



# LOWER MAINLAND

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2025 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

#### PART 1 – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

##### **SR1- Special Resolution to Alter LMLGA's Bylaws Lower Mainland Local Government Association Executive**

Whereas First Nations governing bodies located within our membership area are currently not members of our association;

And whereas the Town of Gibsons has requested to become a member of our association;

Therefore be it resolved that the bylaws of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association be altered by deleting the existing bylaws in their entirety and replacing them with the bylaws attached hereto as Schedule "A".

And be it further resolved that the Lower Mainland Local Government Association's Executive Director and its agent Lidstone & Company Law Corporation, are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Lower Mainland Local Government Association to execute and

deliver a bylaw alteration application to the registrar and all such other documents and instructions and to do all such other acts and things as in their opinion may be necessary or desirable to give effect to the above resolution.

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **PART 2 – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

### **ER1- Modernization of Regional District Legislation**

#### **Lower Mainland Local Government Association Executive**

Whereas regional districts have not undergone a comprehensive legislative reform since their inception in 1965, resulting in outdated provisions in the *Local Government Act* that impede effective governance, particularly in rural and unincorporated areas;

And whereas regional districts lack parity with municipalities in terms of recognition, regulatory authority, revenue tools, and decision-making powers, and are not currently recognized in legislation as an equal order of government;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has committed through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) to advancing inclusive governance, including Indigenous participation in regional district decision-making structures;

Therefore be it resolved that the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia undertake a comprehensive modernization of regional district legislation, guided by the principles and recommendations of the *Regional District Legislation Roadmap* (February 2025), to ensure equitable governance structures, enhanced authority, inclusive representation, and flexible revenue tools that reflect the current and future needs of all regional districts in British Columbia.

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was WITHDRAWN**

## **PART 3 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS**

UBCM has referred late resolutions from the 2024 resolutions cycle for consideration by Lower Mainland LGA members.

## HOUSING

### RR1- Maximum Municipal Bylaw Ticket Fines Resort Municipality of Whistler

Whereas Bill 35 has been enacted to give local governments stronger enforcement tools for their short-term rental bylaws resulting in the amendment of section 2 of the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation Reg. 425/2003 limits the maximum fine amount in relation to tickets for bylaw offences to \$3,000;

And whereas the \$3,000 fine amount is grossly inconsistent with current property value and value of the property as a short-term rental, and thereby the fine amounts fail to provide a sufficient deterrent for being in contravention of municipal bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government support local governments in implementing Bill 35 by increasing the maximum allowable fines under section 2 of the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

#### **Comments:**

*This resolution was submitted to UBCM in 2024 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, and with the approval of the sponsor, the resolution was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2025 resolutions cycle.*

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the province to support local governments in implementing Bill 35 by increasing the maximum allowable fines under section 2 of the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation from \$3,000 to \$10,000. However the Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed resolution 2016-B85, requesting the provincial government to increase the maximum fine amount under the *Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation* from \$1,000 to \$5,000.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## LEGISLATIVE

### RR2- Codes of Conduct Resort Municipality of Whistler

Whereas in 2021 the Province of BC passed the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act* (No. 2), which requires a local government to consider the adoption of a code of conduct for council members, but does not require a local government to adopt such a code of conduct;

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

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province appoint a provincial Municipal Ethics Commissioner who will:

1. develop a mandatory municipal code of conduct;
2. review and adjudicate allegations of misconduct; and
3. direct sanctions (including council member disqualification) for code of conduct violations.

**Comments:**

*This resolution was submitted to UBCM in 2024 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, and with the approval of the sponsor, the resolution was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2025 resolutions cycle.*

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM’s membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to establish an integrity or ethics commissioner office to support local governments (2024-EB88, 2023-EB69, 2022-EB77, 2021-2020-NR1).*

*However, the Committee advises that the membership did not endorse resolution 2021-NEB1 which called for a mandatory Code of Conduct for local elected officials.*

*The Committee also notes that the Province of BC introduced legislative amendments to disqualification rules the Local Government Act, Community Charter and Vancouver Charter in 2022 to allow for disqualification of an elected official at the time of conviction for an indictable offense.*

*In 2024, UBCM and LGMA released a discussion paper, Potential for Change, that explored mandatory codes of conduct as a policy option to strengthen the practice of responsible conduct.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**PART 4 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE**

**Part 4 Section A** - This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### R1- Continue Funding Programs for Local Poverty Reduction Initiatives City of Burnaby

Whereas the cost of basic goods and services continues to increase for people living in poverty and other low-income British Columbians;

And whereas the provincial government is encouraging local governments and community partners to support the updated targets set to reduce the overall poverty rate, child poverty rate and seniors' poverty rate without adequate resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to re-establish an **ongoing funding** ~~a grant~~ program in partnership with the UBCM to support communities in implementing local poverty reduction initiatives.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently supported resolutions addressing a variety to issues seeking poverty reduction, including:*

- *increasing income assistance rates (2023-NR4, 2022-EB13, 2018-B163, 2016-B120, 2015-B45, 2014-B12, 2013-B55, 2013-B130, 2011-B175, 2006-B171, 2005-B51);*
- *implementing a universal basic income (2024-EB16, 2023-EB17, 2022-EB14);*
- *enhancing coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2023-NR5, 2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162);*
- *creating a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2024-EB17, 2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2020-NR68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156);*
- *increasing rental assistance rates (2022-NR13, 2017-B53, 2015-B45, 2014-B44); and*
- *funding, providing and facilitating affordable and adequate housing across BC, with adequate support services to address homelessness (2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2024-EB25, 2024-NR26, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).*

**Recommendation:** Endorse

**Conference Decision:** ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

## R2- Addressing Temporary Emergency Room Closures

### City of Delta

Whereas access to emergency medical care is essential for the health and safety of all British Columbians;

And whereas ongoing staffing shortages are causing frequent emergency room closures across British Columbia, undermining public confidence in the healthcare system, and prompting Premier Eby, in his mandate letter to the Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health, to acknowledge the need stating that the Minister "take necessary steps to address temporary emergency room closures":

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Government of British Columbia to provide health authorities with the necessary resources and support to recruit and retain emergency room physicians and healthcare professionals, ensuring all emergency departments remain open and fully staffed to deliver uninterrupted, 24/7 care across the province.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide health authorities with the necessary resources and support to recruit and retain emergency room physicians and healthcare professionals, ensuring all emergency departments remain open and fully staffed to deliver uninterrupted, 24/7 care across the province.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system, including improved physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals (2023-SR1, 2022-SR1, 2022-EB18, 2022-EB17, 2022-EB16, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2017-B42, 2015-B68, 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41, 2005-B146).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## R3- Support for Communities with Correctional Facilities

### City of Maple Ridge

Whereas there is a disproportionate presence of correctional facilities that varies with each community across the province;

And whereas local governments are faced with individuals who are leaving correctional facilities and who require a continuum of resources and supports for integrating into local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province provide expanded targeted transitional supports such as: affordable housing options and holistic services including; mental health and wellness, education and life skills for communities with individuals leaving correctional facilities.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide expanded targeted transitional supports such as: affordable housing options and holistic services including; mental health and wellness, education and life skills for communities with individuals leaving correctional facilities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking support for offenders, including:*

- *2022-EB44 which asked the Province, in part, to identify and separate offenders who could be helped by treatment, services and supports from those who should be in jail; and*
- *2014-B34 which asked the Province to develop a long-term, multi-faceted strategy to help people suffering from concurrent disorders to avoid becoming chronic offenders, by providing integrated health and psychiatric care, criminal justice reform, and access to affordable housing.*

*More generally, the Committee notes that membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2024-NR2, 2023-EB1, 2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R4- Enhancing A Collaborative, Sustainable, and Inclusive Approach to Food Security and Well-being  
City of Langley**

Whereas food insecurity remains a critical issue in British Columbia, exacerbated by climate change, economic instability, and supply chain disruptions, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations, Indigenous communities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged regions;

And whereas a resilient and inclusive food system requires sustained investment, cross-sector collaboration, and policies that integrate infrastructure development, technological innovation,

cultural food systems, and community-driven approaches to ensure equitable access to nutritious food, economic resilience, and regional food security:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with local governments to develop and implement a comprehensive food security and well-being strategy that ensures sustainable investment in local food systems, strengthens regional and provincial food networks, promotes innovation in agriculture and food technology, and enhances access to culturally appropriate, affordable, and nutritious food for all communities.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians, including resolutions 2022-NR8, 2019-B66, 2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2014-A3.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## HOUSING

### R5- Long Term Supported Housing City of Maple Ridge

Whereas local governments are seeing the need for next stage housing for vulnerable residents and those transitioning from homelessness beyond supportive or transitional housing;

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 work with not for profits to further build next stage long term independent, supported housing units.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions 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 a broad range of affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2024-SR3, 2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2024-EB25, 2024-NR26, 2024-NR27, 2024-NR28, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81). As well, the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-LR5.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R6- Unmet Demands on Social and Community Infrastructure as a Result of Provincial Housing Targets  
Fraser Valley Regional District**

Whereas the mandate letters of the sitting provincial government include:

- Growing the economy;
- Affordability;
- Strengthening healthcare; and
- Community safety;

And whereas the Province has mandated accelerated and densified housing, placing historical and unmet demands on social and community infrastructure such as education, transit, social welfare and supportive housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to focus on strengthening complete communities and make historically significant investments in schools, community mental health, and transit to accommodate the mandated housing growth.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2024-SR3 which asked the Province invest in a long-term, predictable allocation-based funding program to support expansion and operation of local government infrastructure services to support provincially-mandated housing growth including, but not limited to, water and sewer, transit, police and fire, and recreation. As well, it asked the Province to invest in its own areas of responsibility where there are already service deficits that will be further affected by housing-related population growth, namely health care (family doctors, ambulances, hospitals, etc.) and education (classrooms, teachers, etc.).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2024-NR84 which asked 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.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2024-EB17 which asked the Province 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. To address the increased population growth due to the recent provincial housing legislation, which is leading to a greater need for child care spaces.*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for increased infrastructure funding (2023-EB11, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2012-A1).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R7- Infrastructure Support for Specified Municipalities – Housing Supply Act  
City of Abbotsford**

Whereas the Government of BC introduced the *Housing Supply Act* in 2022 and Bill 44 in 2023, setting housing targets for specified municipalities and mandating increased density for many local governments;

And whereas these new requirements place undue financial pressure on those local governments due to the corresponding infrastructure upscaling requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Government of BC to establish and provide long-term, stable and predictable infrastructure funding for local governments to support new housing supply.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for increased infrastructure funding, including funding as it relates to provincially mandated housing growth (2024-SR3, 2024-EB17, 2024-NR84, 2023-EB11, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2012-A1).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**R8- Municipal Costs of Contract RCMP Services Beyond 2032  
Village of Pemberton**

Whereas the Municipal Police Service Agreement and Municipal Police Unit Agreements expire in 2032;

And whereas small municipalities that will cross the population threshold of 5,000 between the 2026 and 2031 censuses need to begin planning now to manage the increased policing costs that will devolve to them in 2032:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the RCMP, Public Safety Canada, and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to ensure that a new contract policing framework to replace the Municipal Police Service Agreement and the Municipal Police Unit Agreements in 2032 establishes transparency and a fair allocation of police costs to municipalities, mitigates the concerns of small municipalities summarized in the federal government's Contract Policing Assessment: "What We Heard" report, and incorporates the recommendations of the Local Government Police Modernization Roundtable.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking various changes to the RCMP cost-sharing formula (2024-NR40, 2024-NR41, 2024-NR42, 2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2020-NR7, 2016-B75).*

*The Committee advises that the BC Local Government RCMP Contract Management Committee met with Public Safety Canada in June 2023 to provide input towards the federal government's assessment of contract policing. Input included many issues raised by the sponsor, including the need for improved consultation and equitable funding, as well as concern regarding costs for emerging municipalities (i.e. those with a population that is approaching the 5,000 person threshold).*

*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 shared funding model for municipalities." This issue was also prioritized by UBCM and the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, which is currently working with the Province to address policing modernization.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R9- Implementation of the BC Flood Strategy to Protect Flood-Prone Communities  
District of Kent**

Whereas more than three years have passed after the November 2021 atmospheric river emergency with an estimated \$8.7 - \$14.2B in economic losses;

And whereas flood security in the Lower Fraser has not been addressed and the Province is not advancing the BC Flood Strategy;

And whereas our communities, in the Fraser Valley, are committed to collaborating with First Nations to reduce flood risk in line with the Sendai Framework and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province supports the BC Flood Strategy by investing in floodplain solutions to support dialogue between local governments, First Nations, and provincial staff, to ensure effective governance, policy, and funding support for the strategy's implementation.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to support the BC Flood Strategy by investing in floodplain solutions to support dialogue between local governments, First Nations, and provincial staff, to ensure effective governance, policy, and funding support for the strategy's implementation. However, the membership did endorse resolution 2022-SR3, which called on the Province to increase its funding and assume greater responsibility for flood preparedness and mitigation.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2024-EB35, 2022-SR3, 2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76).*

*In March 2024, the Province introduced, "From Flood Risk to Resilience: a BC Flood Strategy to 2035." The Flood Strategy outlines the Province's direction for flood management, and includes 25 concepts to improve flood resilience. The Province is currently working to develop materials associated with the BC Flood Strategy, including "Wise Practices for Advancing First Nations and Local Government Partnerships for Integrated Flood Management," and guidance for integrated flood management planning.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**R10- Tackling Energy Poverty and Increasing Workforce Capacity by working with Youth**

**Climate Corps**

**City of Port Moody**

Whereas studies suggest that energy poverty affects up to 1 in 5 Canadian residents which is a risk to health, and energy retrofits would help with both health and affordability, as well as meeting BC's climate goals;

And whereas there is not enough of a workforce to connect to and meet the needs of BC residents, especially those most vulnerable, and opportunities are needed to train and scale up works to meet there:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC expand the Youth Climate Corps program, scale-up retrofits to address energy poverty, while meeting the need to train and expand the required workforce and supplying well-paying jobs for youth.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution 2024-EB55, from the same sponsor, that asked 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. It also asked 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.*

*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).*

*The Committee further notes that the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action identified social mobilization, and the recruitment and training of local citizens and youth to serve as climate champions, as an important area of climate action in its November 2020 recommendations.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**FINANCE**

**R11- Provincial Funding for Public Libraries: Overdue**  
**City of North Vancouver, City of Surrey, District of Squamish**

Whereas in the past 15 years, BC's population has grown 29% while public libraries have continued to rely on stagnant funding to provide services in increasingly challenging circumstances, including addressing the province's important goals of enhancing economic growth, reducing costs for families, and making communities safer;

And whereas public libraries continue to meet these goals by supporting the economic and social health of their communities, providing information and services for consumers, individuals seeking employment and career enhancement, entrepreneurs and small businesses, providing critical locations of refuge during emergencies, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role in keeping costs low for British Columbians and making communities safer, and increase the annual core provincial funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the long-standing request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously supported a resolution calling on the Province to increase the annual core provincial funding for libraries to \$30 million.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2024-NR67, 2024-EB63, 2023-EB54, 2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**LAND USE**

**R12- Increased Ministry Funding for Agriculture**  
**City of Pitt Meadows**

Whereas provincial funding for agriculture in British Columbia as a percentage of the sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the lowest in Canada;

And whereas an increase to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s budget would demonstrate the province’s commitment to food security and the sustainability of agriculture:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to raise agriculture funding in BC to the national average to support much-needed investments in the agricultural sector.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B29 that requested “the provincial government raise(s) agriculture funding in British Columbia to the national average.”*

*In addition, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions that seek to support farming and agriculture through a variety of means, including:*

- *2024-NR70 which asked the ALC to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR lands;*
- *2024-NR51 which asked the federal and provincial governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia;*
- *2018-B105 which sought taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary ‘farm uses’; and*
- *2014-A3 which asked the Province, in part, to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in BC.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians (2023-NR61, 2022-NR8, 2021-EB70, 2020-EB78, 2019-B66, 2011-B100, 2011-B101).*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **R13- Strengthening Agricultural Land Commission Enforcement Capabilities**

#### **City of Delta**

Whereas local governments with land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) can observe land use that may not be in compliance with Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) regulations raising concerns about the integrity of the ALR, and the long-term viability of agricultural production;

And whereas the Agricultural Land Commission currently has only eight compliance and enforcement staff—including six officers, one advisor, and one supervisor—who are responsible for overseeing approximately 4.6 million hectares of ALR land across British

Columbia, which is greatly insufficient given the growing enforcement challenges and land-use pressures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to provide increased funding to the Agricultural Land Commission to significantly expand its compliance and enforcement team to improve oversight and reduce non-compliant land uses that threaten the integrity of agricultural land in British Columbia.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions that seek additional funding and resources for the Agricultural Land Commission so that it can continue to be independent, to function and to achieve its mandate of preserving agricultural land for agriculture (2014-A3 and 2011-B48).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2024-NR68 which asked the Province to assume responsibility for the enforcement of Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) decisions and any local government costs incurred as a result of ALC decisions.*

*The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB45 which specifically asked the Province follow through on changes made to the Agricultural Land Commission Act that would in part “invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste on agricultural land.” While this resolution is specific to illegal dumping, it does reflect the membership’s support for additional resources needed by the ALC to ensure compliance and enforcement of its own legislation.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## TRANSPORTATION

### R14- Road Access to Provincial Parks City of Maple Ridge

Whereas thousands of British Columbians and tourists visit provincial parks each year;

And whereas roads to provincial parks are often accessed by and connected to local government roads resulting in increased maintenance and road building costs to local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province provide road funding for the maintenance and building of local government roads that connect to and provide access to provincial parks, to ensure the continued, safe access of those provincial parks;

And be it further resolved that the Province also provide road funding to maintaining and build secondary access emergency roads and bridges connected to provincial parks.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide road funding for the maintenance and building of local government roads that connect to and provide access to provincial parks. Nor have members considered a request for the Province to maintain and build secondary access emergency roads and bridges connected to provincial parks.*

*However, the Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2020-EB21 which asked the Province to enable access to provincial parks, with access roads designated as public roads and maintained as such.*

*In response to the 2020 resolution, the provincial government stated that its budget “does not include the repair and maintenance of roads accessing BC Parks”, but indicated that licensees and other agencies are encouraged to keep as many roads open as possible.*

*The Committee further notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2013-B128 which asked the Province to ensure that where there is road access to a provincial park, that the road is properly maintained to ensure public access.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## LEGISLATIVE

### **R15- Bylaw Enforcement Notice Penalty Increase for Development Violations City of Coquitlam**

Whereas the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* provides for an efficient ticket and adjudication process that local governments have successfully implemented through the issuance of bylaw notices to obtain compliance with a variety of bylaw violations;

And whereas the administrative burden and cost of the Municipal Ticket Information system prevents the practical use of municipal ticketing to obtain compliance with local government bylaws;

And whereas the development industry may not be in compliance with local government bylaws related to the well-being of the neighbourhoods adjacent to their developments, and

the current penalty amounts of bylaw notices are not significant enough to bring the development community into compliance with local government bylaws:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Attorney General and Deputy Premier for the Province of British Columbia increase the maximum allowable penalty provided in Section 6 of the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* from \$500 to \$3,000.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2024-NR30 which asked, in part, that the Province permit the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act maximum bylaw violation penalty per day to be increased to \$3,000.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2024-EB38 which asked the Province to increase the maximum penalty for Bylaw Offence Notices and amend the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act accordingly.*

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## SELECTED ISSUES

### R16- Lobbyist Registration

City of New Westminster, City of Vancouver

Whereas the Government of BC has recognized the potential impact of lobby activities for its public office holders and introduced the *Lobbyist Transparency Act* to provide the Government of BC legal tools to oversee, monitor and enforce lobbyist activities in pursuit of open, accessible, and accountable government;

And whereas unregulated lobbying activities at the municipal and regional district level can lead to undue influence from special interest individuals, groups, or organizations and BC municipal governments and regional districts are not afforded the same statutory authority to moderate local lobbyist activities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Government of BC introduce legislative reform that either:

- i. enables municipalities and regional districts to use the Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists for BC, or
- ii. enables municipal councils and regional district boards to establish, monitor, and enforce lobbyist activities within their jurisdictions parallel to mechanisms available under the *Lobbyist Transparency Act*.

**Comments:**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions addressing lobbyists:

- 2019-B74 which asked the Province for a lobbying regulation system for municipal government, similar to the provincial mechanism under the BC Lobbyist Registration Act, be established; and
- 2017-B99, which asked the Province to provide municipalities with the ability to register lobbyists, create rules for lobbyists' conduct in their interactions with elected officials and public servants, and the ability to enforce those rules.

In response to the 2019 resolution, the provincial government indicated it was willing to consider initiatives to support accountability, openness, and transparency "in interactions between public servants, elected officials and lobbyists". However, the Province suggested it was necessary to seek "a clearer understanding of what local governments hope to achieve through a municipal lobbyist registry".

**Recommendation: Endorse**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**Part 4 Section B - This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse.**

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R17- Mental Health Support for Local Elected Officials City of Coquitlam, City of Maple Ridge**

Whereas the stresses faced by local elected officials are increasing due to a degradation in the tone of civil discourse;

And whereas additional mental health supports for local elected officials would be beneficial beyond what is provided by Medical Services Plan and extended health plans;

And whereas elected officials aren't covered by mental health provisions afforded to local government employees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to implement initiatives that offer mental health supports tailored to the needs of local elected leaders in British Columbia.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide measures to address the mental health and safety needs of local elected officials in British Columbia.*

*The Committee would note that UBCM, through its Group Benefits Plan, offers elected officials:*

- *extended health care;*
- *dental;*
- *employee and family assistance plan (e.g. mental health supports);*
- *optional life insurance; and*
- *optional accidental death and dismemberment.*

*For those local governments that have their staff benefits through the UBCM Group Benefits Plan, there is the option to provide your elected officials with the same level of benefits/plan design that you provide to your non-union staff for Extended Health and Dental.*

*Benefit programs are offered by an insurance provider, so it is up to that insurance provider what benefits to offer and cover, and this has been negotiated with UBCM. Therefore it is not a decision of UBCM or the provincial government, it is reliant on an insurance provider who is willing to offer those benefits. In the case of UBCM's benefit plan, our insurance provided Pacific Blue Cross, has made the benefits program available to elected officials based on the enrollment criteria.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **R18- Health and Wellbeing of BC's Public Safety Personnel City of North Vancouver**

Whereas psychological-only injury workplace claims have increased five-fold in British Columbia since 2018, particularly within the public safety sector;

And whereas fire and police personnel suffer from occupational stress injuries at rates four times that of the general population, resulting in symptoms of anxiety, depression and trauma which, as a result the demands of their service to our communities, affect their work and personal lives;

And whereas since 2019, over 500 first responders from local governments across BC have participated in the BC First Responder Resiliency Program (FRRP), an educational retreat operating in partnership between the University of British Columbia, Vancouver General Hospital, Vancouver Coastal Health, the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters Association, the British Columbia Police Association, the Vancouver Police Union, and the Vancouver Police Department, resulting in positive, evidence-based outcomes lasting at least six months past program completion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to provide two years of funding for the BC First Responder Resiliency Program to ensure continuous support for first responders across the province while longer-term funding models are developed, ensuring program participants, their employee associations/unions, families and communities, do not bear the direct cost of providing occupational health and safety education for British Columbia's public safety personnel;

And be it further resolved that UBCM ask British Columbia's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to collaborate with FRRP interest holder organizations to develop mental health and wellness policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms to ensure the long-term viability and expansion of this program for the benefit of all British Columbia first responders, in communities across the province.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide two years of funding for the BC First Responder Resiliency Program (FRRP) to ensure continuous support for first responders across the province while longer-term funding models are developed. Nor has the membership considered the request of the Province to collaborate with FRRP interest holder organizations to develop mental health and wellness policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms to ensure the long-term viability and expansion of this program.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions which asked the Province to amend the Workers Compensation Act to add a presumptive clause for mental health injuries to first responders, and that upon receipt of a mental health injury claim, the first responder should receive immediate financial benefits and treatment (2016-B43 and 2015-B73).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R19- Emergency Room Closure Notification  
Village of Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas access to emergency medical services is critical for all British Columbians and hospital emergency department closures severely disrupt critical healthcare access, potentially endangering communities and lives by delaying urgent medical treatment;

And whereas reliable communication and immediate notification during hospital emergency department closures is essential to ensure the public is informed of alternate healthcare facilities, preventing unnecessary delays;

And whereas a reliable and immediate notification system to alert the public to emergency department closures and alternate care locations is not in place:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government establish a standardized emergency notification system, utilizing platforms such as text alerts, mobile alert applications and local media to inform the public of temporary emergency department closures and directing residents to the nearest available healthcare facilities.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a standardized emergency notification system, utilizing platforms such as text alerts, mobile alert applications and local media to inform the public of temporary emergency department closures and directing residents to the nearest available healthcare facilities.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions in which local governments are wanting to share timely alerts with their residents, including:*

- *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; and*
- *2018-B8 which asked the Province to provide access to the Alert Ready (emergency alert) system to local governments in order to allow them to broadcast critical and potentially life threatening alerts to residents of their respective communities using the framework of the Alert Ready System.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2023-SR1, 2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R20- Strengthening the BC Poverty Reduction Strategy  
City of Port Moody**

Whereas poverty rates in BC are climbing with the rates of child poverty and seniors in poverty increasing as well as an increasing number of residents who rely on food banks;

And whereas poverty reduction grants for local governments have ceased:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to strengthen poverty reduction strategies by reinstating poverty reduction grants for local governments;

And be it further resolved the provincial government include in a poverty reduction strategy the recommendations from the BC Human Rights Commissioner and evidence informed best practices, including, but not limited to:

- a timeline and actions for raising social assistance and disability assistance rates to at least 75% of the poverty line;
- examining and eliminating barriers to income such as clawbacks and restrictions;
- timelines and targets for reducing deep poverty;
- Indigenous-specific co-created poverty reduction strategies;
- food security and sovereignty strategies to support healthy people and local food economies; and
- specific programs to support seniors in staying in their homes, reducing the risk of homelessness and poverty, and prioritizing development of housing for unhoused seniors;

And be it further resolved the provincial government include a Basic Income Pilot program in the update of a poverty reduction strategy.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that while the UBCM membership has consistently supported resolutions addressing a variety to issues seeking poverty reduction strategies, many of the requests in this resolution have not been previously considered.*

*Endorsed resolutions relevant to the above resolution include:*

- *implementing a universal basic income (2024-EB16, 2023-EB17, 2022-EB14);*
- *enhancing coordinated health and social support programs for seniors across BC (2023-NR5, 2022-EB12, 2018-B53, 2017-B51, 2012-B41, 2011-A4, 2011-B63, 2007-B152, 2006-B162);*
- *creating a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2024-EB17, 2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB22, 2022-EB23, 2021-EB67, 2021-EB68, 2020-NR68, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156);*
- *increasing rental assistance rates (2022-NR13, 2017-B53, 2015-B45, 2014-B44); and*
- *funding, providing and facilitating affordable and adequate housing across BC, with adequate support services to address homelessness (2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2024-EB25, 2024-NR26, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).*

*Regarding the request to include a Basic Income Pilot program in the Poverty Reduction Strategy, staff note that in 2018, the provincial government conducted a two year review to assess the feasibility of a basic income and basic income pilot in BC. In 2021, the government noted that the panel recommended changes to BC's existing social supports and services to*

*address the complex needs and unique circumstances of individuals and families instead of pursuing a basic income model or pilot.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## HOUSING

### R21- Equitable Distribution of Emergency Shelter Beds City of Chilliwack

Whereas the Province of British Columbia, through BC Housing, is responsible for ensuring that emergency shelter beds are available to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness across all communities;

And whereas some communities have a disproportionately high number of emergency shelter beds per capita compared to other jurisdictions, causing unsustainable pressure on local resources and services in those communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia and BC Housing to develop and implement a comprehensive, regionally equitable strategy for the distribution of emergency shelter beds, ensuring that all communities ~~provide~~ **have available** proportional and sustainable shelter capacity relative to their population and local service capacity.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not endorsed a resolution calling on the Province and BC Housing to develop and implement a comprehensive, regionally equitable strategy for the distribution of emergency shelter beds, ensuring that all communities provide proportional and sustainable shelter capacity relative to their population and local service capacity.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2024-EB24 which focused on broadening the scope of development of shelters, and specifically called on the Province to accelerate its commitment “by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.”*

*The Committee also 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, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).*

*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, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED**

## **R22- Response to Extreme Heat Events**

### **City of Vancouver**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia announced updates to the BC Building Code in 2023, effective March 8, 2024, which requires that all new residential buildings provide at least one living space in each dwelling unit designed to remain at or below 26°C;

And whereas this measure aims to protect health and comfort in extreme heat conditions, marking a step toward climate-resilient, thermally safe housing for new builds across the province;

And whereas in response to rising temperatures and an increase in extreme heat events, a “right to cool” for residents to access indoor cooling solutions to safeguard their health and comfort has emerged as an essential component of housing policy, particularly for individuals living in multi-unit residential buildings, where access to adequate active or passive cooling systems may be restricted by strata bylaws or structural limitations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Strata Property Act* to recognize and enshrine a "right to cool" as a fundamental right for residents of strata and multi-unit residential buildings to access cooling solutions, including the installation of air conditioning or heat pumps or passive cooling approaches without unreasonable restrictions from strata corporations;

And be it further resolved that the Province likewise recognize a “right to cool” as an essential component of provincial housing policy, including – but not limited to – creating provincial incentives for strata owners to install heat pumps and other cooling measures to ensure that climate-resilient, thermally safe housing is available for all residents of British Columbia.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that membership has not endorsed a resolution to recognize and enshrine a “right to cool” as a fundamental right for residents of strata and multi-unit residential buildings, however membership has endorsed resolution 2023-NR29 which asked the Province to amend the Strata Property Act to allow the addition of heat pumps or other efficient mechanical cooling systems without the need to amend individual Strata corporation bylaws.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several additional resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (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).*

*The Committee advises that the provincial and federal governments along with BC Hydro offer a rebate program for heat pump installation through CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program. However, the rebate is only available for single family homes, duplex, triplex, row homes and townhomes.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **R23- Enhancing Housing Stability through Preventive Measures and Supportive Programs**

### **City of Langley**

Whereas the housing crisis in British Columbia is influenced by both insufficient housing supply and escalating demand pressures, leading to affordability challenges and housing insecurity that forces many individuals and families into unsafe and precarious living conditions, increasing their vulnerability to exploitation and victimization;

And whereas preventive strategies, including the provision of adequate supports and access to portable rental subsidies, are essential to maintain housing stability and prevent homelessness:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia, in partnership with local governments and non-profit housing providers, expand programs to reduce housing vulnerability by expanding portable rental subsidies, enhancing support services, investing in preventive strategies, and providing direct grants to local governments to improve housing stability.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to, in partnership with local governments and non-profit housing providers, expand programs to reduce housing vulnerability by expanding portable rental subsidies, enhancing support services, investing in preventive strategies, and providing direct grants to local governments to improve housing stability.*

*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 including 2024-SR3, 2024-EB23, 2024-EB24. The Committee also notes*

*that the membership has supported a variety of resolutions seeking assistance for renters, including 2023-EB17, 2022-EB28 and 2022-NR13.*

*The Committee also notes that in their background materials, the sponsor provides additional background on possible local government roles in addressing housing instability, noting that “Local governments are uniquely positioned to understand and respond to their communities’ specific housing needs. By leveraging established relationships with local stakeholders, municipalities can convene diverse parties to collaborate on housing solutions.”*

*As one example, the sponsor points towards Collaborative Efforts through Rental Connect Programs:*

*“While senior governments provide the necessary financial support through portable rent subsidies, local governments facilitate the on-the-ground implementation by:*

- Engaging Landlords and Property Owners: Encouraging participation in affordable housing programs through incentives and support.*
- Offering Educational Resources: Providing training for landlords and tenants to promote successful tenancies.*
- Maintaining Rental Inventories: Keeping updated records of available and compliant rental units to match with prospective tenants.”*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **R24- Ending Residential Tenancies Due to Income Eligibility City of Burnaby**

Whereas there is a desire on behalf of the Province for local governments to require private developers to construct affordable inclusionary housing units through the use of Inclusionary Zoning Bylaws;

And whereas Housing Agreements between local governments and the property owners are required to ensure that the affordability of inclusionary housing units constructed through Inclusionary Zoning Bylaws are secured over time, and Housing Agreements terms may include specifics on target population for the units and management considerations such as income testing;

And whereas operators, other than public housing bodies that build required inclusionary rental units may choose to operate the affordable rental units in compliance with Housing Agreement terms but currently section 49.1 of the *Residential Tenancy Act* only permits public housing bodies to end tenancies in housing with eligibility criteria if the tenant ceases to qualify for the rental unit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* and Residential Tenancy Regulation to enable all property owners and operators of affordable inclusionary rental units, that are subject to tenant income eligibility requirements, to end tenancies if a tenant household ceases to qualify for the tenancy, by exceeding the income eligibility threshold.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the Residential Tenancy Act and Residential Tenancy Regulation to enable all property owners and operators of affordable inclusionary rental units, that are subject to tenant income eligibility requirements, to end tenancies if a tenant household ceases to qualify for the tenancy.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported a variety of resolutions seeking assistance to renters, including:*

- *2023-EB17 which asked for increased rental stock, mitigate no-fault evictions, and close the gap between households in core housing needs and rental housing costs; and*
- *2022-EB28, 2017-B51, 2013-B53 all of which sought additional aid and support for senior renters.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R25- Simplifying Access to Public Land for Housing  
District of Squamish**

Whereas public lands are often required to support the delivery of publicly funded affordable and attainable rental housing;

And whereas the process of securing or modifying lands controlled or previously granted by the Province to support publicly funded housing projects remains convoluted and extremely lengthy and has not been addressed in the recent provincial efforts to streamline provincial permitting for housing under PermitConnectBC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province establish a streamlined pathway to expedite the public-owned land grants and related title-reverter process for public attainable and affordable housing applications while upholding and recognizing the commitments of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a streamlined pathway to expedite the public-owned land grants and related title-reverter process for public attainable and affordable*

*housing applications while upholding and recognizing the commitments of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2000-B42 which asked the Province to discharge all "possibility of reverter" and other restrictions from lands granted to municipalities, in order to permit these locally-owned land assets to be managed by local governments for the benefit of their local constituents. The Committee acknowledges that this is a dated reference.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **R26- Discharging Restrictive Land Covenants to Support Small Scale Multi-Unit Housing District of Squamish**

Whereas the Province of BC passed Bill 44 – *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act* in 2023 to reduce zoning barriers for small-scale multi-unit housing and required municipalities to update Official Community Plans and zoning bylaws to allow for increased densification;

And whereas private common-law covenants on land titles can be out of alignment with updated Bill-44 zoning and leads to regulatory confusion and barriers to achieving Bill-44 objectives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province work on a mechanism to override or neutralize outdated common-law covenant provisions on land titles that are inconsistent with the implementation of Bill-44.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work on a mechanism to override or neutralize outdated common-law covenant provisions on land titles that are inconsistent with the implementation of Bill-44.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions seeking release from restrictive and redundant covenants that can conflict with bylaws and impact the development of property (2018-B133 and 2010-B141).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### R27- Regulating Vape Shops City of New Westminster

Whereas Health Canada has stated that they share the concerns of parents, educators, youth and public stakeholders regarding the increase of youth vaping in Canada;

And whereas the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch oversees provincial liquor and cannabis regulations, including licensing and monitoring of private cannabis retailers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province of BC include retail stores used primarily for sale of electronic nicotine or e-cigarettes under the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch and thereby include restrictions that regulate where and how many of these retail stores are able to receive business licences in a community.

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling upon the Province to restrict the sale of electronic nicotine by regulating where and how many e-cigarette retail stores are able to receive business licences in a community.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions seeking to regulate electronic nicotine, e-cigarettes or vape products, including:*

- *2019-B59 which asked the Province to enact strict regulations regarding the marketing and selling of e-cigarettes and vapour products to minors;*
- *2019-B173 (Executive endorsed) which asked Health Canada and the provinces and territories to coordinate additional public policy and regulations to address access, sale and appeal of vape products to youth, and offer additional enforcement resources, to halt the growing usage of vape products among youth as a matter of concern to local government and their communities; and*
- *2014-B131 which asked the Province to regulate the use and sale of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizing systems intended to replicate the smoking experience under the British Columbia Tobacco Control Act and Regulations.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### R28- Creating Safer Streets through Provincial Bear Spray Legislation City of Burnaby

Whereas the existing restrictions provided through the Health Canada *Pest Control Products Act*, enforcement through Criminal Code of Canada Sections 90(1) and 92(1) have proven

inadequate to prevent the increasing acquisition and criminal misuse of bear spray in urban areas;

And whereas local government bylaws are insufficient to address criminal procurement in other local governments or online:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to develop legislation to control the sale of bear spray in urban areas.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop legislation to control the sale of bear spray in urban areas.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R29- Financial Support for Implementation of the *Fire Safety Act*  
Village of Pemberton**

Whereas the *Fire Safety Act* increases accountability for fire safety and strains financial resources of small municipalities that lack the capacity to conduct additional inspections and manage higher reporting, compliance, and training demands;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide financial support to small municipalities in the form of grant funding to offset the cost of hiring of additional staff to manage new responsibilities under the *Fire Safety Act*;

And be it further resolved that the grant funding be set at an amount to offset 100% of the cost to hire new staff in the first year, with the grant funding decreasing by 20% each year over the following five years, to allow time for small municipalities to adjust to the costs associated with implementing the *Fire Safety Act*.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide financial support to small municipalities in the form of grant funding to offset the cost of hiring of additional staff to manage new responsibilities under the Fire Safety Act. Nor has the membership considered the second request that the grant funding be set at an amount to offset 100% of the cost to hire new staff in the first year, with the grant funding decreasing by 20% each year over the following five years, to allow time for small municipalities to adjust to the costs associated with implementing the Fire Safety Act.*

*The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions opposing the Province's decision to download responsibilities under the Fire Safety Act to regional districts, due to their lack of financial and technical resources, and capacity to take on new duties, including inspections and investigations. UBCM, through the Single Standard of Fire Safety Working Group, worked with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) to develop a solution that was endorsed by the UBCM Executive in 2023. This solution sees the OFC perform fire inspections and investigations on behalf of regional districts, when asked by the regional district, at no cost. The Fire Safety Act came into force on August 1, 2024.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

### **R30- Interim Diking Policy Updates District of Squamish**

Whereas communities across British Columbia face increasing flood risks due to climate change, extreme weather events, and aging dike infrastructure currently present an unacceptable level of risk to many communities necessitating proactive flood protection measures;

And whereas in 2024 the province put forward “From Flood Risk to Resilience: a BC Flood Strategy to 2035” that highlights the need for adaptive and practical flood risk management solutions, yet many local governments face financial constraints that prevent them from fully upgrading dikes to provincial standards which require costly upgrades that may delay urgent flood protection measures:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to amend dike policies to allow interim dike upgrades that are part of a plan to achieve all provincial dike standards, provide practical and meaningful flood protection, serving as a step toward full compliance as funding allows in recognition of both the short term need to reduce existing risk to communities and the long term need for the highest standards of flood protection.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend dike policies to allow interim dike upgrades that are part of a plan to meet all provincial dike standards, and serve as a step toward full compliance as funding allows in recognition of both the short-term need to reduce existing risk to communities and the long-term need for the highest standards of flood protection.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing diking standards and upgrades, including:*

- *2024-NR50 which called on the Province to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, diking authorities, and interested parties to develop and implement revised standards that strike a balance between ensuring public safety and mitigating*

- undue financial burdens on local governments;*
- *2022-EB39 which called on the Province to, in part, fund dike maintenance in order to bring B.C. dikes up to regulatory requirements and proactively forestall catastrophic dike failures during weather events and spring freshet;*
- *2020-EB14 which called on the Province to consider applications for funding essential and cost-effective minor dike upgrades that may not meet seismic standards;*
- *2018-B33 which, among other things, called on the Province to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local governments in relation to dike upgrades and climate change, and provide long-term funding to support municipal dike corridor upgrade strategies; and*
- *2017-B85 which called on the Province to revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to reflect predicted local ground settlement conditions with the primary goal of community flood protection.*

*The Resolutions Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions calling on the Province to be established as the diking authority in all local governments (2023-EB29, 2022-SR3, 2015-B52) and in local governments under 20,000 in population (2014-B75).*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2024-EB35, 2022-SR3, 2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R31- Illegal Dumping in Rural Areas Clean-up Funding Fraser Valley Regional District**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia does not have a funding policy in place to offset costs associated to illegal dumping in rural areas of British Columbia;

And whereas the dumping/tipping fees, equipment, and fuel costs to clean-up the effects of abandoned vehicles, garbage, and litter unfairly places hardships on the efforts of dedicated volunteers and requires the backing of private donations to cover the costs associated with the clean-up work;

And whereas these sites are unsightly, negatively impact environmentally sensitive areas including waterways and natural spaces, posing a threat to public safety;

And whereas the sites are located on rural Crown land area, and can be directly associated with the impacts of low inventories of affordable housing in the Province of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to take urgent steps to develop a policy to support a community-based funding model to support clean-up efforts on Crown lands undertaken by volunteers and organized interest groups.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to take urgent steps to develop a policy to support a community-based funding model to support clean-up efforts on Crown lands undertaken by volunteers and organized interest groups.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB32 which asked the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to report out on the action of the provincial working group, review resources and strategies for addressing illegal dumping and optimize partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this problem.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB45 which specifically asked the Province follow through on changes made to the Agricultural Land Commission Act that would in part “invest more resources in prosecuting offenders who unlawfully deposit waste on agricultural land.”*

*The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed three resolutions addressing minimum staffing levels to address illegal dumping, 2024-NR99, 2021-EB30 and 2017-B64, all 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**

## **REGIONAL DISTRICTS**

### **R32- Strengthening Regional Emergency Management Capacity**

#### **Village of Lions Bay**

Whereas regional districts in British Columbia are responsible for providing only a limited number of mandated services, including emergency management for electoral areas, regional

solid waste planning, and governance for electoral areas, as outlined in the *Local Government Act*;

And whereas many small municipalities lack the financial and staff resources necessary to effectively undertake emergency planning and response, including the ability to operationalize an Emergency Operations Centre during a crisis, leaving them vulnerable during major emergencies or disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*, as necessary, to authorize regional districts to provide emergency planning and response services not only to electoral areas but also to member municipalities that choose to opt in, ensuring a centralized and coordinated approach to emergency management.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Local Government Act and Community Charter, to authorize regional districts to provide emergency planning and response services to member municipalities that choose to opt in.*

*Under section 21 of the Emergency and Disaster Management Act, regional districts and municipalities, among others, are authorized to join together and establish a multijurisdictional emergency management organization (MJEMO) to "provide, in relation to the areas or matters for which the organization has responsibility, oversight, leadership and coordination of activities with respect to each phase of emergency management." This authority for multiple parties to enter into an MJEMO does not include an opt-in clause for municipalities, as is requested by the sponsor of this resolution.*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking ongoing funding and support for emergency management (2024-EB36, 2022-EB34, 2022-EB35, 2022-NR23, 2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## **FINANCE**

**R33- Equitable Distribution of Non-Casino Gaming Revenue  
City of Port Moody**

Whereas the City of Port Moody advocated for more equitable distribution of gaming revenues, and was subsequently asked by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide viable options for the Ministry's review and consideration to remedy significant funding inequities created by revenue sharing agreements with local governments hosting casinos;

And whereas more broadly and equitably sharing gaming revenue, excluding revenue allocated to casino host communities, with municipalities will reduce the financial inequity that has been inadvertently created by providing significant revenue windfalls to host municipalities and support non-host communities in enhancing the livability of their communities across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend gaming revenue distribution policies, ~~excluding existing agreements to communities that host casinos,~~ **excluding casino revenue**, to include advancing equity in the allocation of gaming revenues;

And be it further resolved that the Province establish a working group with interested communities to discuss **non-casino** gaming revenue sharing and equity policy changes.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse resolution 2024-NR65, also from the same sponsor, that asked the Province to amend gaming revenue distribution policies to include advancing equity. As well, it asked the Province to establish a working group with Port Moody and other non-host communities to discuss gaming revenue sharing and equity policy changes.*

*The sponsor has updated this year's resolution to exclude existing agreements to communities that host casinos when it asks to advance equity in the allocation of gaming revenues. It also differs in that the working group is open to all interested communities, whereas the 2024 resolution asked that the working group include only non-host communities.*

*The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to share a portion of lottery revenue with:*

- *all BC local governments (2011-B28, 2008-B119); and*
- *communities under 10,000 (2020-EB37).*

*Further, the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting that BCLC eGaming revenues be used as follows:*

- *2023-NR57 which asked to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend;*
- *2019-B131 which asked to share 10% of net revenue from online gambling with local governments on the basis of population; and*
- *2018-B112 which asked to fund a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support non-host communities with populations of less than 25,000.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was AMENDED; then ON MOTION as amended, was NOT ENDORSED**

## LAND USE

### R34- Industrial Lands Shortage City of Maple Ridge

Whereas the Province has a critical industrial lands shortage;

And whereas there is a need for protecting and developing industrial lands to support rapidly growing communities such as in the Lower Mainland region:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM advocates that the Province prioritizes and partners on enabling strategic industrial land opportunities within local government jurisdictions.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling in the Province to prioritize and partner on enabling strategic industrial land opportunities within local government jurisdictions.*

*The Committee notes that members endorsed resolution 2023-NR61, which asked the Province for community opportunities to pilot agritech - within a dedicated area for agri-industrial activity - in alignment with the BC Food Security Task Force Findings and Recommendations report.*

*In response to resolution 2023-NR61, the provincial government clarified that there are “no restrictions on using agritech for food production on the ALR, including the use of robotics and drones”, and in fact amended the ALR Use Regulation in 2022 to enable vertical farming operations on the ALR. The Province suggested that for agritech activities not permitted by ALR regulations, “an owner can work with their local government to submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Commission to seek approval for the activity.” The Province further encouraged local governments to “review industrial lands that are currently adjacent to agricultural lands to determine whether they can be intensified or reallocated for agritech use,” or “consider conducting industrial land use inventories to review how much industrial land currently exists, what it is being used for, and if any portion could be reallocated for agritech use.”*

*The Committee also notes that members endorsed resolution 2023-NR69, which called on the Province to enable local governments to levy a vacant property tax on commercial and industrial properties.*

*In response to resolution 2023-NR69, the provincial government expressed caution, noting that amendments to the Community Charter would be necessary to grant local governments such taxation authority, and wondered whether smaller local governments would even be interested.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

### **R35- Provincial Financial Support for Municipal Industrial Land Planning District of Squamish**

Whereas a sufficient supply of industrial land in all categories (i.e. production, distribution, repair, manufacturing, transportation, trade-enabling, warehouse, wholesale, etc.) is critical for local, regional and provincial economies and workforce growth, and industrial lands face scarcity and underdevelopment challenges and loss and conversion to other uses;

And whereas balanced attention to local and regional industrial land protection and planning is disadvantaged by lack of available funding for local governments to assist with the unique planning and development challenges and opportunities for these lands:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide new funding programs for local and regional governments to support preparation or updating of industrial land inventories, assessments, strategies, plans, and guidelines for their protection and optimal development.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to provide new funding programs for local and regional governments to support preparation or updating of industrial land inventories, assessments, strategies, plans, and guidelines for their protection and optimal development.*

*The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse resolution 2006-B120, which asked the Province to invite affected communities, industry groups and other stakeholders to form an Industrial Lands Committee, tasked with conducting an advisability and feasibility study in consultation with affected communities, industry groups and other stakeholders on the establishment of an Industrial Land Reserve.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## ELECTIONS

### **R36- Aligning the By-Election Provisions of the *School Act* with those of the *Local Government Act* City of Coquitlam**

Whereas the provincial government establishes the legislative framework under which all local governments in British Columbia deliver local government and school trustee by-elections;

And whereas the provisions in the *School Act* related to the timelines for setting a general voting day for a by-election differ from those in the *Local Government Act*, with the latter providing more flexibility;

And whereas a certain degree of flexibility is needed in setting a general voting day for a by-election in order to address timing challenges and minimize potential conflicts for candidates and voters, and to address logistical considerations and operational needs:

Therefore be it resolved that in order to allow local governments the same flexibility in setting a general voting day for a school trustee by-election as for a local government by-election, that UBCM request that the provincial government revise the wording in Section 36(3.1) of the *School Act* to align with the wording in Section 54(4) of the *Local Government Act*, to read as follows:

“36.(3.1) In the case of a trustee election required to be conducted by a municipality, the municipal council must appoint a chief election officer as soon as practicable after being notified under subsection 3(b)”

#### **Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to revise the wording in Section 36(3.1) of the School Act to align with the wording in Section 54(4) of the Local Government Act, to allow local governments the same flexibility in setting a general voting date for a school trustee by-election as for a local government by-election.*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

## SELECTED ISSUES

### **R37- Safe Welcome Communities District of Squamish**

Whereas UBCM, its members, and the province of BC have advocated for, and implemented programs, projects, and investment to support a just, equitable, safe, and welcoming society;

And whereas political extremism that proposes isolation, exclusion, and division is attempting to gain foothold globally, threatening the values we hold dearly:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and its members reiterate their unwavering commitment to a just, equitable, safe, welcoming society;

And be it further resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of BC to do the same.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM, its members and the Province to reiterate their unwavering commitment to a just, equitable, safe and welcoming society.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently supported resolutions that seek to address different forms of discrimination (2021-EB76, 2017-B123, 2016-B98, 2016-B103, 2013-B87).*

**Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**

**R38- Tracking and Reporting of Votes on Motions and Resolutions  
City of New Westminster**

Whereas the Lower Mainland Local Government Association, the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities advocate for issues that impact their member local governments;

And whereas local elected officials are financially supported to attend and to advocate on behalf of their local constituents at these organizations' annual conferences, however there is no voting record to inform constituents on how their elected representatives voted on motions and resolutions:

Therefore be it resolved that LMLGA begin tracking and reporting how attendees vote on motions and resolutions at its annual convention and submit a motion to UBCM and FCM advocating for those organizations to do the same.

**Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on LMLGA to begin tracking and reporting how attendees vote on motions and*

*resolutions at its annual convention and submit a motion to UBCM and FCM advocating for those organizations to do the same.*

*The Committee also advises that there are resource implications for LMLGA in asking them to track member voting.*

***Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***