands benefits the wider community, the cost of such improvements should be shared by all property owners (not just developers).

Widening the scope of section 510 (revised, RSBC 2015) of the Local Government Act has been reviewed in the past by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC), which is chaired by the Ministry and includes representatives from local government, the Province, and the development community. The DFRC concluded that local governments have other revenue tools to finance the acquisition of park improvements, and therefore they decided against expanding the parkland dedication to a wider range of services.

Local governments have a number of revenue and development tools at their disposal. Some of the revenue tools available to local governments are set out in the following documents:

Development Finance Choices Guide:

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/development_finances_choices00_guide.pdf

Parkland Acquisition Best Practices Guide:

http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/intergov_relations/library/Parkland_Acquisition_BPG.pdf

**B21 Broaden The Allowable Uses Of Corporation of Delta
 Parkland Development Cost Charges**

WHEREAS the BC government has determined that Parkland Development Cost Charges (“DCCs”) cannot be used to fund sport-related park infrastructure such as synthetic turf fields, swimming pools and arenas;

AND WHEREAS municipalities can use Parkland DCCs to provide fencing, landscaping, drainage and irrigation, trails, rest-rooms, changing rooms and playground and playing field equipment;

AND WHEREAS there is tangible evidence that new development directly impacts the demand for sport-related park infrastructure through increased

attendance at municipal recreation facilities and increased demand for playing time on municipal sports fields:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC government be requested to approve an amendment to Section 935(3)(b)(ii) of the Local Government Act to include sport-related park infrastructure as an applicable Parkland DCC capital cost.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

As the Province has mentioned in previous responses to similar UBCM resolutions, widening the scope of Parkland development Cost Charges (DCCs) to include major sport infrastructure (like pools, all-season fields, arenas, and gyms) has been reviewed by the Development Finance Review Committee (DFRC). After this detailed review, all parties on the DFRC (Province, local government and developers) unanimously agreed not to expand the scope of the parkland acquisition DCC.

The DFRC came to this conclusion based on the principle of 'user pay'. The cost of a core service should be paid by those who benefit from it. New community parks primarily service new development. Thus, the purpose of the Parkland DCC is to acquire land for community parks and provide basic improvements (like fencing, trails and playground equipment). Whereas, major athletic infrastructure (like an arena) benefits the entire community and therefore should be paid by the entire community through the existing tax base.

Determining a reasonably accurate "benefit factor" (i.e. cost allocation between new and existing development) for such athletic infrastructure would be very difficult and highly subjective. This may result in prohibitively high DCCs, which could discourage new development.

Thus, the Province supports the decision of the DFRC and is not prepared to revisit at this time.

B22 Infrastructure Cost Sharing Formula

City of Langley

WHEREAS local governments have historically acknowledged the economic value of transportation infrastructure projects of national and regional importance and participated in cost sharing initiatives with other orders of government (provincial and federal) through a one-third/one-third/one-third formula relationship;

AND WHEREAS the assignment of one-third local cost absorption has greater per capita impact to residents of local regions with smaller populations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments be requested to assess the per capita impact of nationally and regionally valued transportation infrastructure and to revise the current one-third/one-third/one-third formula to reflect the inequities for smaller communities with identified essential projects within their boundaries.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Province of British Columbia appreciates local governments' concerns about the challenge with small communities finding adequate financing mechanisms to support regionally scoped transit projects. The Ministry continues to work in delivering funding programs that meet the needs of local governments in British Columbia.

As the Ministry develops, or participates in the development of, capital funding programs, the Ministry is aware of the challenges of small local governments, and as such, analyses the cost-share formula in the development of all programs. With a finite amount of funding available, the Ministry tries to balance not only the financial challenges faced by small local governments, but also the need to maximize the benefits of these capital programs to as many local governments as possible. Changing the cost-sharing formula may equate to fewer communities that ultimately receive funding support.

While the Ministry is not committed to any revision with respect to cost sharing for programs for which the Ministry is responsible, the Ministry is aware of the issues and is committed to developing programs that are fair, practical and meet the various challenges faced by local governments.

With federal-provincial programs, such as the New Building Canada Fund, cost sharing formulas are set by the federal government and must be adhered to. There is not an opportunity to change these formulas which are set in federal-provincial agreements.

The Province signed a renewed Gas Tax Agreement in May 2014, which will see \$2.7 billion flow to local governments over the next 10 years. That is almost 3 times greater than the entire New Building Canada Fund allocation to BC. And under this agreement there is no requirement for matching funding, for either the direct allocation Community Works Fund or the pooled Strategic Priorities Fund.

The Province is awaiting more information on any new federal infrastructure programs from the federal government, including the federal government cost sharing percentage.

**B28 Independent BC Review Of Trans
Mountain Expansion Project**

City of Vancouver

WHEREAS the current National Energy Board (NEB) assessment of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project has proven to be deeply flawed and undemocratic;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed the City of Victoria's emergency resolution LR2 in September 2014 calling on the Environmental Assessment Office of the Province of British Columbia to undertake its own environmental assessment process of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and withdraw from the 2010 Equivalency Agreement with the NEB, but no response has been received to date from the Province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in response to 2014 UBCM resolution LR2, the Province of British Columbia withdraw from the 2010 Equivalency Agreement with the National Energy Board and undertake its own environmental assessment process of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, with meaningful participation by First Nations, local governments and all interested British Columbians.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment Office

The Province is committed to ensuring that the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, if it does go ahead, satisfies the highest standards of environmental protection and protects British Columbia from financial and environmental risk. Any heavy oil pipeline project must satisfy the Province's five conditions before B.C. will consider supporting it.

B.C.'s minimum requirements for any heavy oil pipeline are:

- Successful completion of an environmental assessment;*
- Establishment of world-leading marine oil spill response, prevention and recovery systems for BC's coastline and ocean;*
- Establishment of world-leading land oil spill prevention, response and recovery systems;*
- Legal requirements regarding Aboriginal and treaty rights are addressed and First Nations are provided with the opportunities, information and resources to participate and benefit from the project;*
- BC receives a fair share of the fiscal and economic benefits.*

The Province was an intervener in the NEB's review of the project and actively represented the interests of the people of B.C. Interveners could submit Information Requests, file written evidence, bring motions and submit final arguments. The Province reviewed the information that was filed by Kinder Morgan, and filed a number of information requests in order to obtain the information it requires. The Province also met regularly with Kinder Morgan to

ensure that all aspects of their proposal were understood and to make issues of importance to British Columbians known to the company.

This review was run entirely under the authority of the National Energy Board. The Board set the process for the review.

*The assessment for Trans Mountain was subject to the 2010 Equivalency Agreement between the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the National Energy Board, and, as per this agreement, the environmental assessment completed by the Board would be equivalent to the provincial assessment under the Environmental Assessment Act. The Province supports the principle of one project, one assessment, and has therefore sought to reduce unnecessary regulatory duplication. As a result of the Equivalency Agreement, EAO did not conduct an environmental assessment or issue an environmental assessment certificate for interprovincial pipeline projects. However, in late January 2016 the BC Supreme Court in *Coastal First Nations v. British Columbia* (2016) held that while the Equivalency Agreement remains valid, the Minister of Environment and Minister of Natural Gas Development are required to decide whether to issue a provincial environmental assessment certificate for projects subject to the agreement, must consider whether any provincial conditions should be included in the certificate, and must consult with aboriginal groups.*

Therefore, EAO will be conducting the remaining provincial environmental assessment process based on the Board's panel report and any supplemental information provided by Kinder Morgan. In consideration of this information, EAO will be consulting with aboriginal groups and identifying any provincial environmental assessment certificate conditions to recommend to provincial Ministers. If an environmental assessment certificate is issued by provincial Ministers, any conditions they attach would become legally binding requirements for Trans Mountain.

B41 Proposed Closure Of Burrard Thermal Plant

City of Port Moody

WHEREAS the City of Port Moody has been informed by the Government of British Columbia that the 900 MW (megawatt) natural gas-fired Burrard Thermal Generating Station in Port Moody is scheduled for closure in 2016, a plant which can provide an essential service by generating electricity to meet peak electrical loads in British Columbia during the winter months, is located in the lower mainland (the load centre of British Columbia) as an important strategic asset and can provide backup electricity in the event of low water levels behind BC Hydro dams or the failure of lengthy transmission lines due to forest fires, ice storms or similar causes;

AND WHEREAS the annual operating cost of Burrard Thermal, which has the lowest nitrogen oxides emissions of any natural gas standby plant in Canada, is approximately \$20 million, as opposed to the \$55 million presently being paid by BC Hydro to keep a smaller 275 MW natural gas-fired plant on standby in the outlying community of Campbell River;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan (2013) indicates a possible shortage of capacity (even in the absence of new electricity-supported Liquefied Natural Gas) as early as 2018, a shortage which is proposed to be met by constructing new natural gas plants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Government of BC and BC Hydro to keep the Burrard Thermal Generating Station open until at the very least a review by the British Columbia Utilities Commission is conducted on the closing of Burrard Thermal and the construction of Site C Dam, with the end goal being that this facility be powered by a renewable energy source.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy and Mines

Since 2010, Burrard Thermal has been producing less than 100 gigawatt hours per year, which is about 0.2 per cent of BC Hydro's total energy requirement. With the installation of additional hydroelectric units at Mica and completion of the new Interior to Lower Mainland transmission line, BC Hydro will no longer require Burrard as a source of backup generating capacity.

To put Burrard into a fully operating generation facility would cost roughly \$400 million. Even with these investments, Burrard would not operate very efficiently and as a result would be used very little. Shutting down Burrard Thermal as a generating station will save BC Hydro customers \$14 million per year, taking pressure off rates.

B45 Shelter Allowances And Rent Subsidies Fraser Valley RD

WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UBCM recognize that homelessness is a national concern requiring long-term solutions;

AND WHEREAS the 2014 Fraser Valley Regional District Homelessness Survey Report recognizes that homelessness in general is directly related to unaffordable rental rates, the erosion of the social safety net, and insufficient social housing inventory;

AND WHEREAS the Fall 2014 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation British Columbia Rental Report identifies the average rent for a one bedroom apartment in British Columbia as \$953 while at the same time the provincial shelter assistance rate for an employable one parent family is \$375 and has not increased since 2007;

AND WHEREAS there is an increased risk of homelessness for households spending over 50% of their income on housing costs:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to increase income assistance shelter allowances and expand and lengthen rent subsidies as part of homelessness outreach and support funding from BC Housing.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

We understand that people transition out of homelessness in different ways, and provincial rent subsidies are part of the housing programs available that help make that transition.

To respond to local rental markets changes, subsidy limits were increased for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and Rental Assistance Programs (RAP) in April 2014.

- Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) recipients now receive an average subsidy of \$179 per month up from \$150. SAFER helps approximately 20,000 seniors households to pay their rent.*
- Rental Assistance Program (RAP) recipients now receive an average subsidy of \$404 per month up from \$370. RAP helps more than 10,000 families in BC.*

The BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program is an income- and asset-tested program, intended to assist people temporarily while they find work and support those who are not able to fully participate in the workforce. The payment of assistance is based on ongoing financial eligibility, which includes a number of factors including family size, living situation and the applicant's assets and income from all sources. People on income or disability assistance are eligible for provincially subsidized housing.

We understand that people would like an increase in rates and that is something we continue to look at.

B46 A BC Plan To End Homelessness

City of Langley

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia face a growing challenge of homelessness and local governments have been forced to deal with homelessness issues that fall under the mandate of the Province of British Columbia, including but not limited to health care, housing and immediate access to support programs, on an ad hoc and fragmented basis;

AND WHEREAS various pertinent ministries, local governments, social service agencies, health authorities, housing authorities, and police forces are allocating significant resources to dealing with homelessness issues, which often stem from mental health and/or substance abuse issues, in an uncoordinated manner, resulting in duplication and overlapping of efforts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia develop a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable province-wide homelessness plan that sets out a series of actions, timelines and financial requirements aimed at ending homelessness in the province, while supporting community-led initiatives on homelessness, in a compassionate, dignified and fiscally responsible manner;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM, through FCM, ask the federal government to agree to a federally funded national housing strategy.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

We recognize that affordable housing is key to poverty-reduction efforts and lowering the costs of healthcare, criminal justice services and social services.

The recently updated provincial housing strategy, Housing Matters BC 2014, reconfirms the Province of British Columbia's commitment to helping vulnerable people find a way out of homelessness with access to affordable housing and appropriate supports.

Since 2001, we have invested more than \$4.4 billion to provide affordable housing for low income individuals, seniors and families. In addition, the number of provincially-subsidized apartments and shelter spaces available for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness has more than doubled to over 13,200. This year, more than 102,500 B.C. households will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.

B55 BC Transit Funding Freeze

LMLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS direction from the recently announced 2015 provincial budget and BC Transit's 2015/16 to 2017/18 Service Plan is to freeze operating budgets at 2015/2016 Annual Operating Agreement levels;

AND WHEREAS many local governments across British Columbia are building momentum and making great strides in improving access to transit;

AND WHEREAS the freezing of operating budgets may undermine these efforts:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that UBCM urge the province of British Columbia and BC Transit to reconsider its funding freeze at 2015/16 levels and renew its commitment to transit by restoring previously projected operating funding for the 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 fiscal years.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Provincial operating funding to BC Transit increased by 45% between 2008 and 2015 and remains the highest per capita in Canada. The provincial government is further increasing its share of operating funding to BC Transit by \$12.7 million over the next three fiscal years, including \$1.6 million to support improved services along the Highway 16 corridor, and will fully meet its share of BC Transit's capital funding requirements over that time frame.

The British Columbia Transit Regulation was amended in 2015 to allow BC Transit to keep savings in provincial funding from one year – for example, from lower fuel prices – to offset cost increases in following years.

Every part of government is looking for ways to be more efficient and to more effectively use taxpayer dollars. BC Transit will also be working with local governments to develop strategies for service innovations, cost savings and increased revenues.

The Ministry of Finance is undertaking a Crown Agency Review of BC Transit to look for opportunities for cost savings and new revenues. BC Transit will be expected to implement recommendations and use any efficiency savings to support improved transit services in our communities.

B61 Health Impact Assessments

LMLGA Executive

WHEREAS the BC Health Officers Council is calling for Health Impact Assessments to be carried out as part of all Environmental Assessments conducted in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Health Impact Assessment must be considered for all reviewable projects under the BC Environmental Assessment Act, and that a complete HIA be performed and provincially funded as part of the project review process;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Assessment Office work with the Health Officers Council and UBCM to develop the necessary guidance documents to support the implementation of HIA in the assessment of reviewable projects.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Environmental Assessment Office

The BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) manages the assessment of the potential environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects that may occur as a result of proposed major projects. Some projects are also subject to federal environmental assessments.

EAO sets the requirements for environmental assessments on a project-by-project basis, and project proponents conduct and fund the required studies. Human health risk assessments are commonly conducted as part of environmental assessments. EAO works with technical experts from provincial and federal government agencies to assist in setting the requirements and reviewing studies conducted by proponents. Agencies may include Provincial Health Authorities, Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada and BC Ministry of Environment.

EAO is agreeable to working with other parties to support a consistent approach to health impact assessment across the province.

**B65 Communications Regarding Drainage
 Maintenance**

District of Kent

WHEREAS a network of drainage ditches has been constructed in the Lower Mainland to channel storm water, maintain the productivity of agricultural land and protect rural and urban areas from flooding;

AND WHEREAS these ditches, to be effective, need to be cleaned on a regular basis due to heavy vegetation growth and sedimentation, and require approval from the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff who have over exercised unreasonable methods of ditch cleaning creating additional costs for property owners:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government (through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource

Operations) confirm that the maintenance of ditches is recognized as a priority by reducing the time required for Water Act adjudication and by improving relationships with local governments, thus ensuring that provincial staff are available for proactive and timely communications during the approval process to reduce operating costs related to ditch and drainage maintenance in order to best improve agricultural production.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

While public safety remains the Province's first priority with respect to flood mitigation, we are also responsible for ensuring drainage and ditch maintenance is environmentally responsible and does not negatively impact endangered species.

The ministry works closely with local municipalities and landowners to get maintenance applications resolved in a reasonable time and has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the District of Kent and key landowners to increase collaboration on drainage maintenance. We will continue to work with Kent and other municipalities to improve the quality and timeliness of applications and approvals for these works.

**B88 Change The Requirements For District of North Vancouver
Public Notification**

WHEREAS the Local Government Act and the Community Charter require that all public notices be published in a newspaper;

AND WHEREAS printed newspapers are no longer the only or most effective means of giving public notice:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the provincial government amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to allow statutorily required public notices to be published using a variety of media channels, including but not limited to: newspapers, social media, web sites and online advertising, as long as reasonably equivalent or better reach than that of solely using printed newspapers can be demonstrated.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

The Community Charter contains provisions for a degree of flexibility regarding the statutory requirement to publish a notice. Section 94(7) provides the option for a local government to broaden the types of media used to publish a notice – that is, a local government must still publish the notice in a newspaper, but may in addition, publish the notice in another way (e.g. on the internet).

Section 94(4) of the Community Charter also addresses situations where publishing a notice in a newspaper is not practical. For example, in a small community without a local paper, a community could set alternative means to satisfy the statutory requirement to publish a notice.

Legislative amendments on the publication of public notices are not being considered at this time.

B109 HOUSING FIRST FUNDING

City of New Westminster

WHEREAS the federal government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy has recently initiated a significant program shift by placing much greater emphasis on ‘Housing First’;

AND WHEREAS this program shift has redistributed funds and resulted in tightened eligibility criteria which has served to limit access to programs for those not meeting the criteria;

AND WHEREAS this redistribution is causing funding reductions in housing outreach, referral and advocacy programs to people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, including vulnerable seniors, low-income families, and women and children fleeing abuse:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments provide Housing First funding as an enhancement to important community programs and not at the expense of those programs.

CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED

RESPONSE: Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unilateral federal program.

Through the provincial housing strategy, Housing Matters BC, the provincial government is committed to funding a comprehensive range of housing options and support services to help homeless individuals transition out of

homelessness.

In Housing Matters BC, the province adopts the Housing First approach by providing housing and support services without treatment expectations, in social housing and the private market.

In 2015/16, British Columbia and Canada will spend \$211.4 million on emergency shelter and housing to assist approximately 13,950 individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.