



LOWER MAINLAND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2021 RESOLUTIONS DISPOSITION

PART 1 - EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

ER1 MEMBER DUES CALCULATION

Lower Mainland LGA Executive

Whereas the current member dues calculation structure depends solely on member population increases for annual member fee increases;

And whereas a significant amount of the Lower Mainland LGA members have remained neutral or are decreasing in population;

Therefore be it resolved that the Lower Mainland LGA membership approve that on top of the current dues calculation structure, that an annual 2% increase be included to ensure that the organization is properly funded.

ENDORSED

ER2 HELP CITIES LEAD

Lower Mainland LGA Executive

Whereas emissions by buildings account for 40-60% of a community's green-house gas (GHG) emissions, and current actions in British Columbia to reduce GHG emissions from buildings are insufficient to achieve the province's GHG targets for 2030 and 2050;

And whereas the November 2020 mandate letters to ministers include direction to provincial ministries to move forward with three of the five policy measures included in the Help Cities Lead campaign to drive GHG reduction in British Columbia's building sector;

Therefore be it resolved that the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation supporting the three

measures identified by Help Cities Lead and addressed in ministerial mandate letters: GHG requirements for new buildings, PACE financing, and home energy labelling; and

And be it further resolved that the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and UBCM call upon the provincial government to introduce empowering legislation to permit local governments who so choose to implement the remaining two measures identified in the Help Cities Lead's campaign: GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking.

ENDORSED

ER3 WATERSHED SECURITY

Lower Mainland LGA Executive

Whereas watershed security is recognized as central to the health and well-being of British Columbians with over 80 percent asserting that ongoing access to abundant clean fresh water in their regions is essential to health, food security, salmon, fire safety, jobs, economic well-being, and overall quality of life, both today, and in the years to come;

And whereas the Province of BC has committed to lead work to protect clean water through the creation of a Watershed Security Strategy and Watershed Security Fund;

And whereas the Watershed Security Fund is an essential mechanism for implementing the Watershed Security Strategy and to:

- support local Watershed Boards & regional partnership initiatives;
- create good, sustainable local jobs in restoration, monitoring, technology and community planning;
- support education and training in the watershed sector;
- build a connection between communities and their watersheds;
- support local tourism and recreation;
- provide sustainable, long-term funding for Indigenous capacity and community resilience, and advance DRIPA through co-governance partnerships with First Nations.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests that the Province of BC create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for the Watershed Security Fund that provides \$75 million annually for community-driven watershed security initiatives.

ENDORSED

Whereas the Fraser River Estuary is a diverse and productive ecosystem, supporting over 100 species at risk, including salmon and southern resident killer whales, and, is under increased development pressure and impacts of climate change, including flooding of industrial and agricultural lands, and would benefit from a regional planning approach that balances the needs of the ecosystem, people and the economy.

And whereas Indigenous people have lived in and stewarded the Fraser River Estuary since time immemorial, and know the various species, habitat, and ecosystems as integral to their existence and identity, and are integral to the planning and governance of the of the Fraser River Estuary.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Federal and Provincial governments to allocate the necessary resources and appropriately fund and support a renewed Fraser River Estuary Management planning process that will collectively protect the ecosystem of the Estuary through inter-agency collaboration. That planning process includes, but is not limited to: First Nations, Federal Government and Provincial governments.

ENDORSED

PART 2 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

UBCM has referred late resolutions from the 2020 resolutions cycle for consideration by LMLGA members.

None received.

PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

LEGISLATIVE

R1 Support for a Provincial Code of Conduct for Local Government Elected Officials

City of Port Moody

Whereas there is no current legislation to hold elected officials, across the province, to a consistent set of standards of accountability for their behavior and actions;

And whereas elected officials should have a right to a respectful and safe workplace;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a code of conduct, which is informed by a review of elected official experiences and with input from

equity seeking groups, that is overseen by the Province, so that all elected officials have access to a consistent, formal set of standards and process for complaint against other elected officials.

ENDORSED

R2 Enabling Legislation for Green Roofs

**District of North Vancouver
and City of Port Moody**

Whereas green roofs serve multiple societal goals, including improved stormwater management, better regulation of building temperatures, reduced urban heat island effects, and increased urban wildlife habitat and biodiversity;

And whereas currently the *Local Government Act* allows a local government to require landscaping under section 527 and to control runoff under section 523, but the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* do not empower local governments to require and enforce the related building standard of construction (prohibited under the *Building Act*) or require and enforce maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to empower local governments with enabling legislation, should they choose to implement it, to expressly require green roofs and enforce the related building standard of construction and maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements.

ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R3 Civil Forfeiture Proceeds

City of Chilliwack

Whereas the provision of police services places a significant financial burden on local government;

And whereas the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Crime Remediation Grant Program fund community crime reduction and crime prevention activities, but does not address local government policing costs, including expenditures related to investigations and police work that results in seizures of proceeds of crime:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM respectfully request that the Province share seizures of proceeds of crime with local governments to help address protective services costs.

ENDORSED

R4 Updating BC's Wrongful Death Law

City of Vancouver

Whereas tragically, hundreds of British Columbians will experience the loss of a loved one each year, and in the event of a wrongful death, many will discover they cannot access legal representation or recourse because Wrongful Death Law in BC is legislated by the *Family Compensation Act* and provisions in the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* in determining the “worth” of a deceased family member. Currently, access to the courts requires that the deceased was a breadwinner, and otherwise precludes opportunities for independent investigation, recourse, or accountability that could avail justice, system change, economic or non-economic damages;

And whereas the *Family Compensation Act* is antiquated legislation that’s had no significant or meaningful updates since the 1800s, and British Columbia is the last remaining province in Canada to modernize its wrongful death legislation to provide a fair standard of human value, dignity, and protection under the law. BC’s *Family Compensation Act* discriminates against children, the elderly and many people with disabilities when killed by the recklessness and harm of another;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia and Attorney General modernize and reform wrongful death law in British Columbia to ensure access to justice, accountability, and compensation in British Columbia for the surviving family members of those wrongfully killed.

ENDORSED

ELECTIONS

R5 Local Choice: Tools to Improve Representation in Local Government Elections

City of Vancouver

Whereas local government elections in British Columbia typically see low levels of engagement, and result in inadequate representation of Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour residents, women, and renters;

And whereas there is no one-size-fits-all solution for local elections; recognizing that each local government:

- has unique challenges, history, size and demographics; and
- is best positioned to tailor their local election system and rules to respond to local issues and needs, if provided with the tools and options:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish legislation that grants local governments the power to consider, choose and adopt more inclusive voting systems (such as the opt-in provisions for municipal ranked ballot voting described in the Province of Ontario's *Municipal Elections Modernization Act, 2016*) as a means of improving representation and racial diversity on Councils and Boards in future elections.

DEFEATED

R6 Expanding Definitions and Responsibilities of Digital Campaigns City of Vancouver

Whereas Elections BC regulates and defines online advertising as election advertising that has or would normally have a placement cost, but this does not specifically or explicitly include all digital campaigns or data collection;

And whereas sophisticated data analytics, weapons-grade communication technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning, alongside under-regulated online campaign and engagement tools have emerged to use psychographic profiling and predicting techniques to identify voter behaviour and persuade the persuadables using a variety of online engagement methods including but not limited to news, profiles, groups, memes and shareables;

And whereas the use of deceptive and coercive digital campaigns have been implicated in manipulating electoral outcomes in developing nations, and more recently the Trump campaign in the United States, Brexit in the UK (Cambridge Analytica) and in BC's 2017 provincial and 2018 local elections (AIQ):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to expand the definition of advertising to cover digital political campaigns and tools, and mandate their disclosure of how and when data is being collected and used, and by whom.

ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R7 Benefits of Public Car Insurance

City of Burnaby

Whereas public car insurance creates local jobs and significant investments in municipalities through road safety and improvement, grants-in-lieu, and community grants while providing greater control to municipalities to plan for risks and costs;

And whereas jurisdictions with only private insurance options have experienced significant rate hikes year after year while accident benefits dramatically decline:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM will call on the provincial government to preserve public car insurance, including jobs and local investments, in British Columbia.

ENDORSED

TAXATION

R8 BC Provincial Sales Tax on Non-Medical PPE Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Whereas the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General under the *Emergency Program Act* has issued Ministerial Order M012 effective January 8, 2021 mandating that non-medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn inside indoor public spaces to assist in reducing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic;

And whereas this mandate has resulted in an increased financial cost for the residents of British Columbia during the Covid-19 pandemic:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM request the BC provincial government eliminate the 7% Provincial Sales Tax applied to non-medical, disposable or reusable PPE applied to these items at the point of sale.

ENDORSED

FINANCE

R9 Funding Support to Manage Post COVID-19 Pandemic Tourism Village of Pemberton

Whereas in the summer of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province moved to Phase 3 of BC's Restart Plan which resulted in Destination BC focusing on encouraging residents to Explore BC as a way to promote domestic tourism;

And whereas the Explore BC has been so successful that unprecedented number of residents and visitors have sought ways to experience the Province's natural environment and these numbers are expected to continue beyond the active pandemic phase:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide funding to the provincial ministries responsible for managing parks, crown lands, and recreation sites and to local governments to assist in establishing sustainable tourism policies and programs to ensure that visitor use of lands and natural resources is done in a manner that protects the natural environment in perpetuity.

ENDORSED

ASSESSMENT

R10 Review of the BC Assessment Appeal Framework and Process City of Coquitlam

Whereas BC Assessment is a provincial Crown Corporation that classifies and values properties and local governments rely on this information to annually set property taxation rates;

And whereas local governments have been increasingly impacted by the growing number of property assessment appeals submitted to BC Assessment and the Property Assessment Appeal Board and the significant period of time that can elapse between the submission of an appeal and a final decision being reached and local governments subsequently having to refund previously collected taxes from multiple years at once:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government review the BC Assessment property assessment appeals' framework and process to minimize the impacts to local governments' finances due to appeal decisions by ensuring decisions are reached in a timely manner and also increasing the transparency of settled appeals.

ENDORSED

R11 Fair Taxation from Railway Operations City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas section 5(e) of the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically exclude land or improvements held for purposes ancillary to the business of transportation from railway operations;

And whereas this legislation creates unfair taxation from railway operations because they are reflective of a Class 5 Light Industrial use and require high level local government service support including fire services and road infrastructure use:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to repeal section 5(e) from the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 in order to create fair taxation from railway operations.

ENDORSED

R12 Fair Taxation from Industrial Parks

City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas section 5(f) of the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically excludes land or improvements being used principally as an outlet for the sale of a finished product to a purchaser for purposes of his or her own consumption;

And whereas this legislation creates unfair taxation from industrial parks which are a heavy burden on local government infrastructure through heavy trucking activity and movement of product:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to repeal section 5(f) of the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 to create fair taxation from industrial parks.

ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R13 Illegal Dumping

City of Chilliwack

Whereas illegal dumping of waste on private and crown land continues to be an issue across the Province resulting in unsightly, unsanitary and potentially dangerous refuse deposits in natural rural areas that should be protected and preserved for public enjoyment in 'supernatural British Columbia';

And whereas the problem of illegal dumping is an area of shared jurisdiction between multiple Provincial Ministries including Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, which results in decreased accountability and gaps in service:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to designate a single Ministry as responsible for regulation of illegal dumping in the Province, including enforcement of said regulations and cleanup and removal of dumped waste;

And be it further resolved that LMLGA and UBCM respectfully request that the Province provide adequate funding to the designated Ministry to ensure minimum staffing levels can be maintained in all areas of the Province to address the issue of illegal dumping.

ENDORSED

R14 Illegal Dumping in Rural Areas

Fraser Valley Regional District

Whereas illegal dumping on Crown land continues to be an increasing concern in rural and backcountry locations, resulting in hazardous conditions;

And whereas local governments and non-profit community groups contribute significant resources to address illegal dumping, even though the Province has the mandate for enforcing illegal dumping on Crown land;

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to increase resources and strategies to address illegal dumping in rural and backcountry areas and on Crown land and strengthen its partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this growing problem.

ENDORSED

R15 Construction & Demolition Waste Strategy

District of North Vancouver

Whereas construction and demolition waste comprises approximately 2.8 million metric tonnes of materials annually in British Columbia, and about one-third of municipal solid waste disposed in the Province;

And whereas the materials disposed could have been resold, reused or recycled, they represent sources of embodied carbon, and deconstruction provides six times more job opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy develop a plan, including changes to regulations, provincial procurement policy, and economic and industrial policy, to significantly reduce construction and demolition waste.

ENDORSED

R16 Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program in BC

District of Kent

Whereas agriculture uses plastics to aid in crop production, protection, improve food quality and minimize water usage;

And whereas thousands of tonnes of agricultural plastics are dumped at the landfill by farmers after its use:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM call on the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to set priority in resolving this problem by establishing a Plastics Recycling Program for agricultural plastics.

ENDORSED

R17 Alternatives to Agricultural Burning

City of Chilliwack

Whereas exposure to particulate matter in smoke can cause chronic and acute impacts to cardiovascular and respiratory systems;

And whereas open burning is a significant source of particulate matter emissions in BC, and is commonly used by the agriculture industry as a convenient and affordable way to dispose of unwanted vegetative debris;

And whereas the BC Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation requires people “to ensure that every reasonable alternative for reducing, reusing or recycling vegetative debris is used in order to minimize the amount of the vegetative debris to be open burned”:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM request that the Province develop and fund a program for the agriculture sector to support and incentivize the implementation of alternatives to the burning of agricultural vegetative debris.

ENDORSED

R18 Provincial Circular Economy Strategy

District of North Vancouver

Whereas the provisioning and management of goods and food consumed by BC communities produces excessive and unnecessary quantities of waste, pollution and carbon emissions that threatens human and environmental health;

And whereas the concept of a circular economy provides a vision and framework to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems to help BC communities move towards zero waste:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC develop a provincial circular economy strategy.

ENDORSED

R19 Help Cities Lead

District of North Vancouver

Whereas building retrofits help drive deep building-sector emissions reductions, respiratory illness reductions, building operating cost reductions, and job creation, yet local governments are currently constrained with existing legislation;

And whereas Integral Group modelling has shown that when implemented together, these five actions compliment each other:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM prevail upon the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLCI), and Attorney- General and Ministry responsible for Housing to move as quickly as possible and in close consultation with local governments to develop and implement the first three measures:

- I. Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings;
- II. Home energy labelling; and
- III. Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation;

And be it further resolved that the Province enable local governments to choose, when ready, to opt into the remaining two measures:

- I. Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings;
- II. Building energy benchmarking and reporting.

ENDORSED

R20 Right to Repair Legislation

District of North Vancouver

Whereas the longevity of items is decreasing because manufacturers are deliberately designing products to be disposable;

And whereas residents and businesses are deterred from repairing their belongings by companies that claim ownership over the intellectual property in their products, fail to provide parts or other aspects that make it hard to repair items:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

ENDORSED

R21 “Urban Interface Areas” to Address Current Misuse District of North Vancouver of Toxic Rodenticides

Whereas ongoing reliance on rodenticide does not control pests in the long term, is expensive and creates unnecessary exposure pathways to toxic chemicals in addition to the suffering of target wildlife, and the documented killing of non-target wildlife;

And whereas current legislation prevents municipalities from enacting bylaws to regulate the use of rodenticides in and around buildings on private property:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to create a new category of applicable land- use sector called "Urban Interface Areas" (in addition to the existing "Forestry" and "Agriculture");

And be it further resolved that changes to other applicable legislation be made to allow local governments to enact bylaws regulating rodenticide use in the newly created Urban Interface Areas.

ENDORSED

R22 Request to Advocate for Community Climate Action City of Port Moody Planning Funding

Whereas a total of 493 municipalities across Canada adopted Climate Emergency Declarations, and in British Columbia as of early 2019 dozens of municipalities have done so, and the need to develop clear actionable Community Climate Action Plans is urgent;

And whereas it has been demonstrated that collaborative, cooperative planning and financing processes increase the efficiency and maximize the impacts of the investments that all levels of government are making in assisting communities to develop and implement Community Climate Action Plans with bold actions and clearly articulated targets that respond to the increasingly urgent and inequitable needs of adapting to and mitigating climate change impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM request that the provincial government commit to providing sustained financial support for local community climate action planning that serves to meet the targets set out by the goals of CleanBC and implement responses to climate impacts throughout British Columbia.

ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R23 Rural Broadband Connectivity

Fraser Valley Regional District

Whereas provincial and federal funding programs to improve rural broadband connectivity require an applicant to have experience building and operating broadband infrastructure networks, rendering many local governments dependent on private Internet service providers to select which project areas can apply for funding;

And whereas there is a lack of telecommunications industry transparency around levels of service, leading to mapping discrepancies on the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map, which creates significant challenges when applying for funding:

Therefore be it resolved that provincial and federal government funding programs for universal broadband Internet should directly engage with local government to prioritize the areas of greatest need when awarding funding for broadband projects;

And be it further resolved that the provincial and federal governments, in their efforts to make broadband Internet access universally available, require Internet service providers to make public to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada which properties are served to ensure projects can be more easily implemented and do not face unnecessary barriers.

ENDORSED

R24 Old Growth Logging

City of Port Moody

Whereas ancient high productivity (big tree) old growth ecosystems are one of the most valuable tourism, First Nations culture, wild salmon enhancing, biodiversity banking, and climate resiliency assets;

And whereas only a miniscule fraction of the planet's original, high productive, ancient forests remain in BC, the vast majority of which is slated to be eliminated through logging; including the headwaters of Fairy Creek, the last unprotected intact old-growth watershed on southern Vancouver Island:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia immediately defer logging in all at risk old-growth forests, as identified by the independent Old Growth Strategic Review panel until all 14 of the panel's recommendations have been implemented, and support the transition of affected local communities toward more sustainable jobs;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia allocate funding to support the economic transition of affected communities away from unsustainable old growth logging, in the full spirit of Indigenous reconciliation where applicable, for the development of long-term sustainable local economies and Indigenous protected and conserved areas where applicable.

ENDORSED

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

R25 Single-Use Item Regional Regulation

City of New Westminster

Whereas enactment of bylaws to regulate single-use items by individual municipalities could lead to a mosaic of regulations across the region and in BC, which may lead to confusion and inconsistency for residents and businesses in the sale or distribution of these items;

And whereas greater consistency could be achieved by implementing a regional approach;

And whereas regional districts do not have the authority to establish bylaws or regulations in relation to the sale or distribution of single-use items:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM request the Province to engage with regional governments to develop legislation which would provide regional districts with the legislative authority to restrict the sale and distribution of single-use items.

ENDORSED

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R26 Clarifying Criteria of MCFD New Spaces Fund for Child Care District of Squamish and Village of Pemberton

Whereas the Province of BC has committed to supporting universal childcare and launched the New Spaces Fund to create thousands of new childcare spaces across BC;

And whereas many rural and remote communities in BC face higher-than-average construction costs, including additional hazard mitigation and flood construction level requirements, also face a high unmet community demand for safe, affordable, and licensed childcare facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Minister of State for Child Care work with the Ministry of Children and Family Development to define exceptional circumstances within the New Spaces Funding criteria to include consideration of the impacts of the following:

- Demonstrated high need for more child care spaces
- Flood and other hazard mitigation construction costs
- Higher than average land, labour and construction costs
- Limited availability of public lands fit for child care use
- Low commercial vacancy rates
- High cost of commercial spaces

to enable the approval of applications that exceed the current \$40,000 per space threshold.

ENDORSED

HOUSING

R27 Transfer of a Portion of Speculation and Vacancy Tax Revenue to Local Governments City of Burnaby

Whereas the Speculation and Vacancy Tax generated an estimated \$81 million in revenue for the Province during the 2019/2020 fiscal year to be directed towards affordable housing initiatives;

And whereas local governments are taking on a greater role in addressing affordable housing needs in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to distribute directly

back to each municipality a portion of the revenue collected, up to the amount collected from each local government, under the Speculation and Vacancy Tax to further affordable housing initiatives within those jurisdictions.

ENDORSED

SELECTED ISSUES

**R28 Consideration of Change of Provincial Name, Coat of Arms Village of Pemberton
and Flag**

Whereas the name of British Columbia is representative of only a brief period and limited part of the history of this Province and completely fails to acknowledge either the Indigenous peoples' history and culture, or the multi-cultural heritage of the settlers;

And whereas the adoption of a more inclusive and historically relevant name would better reflect the diverse population of our Province, and could be considered a reconciliatory action, in consultation with local First Nations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Provincial government consider changing the name of British Columbia to a name that better represents the First Nations and multi-cultural residents of the land;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the Provincial government consider changing the coat of arms and the flag of the Province to symbols that better reflect the Province's Indigenous heritage and the multi-cultural nature of our population.

DEFEATED