



LOWER MAINLAND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2024 RESOLUTIONS DISPOSITION

LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION RESOLUTIONS

ABBREVIATION KEY:

ER = EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION – RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LGA EXECUTIVE

RR = REFERRED RESOLUTION – RESOLUTION REFERRED BACK FROM UBCM FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR

R = RESOLUTION – RESOLUTION RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP BY THE DEADLINE

OF = RESOLUTION OFF THE FLOOR OF THE CONVENTION

PART 1 – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

None received.

PART 2 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

UBCM has referred this resolution from the 2023 resolutions cycle back to the Lower Mainland LGA as it is considered too regional in nature. If endorsed, this resolution will not be sent to UBCM.

RR1-South of Fraser Interurban Rail

Township of Langley

Whereas the Township of Langley has the highest growth rate in Metro Vancouver and public transit has not kept up with population growth, resulting in inadequate services to support current and future Township of Langley residents and businesses;

And whereas communities south of the Fraser, including Delta, Surrey, Township of Langley, City of Langley, Abbotsford and Chilliwack have a combined population over 1.2 million and yet there is no interregional public transit connecting these respective Fraser Valley communities;

And whereas existing transit routes and Highway #1 continue to be congested within these respective communities south of the Fraser River, and without greater investment in public transit infrastructure and service congestion will continue to worsen:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA urge the Province of BC to re-activate the interurban rail service along the existing rail corridor that connects Delta, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford and Chilliwack.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to re-activate interurban rail service along the existing rail corridor that connects Delta, Surrey, Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for expansion of passenger and freight rail service and networks, including as a means of low-emission transportation (2019-B143, 2018-B14, 2016-B117, 2010-B15, 2008-B107, 2004-B65, 2004-B58).

The Committee would point out, however, that this resolution focuses solely on the Fraser Valley, as well as selected communities in Metro Vancouver located south of the Fraser River. As written, the resolution is regional in scope, and the absence of interurban rail service in the Lower Mainland has little impact on the rest of British Columbia. Because of the regional focus, the Committee recommends that this resolution be referred to the Area Association, which can engage in advocacy on this issue.

Recommendation:

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

PART 3 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

Part 3 Section A - This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse, or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R1-Provincial Funding for Child Care Facilities

City of Burnaby

Whereas recent provincial housing legislation, specifically Bills 44 and 47, will mean increased population growth leading to greater need for child care spaces;

And whereas barriers to accessing provincial funding exist for local governments and the private sector:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to review its funding model and work with local governments and the private development sector to streamline its process for the disbursement of provincial funds to facilitate the construction of new public or non-profit owned child care facilities, including facilities within new private development.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed recent resolutions seeking a change to the funding model for local governments on the creation of child care facilities.

For example, endorsed resolution 2023-NR1 asked the Province to provide multi-year funding to local and Indigenous governments and non-profits organizations to coordinate the development of child care; and that the Province replace the current grant-based application process with a systematic expansion of universal child care. Additionally, endorsed resolution 2023-NR2 asked the Province to adequately fund ongoing operational costs associated with the maintenance, repair and replacement of municipally owned childcare facilities, while the proposed resolution is seeking child care facilities in new private developments.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions requesting that the Province create a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2020-NR68).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R2-Medical Emergency Service Alarm Calls Cost Recovery

City of Langley

Whereas gaps within the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) service delivery continue to be filled by local government fire departments, by way of their regular response to a high-volume of Medical Emergency Service Alarm (MESA) calls; resulting in significant direct costs to local governments;

And whereas to date the solution provided by the Province of BC recommends that concerned local governments stop responding to select MESA calls; thus, failing to rectify the gap in service internally or financial impacts externally, and simultaneously shifting the accountability for health decisions onto local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM demand that the Province of BC immediately review their Resource Allocation Plan to implement an equitable cost recovery model to compensate local governments for responding to MESA calls.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2023-EB4, 2023-EB5, 2023-EB6, 2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R3-Additional Funding for Overdose Prevention Sites Across Local Governments **City of New Westminster**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia declared a drug toxicity public emergency in 2016, acknowledging the rapid increase in overdose deaths and the need to deploy the necessary harm reduction strategies with urgency to prevent additional deaths;

And whereas over 13,000 people have died of toxic drugs since 2016 in communities across British Columbia, including at least 2,500 people in 2023, about two-thirds of which were from inhalation, yet only about 40% of supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites in British Columbia offer inhalation services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for Health Authorities to augment existing, and to open new, supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites, including related inhalation services, across British Columbia and including local governments which do not currently offer this service to residents.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed special resolution 2023-SR3 which asked the Province to immediately provide financial investments to ensure the provision of geographically accessible, on-demand mental health and addiction treatment, detox and recovery services; overdose prevention sites with inhalation; and access to safe supply and drug testing for all regions of BC.

Additionally, the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-

EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 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, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R4- Eliminating Barriers to Publicly Owned and Operated Home Care Services and Long-Term Care **City of New Westminster**

Whereas seniors, families and seniors organizations have been advocating to improve access to public home care services and supports to assist seniors to live at home, in their communities, longer and to delay or prevent premature admissions to public long-term care facilities;

And whereas finances can become an impediment to access the required home care services such as housekeeping, more frequent bathing and meal preparation necessary to age in place, and community programs that have been designed to try and meet seniors' needs are unable to fulfil the increasing demand:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to eliminate financial and accessibility barriers by investing in more publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit home care services and social supports required to age in place, and by further investing in publicly owned and operated and not-for-profit long-term care to ensure seniors are well supported in the continuum of care.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking social supports for seniors in their communities including:

- *adequate funding for home care, home support and assisted living, through to and including critical care (2023-NR5, 2009-B52, 2007-B191, 2006-B155, 2005-B48, 2004-B129);*
- *enhanced coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162); and*
- *create a new tax credit program to encourage home renovations for, in part, aging in place projects (2016-B46).*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas every year hundreds of British Columbians are diagnosed with chronic conditions and diseases that necessitate specialized medical treatment requiring long term stays near but not in hospital, there are disparities in health outcomes between rural and urban patients;

And whereas residents of rural and remote communities in British Columbia requiring specialized medical treatment for complex care in urban centres face significant challenges including high travel and accommodation costs, the psychosocial impacts of healthcare away from home and community, the loss of income during treatment period, and increasingly limited availability of affordable accommodations, hotel rooms, or short term rentals;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia, reflected in its 2024 mandate, is committed to both improved health care for British Columbians when they need it, and attainable and affordable housing to deliver more homes for people faster:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Provincial Government of British Columbia to alleviate the financial and logistical burdens associated with seeking specialized medical care far from home by developing and implementing comprehensive policies and programs to assist patients needing to travel for healthcare, and ensure that patients have access to affordable, comfortable, and convenient accommodations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province consider and implement ways to deliver and dedicate subsidized accommodations in and adjacent to large urban health centres specifically purposed for longer term specialized medical treatment.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has considered resolutions which address the transportation challenges faced by medical patients in rural and remote areas to access health care (2020-EB75, 2018-B16, 2014-B9, 2012-B38).

The membership also endorsed resolution 2015-B69 which asked the provincial government to provide support, either through direct funding, initiatives, or policy, to organizations that are undertaking the development of lands and other hard assets in the establishment of rural out-patient accommodation.

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156,

2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

HOUSING

R6 LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IMPACTS ON HOUSING CRISIS District of Squamish

Whereas the Province has acknowledged that there is a housing crisis affecting communities across all of British Columbia and has chosen to take unprecedented action to address this challenge by looking for opportunities and taking action to deliver long-term housing supply;

And whereas large infrastructure projects mandated or approved by the Province put immense pressure on available housing rental and ownership stock, and tourism infrastructure by requiring a significant number of temporary workers without appropriate workforce housing plans as a requirement of project approval;

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM request that the Province require robust and detailed workforce housing plans integral to the approval process for large infrastructure projects, to address and minimize the cumulative impacts of temporary workforce housing on communities and deliver a positive housing legacy.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution from the same sponsor: 2023-NR19.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing the impacts of workforce housing plans or work camps:

- *2014-A4 which asked the provincial government to establish a “single window approval process” for work camps that allows for stakeholder comment to address the location, operation, safety, health and socio-economic impacts associated with a work camp; and*
- *2005-B36, which in part expressed concern about the impacts of increased economic activity on housing, medical services, recreation and other aspects of communities and sought consultation (in this specific resolution) with the Oil and Gas Commission in advance so local jurisdictions were aware of their plans that would affect future community and regional development.*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R7-Local Government Funding Through Speculation and Vacancy Tax

City of Burnaby

Whereas encouraging unoccupied residential properties to become available for long-term occupancy represents an opportunity to increase the availability of housing in our communities;

And whereas revenue collected from the Speculation and Vacancy Tax is directed into the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account where BC Housing is the primary recipient of the funds rather than local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit local governments to receive a portion of the funds collected through the Housing Priority Initiatives Special Account, with funds to be used by the local government towards affordable housing projects.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-NR53 which asked 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.

More broadly, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2023-EB14, 2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R8-Incentivizing Non-Market Housing

City of Maple Ridge

Whereas local governments are seeing the need for increased housing affordability for vulnerable residents, students, families, and seniors;

And whereas there is a need for building a broad spectrum of housing supply and supports in rapidly growing communities such as in the Lower Mainland region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province and federal government work with not-for-profits to further incentivize not-for-profit partnerships and the building of non-market housing, such as below market rentals and co-ops, through financial tools like low interest rate loans, long-term 25 year rates and expanded tax credit eligibility.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking to increase the amount of affordable housing through a variety of actions with non-profit organizations, including:

- *2023-EB13 which asks the Province to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies and co-operatives who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing;*
- *2022-NR14 which asked the Province to develop a provincial acquisition strategy and grant program that would allow non-profit housing providers to purchase and repair aging rental stock for the purposes of maintaining existing affordable housing;*
- *2021-NR54 (Executive endorsed) which asked the Province to work with interested local communities, the not-for-profit sector and other partners on a program of land banking purpose-built rental apartment buildings, to preserve and renew this essential component of the affordable rental housing supply.*

The Committee notes that the membership has also consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ways to encourage investment in older and new rental housing stock (2018-B56, 2017-B53, 2016-OF1).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**R9-Expansion of Homeless Response and Shelter Support
(Heart and Hearth)**

City of Langley

Whereas the BC 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time count recorded the largest measured increase of individuals experiencing homelessness since 2005 (Metro Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District); with individuals experiencing homelessness for longer periods of time, and with more individuals in unsheltered environments due to insufficient permanent, temporary shelter or emergency beds throughout the regions;

And whereas the provincial government, having outlined the strategic plan “Belonging in BC: A collaborative plan to prevent and reduce homelessness”, has invested over 2 billion dollars since 2022 outlining commitments to “prioritized” communities, based on provincial qualifying assessments of local government homeless encampment impacts, to address immediate supports and shelter needs in those selected local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.

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, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2022-NR64).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R10-Flood Protection Funding and Management

City of Mission

Whereas the majority of communities, either in whole or in part, within British Columbia are situated on floodplains;

And whereas the cost of mitigating flood risk has increased to levels that are no longer affordable by Local Governments, Regional Districts or Improvement Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the province and federal governments commit to allocate adequate funds to mitigate the flood threat to British Columbia communities and that the Province consider assuming control of, and responsibility for, flood protection and mitigation infrastructure including diking and pump stations.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2022-SR3, 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).

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported multiple resolutions calling on the Province to be established as the diking authority in all local governments (2022-SR3, 2015-B52 and 2014-B75 (in local governments under 20,000 in population)).

The UBCM Executive has consistently called on the provincial government to provide long-term funding and support to local governments to address new and ongoing emergency management responsibilities. This request was also included as part of the August 2021 report by the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R11-E-Comm Governance Review

City of New Westminster

Whereas E-Comm has struggled to provide service levels that meet established standards or the expectations of the communities they serve, while the cost of E-Comm is increasing at an unsustainable rate, creating budget uncertainty for local Police and Fire services;

And whereas the imminent introduction of next-Gen 911 will represent the single largest change in emergency communications delivery since the introduction of 911, with uncertain cost and operational impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to engage local governments in a comprehensive review of the governance structure and delivery model of 911 emergency call taking, related non-emergency call taking, and emergency dispatch services across BC with a goal to assure reliable, affordable, and sustainable services for all communities.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership, as part of endorsed resolution 2023-SR2, requested that the Province of BC work with local governments to modernize the 911 emergency communications system through the creation of a provincial 911 governance model, with local government representation, to address policy and service standard issues, and manage revenue. This resolution also requested:

- *Implementation of a 911 levy on cellular devices, to address current and future financial challenges associated with the delivery of 911 services;*
- *Development of consistent 911 service standards, without increasing service costs for local governments; and*
- *Integration of mental health call options within the 911 framework including culturally safe options for Indigenous and other racialized peoples.*

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership also endorsed resolution 2022-EB42, which asked the Province to work with UBCM to develop a new provincial mandate and structure for 911 service delivery, with a focus on improving the governance, funding and operations.

Additionally, the UBCM Executive, in 2022, delivered correspondence calling for a governance model, consistent service standards, and a provincial strategy to modernize 911 services, in addition to emphasizing the need for a call answer levy on cellular devices.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R12-Management of Fireworks

City of Mission

Whereas the misuse and abuse of fireworks causes property damage, personal injury, community disturbance and is a threat to first responders;

And whereas a province-wide approach is needed for the safe manufacturing, transportation, retail, wholesale and use of fireworks:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to regulate the use and sale of fireworks in British Columbia, including public education, enforcement, and transportation.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions that make similar requests:

- *2010-B3 which asked the Province to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia by a permit system that also addresses public education, enforcement, international and*

local government cross-border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use and abuse of fireworks; and

- *2005-B74 which asked the Province to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia, through a framework that addresses public education, enforcement, international and municipal cross border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use or abuse of fireworks.*

The Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2005-B75 which sought a province-wide ban on the general sale and use of fireworks.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R13-Improved Local Government Capacity for Environmental Assessment Participation

District of Squamish

Whereas the provincial and federal environmental assessment processes are not the direct jurisdiction of local governments and therefore not subject to associated service cost recovery fees;

And whereas environmental assessment processes, while of critical importance to communities, are very time-consuming, expensive, and onerous for local government staff, community, and council:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish proponent fees to support the participation of local governments in environmental assessment processes, including compensation associated with the research and review of applications, participation in technical and working groups, augmented community engagement, and post-decision regulatory processes should a project Certificate be issued.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution from the same sponsor, 2017-B113 that asked the Province to set up a funding system to allow for local governments to be compensated for the staff time spent including research, review, technical and working group participation, and to augment and support community engagement during the entire process; and that the provincial government's Environmental Assessment Office fee schedule be revised to include a fee for local governments throughout the certification process.

The Province's response to 2017-B113 stated in part, "The Environmental Assessment Office does not currently have budget available to provide capacity funding for local governments participating in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. We acknowledge the time and expense that local governments invest in the EA process, and recognize that funding from the provincial government would be helpful. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has a mandate to revitalize the EA process. We are working to identify the scope and process for EA revitalization and have noted this issue for consideration."

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions addressing environmental assessment and impact, including:

- *2017-B65 which asked the Province to consider projects in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office;*
- *2015-B61 which asked the Province to conduct a complete health impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment for all projects; and work with the Health Officers Council to develop guidance documents to support such health impact assessments; and*
- *2015-B96 which asked the Province to ensure that the scope of environmental impact assessments for major infrastructure projects includes the wider community and environmental impacts associated with increased road, rail and marine traffic so that a range of mitigation options can be assessed, including the development of inland port facilities.*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R14-Urgent Protection of Urban Waterways

City of Burnaby

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides powers to local governments to regulate protection of the environment and levy maximum fines for offences:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide urgent protection to watercourses from dumping and discharge, including by providing authority to local governments to impose higher fines.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide urgent protection to watercourses from dumping and discharge, including by providing authority to local governments to impose higher fines.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and

activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122). In particular, resolution 2023-EB37 asked the Ministry of Forests to allocate more staffing, funding and enforcement tools, prioritize enforcement to ensure watershed security is maintained and work collaboratively with local governments.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that aim to protect groundwater (2019-B157, 2018-B34, 2011-B43, 2008-B78).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

FINANCE

R15-Funding for Community Infrastructure

City of Maple Ridge

Whereas the Lower Mainland is seeing unprecedented levels of immigration and increasing pressures to build more housing, roads, employment lands and associated community infrastructure:

And whereas there is a need for local governments to meet a variety of servicing demands in rapidly growing communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates for the Province to invest in long term infrastructure programming for communities including for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and community buildings;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocates to the federal government to renew Infrastructure Canada funding.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to invest in long term infrastructure programming for communities including for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and community buildings; and for the federal government to renew Infrastructure Canada funding.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB50 which asked the Government of Canada to create a sustainable and reliable local government asset management fund, like the permanent Building Canada's Public Transit Future Fund, to increase

investments in infrastructure renewal, which is essential to enhance public safety, reduce health risks, ensure economic sustainability, and lessen the financial burden on future generations to pay for the infrastructure deficit.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed several more resolutions that request improvements and/or enhancements to both federal and provincial funding programs (2023-EB49, 2020-B36, 2020-B40, 2018-B111, 2016-B18, 2014-B19, 2012-B13).

As part of information received from the sponsor, it is understood that “employment lands”, referenced in the first whereas clause, means industrial lands or job generating activities on such lands.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R16-Registration of Notice of Latecomer Charges on Property Title District of Squamish

Whereas if a local government pays all or part of the costs of excess or extended services (road, water, sanitary or storm drainage systems) it may, under *Local Government Act* (LGA) s. 508(3), recover its costs through latecomer charges against owners of land that is to be subdivided or developed;

And whereas the Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) does not currently have authority to register Notices of Excess or Extended Services Agreements against property title and does not accept such notices, creating risk for property developers or purchasers and for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to give the Land Title and Survey Authority statutory authority to accept Notices of Excessive or Extended Services Agreements (also known as Latecomer Agreements) for registration on property title.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR63 which asked the Province to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.

In its response to 2023-NR63, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs responded as follows: “The Province has no intention of examining this issue. Latecomer agreements are provided for in the Local Government Act (LGA), which is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Currently the Act does not provide for the registration of latecomer agreements in the land title register. The public policy implications of registering such agreements against title are significant. A primary concern is that no other development-related charges are registered on title.”

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R17-Provincial Funding for Electric Vehicle Charger Deployment

Metro Vancouver

Whereas Metro Vancouver has identified that by 2035 up to 350,000 existing parking spots in multi-unit residential buildings in the region will be retrofitted to be electric vehicle (EV) charging ready, and 2,200 to 2,900 public direct current fast charging (DCFC) ports and 32,000 to 47,000 public Level 2 ports will be needed to support anticipated demand for EV charging, requiring significant capital investment in both public charging and multi-unit residential buildings retrofits totalling approximately \$1.2 billion in Metro Vancouver alone by 2035;

And whereas the Government of BC has provided funding for the purchase and installation of EV chargers for home and public charging through the Go Electric EV Charger Rebate Program to complement the rapid increase of EV sales required through the BC *Zero-Emissions Vehicle Act* reaching 100% by 2035;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand and enhance the funding available through the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program to offer sufficient rebates for charging in multi-unit residential buildings and public charging to support the expected rapid uptake of EVs in BC.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to expand and enhance the funding available through the CleanBC Go Electric Rebate Program to offer sufficient rebates for charging in multi-unit residential buildings and public charging to support the expected rapid uptake of EVs in BC.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2022-EB74, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R18-Increasing Reliable Transit Funding to Support Growing Communities

District of Squamish

Whereas access to reliable, frequent public transit is critical to achieving shared local and provincial objectives of supporting community growth in an equitable, healthy, connected, low-carbon way:

And whereas communities serviced by BC Transit haven't been able to realize public transit expansion plans due to lack of matching funds from the Province since 2021:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC and BC Transit to commit to funding transit service expansions where requested and to move from annual funding agreements to 3-year funding agreements to allow for more certainty.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B9, which asked the Province to provide a rolling 3-year funding commitment to BC Transit; and resolution 2023-EB60, which asked the Province to provide a rolling 5-year funding commitment to BC Transit, to support local government budgeting and planning for transit expansion beyond the current year.

In response to resolution 2023-EB60, the provincial government stated that it provided a 3-year non-rolling commitment of \$512 million for BC Transit in Budget 2023.

The Committee further notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LEGISLATIVE

R19-Enhanced Provincial Government Engagement Practices

City of Coquitlam

Whereas the provincial government establishes the legislative framework under which all local governments derive their operational authority;

And whereas the provincial government has recently enacted significant new, or amended, laws, regulations and/or policies which have had a profound effect on local governments across the province;

And whereas the provincial government has signaled its intent to undertake a significant review of all provincial statutes over the coming years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government commit to review its consultation processes with/involving local governments, especially as they relate to legislative or regulatory changes that impact local governments, in order to facilitate better engagement practices, increase transparency amongst all interest holders, and, as a result, enable the richer, more timely exchange of information in order to benefit all parties involved in such processes.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently supported resolutions requesting greater consultation and engagement with the Province on policy, programs and initiatives that have the potential to impact local governments. In 2019 members endorsed special resolution SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives. And in 2022, EB75 was endorsed which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will be impacted by provincial policy.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions seeking more and improved consultation and communication between the Province and local governments on a variety of specific topics including:

- *2023-EB8 which asked the Province to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC;*
- *2023-EB62 which asked the Province to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways;*

- 2021-SR2 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper;
- 2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;
- 2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land; and
- 2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people.

The membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ELECTIONS

R20-Local Government Online Voting

District of North Vancouver

Whereas the *Local Government Act* does not support online voting for local government elections;

And whereas local government elections historically have low turnouts, and being that online voting provides a broader audience the ability to vote:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiative legislative changes to allow online voting for local government elections.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province for legislative changes to allow local governments to use/implement online voting for local government elections (2019-B14, 2015-B8, 2011-A2).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

SELECTED ISSUES

R21-Improved Assessment of Cumulative Effects of Major Projects on Communities

District of Squamish

Whereas major projects cause compounding impacts that are obscured when assessed in isolation from existing and planned projects in a given region;

And whereas current legislation creates significant demands on local governments by allowing for the isolated planning, assessment, and permitting considerations of wholly interdependent projects with interconnected timelines and demands on local services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of BC require the assessment and mitigation of cumulative effects, whether temporary or residual, as part of major project assessments and subsequent permitting processes where impacts arise within regions;

And be it further resolved that interdependent projects are required to undergo combined assessment and permitting processes.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to require the assessment and mitigation of cumulative effects, whether temporary or residual, as part of major project assessments and subsequent permitting processes where impacts arise within regions; and that interdependent projects are required to undergo combined assessment and permitting processes.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed past resolutions from the same sponsor that call for the examination of the impact of major projects/large infrastructure projects on housing, safety and the environment:

- *2023-NR19 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on the housing crisis;*
- *2023-NR37 which addressed large infrastructure project impacts on public safety; and*
- *2017-B65 which asked for projects to be considered in their entirety when evaluating them through the Environmental Assessment Office.*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Part 3 Section B - This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R22-Routine Mammogram Screening Program

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Whereas access to regular routine mammogram screening is inadequate within the Province of BC;

And whereas an increasing number of women are being diagnosed with more aggressive breast cancer between the ages of thirty to forty;

And whereas early detection of breast cancer is paramount to diagnosis and treatment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to increase the number of mobile mammogram screening units available to rural and remote communities;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to lower the age of MSP coverage for routine mammogram screening to the age of thirty **and modify the program so that participation in the screening program can occur whether or not the person has a primary care provider.**

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to increase the number of mobile mammogram screening units available to rural and remote communities, nor to lower the age of MSP coverage for routine mammogram screening to the age of thirty.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions that seek to improve health care equity for rural and remote communities, the most recent being 2023-SR1.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

HOUSING

R23-Consultation and Review of Recent BC 2023 Fall Housing

City of Maple Ridge

Legislation

Whereas the provincial government recently introduced a suite of new housing legislation, Bill 44 – Residential Development, Bill 46 – Development Financing and Bill 47 – Transit Oriented Areas;

And whereas there is a need for more municipal consultation to reflect on the impacts of legislative implementation and identify policy gaps:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate the Province review the new housing legislation after 2 years from introduction; immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated; and increase the Official Community Plan review requirement to every 7 years.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review the new housing legislation after 2 years from introduction; immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated; and increase the Official Community Plan review requirement to every 7 years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently supported resolutions requesting greater consultation and engagement with the Province on policy, programs and initiatives that have the potential to impact local governments. In 2019 members endorsed SR1 which asked that the Province ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter be adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives. And in 2022, EB75 was endorsed which asked the Province to consult with local governments that will be impacted by provincial policy.

The membership has also endorsed several resolutions seeking more and improved consultation and communication between the Province and local governments on a variety of specific topics including:

- 2023-EB8 which asked the Province to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC;*
- 2023-EB62 which asked the Province to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways;*
- 2021-SR2 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper;*
- 2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency;*

- 2021-EB43 which sought improved government to government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land; and
- 2021-EB72 which asked the Province to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people.

The membership has endorsed additional resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141).

As part of information received from the sponsor, it is understood that “immediately allow exemption zones for single detached greenfield areas within the containment boundary that are more isolated”, as referenced in the enactment clause, refers to exemptions for such isolated sites where upfront rezoning for increased density may make less sense in part due to less servicing and infrastructure available.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R24-Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47-Financial Assistance for Local Governments City of Langley

Whereas local governments allocated the Building Community Funding to various community needs prior to the introduction of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 and the Province has provided some limited funding support to assist local governments in implementing the housing initiatives;

And whereas local governments have limited staffing, resources, and budget capacity to undertake the required updates to their Official Community Plans (OCP), updates to their Engineering Servicing Plans (ESP), as well as review and analyze the impacts on all local government infrastructure with the implementation of Bill 44, Bill 46, and Bill 47 on communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM demand the provincial government expand the scope and provide local governments additional financial support for the hiring of additional staff and or consultants to complete the required updates to Official Community Plans, Environmental Servicing Plans as well as to review the impacts on all community infrastructure, including but not limited to public amenities, recreation centres, hospitals, schools, first responders and aging infrastructure in order to comply with provincial mandates as stipulated in the legislation.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide local governments additional financial support for

the hiring of additional staff and or consultants to complete the required updates to Official Community Plans, Environmental Servicing Plans as well as to review the impacts on all community infrastructure, in order to comply with provincial mandates as stipulated in the legislation.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R25-Funding to Offset the Cost of Waiving Development Fees for Attainable Housing Village of Pemberton

Whereas local governments are increasingly expected to contribute financially to the development of attainable housing by waiving development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions;

And whereas local governments rely on revenues from development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions to provide the infrastructure, amenities, and services that support housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province, as part of their housing initiatives, to provide funding to local governments to offset the revenue losses resulting from the waiving of development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions associated with the development of attainable housing.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to, as part of their housing initiatives, provide funding to local governments to offset the revenue losses resulting from the waiving of development application fees, development cost charges, and amenity contributions associated with the development of attainable housing.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R26-Provincial Support for Services Associated with Housing Development Village of Pemberton

Whereas implementation of the Province’s Homes for People plan, designed to accelerate housing development and population growth, will increase pressures on local governments to provide the services necessary to develop and support new housing;

And whereas local government service deficits will pose barriers to the development of attainable housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for services, including transit, daycare, recreation, garbage collection, and protective services including police, fire, and emergency management, that will contribute to the development of attainable housing.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to, as part of their housing funding initiatives, provide funding to local governments for services that will contribute to the development of attainable housing.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128, 2003-B40).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R27-Integration of Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness into Mandated Housing **City of Port Moody**

Whereas on November 8, 2023, the Province introduced legislation it estimates could provide up to 100,000 new homes near designated transit areas over the next decade, which was intended to ease the housing crisis;

And whereas the Province has committed to addressing the housing and support needs of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and make homelessness a rare and brief occurrence, but the 2023 Homeless Count showed a drastic increase in the number of our neighbours facing homelessness, many for years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to amend their legislation, and develop a partnership framework and policy in collaboration with local government and non

profit housing such that across all communities, new constructions near designated transit will incorporate at least enough dedicated supported housing units and associated services to house the unprecedented number of our unhoused neighbours captured in the most recent homeless count.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to ensure that new constructions near designated transit will incorporate dedicated supported housing units and associated services to house the homeless.

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, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2022-NR64, 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).

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was DEFEATED

R28-Incorporating Tree Canopy and Climate Goals into Housing Action

City of Port Moody

Whereas the Province of BC, along with the rest of the world, is experiencing increasing incidents of extreme weather, including deadly heat waves which are intensified by the urban heat island effect and lack of neighbourhood greenness;

And whereas the Province has committed to addressing climate risk mitigation and adaptation at the same time as providing needed housing but may not be foreseeing potential negative consequences that can be ameliorated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revise Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy and ensure local governments retain clear authority to:

- protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods; and
- implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to revise housing Bill 44 and Bill 47 to embed tree protection, tree canopy expansion, and climate resilience into the policy or ensure local governments retain clear authority to: protect mature trees and tree canopy in residential neighbourhoods; and implement locally developed Climate Action Plans.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects (2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R29-Updating the Provincial Minimum Standards of Maintenance City of Port Moody

Whereas climate change is worsening conditions and increasing vulnerabilities in the built environment, especially for low-income renters, and the majority of 2021 heat dome deaths were in low-income and multi-unit residential buildings that lacked access to cooling, and poor building maintenance contributes to poor occupant health;

And whereas the *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA) states in general terms that landlords must comply with health, safety, and housing standards required by law, including heat but not cooling;

And whereas the Province of BC enables local government to enact standards of maintenance to enforce basic levels of maintenance for rental accommodation, but many local governments either do not have bylaws or bylaws that are inadequate in a changing climate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to make the necessary changes to the Standards of Maintenance Guide to align the BC Building Code regulations for maximum and minimum temperature standards and ensure that considerations of health and climate hazards such as mould, precipitation, extreme heat and cold conditions, are included;

And be it further resolved that the guidance be converted to regulation, with associated regional and/or provincial supports for investigation and enforcement such that communities of every size have protection for renters.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to make the necessary changes to the Standards of Maintenance Guide to align the BC Building Code regulations for maximum and minimum temperature standards and ensure that considerations of health and climate hazards such as mould, precipitation, extreme heat and cold conditions, are included. Nor has the membership considered the request that the guidance be converted to regulation, with associated regional and/or provincial supports for investigation and enforcement such that communities of every size have protection for renters.

The Committee also advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2022-NR12 from the same sponsor, which sought to strengthen protection of renters' health through a number of steps including: 1) maximum and minimum safe temperatures and definitions of serious mold concerns, such that health concerns that are likely to increase for renters in the face of a changing climate; 2) mechanism for enforcement for jurisdictions without standards of maintenance bylaws; 3) provide resources for local governments to enforce Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) rulings; 4) provide all local governments the authority to undertake health and hazard related repairs, which would be recovered from offending landlords; and 5) provide the RTB with additional resources to ensure timely support for adjudication, as well as tracking of health related concerns.

The Committee further advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2020-NEB14 which sought to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to strengthen standards of property maintenance that set out a breadth of health, safety, and security standards, and establishes enforcement mechanisms that ensure adherence to these standards.

However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing standards of maintenance, including:

- 2022-EB27 which asked the Province to ensure they are funding clients to live in safe and clean affordable housing;*
- 2019-B189 (Executive endorsed) which called for the creation of a policy and an inspection process to ensure the integrity of the rooming houses;*
- 2017-B44 which asked the province to undertake licensing and more stringent regulation of supportive recovery homes;*
- 2007-B197 which asked the Province to ensure that low income housing meets basic habitat requirements through regular inspection as a condition to supplying rental payments to landlords; and*
- 2002-B72 which asked the province to include minimum heating standards for tenants in the Residential Tenancy Act. (The Committee acknowledges this is a dated reference)*

However the Committee advises that local choice is a foundational tenet of general policy adopted by UBCM members. As currently worded, the resolution proposes legislative amendments that would constrain local choice with regards to standards of maintenance.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R30-Increased Fine for Short Term Rentals

City of Burnaby

Whereas short-term rentals (STRs) are taking away from long-term rental housing stock and in turn contributing to the housing crisis in Burnaby;

And whereas the Province intends to increase the maximum fine a local government may issue to any bylaw non-compliant operator from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per day utilizing the Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) system;

And whereas under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* (LGBNEA), the current mechanism to enforce bylaws in Burnaby, a maximum fine of \$500 per day is permitted, with no increase proposed by the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to permit the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000;

And be it further resolved that local governments have the ability to add unpaid bylaw violation penalties to property taxes, to better allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions addressing regulation of short-term rentals, including (2023-EB15, 2022-NR11, 2018-A4).

As well, the Joint UBCM-Province Advisory Group on Short Term Rentals prepared a series of recommendations based in part on these policies, that informed many elements of the Province's recent legislation on short-term rentals. The recommendations can be found via this link:

https://www.ubcm.ca/sites/default/files/2021-11/Policy%20Areas_Housing_Priorities%20for%20Short-Term%20Rentals%20Report_2021-10.pdf

*However the Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution which asks the Province to permit the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement**

Act maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000, and allow local governments to have the ability to add unpaid bylaw violation penalties to property taxes, to better allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R31-Provincial Funding for Energy Efficient and Zero Emissions Equipment for Existing Buildings **Metro Vancouver**

Whereas energy efficient and zero emissions building equipment provide benefits such as lower annual energy costs and improved resilience to extreme heat events;

And whereas the CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings programs provide incentives and rebates to reduce the significant cost barriers to implementing energy efficiency and zero emissions retrofits for existing buildings, yet multi-unit residential buildings including affordable housing have limited access to these incentive programs;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Government of BC to significantly increase funding for provincial incentive programs to support energy efficient and zero emissions equipment for existing buildings, to ensure that incentives can leverage pre-2030 replacement cycles for residential and commercial building equipment;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to ensure that existing and future incentives and support programs are available for all building types, prioritizing multi-unit rental, affordable and non-market housing, and building types that are not covered in current incentives and rebates.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to increase funding for provincial incentive programs to support energy efficient and zero emissions equipment for existing buildings, to ensure that incentives can leverage pre-2030 replacement cycles for residential and commercial building equipment; and to ensure that existing and future incentives and support programs are available for all building types, prioritizing multi-unit rental, affordable and non-market housing, and building types that are not covered in current incentives and rebates.

However, the Committee 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 (2023-EB20, 2023-EB21, 2022-EB31, 2022-NR18, 2021-EB40, 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).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R32-Achieving Complete Streets through Building Permit

City of Burnaby

Whereas the *Local Government Act* permits municipalities, as part of rezoning and subdivision, to secure land dedication for highway purposes, and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services, and public access;

And whereas there is a desire on behalf of the Province to reduce rezoning applications by having municipalities permit higher density developments as-of-right as per recent provincial legislation to expedite housing delivery;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* does not currently permit a municipality to obtain dedications for highway purposes, or the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for works and services and public access as conditions of Building Permit issuance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* and **Vancouver Charter** to allow municipalities to obtain ~~highway dedications,~~ and the registration of Covenants and Statutory Rights-of-way for **highways, roads,** works and services, and public access through Building **or Development** Permit issuance without the approval of subdivision or rezoning.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR15 which made a similar request, asking the Province to expand the tools for local governments to request road dedications, statutory-rights-of-way and infrastructure servicing upgrades through the development permit and/or building permit process; and to provide a legislative framework for amenity contributions, tenant relocation requirements, and other requirements to be applied at the development permit or building permit phase rather than being tied to rezonings.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB76 which sought to maintain local government autonomy and authority for development approvals.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R33-Intersection Cameras for Safer Streets

City of North Vancouver

Whereas most crashes in British Columbia happen at intersections and speed was the number one contributing factor in fatal crashes in BC between 2018 and 2022;

And whereas intersection cameras, for both speed and red light infractions, can be implemented quickly and have been proven to be a cost-effective method of improving intersection safety:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the BC government to install speed and red light cameras at all intersections across BC with 20 or more casualty crashes recorded between 2018-2022;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the BC government to allow local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own expense and directly collect fines to be invested in implementing road safety improvements.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to install speed and red light cameras at all intersections across BC with 20 or more casualty crashes recorded between 2018-2022; and to allow local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own expense and directly collect fines to be invested in implementing road safety improvements.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions (2023-EB25, 2019-B8, 2017-B90) all asking the Province to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras on local roads at the local government's expense. These resolutions did not contemplate how revenue would be managed. As part of its response to resolution 2023-EB25, the Province stated that it does not intend to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking the usage of traffic enforcement cameras, including:

- 2018-B103 which asked the Province to pilot average-speed-over-distance technology at one or more suitable locations in BC, including but not limited to the Sea-to-Sky Highway 99 at Lions Bay, the Malahat Highway 1 or the Coquihalla Highway 5;*
- 2013-B91 which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and*

- *2011-B84 which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R34-Creating Safer Streets for Everyone with Intersection Safety Cameras **City of New Westminster**

Whereas the City of New Westminster adopted “Safe Movement of People” as a strategic priority for 2022-2026 and has committed to advance a “Vision Zero” mindset across the city which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries;

And whereas the Government of BC’s Road Safety BC website states that:

- 1) “Most crashes in British Columbia happen at intersections. To reduce injuries and save lives, BC installs intersection safety cameras – sometimes called red light cameras – at intersections where crashes occur frequently. Warning signs let drivers know the intersection has cameras.”
- 2) “The cameras are proven to be effective at reducing side-impact, head-on and pedestrian crashes, and are located where red light running and high speed cause serious crashes.”;

And whereas the City of New Westminster has been working towards improving road safety through a variety of initiatives and infrastructure improvements, limited by capital budget funding and staff resources while the use of speed and red light cameras can be quickly implemented;

And whereas secondary benefits would include directing the revenue from these cameras toward road safety initiatives across the community and complementing the work of traditional police enforcement, enabling police officers to focus on other critical and time-sensitive tasks:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM call on the provincial government to expand the implementation of speed and red light intersection safety cameras in local governments across BC, prioritizing intersections near schools and those with a high rate of crashes that result in injuries or fatalities as identified by ICBC, and that the provincial government provide all revenue from additional speed and red light cameras to local governments as grants to be invested in implementing local and safety improvements;

And be it further resolved that the LMLGA and UBCM request that the provincial government allow BC local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own cost and set and collect fees directly to be earmarked for road safety improvements.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the implementation of speed and red light intersection safety cameras in local governments across BC, prioritizing intersections near schools and those with a high rate of crashes that result in injuries or fatalities as identified by ICBC, and that the provincial government provide all revenue from additional speed and red light cameras to local governments as grants to be invested in implementing local and safety improvements; and to allow local governments to install speed and red light cameras at their own expense and directly collect fines to be invested in road safety improvements.

However, the membership endorsed resolutions (2023-EB25, 2019-B8, 2017-B90) asking the Province to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras on local roads at the local government's expense. These resolutions did not contemplate how revenue would be managed. As part of its response to resolution 2023-EB25, the Province stated that it does not intend to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking the usage of traffic enforcement cameras, including:

- 2018-B103 which asked the Province to pilot average-speed-over-distance technology at one or more suitable locations in BC, including but not limited to the Sea-to-Sky Highway 99 at Lions Bay, the Malahat Highway 1 or the Coquihalla Highway 5;*
- 2013-B91 which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and*
- 2011-B84 which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R35-Port Policing

City of Delta

Whereas the Ports Canada Police was disbanded in 1997 and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority discontinued its financial contribution to the RCMP-led Waterfront Joint Forces Operation in 2015;

And whereas this loss of police resources has weakened the security of Canada's ports and allowed organized crime elements to proliferate, as evidenced by the 2023 Peter German report Policing our Ports;

And whereas the provincial and federal governments have statutory authorities in respect of taxation and fees related to the port and the transportation of shipping containers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with the Canadian government and port municipalities to develop a shipping container levy as a funding mechanism to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, including the Port of Vancouver, in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to establish a shipping container levy, as a funding mechanism for dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts, in order to address the issue of organized crime.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse a somewhat similar resolution 2019-B90, which asked the federal government and port municipalities to develop a strategic plan to re-establish dedicated resources to police ports and waterfronts in order to address the issue of organized crime operating through Canada's ports. As part of its response to this resolution, the Province noted that port policing is a federal responsibility.

This resolution and the 2023 report, Policing our Ports, commissioned by the City of Delta, highlight decisions made by the Government of Canada to download federal responsibilities (e.g. border integrity, national security, serious and organized crime) onto local governments. It is a UBCM general policy that "access to additional revenue should be provided when local government is assigned new responsibilities."

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R36-Funding of RCMP Services for Small Municipalities Village of Pemberton

Whereas the current funding model for municipal RCMP police services imposes an immense financial burden on small municipalities when their census population reaches 5,000;

And whereas implementation of the Province's Homes for People plan, accelerating housing development and population growth, will push many small municipalities to the 5,000 census population trigger point sooner than previously anticipated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to immediately increase the population threshold for RCMP contract policing costs payable by local governments from 5,000 to 10,000 and to develop, in partnership with local governments, a more fair and equitable shared funding model between all policing partners in British Columbia.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution asking the Province to shift only one RCMP population threshold, from 5,000 to 10,000, while leaving the 15,000 person threshold unchanged; and that a more fair and equitable shared funding model be developed between all policing partners in BC.

However, the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions with the same general request, to ease the financial burden associated with moving to a new RCMP policing population tier.

Relevant resolutions include:

- *2023-NR34 which asked for the introduction of additional RCMP policing population tiers;*
- *2022-NR33 which requested incremental RCMP cost-sharing adjustments as communities grow beyond 5,000, 10,000 and 15,000 residents;*
- *2020-EB5 which asked the Province to review the current RCMP funding model with consideration towards a gradual annual cost increase from the Police Tax to responsibility for 70% of the cost-base over a five-year period for municipalities that have reached the 5,000 person threshold;*
- *2020-NR7 which asked the Province to review the current model of funding RCMP police services, with the intent to make policing more affordable for contract partners; and*
- *2016-B75 which asked that the current RCMP funding model be reviewed with consideration towards an incremental cost increase based on population growth.*

The Resolutions Committee also notes that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse several other resolutions related to the RCMP cost-share for local governments, including:

- *2022-NR32 which asked provincial and federal governments to consider increasing the RCMP population thresholds (5,000 and 15,000) to recognize the increased burden on emerging municipalities;*
- *2021-NR7 which asked the Province to review the current model of funding RCMP police services with consideration given to equitable funding of police services through a provincial police tax based on the assessed value of improvements for the areas served by the detachments; and, that any provincial contribution towards policing be shared equally with all police taxpayers;*
- *2021-NR6 which asked the Province to implement a police funding formula that fairly and equitably distributes RCMP expenses to all governments throughout the province;*
- *2020-NR8 which asked the Province to develop a funding model whereby provincial RCMP resources are increased and allocated to various regions of BC based on tourism, industrial activity growth, and/or rural population increase in the specified region; and*
- *2016-B81 which asked the Province to develop an equitable police funding program for all municipalities and regional districts.*

The cost-sharing models for municipalities over 5,000 in population are outlined in the 20-year Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) that these municipalities have signed with the

Province, and which do not expire until March 31, 2032. The provisions in these Agreements, including the cost-sharing model, may be reviewed through the Five Year Review process (see article 21.0 of the MPUA). During each of the first two Five Year Reviews (2017 and 2022), UBCM has sought input from the membership through The Compass and other forums.

In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province create a fair and equitable funding model for local governments that includes "exploring options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of policing costs." UBCM continues to work with the Province, through the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, to address these and other policing modernization priorities.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R37-Equitable Court Access

City of Langley

Whereas gaps in service within the Provincial Courts continues to deny timely and equitable access to justice services for all British Columbians and will only be exacerbated by rapid population growth; thus, resulting in harms by prolonging closure for individuals awaiting court judgements, inefficient use of police time for travel, and greater challenges for those with limited access to public transit or transportation;

And whereas although recent investments made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) have increased capacity at specific courthouses, the investments have not facilitated equitable access for all British Columbians or met service level requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM direct the Province of BC to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and further, release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and to release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan that reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking increased funding and judicial resources, including specialized courts and other

alternatives to the traditional court system (2023-EB30, 2021-EB11, 2019-B207, 2018-B89, 2018-B9, 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2012-B2, 2011-B9).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management (2021-NR2) and to lower the charge approval threshold (2019-B5, 2018-B91), in order to address the perceived high volume of court delays.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**R38-Disaster Financial Assistance for Victims of Climate Fraser Valley Regional District
Related Events**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have a robust policy to assist victims of climate related events whose losses are not covered by insurance or Disaster Financial Assistance;

And whereas the time of decision making on claims to the Province of British Columbia is a significant and life changing hardship to British Columbians and Indigenous communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to take urgent steps to develop a policy to assist victims of climate events with their claims in a timely manner, not exceeding 12-months post-disaster.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to take urgent steps to develop a policy to assist victims of climate events with their claims in a timely manner, not exceeding 12-months post-disaster.

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

- *2023-LR2 which asked the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate assistance and financial aid to the commercial and industrial business sectors within the province that have been impacted by disasters, and that government programs, such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to incorporate the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters in order to support affected businesses;*
- *2022-NR29 which asked the Province and Emergency Management BC to increase the Disaster Financial Assistance Funding (DFA) limit on homeowner applications and consider implementing a framework that ties DFA compensation to BC Assessment values;*

- 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 so that they may address their legislative responsibilities;
- 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;
- 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; and
- 2013-B90 which asked the Province to expand the Disaster Financial Assistance fund to cover vacation properties.

In October 2023, the Province began a review of its financial assistance regulation by releasing a discussion paper and series of questions for stakeholders to consider.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R39-Managing Fire Risk on Crown Land

Fraser Valley Regional District

Whereas the Province of British Columbia needs to review its policy for backcountry closures during periods of extreme wildfire risk;

And whereas Regional Districts have no ability to mitigate the considerable risks associated with Crown land hazards nor respond to emergencies on Crown land under the Regional District service area model;

And whereas Regional District electoral area lands have the largest Crown to community exposure to these hazard areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to aggressively pursue strategic proactive messaging strategies about restricting access to vulnerable areas during periods of extreme wildfire risk to mitigate human-caused wildfires on Crown land;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province to update their policy for backcountry closures to ensure proactive closures are a priority during periods of wildfire risk and in advance of conditions reaching unacceptable risk levels and include a process that ensures access by First Nations who use forest service roads to travel to and from their residences and territorial areas, as well as businesses who require access to Crown land.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to mitigate human-caused wildfires on Crown land by undertaking strategic and proactive messaging strategies about restricting access to vulnerable areas during periods of extreme wildfire risk; and, that the Province update its policy for backcountry closures to reflect the following:

- *Prioritize proactive closures during periods of wildfire risk and in advance of conditions reaching unacceptable levels of risk;*
- *Ensure backcountry access by First Nations who use forest service roads to travel to and from their residences and territorial areas; and*
- *Ensure backcountry access by businesses who require access to Crown land.*

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed a number of resolutions relevant to this request, including:

- *2020-NR14, which requested that the Province be required by legislation to undertake disaster mitigation work on all lands and facilities under the care and control of the Province where emergency events could negatively impact adjacent communities;*
- *2019-B51, which requested that there be no closures of backcountry areas in BC until and unless local governments and other stakeholders are consulted regarding social and economic impacts, and a sustainable solution for both be considered; and*
- *2018-B107, which requested that the provincial and federal governments stop downloading wildfire mitigation costs and responsibilities onto local governments and First Nations, and take responsibility for wildfire mitigation costs on Crown land and areas surrounding local governments.*

In 2019, the provincial government initiated a multi-year review of its emergency management legislation. Local governments, in response to a provincial discussion paper and through other forums, consistently requested that the Province assume responsibility for managing hazards on Crown land. The new Emergency and Disaster Management Act includes clarification that local authority jurisdiction for hazard management will include Crown land, reflecting the Province's unwillingness to assume these responsibilities.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas local governments have the ability to regulate the sale and use of fireworks within their local government boundaries;

And whereas there exists discrepancies among local bylaws regulating the sale and use of fireworks across the province and fireworks are also readily available from sources outside of British Columbia and Canada through online purchase;

And whereas fireworks are often obtained and used by individuals in an irresponsible manner leading to personal injuries, damage to property, harm to the environment and risk to pets and wildlife;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to work with local governments to amend the BC *Fireworks Act* and concurrently work with the federal government to address the online sale of fireworks, to establish a consistent approach with respect to the sales and permitting of fireworks with an objective to reduce the unauthorized and unsafe use of fireworks within the province.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to work with local governments to amend the Fireworks Act, while concurrently working with the federal government to establish a consistent approach to the to the online sale and permitting of fireworks, with an objective to reduce the unauthorized and unsafe use of fireworks within the province.

However, the Committee notes that the membership previously endorsed resolution 2010-B3 which asked the Province to regulate the use of fireworks in British Columbia by a permit system that also includes public education, enforcement, international and local government cross-border transportation, and cost recovery where loss can be directly attributed to the use and abuse of fireworks. As part of its response, the Province noted that "the proposed regulatory change would require significant local government involvement and support, which has not been evident in previous efforts to amend existing fireworks regulations."

The Committee also notes that in 2005 the membership endorsed a resolution (2005-B74) similar to 2010-B3, but did not endorse a resolution (2005-B75) seeking a province-wide ban on the general sale and use of fireworks.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas the theft of copper wire costs the local taxpayers of British Columbia thousands of dollars each year to repair and can create a danger to public safety through the loss of electricity, lighting and communications;

And whereas the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* is more than 10 years old and metal thefts are an ongoing problem:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province, in collaboration with police agencies in BC, to complete a review of the *Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act* to address metal theft.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province, in collaboration with police agencies in BC, to complete a review of the Metal Dealers and Recyclers Act to address metal theft.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions related to this issue, including:

- *2011-B7 which requested that the Province implement a system to licence and regulate the scrap metal economy in British Columbia;*
- *2011-B77 which requested that the Province create a provincial regulation governing pawnshops, second-hand dealers and recyclers to deal with metal theft;*
- *2007-SR1 which requested an amendment to the Community Charter to enable local government to regulate pawnshops and second hand dealers;*
- *2007-B92 which requested that the Province establish legislation regulating scrap metal recycling;*
- *2007-LR10 which requested that local government be given the power to require scrap dealers to provide information to police; and*
- *2006-B5 which requested that the Province amend Section 59 of the Community Charter to more clearly articulate local government's authority to impose requirements on businesses selling goods that might endanger health or public safety. The ability to impose requirements on scrap metal dealers would be one example of the expected range of this proposed authority.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking amongst Canadians and many British Columbians are exposed to unsafe levels of radon within their own homes every day;

And whereas professionally-installed radon mitigation systems are effective at reducing radon exposure levels in homes but are financially prohibitive for many British Columbians to pursue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to establish a funding program to help residents with the costs of installing radon mitigation measures in their homes to increase the health and safety of British Columbians from the harmful effects of radon.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a funding program to help residents with the costs of installing radon mitigation systems and other measures in their homes to address the harmful effects of radon.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

Whereas local governments recognize the urgent need to address climate change and the impact that climate change is having on communities through extreme weather such as wildfires, floods, extreme heat, which is causing major infrastructure damage and loss of life to residents;

And whereas there is a need to engage young people by local governments, and train the next generation of low carbon sector workers and leaders:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA and UBCM advocate to the Province of British Columbia for an expanded Youth Climate Corps that will provide green living wage jobs and training to young adults to support important work on climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their own communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement;

And be it further resolved that the Province work with local governments, Indigenous communities and nations, youth groups, industry, union associations and environmental

organizations to scaleup, design programming and provide resources for a BC-wide Youth Climate Corps.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand a Youth Climate Corps that will provide green living wage jobs and training to young adults to support important work on climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their own communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement. Nor has the membership considered the request for the Province to work with local governments, Indigenous communities and nations, youth groups, industry, union associations and environmental organizations to scale up, design programming and provide resources for a BC-wide Youth Climate Corps.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2013-B81 which asked the Province to create and support a Green Jobs Plan for BC.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include (2023-EB31, 2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R44-Black Bear Cub Conflict Response

District of North Vancouver

Whereas the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service currently can independently decide how to handle black bears and cubs in conflict situations, without the oversight of an independent external public board;

And whereas there is no mandate for orphaned black bear cubs to be taken to a Wildlife Sanctuary for health assessment and treatment by a qualified wildlife veterinarian, and be the sole authority to perform a humane euthanasia of black bear cubs if needed:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to initiate changes to the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, Human-Black Bear (Single) Conflict Response Guideline, to include a review of actions through an independent civilian-led

oversight board, orphaned bear cubs to be transported to a wildlife sanctuary for health assessment of cubs by qualified wildlife veterinarian, for treatment or euthanasia, and an audit done by the Solicitor General of British Columbia Conservation Officer Service actions, policies and procedures.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to initiate changes to the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service, Human-Black Bear (Single) Conflict Response Guideline, to include a review of actions through an independent civilian-led oversight board, orphaned bear cubs to be transported to a wildlife sanctuary for health assessment of cubs by qualified wildlife veterinarian, for treatment or euthanasia, and an audit done by the Solicitor General of British Columbia Conservation Officer Service actions, policies and procedures.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions addressing Bear Smart programs, including:

- *2013-B73 which asked for more funds for the Bear Aware/Wild Safe program to ensure that interested communities can participate without having to compete against other jurisdictions for funding;*
- *2012-B21 which asked for adequate funding and staffing be provided in order for the BC Conservation Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing bear-human conflict in communities across BC; and*
- *2004-B81 which asked the Province to maintain the Bear Aware program and provide the required funding through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund for communities pursuing the “Bear Smart” program.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management and to reduce human-wildlife conflict (2021-NR38, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2012-B72, 2013-B27, 2012-B21, 2010-B25). In particular, resolution 2021-NR38 sought to support the work and informed decision-making by Conservation Officers to consider (not require) orphaned and /or injured juvenile wildlife for rehabilitation, by providing up-to-date information on licensed rehabilitation facilities located in the Province; and to develop a standardized procedure for the assessment of suitability for rehabilitation, capture, emergency treatment, and transfer to a wildlife rehabilitation facility for orphaned and injured wildlife.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R45-Farming Event Rules

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Whereas events can support the feasibility of farming in BC;

And whereas current Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Use Regulations are permitting events that hinder farming, and further local regulation is hindered by large geographic areas and limited resources, especially in Regional Districts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):

- number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;
- stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and
- ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the ALC to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):

- *number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;*
- *stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and*
- *ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.*

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR60 which asked the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

The Committee is aware that farm retail sales, non-farm use home occupation and gatherings for non-farm use events (i.e. weddings) are currently permitted in the ALR under certain circumstances. As well under the regulation, seasonal, harvest activities, corn mazes, heritage exhibits, tours, tractor rides, etc. are all permitted. Additionally, present provincial policy allows a winery to establish a restaurant or lounge to promote the products that it produces and sells.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TAXATION

R46-Unfarmed Land Tax

City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is to preserve much-needed land for farming to ensure local food security, and not real estate speculation;

And whereas speculation in the ALR can lead to increased land values and the underutilization of ALR land for farming:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that seek reforms that will encourage farm use of ALR land, including:

- *2023-NR71 which asked the Province to extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries to help promote fairness among farmers and reduce barriers to agricultural activity within urbanized areas;*
- *2018-B105 which asked for taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary 'farm uses';*
- *2014-A3 which asked the provincial government to 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; and*
- *2013-B111 which asked for strengthened powers for the Agricultural Land Commission and taking measures to protect the agricultural land base from price speculation.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas the *School Act* exempts 50% of the assessed value of a parcel of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from school taxation if the land is vacant and unused, or used only for a residential purpose;

And whereas to encourage farming in the ALR to ensure local food security, school tax exemptions should only apply to ALR land that is being used for a farm purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the *School Act* to remove the 50% school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the School Act to remove the 50% school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 which asked the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses.

The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2008-B101 which urged the provincial government to increase the tax benefit for those who are using their land for agriculture.

The Committee further notes members endorsed resolutions:

- *2003-B20 on Farm Classification that questioned the extent of exemptions provided and the eligibility of some properties for tax exemptions citing the strain this can put on other property classes.*
- *2002-B48 which asked that section 130(2)(b) of the School Act be amended by deleting the reference to “residential purposes”, thus ensuring that every parcel of land used for a residential purpose pay equitably for school, hospital and local service purposes.*

The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.

The Committee further advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, two resolutions seeking the 50% school tax exemption for Class 6 properties (2012-B129, 2009-B80).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas the Province of British Columbia regulates annual allowable residential rent increases through the Residential Tenancy Regulation, BC Reg. 477/2003, to protect lower income renters from housing insecurity;

And whereas there is currently no similar provincial policy to protect small businesses or community-serving commercial tenants from unsustainable, unpredictable, and increasingly significant rent increases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide local governments with the legislative authority to enable special economic zones where commercial rent control and demo/renoviction policies could be applied to ensure predictability in commercial lease costs, so local small businesses and community-serving commercial tenants can continue to serve their communities.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR70 which called on the Province to establish a rental limit increase on commercially zoned properties operated by small businesses similar to the rental increase limitation(s) that govern residential rental properties.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to assist commercial property owners with their assessments and property taxes or rents:

- *2019-B78 which asked the Province to create new assessment sub-classes for small businesses to allow local governments to apply differentiated non-residential property tax rates to smaller businesses and cultural hubs;*
- *2018-B160 which sought a Legacy Business Registry and Grant program to provide relief from prohibitive increases in rent or property tax for independently-owned local businesses; and*
- *2018-B115 which sought relief for independent small businesses through Provincial assessment and taxation reform.*

The Committee notes that there would be operational and budget impacts for local governments to take on the job of monitoring and enforcing rent control policies and demo/renoviction policies.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R49-Support for Transit Services Related to Housing Growth Acceleration

Village of Pemberton

Whereas implementation of the Province’s Homes for People plan, designed to accelerate housing development and population growth, will increase pressures on local governments to provide transit services necessary to develop and support new housing;

And whereas local government transit service deficits may pose barriers to the development of attainable housing;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the Province, as part of their housing funding initiatives, to provide funding to local governments for transit services integral to the development of attainable housing.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to, as part of their housing funding initiatives, provide funding to local governments for transit services integral to the development of attainable housing.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB17, which connected the need for rental housing and transit, asking the Province, in part, to enable a rapid and significant increase in the approvals, construction and supply of rental housing in areas near transit, active transportation infrastructure, and community destinations (workplaces, schools, shopping).

The Committee further notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (including 2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

The Committee recognizes that the necessity of transit services to support new housing is a significant issue, raised by the TransLink Mayors Council (Metro Vancouver), and separately,

discussed extensively at the 2024 UBCM Housing Summit in a session focused on Bill 47 (transit oriented development).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R50-Better Support for Public Transit

City of Maple Ridge

Whereas TransLink relies on gasoline taxes to fund their services and those revenues can be expected to decline as the provincial and federal government move towards requiring all new passenger vehicles to be electric by 2035;

And whereas there is a need for more predictable funding and increased investments in transit services; to address traffic congestion and equitable access to transportation in our rapidly growing and increasingly densifying communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocates to the Province to devise a new formula for funding transit services, that does not rely on gasoline taxes and supports the continued improvement of transit services across BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM advocates to the federal government for earlier and increased permanent transit funding, including for infrastructure projects.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to design a new formula for funding transit services, with less emphasis on revenues from fuel tax; nor have members considered a resolution requesting that the federal government provide earlier and increased permanent transit funding, including for infrastructure projects.

While the sponsor is focusing on gasoline taxes as a funding source for transit, the Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered the impact of gasoline taxes on transit funding. However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).

The Committee also notes, in regard to the second enactment, that the federal government announced in February 2024, that it is investing \$14.9 billion over the next eight years in reliable, fast, affordable, and clean public transit. This funding includes \$3 billion per year in

permanent, predictable federal public transit funding which will be available to support transit solutions beginning in 2026-27.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R51-Provincial Funding for Active Transportation Infrastructure

Metro Vancouver

Whereas BC local governments face significant capital funding challenges in delivering new active transportation infrastructure, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide lower-cost transportation options to BC residents, bring economic and health benefits to BC communities, and increase resilience of transportation networks, as demonstrated by similar investments in other jurisdictions;

And whereas the Government of BC has invested over \$40 million since 2014 to fund new active transportation infrastructure, has committed an additional \$30 million to fund active transportation infrastructure in Budget 2022, and has introduced rebates to support BC residents in choosing e-bikes which were quickly over-subscribed, demonstrating that there is significant latent demand by residents across BC for active transportation options, and Transport 2050: 10-Year Priorities for TransLink calls for \$1.5 billion over the next ten years for capital investments for active transportation infrastructure in the Metro Vancouver region:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of BC to expand funding for active transportation infrastructure to at least \$300 million annually over the next ten years to support the development of protected, connected, and accessible local cycling and walking infrastructure networks across BC, that are integrated into larger regional active transportation and public transit networks.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically asked the Province to expand funding for active transportation infrastructure to at least \$300 million annually over the next ten years.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions that support the increased use of active transportation:

- *development of active transportation infrastructure (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2018-B15, 2013-B99);*
- *tax exemption or financial incentive for purchase of electric bicycles (2020-EB29, 2019-B44, 2016-B130); and*
- *improvements to cycling infrastructure (2016-B9, 2016-B57, 2012-B63, 2010-B17, 2009-B83, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B99, 2006-B110, 2006-B140).*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R52-Road Usage Charge-Zero-Emission Vehicles

District of Kent

Whereas the provincial government continues to advocate for drivers to switch to zero-emission vehicles from internal combustion engine vehicles;

And whereas the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA) receives dedicated funds through the sale of fuel products for transportation infrastructure;

And whereas zero-emission vehicles use the same transportation highways and impacts infrastructure as internal combustion engine vehicles but do not contribute to funding of the BCTFA:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government consider implementing a road usage fee per kilometre driven by zero-emission-vehicles to maintain funding levels for the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to consider implementing a road usage fee per kilometre driven by zero-emission vehicles to maintain funding levels for the British Columbia Transportation Financing Authority.

However, the Committee would note that members considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2022-NR54, which called on the Province to shift taxation for road infrastructure to a more equitable, user-pay model through alternative funding mechanisms such as tolling, vehicle taxes, or other means that are not reliant on fuel sales.

However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that support the use of electric vehicles by expanding charging infrastructure (2022-EB74, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B116, 2017-B132) and increasing sales of electric vehicles (2023-NR80.1, 2020-EB28, 2020-EB27, 2018-B130, 2019-B142, 2019-B143, 2018-B131).

In a scan of other jurisdictions, the Committee is aware that in March 2024, Alberta announced that it will implement a \$200 registration tax on electric vehicles starting January 2025, in an attempt to make up for reduced fuel tax revenue. Saskatchewan introduced a \$150 registration fee on zero-emission vehicles in 2021.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R53 Trucking Penalties

City of Delta

Whereas over 30 overpasses have been struck by a commercial vehicle in British Columbia since December 2021;

And whereas overpass strikes by commercial vehicles have resulted in significant damage, inconvenience to commuters, and damage to the local economy;

And whereas existing fines are not sufficiently punitive to deter the transportation of oversized loads on routes that are not designated for oversized loads:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to introduce legislative amendments to allow for stricter penalties to trucking companies that are deemed responsible for damage to critical provincial infrastructure.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to introduce legislative amendments to allow for stricter penalties to trucking companies that are deemed responsible for damage to critical provincial infrastructure.

The Committee notes that members endorsed a related resolution, 2009 B20, which observed that at the time, the burden of penalties was placed on individual drivers of commercial vehicles rather than the companies that owned or contracted those vehicles. Resolution 2009 B20 called on the provincial government in part to:

- implement an accredited educational training program for companies to complete prior to obtaining a National Safety Code number; and*
- establish specific accountability to the owners and shippers who contract, employ or otherwise tender service from truck operators.*

The Committee is aware that in December 2023, the Province announced amendments to the Commercial Transport Regulations and Motor Vehicle Act Regulations to bring in new offences and higher fines to address over-height vehicles and loads, as well as require dump-style vehicles to have in-cab warning devices by June 1, 2024. The Province also set out a progressive enforcement framework with escalating consequences for carriers involved in infrastructure crashes. In March 2024, the Province proposed changes to the Commercial Transport Act (CTA) to bring in stiffer penalties for drivers found responsible for striking an overpass. Drivers could be ordered to pay fines up to \$100,000 and spend up to 18 months in jail.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: R52 was withdrawn by sponsor as recent changes to the Commercial Transport Act makes in no longer required.

ASSESSMENT

R54-Minimum Income Requirements for Farm Classification

City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation establishes minimum gross income requirements for farm operations to be classified as Farm under the *Assessment Act*, that were last increased in 1993;

And whereas farm property tax reform that confers tax benefits to farm operations would help to encourage farming and support local food security:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000; and to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 that encourages the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses, as laid out in the Homes for BC companion document to the 2018 Provincial Budget. The response from the provincial government to this resolution noted that the Minister of Agriculture had set up an Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The Committee submitted its Final Report in December 2018 which included Recommendation 23 calling for a review and increase to the income threshold for farm properties qualifying for the BC Assessment Farm Class.

The Province's response to the 2018 resolution further advised that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs administers the BC Assessment Act and has authority for seeking amendments to income thresholds for farm property tax status. Ministry of Agriculture staff were working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to explore potential options to better ensure farm property tax benefits support the intended recipients. However, the thresholds in the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation has not been revised since the Committee's report.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R55-BC Assessment Property Value Accuracy

District of Squamish

Whereas assessing and appraising real estate is primarily an information business and the *Assessment Act* requires BC Assessment to value similar properties consistently and equitably recognizing that similar unsold properties are consistently under-assessed, sometimes for consecutive years;

And whereas the *Assessment Act* has no meaningful consequences for withholding information vital to BC Assessment to obtain critical information necessary to properly assess properties and this results in taxation rates based on flawed assessment/valuation data:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to update the *Assessment Act* to significantly reduce the number of drastically under-assessed properties year over year.

Comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to update the *Assessment Act* to significantly reduce the number of drastically under-assessed properties year over year.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR86 which addressed the assessed valuation of major industrial and electrical properties, advocating for greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2014-B111 which noted that limited and infrequent property sales may not accurately reflect market values in many rural areas of British Columbia, and asked the provincial government to provide the BC Assessment Authority with more flexibility when assessing properties in rural British Columbia.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R56-Creating A Ministry of Hospitality

City of New Westminster

Whereas British Columbia is home to over 15,000 restaurants and foodservice vendors that employ over 185,000 workers across the province, generate \$18 billion in annual sales and play a key role in supporting BC workers, families, and vital industries such as agriculture, transportation, and tourism and are at the heart of every community in this province;

And whereas the costs of food, supplies and transportation have substantially increased, commercial property owners are passing commercial property taxes onto restaurant and food service tenants, many of whom continue to experience long-term impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to create a Ministry of Hospitality to support and engage restaurants, food service vendors and the hospitality sector generally by acting as advocates within government for policy development and reform.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to create a Ministry of Hospitality to support and engage restaurants, food service vendors and the hospitality sector generally by acting as advocates within government for policy development and reform.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was DEFEATED

SELECTED ISSUES

R57-Provincial Service Level Expectations to Prioritize

Fraser Valley Regional District

Customer Service

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have reliable modernized call for service systems or channels for the Ministry of Environment (Report All Poacher and Polluters (RAPP)

Line), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Agricultural Land Commission, or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;

And whereas the lack of a reliable call for service system or channels creates public confusion, frustration, and safety concerns over service level expectations due to a lack of communication regarding queue status, outcome of reporting feedback, or additional follow-up:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to modernize call for service systems by implementing a variety of contact channels, including digital interfaces, and establish service level expectations amongst the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to support customer service.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to modernize call for service systems by implementing a variety of contact channels, including digital interfaces, and establish service level expectations amongst the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to support customer service.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing minimum staffing levels to address illegal dumping, 2021-EB30 and 2017-B64, both of which asked the Province, in part, to 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.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R58-BC Arts Council Funding

City of North Vancouver

Whereas investing in arts, culture, and heritage has proven social, economic, and educational benefits for communities small and large across the province;

And whereas the arts, culture, and heritage sector has been chronically underfunded in BC compared to other regions in Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC increase the BC Arts Councils' annual budget to a minimum of \$55 million in the 2025/26 budget.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to increase the BC Arts Council’s annual budget to a minimum of \$55 million in the 2025/26 budget.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported past resolutions addressing arts funding:

- *2010-B48 which asked the provincial government to restore funds to community arts and cultural organizations to earlier levels; and*
- *2009-B24 which asked the provincial and federal governments to reinstate full funding to the creative sector and related programs and further consider additional investment as part of the economic stimulus programs.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Part 3 Section C - This section contains resolutions that are regional in nature and if endorsed, will not be forwarded to UBCM.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R59-Additional Rapid Access to Detox Beds for Fraser Health Region City of Abbotsford

Whereas the Province of BC, through their 2023 Pathway to Hope progress report committed to “eliminating gaps in the mental health care and substance use treatment system,” and to “building an integrated system of care that includes access to a full spectrum of treatment and recovery options” so that “no one falls through the cracks”;

~~And whereas the Fraser Health Region which covers nearly two million people in 20 diverse communities from Burnaby to Fraser Canyon has only one publicly funded facility that offers rapid access to detox with a total of 24 beds for both youth and adults which results in wait times for persons wishing to enter detox;~~

And whereas wait times for detox beds are a known barrier for those seeking the option of treatment for addiction when they are ready:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government in order to provide more funding to open detox centres ~~in the Fraser Health Region~~ where they are needed and where accessing existing ones would be difficult for individuals needing the service.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide more funding to open detox centres in the Fraser Health Region.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking care beds for those suffering with substance use disorder, including:

- 2020-SR8 which asked, in part, to introduce additional long-term care beds to deal specifically with mental illness cases;*
- 2019-B61 which asked to fund significantly more licensed rehabilitation facilities and beds in every local government to enable all those who seek assistance in recovering from addictions an opportunity to beat addictions;*
- 2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds; and*
- 2007-B51 which asked for more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province; and*
- 2006-B8 which asked for more regional detox centres.*

More generally, 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 (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 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, 2014-B70, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

Recommendation:

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, as amended was ENDORSED