

## Lower Mainland Local Government Association

### Responses to 2014 Resolutions

#### 2014 A2 Medical Emergency Service Alarm Calls Cost Recovery Langley City

Whereas the number of first responder or medical emergency service alarm (MESA) calls that the City of Langley responds to represents 78 per cent of all calls received by the Langley City Fire Rescue Service (LCFRS);

And whereas the City of Langley incur significant direct costs as a result of responding to MESA calls to compliment the services provided by BC Ambulance Service (BCAS);

And whereas the intermediate patient care can greatly enhance patient outcomes and significantly reduce short term and long term costs to the overall health care system and the City of Langley acknowledges the community will benefit from the LCFRS supporting BCAS to provide first responder services to the patient while the ambulance is en-route:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC work with UBCM to develop a fair and equitable cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to medical first responder calls.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

#### ***Provincial response:***

##### *Ministry of Health*

*Government values the role that first responders play in pre-hospital care and recognizes the importance to taxpayers that we use our emergency response resources appropriately, whether it is in local or provincial government.*

*Participation in the First Responder program is voluntary. Some municipalities have chosen to have first responders continue to attend both urgent and routine (non-emergency) calls, but others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.*

*BC Emergency Health Services has been actively reaching out to concerned municipalities over the last several months and will continue to consult with local governments and first responders throughout the Province about the changes to the Resource Allocation Plan.*

*Additionally, BC Emergency Health Services has several working groups in place that were created to help resolve concerns that may arise for first responders with respect to*

*the services they provide. They also provide reimbursement for initial training costs for new first responder agencies, as well as reimbursement for all medical supplies for first responder agencies serving small communities (under 25,000).*

**2014 B5 Restorative Justice Program Funding**

**Chilliwack**

Whereas the Restorative Justice program provides a great value to communities and to the provincial government by resolving certain criminal incidents outside of the formal criminal justice system, therefore reducing provincial costs of the court system;

And whereas current provincial funding to the program is limited:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government consider greater funding to cost share in the Restorative Justice programs across the province.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Justice*

*Through the Community Accountability Program, the Province of British Columbia provides funding to community-based restorative justice programs to support volunteer training, volunteer recognition and to offset administrative costs. In addition, programs may be eligible for enrolment in the Province's Master Insurance Program.*

*The Province has also supported the delivery of responsive and effective community-based restorative justice approaches in BC by providing training opportunities for restorative justice service providers.*

*In May 2013, the Ministry of Justice funded a series of regional trainings for contracted Community Accountability Programs delivered in partnership with the Community Justice Initiatives Association. The training goals included ensuring consistent, quality service delivery taking into account victims' needs and issues and increasing capacity to accept referrals of increased diversity and complexity.*

*In May 2014, with funding leveraged from the federal Department of Justice, key professionals from police-based victim service programs and community-based restorative justice programs across BC came together to participate in a two-day symposium on building stronger relationships and identifying best practices to build stronger relationships between police-based victim service programs and restorative justice programs.*

**2014 B7 Licenses Issued Under Medical Marijuana  
Access Regulations**

**Abbotsford**

Whereas the City of Abbotsford and other local governments, and their residents are concerned about public safety regarding marijuana grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, certified by Health Canada, in operation within the boundaries of local governments;

And whereas Health Canada, as the regulator of grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, and who is responsible to for regular monitoring and enforcement of Health Canada Regulations to those grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations to ensure compliance with its regulations, including any other conditions of specific licences as may be applicable;

And whereas Health Canada has not provided addresses of existing locations of any grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, and this absence of information makes it difficult to ensure the safety of local government residents from life, building, fire safety and police perspectives:

Therefore be it resolved that in light of the changes to Health Canada's Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, as of April 1, 2014, that UBCM petition Health Canada to provide addresses of all grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations in all local government jurisdictions to permit these properties to be inspected to ensure safety of all residents and to bring the properties into compliance with relevant provincial and local government regulations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM petition Health Canada to undertake ongoing and regular monitoring and enforcement of all relevant legislation and guidelines of grow operations licenced under Medical Marijuana Access Regulations to ensure compliance with regulations, including any other conditions of specific licences as may be applicable.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 B23 Derelict Vessels**

**Squamish**

Whereas in 2012 UBCM endorsed a resolution to call upon the federal and provincial governments to implement a derelict vessel removal program modelled after the Washington State program and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wrecked vessels in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia;

And whereas the District of Squamish and other coastal communities continue to have issues with derelict vessels that are causing harm to the coastal marine environment:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly encourage the federal and provincial governments to immediately implement a derelict vessel removal program modelled after the Washington State program, and to designate the Canadian Coast Guard as the receiver of wrecked vessels in the case of every abandoned or derelict vessel in the waters of coastal British Columbia.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*

*Dealing with unauthorized float homes, abandoned vessels and derelict structures near public waterways is a complex, time-consuming and costly process that often involves multiple agencies and levels of government. Government does not have the authority to make the kind of regulatory changes sought by this resolution.*

*Federal authorities are the lead agency regarding structures or vessels that obstruct maritime navigation or pose a threat to spawning beds or the environment. When a vessel runs aground or sinks on provincial Crown land, federal authorities remain the lead agency. If the structure in question is not recognized as a vessel, then Government has jurisdiction to act. Often, provincial and federal agencies work together to deal with abandoned vessels on a priority basis, beginning with those that pose an immediate threat to navigation, safety or the environment.*

*Government has worked with other stakeholders on a paper clarifying the roles of federal, provincial and local authorities in addressing abandoned structures and derelict vessels. This will help agencies encountering challenges with derelict vessels to determine an appropriate response. The paper is publicly available on the Ministry's website:*

*[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/land\\_tenures/derelict\\_vessels.html](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/land_tenures/derelict_vessels.html)*

**2014 B31 Trades and Technology Skills Training**

**Delta**

Whereas there is expected to be a significant growth in job opportunities in British Columbia in the next decade, with a specific demand for trades and technology occupations;

And whereas the provincial government has implemented a 10-year action plan for skills training for youth and older workers seeking to retrain;

And whereas the 2014 provincial budget included no additional funding for skills training:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to provide a funding commitment to enhance and improve training facilities and expand opportunities for youth training in trades and technology.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

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

*The Government of British Columbia is working with our partners in education and industry to make sure our education and training programs are aligned with demands of our future labour market. Government currently invests almost \$7.6 billion each year in education and training. Re-engineering our system doesn't mean spending more, it means targeting more of the substantial resources already available to meet labour market priorities.*

*Through the Skills for Jobs Blueprint government is making the most effective use of existing resources and future investments and encouraging more students to choose training that leads to high demand jobs and to consider relocating to parts of B.C. where work and training are readily available.*

*By 2017/2018, 25 per cent of provincial operating grants to public post-secondary institutions (\$270 million) will be aligned to training that matches with high demand occupations and jobs. The expanded BC Access Grant makes trades training more accessible for students in financial need, offering eligible students up to \$16,400 in non-repayable funding to study in-demand foundation trades programs.*

*In 2014, government invested \$6.8 million to fund an additional 1,424 critical trades seats at 14 public post-secondary institutions around B.C. In 2015, these new seats will be coming online, making it even easier for individuals to get the training for in-demand jobs.*

*The Ministries of Education and Advanced Education have budgeted \$585M in capital expenditures in 2014/15 alone. Through the Blueprint, \$185M is being directed over three years toward trades training infrastructure and equipment, with construction already underway on two new multi-million trades training facilities on Vancouver Island and in the Okanagan to ensure students are learning these new skills on up-to-date equipment.*

*New resources like Find Your Fit and updated WorkBC.ca tools are getting more British Columbians, particularly youth, interested and aware of in-demand occupations like the skilled trades and efforts to double the number of ACE-IT seats will help students get training, experience and credits before they graduate high school. As well, through the Canada – BC Job Fund, \$65 million is going annually, over the next six years, to leverage employer investments in training and to increase the workforce participation of underrepresented groups.*

**2014 B34 Concurrent Disorders and Chronic Offenders**

**Delta**

Whereas many chronic offenders suffer from both mental health and addiction issues (concurrent disorders);

And whereas the corrections system is not equipped to deal with people who have concurrent disorders which result in criminal activity;

And whereas chronic offenders suffering from concurrent disorders are repeatedly involved with the criminal justice system with little or no chance of rehabilitation:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from concurrent disorders to avoid becoming chronic offenders, including integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Health*

*The Province of British Columbia has made it a priority to build a comprehensive system of mental health and substance use (MHSU) services throughout the province, making record investments totalling \$1.3 billion annually.*

*The Ministry of Health (Ministry), health authorities and the Ministry of Justice are committed to addressing the needs of individuals with MHSU problems in contact with the justice system through a collaborative and integrated response. BC Corrections attempts to link offenders to community MHSU resources and has partnered in a number of integration projects.*

*The Ministry has partnered with health authorities and the Ministry of Justice, Policing and Security Branch, to develop overarching guidelines for a provincial protocol for police agencies and MHSU services on 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. In addition, the project will identify challenges and mitigation strategies to better support an individual with a MHSU problem when arrested and charged with a criminal offense.*

*Additionally, Healthy Minds, Healthy People: A 10 Year Plan to Address MHSU in BC includes an action to develop guidelines, service protocols and tools to ensure that adults with a mental illness and/or problematic substance use, who are in contact with the criminal justice system, have access to appropriate transition and support services.*

## **2014 B40 Child Poverty**

**Delta**

Whereas British Columbia has the highest child poverty rate in Canada, with one in five children living in poverty;

And whereas British Columbia's child poverty rate has been higher than the Canadian average since 1999, and the highest of all provinces most years in the last decade:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to adopt a comprehensive poverty reduction plan with legislated targets and timelines, and a goal to eradicate child poverty in British Columbia by 2020.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

### ***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Children and Family Development*

*No government wants to see any child or family living in poverty and we are committed to working collaboratively across the ministries, non-governmental organizations and communities to find innovative ways for addressing poverty.*

*Addressing the issue of poverty means getting to the root causes of why people cannot make ends meet and that actions are what make a real difference for families. This government is addressing poverty by 1) growing the economy and creating jobs through the BC Jobs Plan; and 2) targeting supports to the individuals and families who need them.*

*British Columbia has already implemented many of the changes called for by formalized poverty plans in other jurisdictions, including increasing the minimum wage, creating affordable housing and eliminating or reducing MSP premiums for low-income families.*

*Through a partnership with UBCM's Healthy Communities Committee, we are working with seven communities to create locally-developed poverty action plans that are*

*complemented by the targeted supports and services we are providing at a provincial level. When the projects launched in May 2012, UBCM recommended the participating communities – Cranbrook, Kamloops, New Westminster, Port Hardy, Prince George, Stewart and Surrey – reflect a mix of BC’s metro, urban, rural and remote communities. On May 13, 2014, the BC government and UBCM released a report highlighting the progress of the pilot projects and next steps.*

*Acting as a poverty liaison, Fraser-Nicola MLA, Jackie Tegart, is visiting each pilot community and work with all levels of government and community organizations to move these plans forward. The success of these projects is dependent on the partnerships between the provincial and local governments, community organizations, service providers and business representatives.*

*Poverty is everyone’s responsibility and we all have a significant role to play in reducing poverty across BC.*

**2014 B46 Development of a New Long Term Federal Plan  
to Fix Canada’s Housing Crunch**

**Richmond  
Burnaby  
Prince George  
Port Moody**

Whereas a stable and secure housing system that creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens;

And whereas the high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion;

And whereas housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians’ personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk;

And whereas those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it hard to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity;

And whereas an inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire;



And whereas coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies;

And whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch,” calling on the federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada’s housing future;

And whereas FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign;

And whereas BC local governments have continuing housing needs to support a diverse range of residents to access affordable and appropriate housing choices, such as specialized subsidized rental with supports, affordable rental, and entry level homeownership, that can only be met through the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the FCM housing campaign and urge the minister of employment and social development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 B47    Suspension of Canada Post Home Delivery Service                      Burnaby**

Whereas local governments have a direct interest in the security and stability of Canada’s postal system, both in terms of municipal corporate operations and services available to citizens;

And whereas the service delivery changes would directly impact local governments, including in relation to land-use policy, requirements for municipal land and rights-of-ways, infrastructure for paving, lighting, and waste management, and public safety considerations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government and Canada Post, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to suspend the Canada Post delivery changes until a sustained, substantive consultation

process with local governments and the public is completed and identified issues are addressed.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 B50    Changes to BC Ambulance Service  
Resource Allocations**

**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) within the Ministry of Health made the unilateral decision to change service delivery for the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) has created an unprecedented downloading of costs and risk onto Local Government first responders;

And whereas the October 2013 changes by BCAS to the Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) has created a negative impact on response time and patient safety:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC develop an effective, well-integrated, patient-centred emergency response service for our citizens provided by fire and rescue services and BC Ambulance Service working together.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Health*

*The Province of British Columbia appreciates your concern for fiscal accountability, as your local governments continue to determine how to best allocate funding and resources in terms of responding to urgent and routine calls.*

*The Province is committed to effective, well-integrated, patient-centered emergency response services. Since the changes were implemented, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has been able to respond to patients with urgent care or injuries one minute faster, on average. Patients with non-urgent conditions are waiting approximately six minutes longer for an ambulance.*

*Municipalities and fire departments were invited to submit any concerns regarding the Resource Allocation Plan (RAP) for operational and clinical review. Upon reviewing the almost 140 cases submitted, BCEHS was able to determine that patients received the response appropriate for their medical condition and that no negative patient outcomes*

*could be attributed to the changes. BCEHS continues to identify possible performance improvement opportunities that may enhance the quality of a patient's experience of care.*

*BCEHS has been actively reaching out to concerned municipalities over the last several months and will continue to consult with local governments and first responders throughout the Province about the changes to the RAP. BCEHS is committed to providing timely, high quality and safe pre-hospital care for patients throughout BC while using public resources in an effective and efficient manner.*

## **2014 B57 Regulation of Party Buses and Limousines**

**Vancouver**

Whereas:

1. A series of incidents, including the death last year of a Surrey teenager found dying at a gas station, have highlighted the lack of appropriate regulation for the limousine and party bus industry;
2. Responsible industry operators have themselves, supported by the regional taxi industry, called on the Province to impose appropriate regulations through the Passenger Transportation Board to regulate the industry, ensuring the safety of customers; and
3. The Minister of Transportation promised action last year which has not materialized:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government, through the Minister of Transportation, act on the recommendations of the industry and implement appropriate regulations for the limousine and party bus sector.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

### ***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*

*The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is not contemplating regulatory changes to address "party buses" at this time. Laws already exist that prohibit open liquor and alcohol consumption in vehicles and laws that prohibit underage drinking. Tickets can and have been given to drivers and passengers when they are found violating the law. There are also fines and penalties that can be imposed by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation (the Registrar), including suspending or cancelling the passenger transportation licence, if a "party bus" company is not operating within the law.*

*The Registrar met with industry representatives on May 20, 2014, to strongly reinforce their legal requirements and expectations for full compliance. This included the elimination of any references to open alcohol on their web pages and in any advertising. Industry has responded to this directive and a number of companies have revised their websites to make the “no alcohol” message more prominent.*

*The Ministry continues to work with police who inspect buses and check for violations of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, specifically under-age drinking and illegal drugs. Police have and will continue to ticket those people who they catch breaking the law, including those consuming alcohol in an unlicensed public place. Police are encouraged to report all violations to the Registrar.*

**2014 B62 Derelict Vessels and Marine Environment**

**Squamish**

Whereas many vessels in the coastal marine environment fail to comply with the federal regulations regarding the discharge of effluent from marine vessels;

And whereas the sewage discharge is compromising the marine environment in coastal communities and is harmful to swimmers, boaters, fish and wildlife:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities strongly encourage the federal government to actively enforce the federal environmental regulations with respect to discharge of sewage in the coastal marine environment.

**CONVENTION DECISION: ENDORSED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 B69 National Dementia Strategy**

**Burnaby  
New Westminster**

Whereas Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are progressive, degenerative diseases of the brain that cause thinking and memory to become seriously impaired;

And whereas Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias most often occur in people over the age of 65 but can strike adults at any age;

And whereas Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias affect more than 500,000 Canadians currently and that this figure is projected to reach 1.1 million within a generation;

And whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias also takes their toll on hundreds of thousands of families and care partners;

And whereas an estimated further three million Canadians face the burden and challenges of providing care for those suffering with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias;

And whereas there is no known cause or cure for this devastating illness;

And whereas the cost related to the health care system is in the billions and only going to increase, at a time when our health care system is already facing enormous financial challenges;

And whereas Canada, unlike many countries, does not have a national dementia strategy;

And whereas there is an urgent need to plan and raise awareness and understanding about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias for the sake of improving the quality of life of the people it touches;

And whereas MP Claude Gravelle, Nickel Belt, has introduced Bill C-356 – An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Dementia, as he works for broad, all party and non-partisan support for an issue that touches us all, and his legislation calls for a national plan that includes the development of strategies in primary health care, in health promotion and prevention of illness, in community development, in building community capacity and care partner engagement, investments in research and other (advisory board, objectives, investment in research, and caregivers and more):

Therefore be it resolved that all levels of government and the Federation of Municipalities adopt a national dementia strategy, and urge all citizens of our communities to become more aware and engaged concerning the far-reaching effects of this devastating disease.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED AND REFERRED TO FCM**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Health*

*As the prevalence of dementia continues to rise worldwide, a number of countries have released national dementia strategies. Similarly, Provinces and Territories have developed or are in the process of developing a dementia strategy/framework. At the federal level, the 2013 Speech from the Throne made a commitment to renew investments in health research to address the growing prevalence of dementia and related illnesses.*

*Discussion of a national dementia strategy for Canada has gained some momentum; however, at this time, no decision has been made to proceed. At the May 2014 Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health, Federal/Provincial/Territorial Deputy Ministers agreed to have a discussion on a national dementia strategy in the upcoming October 2, 2014, Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Meeting.*

*Additionally, in November 2012, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) launched its Dementia Action Plan:*

*<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2012/dementia-action-plan.pdf>*

*Notable accomplishments from the Dementia Action Plan include:*

- Updated HealthLink BC, SeniorsBC, and Home and Community Care websites and print resources with information on brain health, planning for healthy aging and living with dementia.*
- Expansion of the Alzheimer Society of BC's First Link® Program, which provides connections to learning, services and support to individuals diagnosed with dementia and their families.*
- Health care providers who work in residential care facilities with people who have dementia are being trained with the P.I.E.C.E.S. program, which provides a systematic framework for detection, assessment and care planning using a person-centred approach.*
- The 48/6 Model of Care for hospitalized seniors is being used in hospitals across BC. The 48/6 model focuses on screening and assessment in six key care areas and the development of a personalized care plan in 48 hours.*
- A funding partnership is supporting a new BC Alzheimer's Research Award and the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health.*

*The Ministry is now in the process of refreshing the Dementia Action Plan into a three-year plan, which is expected to be completed early in 2015 with implementation to begin in 2015/16. The refreshed plan will build on successes from the existing plan and align with priorities identified in the Ministry's key planning document, Setting Priorities for the BC Health System (2014). Based on a review of local and international best practices, a leading practice framework will be established to guide additional actions.*

**2014 B80 Funding for Retrofitting Older Multi-family Wood-frame Dwellings with Fire Suppressing Sprinkler Systems New Westminster**

Whereas many communities in Canada are home to older wood frame multi-family dwellings;

And whereas these buildings provide a large inventory of affordable housing in our communities;

And whereas many of these buildings were constructed prior to the mandatory implementation of fire suppressing sprinkling systems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities work with senior levels of government in an effort to have infrastructure funding made available to building owners, including care facilities, so that these buildings can be retrofitted with sprinkling systems;

And be it further resolved that this be accomplished with minimal impact to the residents.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing*

*The BC Building Code does not require that existing buildings conform retroactively to new Code requirements, such as requiring sprinkler systems. If a residential building is converted to a care home or other use, the most recent requirements of the BC Building Code will apply.*

*The Province of British Columbia supports the consistent application of the BC Building Code as the minimum level of acceptable safety throughout British Columbia.*

**2014 B82    Comprehensive Pipeline and Energy Transport Plan                      Burnaby**

Whereas on 2013 December 16, Kinder Morgan submitted an application to the National Energy Board for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project;

And whereas the proposed expansion project in the existing dense urban context represents an intensification of related risks and impacts for Burnaby and the broader Metro Vancouver area, with the benefits distributed elsewhere on a regional, provincial and national basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal government and National Energy Board, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and other avenues as appropriate, to oppose Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline system expansion application;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments, through their appropriate and respective roles, to develop, in consultation with local governments, First Nations, and members of the public, a comprehensive pipeline and energy transport plan, including adequately funded provisions for emergency response, for the movement of related goods.

**CONVENTION DECISION: NOT ENDORSED**

**2014 B90 Groundwater Use Determination Under the BC Contaminated Sites Regulation**

**Delta**

Whereas in 2011, the Ministry of Environment issued a technical guidance document that changed how a site's groundwater use was determined in the context of contaminated sites remediation;

And whereas this document requires all sites within BC to begin with the assumption that groundwater will need to be remediated to the drinking water standard which is the most stringent standard, regardless of historical or current groundwater use which is adding delays and costs to the remediation process;

And whereas there are areas in the province where groundwater is not used for drinking due to a number of factors including the natural characteristics of the groundwater and the existence of a reliable supply of potable water through municipal distribution system:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to initiate discussions with interested municipalities to exempt areas where groundwater is not used, and will not be used in the future, as a drinking water source in the context of the Contaminated Sites Regulation.

**CONVENTION DECISION: NOT ENDORSED**

**2014 B94 Benchmarking Tools for Building Energy Use**

**Vancouver**

Whereas:

1. a study by the United States Environmental Protection Agency has shown that energy benchmarking has resulted in an average 7% reduction in energy use of participating buildings over a period of 3 years;
2. on September 24, 2013 Vancouver City Council endorsed: F. THAT as part of a comprehensive strategy on building retrofit to enable reaching Greenest City GHG goals, Council direct City staff to develop recommendations for Council consideration on energy reporting requirements for larger existing buildings in the



City of Vancouver, and staff have identified provincial action as important to achieving this goal;

3. energy benchmarking is a low cost practice that enables building owners to identify savings opportunities;
4. nine municipalities in the US require energy benchmarking for larger buildings (typically 50,000 square feet or larger);
5. energy benchmarking software called ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager is available for free through Natural Resources Canada and is the same platform being used by all nine municipalities in the US that are currently regulating energy benchmarking;
6. energy benchmarking identifies the highest energy consuming buildings to target building energy performance support and inform public policy and program design; and
7. energy benchmarking enables evaluation of the effectiveness of municipal strategies to reduce energy use in existing buildings (measure progress over time) that are developed in response to the Local Government Act section 877(3), “An official community plan must include targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the area covered by the plan, and policies and actions of the local government proposed with respect to achieving those targets.”

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM:

- A. request provincial amendments to the Vancouver Charter, Local Government Act and the Community Charter in order to empower local governments to require annual reporting of building energy use data to be submitted by building owners or designate, that enables normalized comparison benchmarking between similar buildings (area, use, type of equipment, etc.); and
- B. request additional amendments to grant local governments the authority to enable the public release of non-confidential and non-competitive building energy benchmarking information via a municipal website or that of a delegated organization, two years following the submission of reporting data by building owners to local governments and following an accuracy review by owners.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development*

*The Province of British Columbia recognizes that energy efficiency is one of the lowest cost ways to reduce energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the five Pacific Coast jurisdictions that make up the Pacific Coast Collaborative, the Province supports benchmarking as an important strategy in increasing the energy efficiency of large buildings and reducing carbon emissions in the region.*

*While legislative amendments are not under consideration at this time, the Province is exploring approaches and policy options in relation to enabling potential benchmarking activities, in particular for commercial and large multi-unit residential buildings in BC.*

**2014 B108 BC Hydro and Independent Power Producers          New Westminster**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to create legislation that will address the huge utility rates paid to independent power producers to allow the Province the ability to purchase electricity from the open North American market, in the same manner as previously, if those rates are competitive;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government take action through legislation that would permit BC Hydro to produce power from existing public facilities as opposed to forcing it to buy expensive power from independent power producers at rates higher than BC Hydro's;

And be it further resolved that all independent power producers contracts that have yet to be built be frozen;

And be it further resolved that the BC Utilities Commission investigate and produce a position on the impacts of independent power producers on businesses, residents and non-profits of British Columbia.

**CONVENTION DECISION:          ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Energy and Mines*

*Electricity purchase agreements (EPAs) with independent power producers (IPPs) ensure that BC Hydro will have clean, reliable power at predictable prices for the long term. New power projects are expensive compared to projects built decades ago, whether built by BC Hydro or IPPs.*

*BC Hydro does purchase energy in the US and Alberta markets during low water years and to store for later re-sale at a profit, which creates ratepayer benefits.*

*IPPs currently account for about 25 percent of BC Hydro's domestic supply and will provide a large portion of power needs over the next several years. BC Hydro has signed legally binding contracts with IPPs and does not plan to abrogate its commitments. IPP projects add value for BC Hydro ratepayers by shifting project development, financing and operating risk to the private sector.*

*The incremental cost of IPPs equates to approximately 0.2 percent of the 15.6 percent cumulative 2015/2016 BC Hydro rate increase.*

*BC Hydro has EPAs with some UBCM members (e.g., Capital Regional District; City of Nanaimo). Local governments continue to benefit from the tax revenues provided by IPP projects.*

*BC Hydro has been working with some IPP developers with pre-operational EPAs awarded as part of BC Hydro calls to cancel, defer or downsize projects due to BC Hydro's current energy surplus.*

*Currently, BC Hydro's procurement of energy from IPPs is limited to the Standing Offer Program, which is limited to projects with a capacity of up to 15 MW. Any EPAs that BC Hydro enters into are cost-effective compared to viable alternatives.*

#### **2014 B109 Property Reclassification of Medical Marijuana Production Facilities Delta**

Whereas land used for the commercial production of medical marijuana may qualify for farm classification under the *Assessment Act*;

And whereas the commercial production of medical marijuana may occur in commercial and industrial zones;

And whereas the assessment value of farmland can be significantly lower than assessment values for other property classifications;

And whereas this could have a significant effect on property tax revenue for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to amend the *Assessment Act* and its respective regulations to preclude the commercial production of medical marijuana from qualifying for farm classification.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

#### ***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development*

*Medical marijuana is an emerging industry in Canada following the new Health Canada regulations that took effect April 1, 2014.*

*Government has made a decision that medical marijuana, and any other federally-regulated narcotic, is not eligible for farm classification for property tax purposes.*

*Government is taking a balanced approach which takes into consideration the nature of the operation and is consistent with the taxation approach being taken in Alberta.*

*Local governments have expressed concern about providing these facilities with farm class, which may result in loss of property tax revenue, and government has listened. This decision will ensure local governments do not lose potential property tax revenues from this new emerging industry.*

## **2014 B112 Farm Assessment**

**Chilliwack**

Whereas the *Assessment Act* allows land with commercial or industrial zoning to be classified as farm for assessment and taxation purposes;

And whereas inequities between property owners may result because farm land is assessed at a significantly lower rate than commercial or industrial land:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government amend the *Assessment Act* or associated regulation, as appropriate, so that land cannot be reclassified as farm if the lands are zoned for commercial, industrial or business purpose unless the farm use pre-dates the zoning, is the principal use, and the lands are continuously used for farm purposes.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

### ***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development*

*BC Assessment (BCA) works independently from taxing authorities and under the Assessment Act, BCA is required to classify property according to its actual use not its zoning.*

*Government appreciates that the application of the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation, under the Assessment Act, may result in property that is zoned by a local government for another use (e.g., commercial or industrial) being classified as farm. Although BCA will take zoning into consideration, the regulation will prevail. This inconsistency might lead to revenue impacts for some local governments.*

*Local governments however, have the authority under the Community Charter and Local Government Act to enforce zoning bylaws to manage the activities on land.*

*Government is not considering any legislative changes at this time.*

**2014 B126 DOT-111 and DOT-111A Rail Tanker Cars**

**New Westminster**

Whereas the Transportation Safety Board has identified safety concerns with the Dot-111 and Dot-111A rail tanker cars;

And whereas these cars have been identified as being in need of replacement or at the very least, significant safety upgrades:

Therefore be it resolved that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities urge the federal government to introduce legislation to accelerate the phase-out of these identified sub-standard liquid commodity cars;

And be it further resolved that the federal government immediately restrict these cars from carrying commodities identified as dangerous goods.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 B131 Smoking and E-cigarettes**

**Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas the introduction of new smoking products that include electronic cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos and pipes, as well as cartridges of nicotine solutions and related products are regulated by Health Canada under the *Food and Drugs Act*, and that the sale of these products are not authorized in Canada;

And whereas, due to the lack of scientific research, the long term effects of electronic cigarettes and all related products that include nicotine solutions are not known:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government regulate the use and sale of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizing systems intended to replicate the smoking experience under the British Columbia *Tobacco Control Act* and Regulations.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Health*

*British Columbia's Tobacco Control Act does not apply to electronic smoking products as they do not contain tobacco. However, on June 10, 2014, the Premier included the*

*issue of regulating electronic smoking products in a mandate letter to the Minister of Health:*

*"Your mandate for the following year is as follows:*

*[...]*

*12. Work with the federal government to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes and flavoured tobacco to minors in British Columbia, or in the absence of a federal strategy, move to introduce legislation."*

*Please see the link for the letter:*

*[http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet\\_ministers/terry\\_lake\\_mandate\\_letter.pdf](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premier/cabinet_ministers/terry_lake_mandate_letter.pdf)*

*BC is also working with the federal government on these issues.*

*The Ministry of Health will work toward the goal outlined in the Minister's mandate letter.*

**2014 C4 Coal Exports**

**Burnaby**

Whereas Port Metro Vancouver is in the process of making a decision to significantly increase coal exports by expanding the Fraser Surrey Docks and Neptune Terminals facilities;

And whereas the Environmental Impact Assessment report produced by SNC-Lavalin is deemed unsatisfactory by the Chief Medical Health Officers of the Fraser Health Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly oppose any expansion of coal shipment facilities at the Fraser Surrey Docks and Neptune Terminals until:

- a) a more comprehensive and transparent assessment of coal dust impact on human health is completed by independent experts; and
- b) Port Metro Vancouver holds formal public hearings on the proposed expansion of coal exports from the Surrey Fraser Docks and Neptune Terminals facilities.

**CONVENTION DECISION: NOT ADMITTED FOR DEBATE**  
[referred to resolution B92]

For reference:

**2014 B92 Environmental Assessments for Coal Transport**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

WHEREAS assessment studies provided to Port Metro Vancouver have not assessed the environmental or health impacts related to the release of coal dust during barge transfer and transport over coastal waters between the Port of Metro Vancouver and Texada Island;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no mechanism that provides oversight or ensures the implementation of mitigation measures to minimize environmental and health impacts of coal transport over coastal waters:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a comprehensive environmental and health impact assessment for the shipment of thermal coal by rail and over coastal waters be conducted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate federal and/or provincial agency be named to monitor rail transport, barge transfer and transport of thermal coal over coastal waters to ensure oversight and implementation of environmental and health protection measures.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED AS AMENDED**

***Federal response:***

*[UBCM awaits federal response.]*

**2014 C6      First Responder Financial Assistance**

**Squamish**

Whereas many local governments in British Columbia have supported their community members by volunteering to deploy a first responder program endorsed by the British Columbia Ambulance Service and the British Columbia Ambulance Service has announced recent changes to their response structure that will delay their provision of pre hospital medical support service;

And whereas the delayed response leaves an expectation that first responders will attend patients until the British Columbia Ambulance Service arrives, which downloads an additional cost for pre hospital medical care to the local community:

Therefore be it resolved that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities work with the Province of British Columbia to develop a funding mechanism that will compensate local governments providing pre hospital medical assistance through the first responder program for the additional costs of delayed response by British Columbia Ambulance Services.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      NOT ADMITTED FOR DEBATE**  
[referred to resolution A2]

*[For provincial response, refer to resolution 2014-A2 listed above.]*

**2014 C13 Need for Consultation: Bill 24 Agricultural Land Reserve**

**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas the provincial government has, without consultation with stakeholders, the public or with local governments proposed to create two zones for the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in the province of BC;

And whereas not all affected regions wish to see the requirements of the Agricultural Land Reserve weakened in Zone 2;

And whereas substantial agricultural activity has historically taken place and is currently being practiced outside of Zone 1:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government undertake consultation with stakeholders, the public, local governments, the Union of BC Municipalities, and affected parties, on the proposed two-zone approach to the ALR; and that Bill 24 not be brought into force until such consultation is complete and that the results of the consultation be made public.

**CONVENTION DECISION: NOT ADMITTED FOR DEBATE**  
[referred to resolution A3]

For reference:

**2014 A3 Agricultural Land Reserve and Agricultural Land Commission**

**Victoria**

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission, created as an autonomous body in 1974, has served to protect over four million hectares of farmland in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS measures to protect farmland and support farmers and regional food systems are essential to provide food security in the face of increasing global transportation and energy costs and the impacts of climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the provincial government respect the integrity of the province-wide Agricultural Land Reserve and support its management by an independent and adequately funded Agricultural Land Commission;



AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government work with the agricultural community, UBCM and local governments to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in British Columbia.

**CONVENTION DECISION:      ENDORSED**

***Provincial response:***

*Ministry of Agriculture*

*The Province of British Columbia continues to be committed to the Agricultural Land Reserve and the protection of agricultural land to support farmers and farm families. In spring 2014, the Province enacted improvements to the Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALCA) that will continue to protect farmland in British Columbia and maintain the Agricultural Land Commission's (ALC) independence.*

*The spring 2014 amendments to the ALCA will assist farmers and farm families to flourish by recognizing regional differences, strengthening regional decision making and enhancing the ALC's service to the public.*

*In addition, the Province has provided new funding for the ALC, including \$1.6 million in 2011 and another \$4 million over three years in Budget 2013. These funds are to increase the ALC's capacity to conduct boundary reviews, increase compliance and enforcement and work more closely with local governments, farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations to preserve agricultural land and encourage farming.*

*The Province is committed to promoting additional measures to increase the viability of farming and food production through Growing Forward 2 funding for innovative projects, expanding foreign and domestic market opportunities, and promoting local agri-foods products.*