



# LOWER MAINLAND

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2022 RESOLUTIONS

April 7, 2022

RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

#### LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

##### PART 1 – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

###### COMMUNITY SAFETY

ER1 “Build Back Better” Funding for Critical Infrastructure

Lower Mainland LGA Executive,  
City of Abbotsford,  
Fraser Valley Regional District

Whereas the Province of BC completed a Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for BC in 2019 that found that extreme weather events will continue to worsen across the province in coming years including heat waves and severe river flooding with extreme precipitation events continuing to increase toward 1 in 20 year events becoming 1 and 10 year events or lower;

And whereas the Minister for Public Safety and Solicitor General and Emergency Management BC have been working closely with the UBCM Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee and local governments since mid-2019 to modernize the *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) to support local governments in responding and planning for disaster mitigation through phased-in legislative updates beginning in 2022:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government, as part of the process of modernizing the EPA legislation, include robust and sustainable ‘building back better’ funding at 100 per cent as part of the first phase of the updated EPA legislation in 2022, and additionally consider enhancing the Community Resiliency Investment Program to include funding programs for flood related infrastructure improvement.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse*

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for the Province, as part of the process of modernizing emergency management legislation, to include robust and sustainable 'building back better' funding at 100 per cent as part of the first phase of the updated EPA legislation in 2022, and to additionally consider enhancing the Community Resiliency Investment Program to include funding programs for flood related infrastructure improvement.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).

UBCM members have also endorsed numerous resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1).

In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. The UBCM Executive, in response to proposed provincial policy shifts, has conveyed recommendations to EMBC requesting that support and funding be provided to address new and ongoing local government responsibilities. These recommendations were also included as part of the August 2021 report by the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency. Given the Province's commitment to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, it is expected that this support and funding would address, among other things, disaster recovery and 'building back better.'

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**ER2 Raising the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) Cap      Lower Mainland LGA Executive,  
Fraser Valley Regional District**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has not increased the limit on Disaster Financial Assistance Funding (DFA) for homeowner applications since 1996;

And whereas since 1996 the cost and value of property in the Lower Mainland has significantly increased, creating a gap that prevents property owners from reasonably overcoming catastrophic loss:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia and Emergency Management BC to increase the DFA limit on homeowner applications and consider implementing a framework that ties DFA compensation to BC Assessment values.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase the Disaster Assistance Funding (DFA) limit on homeowner applications and consider implementing a framework that ties DFA compensation to BC Assessment values.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several related resolutions:

- 2019-B103, which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster.
- 2019-B104, which asked the Province to change the Disaster Financial Assistance program criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners.
- 2019-B97, which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments.
- 2017-B86, which asked the Province to increase its share of emergency recovery costs, so that the Province is responsible for 90% and local governments are responsible for 10% of emergency recovery costs.
- 2015-B78, which asked the Province to expand the disaster relief fund, making it available to all property owners when such disaster is a result of natural and/or non-human causes.
- 2013-B90, which asked the Province to expand the Disaster Financial Assistance fund to cover vacation properties.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**ER3 Emergency Operations Centre Reserve Funds**

**Lower Mainland LGA Executive,  
Fraser Valley Regional District**

Whereas regional districts are recognized as local authorities under the *Emergency Program Act* that must develop and implement emergency plans and other preparedness, response and recovery measures for emergencies and disasters;

And whereas regional districts are limited by the current funding model under the *Local Government Act*, requiring fiscal equivalence:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia and Emergency Management BC to provide regional districts with a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre Reserve Fund to facilitate the timely provision of emergency response when prior expense authorization is not practical and works are essential to save lives and protect property.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province and Emergency Management BC to provide regional districts with a dedicated Emergency Operations Centre Reserve Fund to facilitate the timely provision of emergency response when prior expense authorization is not practical and works are essential to save lives and protect property.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).

UBCM members also endorsed resolution 2018-B95, which requested that Emergency Management BC make Provincial Incident Commanders available to communities under 5,000 in population for the purpose of making decisions during emergency events.

In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. The UBCM Executive, in response to proposed provincial policy shifts, has conveyed recommendations to EMBC requesting that support and funding be provided to address new and ongoing local government responsibilities. These recommendations were also included as part of the August 2021 report by the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **PART 2 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS**

UBCM has referred late resolutions from the 2021 resolutions cycle for consideration by Lower Mainland LGA members.

None received.

## **PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE**

**LEGISLATIVE**

Whereas Bill 26 – 2021: Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021 does not require a local government to adopt a Code of Conduct for Council members;

And whereas many local governments in British Columbia cannot afford or do not have an independent non-partisan Ethics Commissioner to review and resolve allegations of misconduct:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately create an Office of the Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that will:

- 1) respond to allegations of misconduct by an elected official of a municipal government and conduct an inquiry if warranted, and
- 2) review decisions imposed on an elected official of a municipal government and conduct an inquiry if warranted.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution from 2021, 2020-NR1 titled Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government, which asked the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the development, application and enforcement of codes of conduct.

In response to the 2021 endorsed resolution, 2020-NR1, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs indicated that they had passed the Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021 which included amendments to the *Community Charter* and the *Vancouver Charter* making it a requirement for a newly elected or appointed municipal council or regional district board to publicly consider the adoption of a code of conduct within 6 months of taking office.

The Ministry also indicated “Integrity Commissioners can play an important role in providing education and advice respecting responsible conduct and enforcing a code of conduct. At the same time, there are limits to that role – for example, integrity commissioners do not make the decision to impose sanctions on an elected official in breach of a code of conduct; that decision remains with the elected council or board.” And further that local governments “...are currently able to establish a local Integrity Commissioner to help guide these processes, if they so choose for their community.”

UBCM, along with the Local Government Management Association and Ministry of Municipal Affairs, formed the Working Group on Responsible Conduct in 2016. The Working Group released a guide titled: Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct which provides local

governments with guidance on how they may enforce a Code of Conduct in a manner that ensures procedural fairness, including the appointment of independent third parties to handle complaints and make recommendations.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **R2 Cost of Policing for in Small Communities**

### **Village of Pemberton**

Whereas the current funding model for RCMP services results in an immense financial burden for small municipalities when their population grows above 5,000;

And whereas a large proportion of RCMP time and budget goes to policing provincial highways that either run through or beside small communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government develop a more transitional funding model for RCMP services for small communities that would see incremental adjustments as a community grows beyond 5,000 and then beyond 10,000 and finally over 15,000 residents;

And be it further resolved that UBCM be involved in the development of the policy.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to develop a more transitional funding model for RCMP services for small communities that would see incremental adjustments as a community grows beyond 5,000, 10,000 and 15,000 residents. Nor has the membership considered the request that UBCM be involved in the development of the policy.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions 2020-EB5 and 2016-B75, both of which requested a review of the police funding model for local governments nearing the 5,000 population threshold in order to establish an incremental increase or graduated annual increase in policing costs.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed with an amendment, referred resolution 2020-NR7 which asked the provincial government to review the current model of funding RCMP police services, with the intent to make police services more affordable for contract partners, including local governments.

As part of the ongoing *Police Act* review, the Province has created the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable as a forum for local governments to share their experience and knowledge and bring forward matters of interest or concerns respecting policing modernization, the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act*'s recommendations and other public safety priorities. Cost pressures related to policing, including the police funding framework, will be examined as part of the Roundtable's work.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

### **R3 Reimbursement for Highway Rescue Services**

### **Village of Pemberton**

Whereas many small community volunteer fire departments and societies provide vital highway rescue services for vehicle crashes that occur on provincial highways;

And whereas reimbursement of costs under the current model leaves fire departments and local governments to absorb a significant part of the cost of providing the services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province revise the funding model to ensure that fire departments and societies are reimbursed for all highway rescue incidents to which they attend outside of the municipal boundaries;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider permitting fire departments to be reimbursed by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia for highway rescue services at a rate determined by Emergency Management BC in consultation with the Office of the Fire Commissioner of British Columbia.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2011-B5, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.

The Committee notes that some of these endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2013-B8, 2011-B5 and 2009-B88). While endorsed resolution 2015-B17 notes that ICBC does not contribute funding towards any vehicle accident response costs.

In response to endorsed resolutions 2019-B9 and 2020-EB9, the Province indicated that it is committed to developing a sustainable funding model. The Province, as part of its response to endorsed resolution 2020-EB9, also noted ongoing work by the Fire Chiefs Association of BC to develop a funding and governance model for Road Rescue. This work has included a funding

opportunity, launched in November 2020, that provided successful applicants with up to \$50,000 for equipment purchases and training expenses.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial and/or federal assistance with the provision of emergency services, including 2020-SR1, 2019-B11, 2018-B95, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014- B50, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-B44.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R4 Re-Investing in EV Infrastructure**

**City of Port Moody**

Whereas British Columbia and Metro Vancouver have shown exceptional leadership for electric vehicle (EV) uptake due in large part to generous incentives and early infrastructure upgrades;

And whereas the current level of EV ownership must increase to meet agreed-upon climate targets and cannot be considered sufficient at this time:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask all orders of government (federal, provincial and local) and BC Hydro to increase investment in EV infrastructure and decrease user fees (including Step 2 EV exemptions) until EV uptake is sufficient;

And be it further resolved that the Government of Canada immediately make all necessary regulatory changes to allow for pricing EV charging by unit of energy.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks all orders of government and BC Hydro to increase investment in EV infrastructure and decrease user fees until EV uptake is sufficient. Nor have members asked the federal government for regulatory changes to allow for pricing EV charging by the unit of energy.

However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132) and increasing sales of electric vehicles (2018-B130, 2018-B131).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_



## FINANCE

### **R5 Increase Funding for Public Libraries in the BC Provincial Budget 2023**

**City of Burnaby**

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services, that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

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

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

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSESSMENT

### **R6 Assessing Vacant Lands to Support Housing for BC's Most Vulnerable**

**City of Vancouver**

Whereas sadly thousands of British Columbians are homeless, sleeping in shelters, tents, and encampments, while many jurisdictions in Canada and down the West Coast have successfully triaged their homelessness crises with temporary, tiny shelter-type villages, as a transition to more permanent housing;

And whereas BC Assessment classifies property according to its use, and local governments apply a mill rate to the respective classification to determine taxes, while owners of vacant land are incentivized to reduce their property taxes by changing temporary use and assessment, for example by adding a community garden to be re-classified as a Class 8 Recreational;

And whereas properties assessed as Class 3 Supportive Housing integrate long-term housing units with on-site supports for persons who were previously homeless or persons who are at risk of homelessness are subject to special valuation rules by the provincial government that reduce the assessed value of the property to a nominal amount, and have received funding from the government or a regional health board:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to work with local governments to develop and fund an incentive for more readily and rapidly repurposing vacant land as temporary Class 3 Supportive Housing, to support the creation of emergency or ad-hoc housing or shelter with on site supports as a short-term use, and including tiny homes, navigation centres, portables, and/or modular housing.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to work with local governments to develop and fund an incentive for more readily and rapidly repurposing vacant land as temporary Class 3 Supportive Housing, to support the creation of emergency or ad-hoc housing or shelter with on site supports as a short-term use, and including tiny homes, navigation centres, portables, and/or modular housing.

However the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2021-LR5, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **R7 Expanding the Mandate of BC Assessment Authority**

**City of Port Moody**

Whereas all communities in BC are experiencing an ongoing housing crisis, placing an extraordinary pressure on local governments to provide affordable housing without having equitable access to the tools to properly assess project proformas in order to negotiate maximum affordable housing components in developments;

And whereas local governments recognize that reconciliation efforts must include housing discussions and to provide effective and equitable affordable housing, there must be collaboration with Indigenous Peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to expand the mandate of BC Assessment Authority to implement a province-wide shared service model to support municipalities in assessing the merits of rezoning and development applications to provide accurate pricing and development cost estimates and to provide analysis of opportunities for affordable housing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the mandate of BC Assessment Authority to implement a province-wide shared service model to support municipalities in assessing the merits of rezoning and development applications to provide accurate pricing and development cost estimates and to provide analysis of opportunities for affordable housing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

The Resolutions Committee would caution that this resolution would result in an overhaul of the BC Assessment Authority mandate which is currently to establish and maintain a uniform system of real property assessments throughout British Columbia. The resolution proposes that the Assessment Authority mandate be revised to provide advice to local governments in assessing the merits of rezoning and development applications and to provide analysis on opportunities for affordable housing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. While additional advice to local governments may be helpful, the resolution is not clear why BC Assessment Authority would be the agency to deliver this advice.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R8 Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**

### **City of New Westminster**

Whereas the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report in 2021, Code Red for Humanity, confirmed that without radical reductions in carbon emissions this decade, temperature rises above 1.5 degrees Celsius would be inevitable and irreversible and the credible threat of unstoppable, self-accelerating global heating;

And whereas climate crisis impacts are already being felt in our communities, including the summer heat dome, a pattern of hotter/drier summers, increased exposure to wildfire smoke,

and increased frequency and intensity of heavy rain which impacts food security, infrastructure and the well being of the entire community;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and LMLGA formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to endorse a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a wide range of resolutions on low carbon initiatives including:

- electric vehicle charging infrastructure (2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B132);
- increasing sales of electric vehicles (2018-B131, 2018-B130);
- building efficiency and retrofit programs as well as benchmarking (2019-B142, 2018-B32, 2018-B31, 2017-B62, 2014-B94);
- zero waste strategies (2017-B63); and
- more generally resolutions calling for greenhouse gas reductions (2020-NR38, 2014-B26).

The Committee is also unsure as to what the objective(s) or scope of such as treaty entails.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **R9 Protecting BC Coasts from Acidic Washwater Dumping**

**City of Vancouver**

Whereas in order to mitigate sulphur air pollution from burning heavy oil, the maritime shipping industry employs exhaust gas cleaning systems (scrubbers) which result in a solution of concentrated acidic sulphates, metals, and other toxins, which cruise and cargo vessel traffic in Canadian jurisdiction annually discharge tens of millions tonnes of this acidic washwater directly into BC's coastal waters;

And whereas ocean acidification is of major concern to coastal communities, particularly those coastal communities encouraging shellfish harvesting, aquaculture, tourism, and commercial and recreational fisheries. Worldwide, authorities have variously banned or are moving to limit the dumping of scrubber wash in coastal waters;

And whereas on the Pacific Coast of North America, California and Washington have implemented stricter protections, and on March 1st, 2022 the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority will introduce phase one (of three) of new exhaust gas cleaning systems washwater discharge

requirements in its jurisdiction after conclusive findings showed negative effects on aqualife and concentrations of metals that exceeded safe thresholds:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government commit to advocate to the federal government on the issue of exhaust gas cleaning systems' acidic wastewater discharge, as part of a comprehensive BC Coastal Marine Strategy; pushing for stronger environmental protections, in line with thriving cruise and cargo waters of our US neighbours, to include preventative measures to stop scrubber dumping from ships and require cleaner fuels be used.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to advocate to the federal government on the issue of exhaust gas cleaning systems' acidic wastewater discharge, as part of a comprehensive BC Coastal Marine Strategy; pushing for stronger environmental protections, in line with thriving cruise and cargo waters of our US neighbours, to include preventative measures to stop scrubber dumping from ships and require cleaner fuels be used.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR45 which called on the Province to develop and enact a Coastal Protection Strategy and law to leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, First Nations, local communities, and stakeholder groups to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**R10 Biodiversity Crisis Requires Urgent Species at Risk Protection and Legislation**

**District of North Vancouver**

Whereas British Columbia has the greatest biological diversity of any province or territory in Canada, the most species at risk, and is the only major jurisdiction in Canada without stand-alone Species At Risk legislation;

And whereas only 4 of the 1,336 species at risk recognized by the province are legally protected under the *Wildlife Act*, yet unsustainable land use and extractive development are causing BC's wildlife populations to decrease in abundance, with many species facing extinction;

And whereas the current patchwork of provincial laws and regulations has not effectively prevented species decline or extinction and is not consistent with British Columbia's

commitment to enshrine the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into law:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment to urgently enact Species At Risk Protection and Legislation in partnership with First Nations and in a manner that promotes and respects First Nations inherent, Treaty and constitutionally protected rights and interests along with adequate funding, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for strong provincial and federal legislation to support conservation of species at risk and promote biodiversity, including:

- 2018-B108 which asks the Province to set aside dedicated funding for purposes of system expansion, ecological monitoring and research, and management planning to meet the quantitative and qualitative measures set out in the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada;
- 2018-B116 & 2017-B114 which address protecting caribou as a species at risk;
- 2011-B93 which asks the federal government to consult with local government and the agricultural community on current and subsequent *Species at Risk Act* recovery planning;
- 2008-B87 & 2010-B35 which ask the Province to enact a Species and Ecosystem Protection Act; and
- 2004-B80 which asks the Province to grant property tax exemptions to landowners who conserve ecologically significant areas containing species at risk.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**R11 Expediated Provincial Regulation of Single-Use Plastics**

**City of Burnaby**

Whereas in 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy published the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan which included the consideration for a provincial ban on single-use plastic items to provide a consistent approach to reducing single-use plastics;

And whereas the authorization of local governments to enact municipal bylaws to ban plastic checkout bags has created inconsistency between municipalities specifically in regards to the minimum fees applied to recycled paper bags and reusable bags;

And whereas the enactment of municipal single-use plastic bylaws is voluntary and thereby creating a patchwork of regulations between neighboring municipalities;

And whereas the federal government’s proposed Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations published December 25, 2021 will be registered and in force by the end of 2022; and

And whereas the federal government’s proposed Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulations do not include replacement fees for single-use plastic items:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to expedite the development of single-use plastic regulations by the end of 2022 and the regulations will not include replacement fees for single-use plastic items, such as cutlery and straws; and where fees may exist, to be collected by the province to remit to local governments for climate action programs.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed previous resolutions seeking a province-wide single-use plastic regulation as well as consistent regulations across Canada, including:

- 2020-EB53 - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to collaborate with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to ensure consistent regulations across Canada to reduce single-use products and increase producers’ responsibility for end-of-life management of single-use products;
- 2019-B42 which called on the Province to develop a provincial single-use reduction strategy;
- 2018-B126 which called on the Province to engage the packaging industry to develop a provincial Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy as part of a provincial Zero Waste Strategy.

By contrast, the membership also endorsed resolution 2019-B148 which asked the Province to allow local governments to regulate or restrict single-use items by the Province's agreement, by regulation, or by approval of the Minister.

However, the Committee advises that none of these endorsed resolutions addressed the issue of replacement fees for single-use plastic items. The membership has not previously considered a request that where such replacement fees may exist, that they be collected by the province to remit to local governments for climate action programs.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R12 Expanding the Child Care Sector Workforce**

**City of Burnaby**

Whereas access to a quality child care system is key to the health and development of children;

And whereas access to a quality child care system supports families and is key to BC's economic recovery;

And whereas qualified Early Childhood Educators play a critical role in the advancement of a universal child care system;

And whereas qualified Early Childhood Educators deserve to be compensated commensurate with their education and experience, including access to benefits and pension plans:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to accelerate its Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy including implementation of a publicly funded, competitive and equitable wage grid for Early Childhood Educators that:

- recognizes staff qualifications and experience; and
- provides wages that are competitive with other positions with similar education, experience and responsibilities;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government work with locally-based child care organizations to implement a wage grid that aligns with the business operations and staff compensation plans of these organizations.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2021-EB67 that asked the Province for the implementation of a competitive, publicly funded Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid, made possible by a significant increase in operation subsidies for child care facilities, as a step towards the Province's plan for a universal child care system.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR68 that called on the Province to, in part, implement a standard fair wage for Early Childhood Educators to address the challenge of a lagging labour force in the child care sector.

The Committee further notes that the membership has supported several resolutions calling for affordable, accessible and quality child care in BC (2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_



**R13 Support for Bereavement Services to be Included in the BC Mental Health Plan**

**City of Port Moody**

Whereas BC is currently experiencing a mental health crisis;

And whereas there is a lack of publicly funded and accessible bereavement services for adults, young adults, and youth in our community despite the enormous toll the loss of loved ones has on mental health:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to include funding for non-profit, publicly accessible bereavement services in the BC Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Plan.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fund non-profit, publicly accessible bereavement services in the BC Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Plan.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSING**

**R14 Expanding BC Manufacturing and Construction of Climate-Smart Made-In-BC Prefabricated Wood-Frame Housing**

**City of Vancouver**

Whereas BC is facing both a climate emergency and a housing affordability crisis and one of the most affordable forms of new built single-family and multi-family housing is pre-fabricated wood-frame housing, typically taking one-half the time to construct and costing one-third to one-half the cost of concrete construction;

And whereas BC is in the enviable position of having a supply of second-growth wood that could be utilized for a sustainable value-added industry in the manufacture of Passive House standard, wood-frame pre-fabricated modular housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to enable, support and promote the development of a zero-carbon standard, wood-frame modular housing manufacturing industry in BC, including by modifying the BC Building Code and BC Step Code to enable quicker permitting and approval of prefabricated wood-frame housing and by encouraging BC Housing to utilize BC-produced prefabricated wood-frame housing wherever possible in its projects.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to enable, support and promote the development of a zero-carbon standard, wood-frame modular housing manufacturing industry in BC, including by modifying the BC Building Code and BC Step Code to enable quicker permitting and approval of prefabricated wood-frame housing and by encouraging BC Housing to utilize BC-produced prefabricated wood-frame housing wherever possible in its projects.

Both UBCM’s Special Committee on Climate Action Recommendations and Housing Strategy have specific recommendations addressing wood frame construction. The Special Committee on Climate Action supports a partnership with other orders of government to build 100,000 zero-emissions, wood constructed new housing units, and the UBCM Housing Strategy calls for the promotion of wood-frame construction as a way of economically constructing new rental. While generally consistent with the intent of these recommendations, the present resolution is highly specific and not fully addressed in existing policy.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional supports to address affordability and homelessness (2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**R15 Training of BC Workers in Deep Energy Retrofits and Climate-Smart Construction**

**City of Vancouver**

Whereas BC is facing both a climate emergency and a housing affordability crisis;

And whereas the most affordable housing is that which is already standing, the most affordable of which is aging and in need of climate-smart retrofits which retain embodied emissions, provide resilience in extreme weather and reduce GHGs;

And whereas training workers in deep energy retrofits and construction of deeply affordable climate-smart housing, including installing solar panels, solar hot water systems and heat

pumps, would help alleviate currently long installation and construction wait-times and enable a faster pace of construction of climate-smart buildings and energy retrofits needed to achieve our climate emergency goals:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to increase support and funding for trades training programs in deep energy retrofits, including installing solar panels, solar hot water systems and heat pumps, and training in the construction of climate-smart buildings including mass timber, Passive House standard and pre-fabricated net-zero-energy wood-frame modular buildings.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse*

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase support and funding for the specific purposes noted, however membership has endorsed 2021-EB40 requesting that the Province provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings. Membership has also endorsed 2018-B31 resolving that that the Province invest in renewable energy technology development and production that would create jobs throughout BC and help local governments and builders meet building code requirements that are moving towards zero-carbon buildings.

Finally, membership has endorsed several additional resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111, 2001 Energy Forum Recommendations).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

**R16 Increasing Provincial Incentives for Installing Solar (PV)  
Panels and Solar Hot Water**

**City of Vancouver**

Whereas the Province’s CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 and BC Hydro’s Five-Year Electrification Plan, both released in the fall of 2021, promote rebates to purchase electric heat pumps that incentivize British Columbians to switch from using fossil fuels to hydro-electricity to heat their homes and hot water, thus mitigating climate change by reducing GHGs;

And whereas there are no equivalent incentives for home and building owners to increase their own supply of renewable energy or to reduce the demand for hydro-electricity, both of which

will become increasingly important for climate resiliency as BC Hydro has estimated it has sufficient supply of electricity only until 2030;

And whereas rebates for home and building owners to install solar hot water systems and solar (photovoltaic) panels would increase the supply of clean energy as well as reduce energy costs for families and businesses both of which increase climate resiliency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC pursue as quickly as possible adding financial incentives, including increased feed-in-tariffs, for home and building owners to install solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC modify the BC Building Code, and include in a future BC Existing Buildings Alterations Code, specifications, including design and placement standards, and load-bearing requirements, for solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B58 seeking provincial and federal government support for the development of alternative home heating products that are more affordable to consumers, yet sensitive to environmental sustainability targets.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2009-B166 that requested the Province to provide incentives to encourage new construction to be pre-plumbed and pre-wired for future solar panels or other alternative energy installations.

In its response to 2009-B166 the Province indicated that it had been working to introduce regulations under the BC Building Code that would “allow local governments to adopt solar-ready requirements for single family homes.” At the time, the Province expected to be able to finalize the regulatory changes and adopt the new regulations in 2010. A Solar Hot Water Ready Regulation was subsequently created in 2013.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_

## SELECTED ISSUES

### **R17 Beyond GDP: A Wellbeing Framework in British Columbia    District of North Vancouver**

Whereas Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was never intended to be used as an indicator of a society's health or wellbeing, does not reflect Indigenous values, does not account for the health of natural systems which underpin all life, and does not account for harmful externalities including pollution and climate change impacts;

And whereas the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations recommended that the province adopt a Wellbeing Framework in British Columbia in the 2020 report 'Centering First Nations Concepts of Wellbeing toward a GDP-alternative Index in BC';

And whereas 82% of Canadian respondents felt that measures beyond economic growth such as health and safety, access to education, access to clean water, time for extracurricular and leisure activities, life satisfaction, social connections, and equality of access to public services are important to their day-to-day life:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and all relevant Ministries to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, including the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, to transform the current Gross Domestic Product economic framework in BC into a Wellbeing Framework which centres Indigenous values, includes the health and wellbeing of all people and all species, and includes the health of natural systems which underpin all life.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, including the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, to transform the current Gross Domestic Product economic framework in BC into a Wellbeing Framework which centres Indigenous values, includes the health and wellbeing of all people and all species, and includes the health of natural systems which underpin all life.

*Conference Decision:* \_\_\_\_\_