

Minutes of the 2017 Business Sessions
North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention
Terrace Sportsplex, May 3-5, 2017

Business Session Number One

1. Call to Order

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) was called to order at 9:54 a.m. on May 4, 2017.

2. President's Report

President Laurey-Anne Roodenburg welcomed the delegates, sponsors and speakers to the 62nd Annual North Central Local Government Association. President Roodenburg thanks the NCLGA board.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 4 – 6, 2016, BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

4. Financial Statements

Moved/Seconded that the Financial Statements of March 31, 2017 BE ADOPTED, as presented.

CARRIED

Appointment of Accountant

Moved/Seconded that KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants BE APPOINTED, as the North Central Local Government Association's Accountants for 2017-2018.

CARRIED

Present Budget

Moved/Seconded that the proposed 2017-2018 budget BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Brian Frenkel presented the Nominations Report, explained the process whereby the new executive would be elected and, provided explanation of the voting process, the location of the voting booth and what time voting would commence if there were nominations from the floor.

6. Nominations for NCLGA Executive from the Floor

Nominations for President

Shaely Wilbur– City of Dawson Creek was nominated for the position of President. Nominations Committee Chair Brian Frenkel called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Shaely Wilbur, City of Dawson Creek, was declared President by acclamation.

Nominations for First Vice-President

Gord Klassen, – City of Fort St. John was nominated for the position of First Vice-President. Nominations Committee Chair Brian Frenkel called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Gord Klassen, City of Fort St. John was declared First Vice-President by acclamation.

Nominations for Second Vice – President

Laurie Walters, City of Williams Lake, has been nominated for the position of Second Vice-President. Nominations Committee Chair Brian Frenkel called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Laurie Walters, City of Williams Lake was declared Second Vice-President by acclamation.

MFA/MIA Updates

Brian Frenkel welcomed Al Richmond to give an update for MFA/MIA.

Gord Klassen was invited on stage to give MIA report.

First Business Session Adjourned at 10:21 a.m. May 4, 2017

Second Business Session Commenced at 10:38 a.m. May 4, 2017

Independent Investigations Office: Fair, Unbiased Accountability Presentation

Bert Phipps; Marten Youssef; Jessica Hope; Aidan Buckley gave a presentation on the Independent Investigation Office.

Questions were opened to the floor.

7. Resolutions Debate

The Resolutions Debate was opened by Resolutions Committee Chair Brian Frenkel. Brian Frenkel extended thanks to all the communities for drafting and submitting resolutions and also provided a brief overview of the debate process prior to commencing the discussion for resolutions

2017 MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

Lara Beckett took over resolutions debate.

B1.: EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION:

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

WHEREAS the provincial government was involved in an initiative to seek input on rural education in fall/winter 2016-2017;

AND WHEREAS school district funding is inadequate for some districts to provide busing to all rural and remote students:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM executive have discussions with Ministry of Education to make clear definitions of rural and remote. Identifying the significant difference between lower mainland rural and remoteness with northern rural and remoteness.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the BC Government and the Ministry of Education to provide all required funding to bus eligible students to and from school. Because all rural and remote students must have equal access to public education.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to define more clearly the concepts of rural and remote in the context of K-12 education, taking into account differences between northern and southern regions of BC. Nor

have members considered a resolution asking the Province to provide “all required funding to bus eligible students to and from school.”

Resolution 2016-B132, however, asked the provincial government to “reconsider the issue of school bus transportation funding and impacts to school divisions and rural and remote areas.” Due to time constraints, resolution 2016-B132 was not debated at the UBCM Annual Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration.

Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive determined that no action was required, since in August 2016, the provincial government had announced a \$14.7 million Student Transportation Fund that could be accessed by school districts around the province, to assist with the cost of transporting students to and from school. In October 2016, the Province confirmed that every school district in BC had applied and been approved to receive financial support from the Student Transportation Fund.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B2: FAMILY DAY

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS the Family Day holiday is observed in British Columbia on the second Monday in February, while the Family Day holiday is observed on the third Monday in February in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, along with Louis Riel Day in Manitoba, Heritage Day in Nova Scotia and Islander Day in Prince Edward Island;

AND WHEREAS aligning the BC Family Day holiday with other provinces would allow families to more conveniently share the holiday with family from other provinces:

AND WHEREAS from a commerce and business perspective, aligning the BC Family Day holiday with other provinces and with President’s Day in the USA would allow our province to remain “open for business” on a day when national and international commerce, business, and markets are open:

AND WHEREAS weather on the later February week end is generally expected to be more favorable for highway travel as compared to a week earlier:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government of the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to engage in a public consultation process with a view to answering widespread calls to align the date of the BC Family Day holiday with the other provinces in Canada by moving the date of the BC Family Day holiday from the second Monday to the third Monday in February.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: Due to time constraints, the UBCM membership was not able to consider resolution 2016-B139 at the 2016 Convention, and the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive referred the resolution back to the sponsor, to address questions arising about consultation, and effects on business operations.

As of 2016, UBCM members had not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to move the annual Family Day holiday to the third Monday in February.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B3: FACILITATING VALUE-ADDED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

WHEREAS adding value to natural resources is of great economic benefit to the North, the Province, and the Nation, because it attracts investment, delivers tax revenue, creates employment, and captures previously foregone economic value;

AND WHEREAS adding value to natural resources often reduces environmental risks associated with transporting products, minimizes waste by utilizing a great percentage of products, and ensures processing occurs under world class Canadian standards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to adopt policies and implement regulations that will facilitate and stimulate value-added resource development.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2016-B42 and 2015-LR2, which raised similar questions about distribution of existing timber supply, provision of the “Right Log To The Right Mill,” and called on the provincial government to “re-examine the appurtenance requirement in the Forest Act to help create local or regional economic benefits from the timber that is being logged in an area.”

In response to the resolutions, the provincial government has indicated that it is “exploring options to ensure smaller mills have access to needed timber types that meet their needs of quality;” however, the Province stated that it had no plans to restore appurtenance requirements.

By way of background, the UBCM membership endorsed a Forest Policy Paper in 2002.

The Forest Policy Paper in part expressed UBCM members’ concerns about the removal of the appurtenance clause from the provincial government’s forest policy, fearing that it would result in “a further loss of control over where the wood is processed and in some cases, massive job loss.” The paper further asserted that “if the break is made between harvesting and processing there

has to be something provided to affected communities in exchange,” with affected communities consulted about the form and amount of compensation.

The paper proposed examples of ways to compensate affected communities, such as:

- requiring the license holder to forfeit a substantial percentage of the AAC to be turned into a community-based tenure;
- reimbursing the community for loss of economic benefits if the timber is taken out of the area and hauled to another community for processing. For example, a portion of the stumpage could be returned to the community affected, as one form of compensation; or
- requiring that timber go to the most appropriate BC mill and further that the timber must be processed in BC.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B4: WHISTLE CESSATION

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS rail traffic continues to increase throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS locomotive whistles severely infringe upon citizens’ quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort and convenience:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Transport Canada require rail corporations provide a safe environment in which whistle sounding will be discontinued.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2014-B125, a similar resolution from the same sponsor.

In its comments on the 2014 resolution, the UBCM Resolutions Committee noted that the membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2009-B157, which called on rail corporations to provide controlled railway crossings within municipal boundaries, rather than sounding locomotive whistles.

The Committee also observed that under the Rail Safety Act, strict rules dictate when and where whistles are sounded. These rules apply at all crossings and are required for safety reasons.

Further information:

www.proximityissues.ca/asset/image/reference/brochures/en_community_brochure.pdf

Additional information on the Transport Canada website:

www.tc.gc.ca/eng/railsafety/publications-874.htm

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B5: WIND TURBINE SITTING ON CROWN LAND

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the placement of wind turbines on crown land that is adjacent to private property has effects on the private property and its owners;

AND WHEREAS the private property owners and other stakeholders such as local government expect proper consultation regarding placement and permitting of any large projects affecting them and their right to private enjoyment of their properties:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to require that local government land use regulations apply to all small scale energy generation projects, including wind energy projects, regardless of their location on public or private property to ensure proper consultation with affected landowners and local governments takes place in advance of construction of wind energy projects in the Province.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to ensure that local government land use regulations, as well as consultation with landowners and local governments, are considered when assessing proposals for new power projects in BC (2009-B40, 2009-B137, 2008-B39).

Specifically, resolution 2009-B137 in part called on the Province to develop “clear and measurable evaluation criteria to evaluate independent power production projects, and include as part of this criteria community social, land use and environmental values.”

In response to resolution 2009-B137, the provincial government confirmed that “existing federal and provincial processes assess the potential impact of proposals, including impacts on the environment, protected areas, existing land uses, recreational uses, other resource uses and First Nations’ asserted rights and title.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B6: DESIGNATION AND MAINTENANCE FOR RECREATION ROADS

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia promotes tourism and encourages the use of the variety of outdoor touring experiences available on British Columbia's Crown land base to stimulate rural job growth and the rural economy but many of these Crown land recreation areas are becoming more difficult to access or rendered inaccessible due to the closure or reduced maintenance of resource roads;

AND WHEREAS resource roads are also important for non-resource related agricultural, commercial and educational activities on public Crown lands as well as being important for emergency management access and evacuation purposes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to work with communities and stakeholders to identify key resource roads that are no longer required for industrial use and designate these roads as recreational roads that require provincial oversight and funding for ongoing maintenance in support of the back country recreation tourism industry and other critical agricultural, commercial, educational, and emergency uses.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province, with communities and other stakeholders, to support economic diversification by identifying “key resource roads ... no longer required for industrial use and designate these roads as recreational,” thereby requiring provincial oversight and funding for ongoing maintenance.

UBCM would acknowledge that in 2008, the provincial government drew together a joint committee of cabinet ministers and UBCM representatives, chaired by the provincial government, to examine and make recommendations to improve the way that resource roads work for communities. Based on its findings, the joint committee released a staff report, “Resource Roads and Communities,” in 2010.

Summarized at a high level, the recommendations from “Resource Roads and Communities” in part propose that the provincial government should explore the following:

1. Adopt policy tenets that recognize the evolved role that resource roads play in our economy and society.
2. Within the larger resource road network, consider establishing a “High Public Use” class of resource road, and for such roads, develop a new funding model.
3. Without reducing environmental standards, minimize road deactivations, so that non-industrial users may realize the social and economic benefits of resource roads.

4. When necessary, to resolve serious conflict, apply the Corporate Results-Based Model for Access Management. The provincial government must balance these planning processes for all participants, with outcomes grounded fully in sound science.
5. For resource road management matters, establish a “one-window” platform for information exchange and dialogue between public, commercial, and resource industry stakeholders.
6. Encourage establishment of Industrial Road User Committees in all parts of the province. These committees would focus on developing locally appropriate, collaborative solutions to resource road issues, between and amongst industrial users and community users of resource roads.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

B7: AGRICULTURAL DAMS

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS agricultural dams are significant resources for water storage for food producers in certain regions of British Columbia, and climate change with temperature increases and hydrological shifts will make these water sources even more important in future;

AND WHEREAS the Dam Safety Regulation specifies requirements for owners to hire engineers to inspect and develop plans to maintain these dams based on the level of risk:

AND WHEREAS these requirements are complex, onerous, and prohibitively expensive to dam owners, and the level of risk depends in part on development downstream which is beyond the control of the dam owner:

AND WHEREAS agricultural dams provide shared values to society, including recreational values, ecological values as they provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and water sources for forest firefighting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province to work with agricultural dam owners to assist them in meeting the requirements of the Dam Safety Regulation in order that these water storage resources are safely preserved for food production and other values into the future.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province to fairly apportion the cost of inspecting and maintaining agricultural dams in a manner which takes into account other shared values, and the level of development downstream from the dams.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to assist owners of agricultural dams to meet the requirements of the Dam Safety Regulation; nor have members asked the Province to apportion the cost of inspecting and maintaining agricultural dams “in a manner which takes into account other shared values, and the level of development downstream from the dams.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B8: SPILL DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

DISTRICT OF KITIMAT

WHEREAS currently accepted technologies, including SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) and MBS (Material/Mass Balance System), can fail to detect leaks between 1.5 to 3% of pipeline flow volume which could result in upwards of 100,000 litres per hour of crude oil leaking without detection on a pipeline transporting 500,000 barrels per day;

AND WHEREAS other internal industrial leak detection tools such as Smart Pig Technology have been proven to fail to locate pipeline flaws resulting in environmental damage:

AND WHEREAS external hydrocarbon sensing cable is a proven technology that can detect leaks of less than 1 litre, making it possible to locate, contain and repair leaks before they become major environmental disasters:

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial and Federal governments to implement regulations that ensure pipeline safety standards are to the highest available standards and include mandatory external hydrocarbon sensing technologies.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to enact pipeline safety standards that require the use of external hydrocarbon sensing technologies.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

Pat Crook took over resolutions debate.

B9: BROWNFIELDS

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS vacant sites or orphan properties known as “brownfields” are prevalent on properties located within communities along the HWY 16 transportation corridor, are eyesores to the community and have caused real or suspected environmental contamination and negatively impact economic development of that specific site and in the general area of that specific site;

AND WHEREAS the owners of these “brownfield” sites have already reaped the benefits there should be a financial cost those who don’t clean up their mess:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assessment Act Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation be amended to add a separate property class; “Class 10 - Brownfield”, which applies to any vacant or deserted properties that are classified as a brownfield.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B104, which called on the provincial government to create a separate assessment class for brownfield sites.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government indicated that it is not currently considering a separate property class for brownfield sites. The Province pointed out that “the cost of remediation, if required, is often prohibitive and can even exceed the market value of the property,” and expressed reservations about unintended consequences and challenges resulting from taxing brownfields at a higher rate.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B10: ILLEGAL DUMPING

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

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

AND WHEREAS the problem of illegal dumping is an area of shared jurisdiction between multiple Provincial Ministries including Environment and Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, which results in decreased accountability and gaps in service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to designate a single Ministry as responsible for regulation of illegal dumping in the Province, including enforcement of said regulations and cleanup and removal of dumped waste.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM respectfully request that the Province provide adequate funding to the designated Ministry to ensure minimum staffing levels can be maintained in all areas of the Province to address the issue of illegal dumping.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government designate a single ministry to be responsible for regulation and

enforcement of illegal dumping in BC. However, members did endorse resolution 2011-B89, which called on the provincial government to allocate additional human and financial resources to enforce, monitor and clean up illegal dump sites on Crown land; and resolution 2012-B29, which asked the Province to invest more resources to prosecute illegal dumping on Crown land.

In response to resolution 2011-B89, the provincial government expressed willingness to work directly with local governments to address local challenges with illegal dumping on a case by case basis.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B11: WOODLAND CARIBOU IMPLEMENTATION PLAN CONSULTATION

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WHEREAS the Province, in compliance with the Federal Species at Risk Act, is currently in the process of developing Implementation Plans for the conservation and regeneration of Woodland Caribou in BC;

AND WHEREAS such plans, by restricting the harvesting of timber in specified areas can have a significant negative impact on forest industry investment operations, and local economies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to immediately commit to meaningful consultation with local governments potentially affected by Woodland Caribou Implementation Plans, such consultation to involve thorough investigation and consideration of socio-economic impacts.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B93, which called for “meaningful and respectful” federal consultation with local government and the agricultural community, regarding recovery planning under the Species at Risk Act. The 2011 resolution sought to find a balance between conservation needs and agricultural production.

In response to the resolution, the federal government acknowledged the concerns of local governments and the agricultural community. The federal government pointed out that as part of the process of implementing conservation strategies, it had undertaken a range of consultation with provincial and local government, and agricultural stakeholders.

UBCM would also note that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for strong provincial and federal legislation to support conservation of species at risk and promote biodiversity (2011-B41, 2010-B35, 2008-B87, 2004-B80).

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

FINANCE

B12: REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICTS' CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FORMULA **CITY OF TERRACE**

WHEREAS a primary purpose of a regional hospital district under the Hospital District Act is to establish, acquire, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, operate and maintain hospitals and hospital facilities;

AND WHEREAS the current practice is that long-term capital infrastructure projects are financed based on a cost-sharing formula of 60% the Province and 40% the Regional Hospital Districts, which is often not achievable for rural hospital districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to formally establish a reduced expected rate for rural Regional Hospital Districts below the current standard of 40% as their contribution to capital infrastructure projects.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B114, which asked the provincial government to prioritize the review of the historic cost sharing ratio between regional hospital districts and the Province, for health care capital costs.

In response to resolution 2016-B114, the Province expressed willingness to proceed, when the legislative agenda permits, with a review of and amendments to the Hospital District Act, to clarify issues including funding.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B13: BC HYDRO FAIR COMPENSATION

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS private utilities are required to pay property taxes on properties including rights-of-way for distribution and transmission lines;

AND WHEREAS BC Hydro is authorized by provincial law to pay grants-in-lieu to local governments rather than paying property taxes:

AND WHEREAS this inequity has been an ongoing issue of importance to local governments, especially regional

districts where the majority of distribution and transmission lines are located, but for which no property taxes may be collected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Minister of Finance to review the issue of grants-in-lieu paid by BC Hydro with respect to its transmission and distribution assets as promised during the preparation of Budget 2012.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions relating to Crown Corporation assets and the payment of grants in lieu of property taxes, or full property taxes based on assessed property values (2012-B68; 2011-B23; 2009-B44; 2005-B96; 2001-B21; 2001-B24; 1995-A6). Further, UBCM General Policy 1.8 states that “property taxation distribution ...should be based on actual value assessments and grants in lieu of taxes paid by other governments and their agencies should be paid on the same basis as the ordinary taxpayer.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

HEALTH

B14: COMPARABLE STANDBY WAGES FOR BC AMBULANCE SERVICE

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

WHEREAS many remote and rural municipalities experience a shortage of qualified ambulance staff and this puts these municipalities in danger of not having the service when they need it the most; and

AND WHEREAS many rural ambulance stations only provide on-call coverage with no guaranteed shifts for staff and the on-call rate of \$2/hr is not a sufficient rate for paramedics to make the income needed to be self-sufficient:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the BC government to work with the provincial bargaining body and with BC ambulance in the next round of provincial collective agreement bargaining to ensure that BC ambulance staff have on-call rates of pay comparable with other health science professionals, i.e.: lab technologists, radiation technologists, nurses etc.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: Due to time constraints, resolution 2009-B68 was not debated at the UBCM Annual Convention and was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive for consideration. Resolution 2009-B68 asked the provincial government and BC Ambulance Service to increase the stand-by and on-call pay rates and honorarium for volunteer or part-time ambulance staff

paramedics in rural and remote communities. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive determined that no action was required.

In its comments on resolution 2009-B68, the UBCM Resolutions Committee acknowledged that recruitment and retention of volunteer ambulance attendants was long standing issue, made more complex by differences in pay rates depending on where ambulance attendants are based in BC. The Committee referenced labour negotiations under way at the time between the Province and ambulance attendants, and because of the negotiations, declined to comment further on the rate of pay of volunteer ambulance attendants.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B15: SUPPORT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BC FOREST SAFETY OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN BC
CITY OF TERRACE

WHEREAS the resource sector is the corner stone of the economies for most rural communities and modern health care is crucial to attracting new investment, a workforce, and securing quality of life for rural residents;

AND WHEREAS the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman's report on Helicopter Emergency Medical Services has identified that rural communities are negatively affected by an inadequate emergency transportation system:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to adopt the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman recommendations on "Helicopter Emergency Medical Services" including mandating a legislated one-hour timeline for every resident of the Province to have access to Trauma 3 Level of care.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to adopt recommendations from the BC Forest Safety Ombudsman regarding helicopter emergency medical services, including a legislated one-hour timeline for every BC resident to be able to access a Trauma 3 level of care.

However, UBCM members endorsed resolutions 2013-B44, 2007-B157 and 1998-B98, all calling for improvements to air medical access and air ambulance services for all British Columbians.

In response to resolution 2013-B44, BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) stated that 24-hour air ambulance services are available from bases in Prince George, Prince Rupert, Kamloops, Kelowna, and Vancouver; and that it would use private air carriers, Alberta Health Services,

Government of the Yukon, Royal Canadian Air Force, and Canadian Coast Guard aircraft as necessary. BCAS emphasized that the air ambulance model “best able to provide timely, specialized care for patients in northern BC and ... isolated communities is via fixed-wing aircraft,” and referenced the Early Fixed-Wing Activation Program it adopted in 2012.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B16: ATTRACTION AND RETENTION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

WHEREAS the attraction and retention of sufficient medical doctors is an ongoing issue for rural BC communities;

AND WHEREAS nurse practitioners provide an excellent means of supporting doctors in meeting the needs of those seeking medical care and allowing physicians to focus on more complex and challenging patient health complaints:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the province of BC provide additional funding for nurse practitioners in rural communities and support their implementation throughout the province.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B70, which asked the provincial government to fund overhead and operating costs for nurse practitioners throughout the province, in order to support the efficacy of this form of primary health care delivery.

In response to the resolution, the Province expressed intent to review incentive programs for non-physician health professionals, such as nurse practitioners, in order to better support rural recruitment and retention.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

Joan Soarley took over resolutions debate.

LEGISLATIVE

B17: TERM LENGTH

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

WHEREAS some local government jurisdictions find it difficult to attract candidates to run for public office and to retain them for a four-year term;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the Province to investigate allowing each local government to choose the length of term of office to be two, three or four years.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Not Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to investigate “allowing each local government to choose the length of term of office to be two, three or four years.”

UBCM members endorsed resolution 2013-B94, which called on the provincial government to “increase the interval between civic elections from three years to four years.”

NCLGA Membership:

DEFEATED

B18: UBCM CONFERENCE RESOLUTION SECTION

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE

WHEREAS the resolution section of the annual UBCM conference is undoubtedly the most important business at hand for elected representatives attending; and

AND WHEREAS often times run outs at the end of convention before all resolutions have been brought to the floor, resulting in the remaining resolutions not being heard or debated by members on the convention floor:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM executive allow for more time during convention for the resolutions.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this additional time is created within the existing schedule without additional convention time.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B142, which asked the UBCM Executive and staff to undertake policy amendments to ensure sufficient time to hear and decide upon all resolutions submitted for consideration at the annual UBCM Convention.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B19: ELIMINATION OF BOARD OF VARIANCE

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS Part 14, Division 15 of the Local Government Act requires local governments to appoint citizens to a Board of Variance, and provides for its mandate and operation;

AND WHEREAS Section 536(2) of the Local Government Act prohibits elected officials or Advisory Planning Commissioners from serving on the Board of Variance:

AND WHEREAS the Board of Variance is empowered to make land use decisions which could potentially overturn a decision of the duly elected municipal council or regional district board:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province to repeal “Division 15 - Board of Variance” of the Local Government Act in its entirety.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2012-B140, which asked the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to allow local governments to opt out of the requirement to establish a board of variance.

At the time in 2012, the UBCM Resolutions Committee expressed discomfort with the idea of local governments opting out of the requirement to establish a board of variance. The Committee emphasized the absence of previous policy direction from the UBCM membership, and the independent role played by boards of variance.

In its comments on resolution 2012-B140, the UBCM Resolutions Committee noted that over the years, the membership had endorsed a number of resolutions on issues related to boards of variance, including appeal of decisions and limits to their authority (2000-B38; 1996-B59; 1996-A14). Members had also endorsed resolution 2006-B34, requesting legislative amendments to circumscribe the scope of powers of boards of variance, and to provide an adequate course of appeal for both citizens and local government councils.

The request made in the 2017 resolution goes beyond issues of scope of powers, instead proposing to eliminate boards of variance entirely.

By way of background, upon adoption of a zoning bylaw, a council or board must then establish by bylaw a board of variance (BOV). The BOV role is limited to the functions and responsibilities set out in s. 900-901 of the Local Government Act. A person may apply to the board of variance for a minor variance if they feel compliance with the bylaw would cause them a hardship. The council or board appoints members to the board of variance as per the Local Government Act. The local government is bound by the decisions of the board of variance, subject to court review. Council or the board cannot direct the board in its decision making process.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B20: UBCM RESOLUTIONS

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS local governments invest considerable time and effort in researching, preparing and submitting proper (early) resolutions, through their respective councils, boards and area associations to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the necessity for late resolutions is recognized, they often result in time constraints that in turn pre-empt early resolutions from debate and becoming no longer the property of the membership as they are referred to Union of British Columbia Municipalities executive for decision:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association requests the Union of British Columbia Municipalities enable all early resolutions to remain the property of the membership at convention until they are duly debated and disposed of.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that all resolutions received before the deadline remain “the property of the membership” until duly debated and disposed of by the membership.

For any resolution not printed in the Resolutions Book, the UBCM membership is the body that decides whether or not to admit the resolution for debate at Convention. This includes late resolutions as well as resolutions from off the floor. The requirement to admit such a resolution for debate is support from a sixty per cent majority of the voting delegates present. The UBCM membership holds the authority to determine whether debate can be completed at Convention on all resolutions received before the June 30 submission deadline.

The sponsor’s proposal raises a number of practical challenges for Convention organizers. Instances will arise when the time frame allotted in the Convention agenda to debate resolutions, expires. Should then the entire Convention agenda be changed on an ad-hoc basis to finish debate of all resolutions? Should the Convention policy session be allowed to run late on the final day of Convention? There are end times for room rental at the convention centre, as well as travel plans made by Convention attendees who begin to make their way home.

UBCM notes that members endorsed resolution 2012-B142, which asked the UBCM Executive and staff to undertake policy amendments to “ensure that sufficient time is provided to hear and decide upon all resolutions submitted for consideration at the annual UBCM Convention.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

SOCIAL ISSUES

B21: SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS there is a growing need to attract and retain qualified, skilled professionals to meet the increased demands of the resource industry in northern British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS a financial incentive will encourage those educated in the north to stay in the north:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the senior levels of government to provide (a) a tax credit of \$3,000.00 for a period of five years and (2) forgive student loans, for graduating skilled professionals who choose to be educated in and live in rural British Columbia.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B151, which asked the federal government to provide a five-year tax credit for graduating skilled professionals who choose to be educated in and live in rural BC.

NCLGA Membership: REFER BACK TO DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF FOR RE-WORDING

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

B22: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS many rural communities in Northern British Columbia do not have public transit;

AND WHEREAS the absence of public transportation in these rural communities places them at a distinct disadvantage as their citizens have no opportunity to use public transportation within or between communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC implement a public transportation strategy and establish solutions leading to the sustainability of public transit in all rural communities.

BACKGROUND:

Despite the recent initiative on public transportation for HWY 16 large gaps remain in the local area services. The current program, while appreciated, falls far short of meeting the need for public transportation. Additional funding is required to make the proposed HWY 16 transit system viable for all communities.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable public transportation solutions across BC, including in rural and remote communities (2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2007-B13, 2005-B7). Most recently, resolution 2015-B9 from the same sponsor asked the Province for “adequate funding to support local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities.”

In response to the 2015 resolution, the provincial government expressed willingness to work with communities to find public transit options. The Province also referenced the Action Plan for the Highway 16 Corridor; as well as work by the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition on intra-regional transportation service.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B23: HIGHWAY 16 UPDATES & IMPROVEMENTS

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS the Trans-Canada Highway 16 is the only east-west highway connecting communities in Northern BC and is a critical link for the economic development of the region and province, especially providing access to the Asia-Pacific;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to facilitate the safe and efficient traffic flow on the highway through areas that are in dire need of improvements, reducing ‘bottle-necks,’ more ‘three landing,’ and safer level rail crossings, etc.:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the federal and provincial governments to allocate the necessary funds and implement a comprehensive program to make improvements on the TransCanada Highway 16 within BC.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B81, which asked the provincial government to develop an “Asia-Pacific northern infrastructure strategy” to address barriers to trade and transportation, and impacts to northern communities along Highway 16; and called for consultation with northern stakeholder communities and industry as part of the development of the strategy.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government referenced an analysis of multi-modal transportation trade networks along Highway 16, as part of the Pacific Gateway Initiative.

UBCM also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a province-wide, multi-modal transportation strategy or policy that would include components such as highway upgrades; safety improvements; transportation of dangerous goods; emergency response; and coordination between different modes of transport (2013-B13, 2009-B16, 2008-B110, 2008-B107, 2003-B59, 2000-B63, 1998-A6, 1996-B88, 1995-B55, 1992-A17).

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to include ulterior Highways 118, 37, 27 along with Highway 16.

NCLGA Membership:

AMENDING MOTION CARRIED

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED

B24: RAILWAY MANIFEST

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS Transport Canada made the requirement in 2013 obliging railroad companies to provide annual aggregate information on dangerous and hazardous good, on a quarterly basis for CN and CP to municipalities that request it;

AND WHEREAS there is no consideration to go beyond the current approach, which would ensure emergency response organizations have the information on dangerous and hazardous goods at their disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Transport Canada require that all railway companies ensure that local emergency response organizations are provided with up to the minute information on the dangerous and hazardous goods on any train that is traveling through their community.

NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B55, which in part requested federal legislation that would require rail carriers to provide local governments with “timely information regarding the frequency of Class III tank cars travelling through communities carrying hazardous materials.”

Members also endorsed resolution 2015-B13, which called for a “comprehensive national strategy for the rail transportation of dangerous and hazardous goods” that would include in part:

- A security-focused, prevention-based reporting structure to allow first responders and key municipal officials information about dangerous and hazardous goods before they pass through their community; and
- A strategy to allow for local governments to induce timely inquiries into infrastructure safety after rail derailments or similar failures.

The sponsor correctly notes that the federal government in 2013 began requiring railway companies, if requested by local governments, to share with municipal first responders and emergency planners information on the nature and volume of dangerous goods being transported by rail through their communities. However, UBCM acknowledges that at present, the railway companies provide this information only to local governments that request it; and on an annual basis, rather than up to the minute.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS forest health is essential to resource development and economic opportunities in our region;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia communities continue to struggle with the effects of the pine beetle epidemic that was exacerbated by restrictions imposed by park and protected area designations, and a fir and spruce beetle infestation has now taken hold as a result of inadequate measures to control beetle infestation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM support lobbying the provincial government to take a proactive approach to the health of the forest, with extraction of diseased trees taking precedence over park or protected area designations, as well as other restrictions such as mule deer winter range or old growth designations.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended where it says 'extraction' replace with 'treatment'.

NCLGA Membership:

**AMENDING MOTION CARRIED
MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED**

Resolutions from the Floor:

MOVED/SECONDED that the NCLGA support the City of Vernon and SILGA lobbying at UBCM to eliminate GST on Carbon Tax.

NCLGA Membership:

**CARRIED FROM THE FLOOR
CARRIED**

Second Business Session Adjourned at 12:01 p.m. May 4, 2017

Third Business Session Commenced at 1:14 p.m. May 4, 2017

8. Elections Process (Continued)

Nominations for Director at Large

Brian Frenkel announced that there were three positions available for Director at Large and that three nominations had been received for the Director at Large positions:

- Lara Beckett, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Cheryl Shuman, City of Dawson Creek
- Sandy Salt – Village of Valemount

Nominations from the Floor for Director at Large:

Sarah Storry Village of Fraser Lake has been nominated for the position of Director at Large. Nominations Committee Chair Brian Frenkel called three times for further nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

The nominations for Director at Large were closed. Each candidate, in alphabetical order, was called to the podium to speak for two minutes.

Brian Frenkel reviewed the procedure for voting for the three Director at Large positions and the timeframe in which to do so.

Brian Frenkel encouraged everyone to visit the voting booth and vote for who they want to be Director at Large.

Gold Star Resolution Award:

Brian Frenkel award the Gold Star to the Village of Burns Lake for Resolution B16 – Attraction and Retention of Medical Doctors.

The Third Business Session recessed at 1:30 p.m. on May 4th, 2017

The Third Business Session commenced at 1:00 p.m. on May 5th, 2017

9. Elections Results

President Shaely Wilbur announced the winners of the NCLGA 2017-2018 Director at Large vote. The winners are: Lara Beckett, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, Cheryl Shuman, City of Dawson Creek and Sandy Salt – Village of Valemount.

10. Motion to Destroy Ballots

MOVED/SECONDED THAT the Director at Large ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

The Final Business Session adjourned at 1:15 p.m. on May 5, 2017

Next Convention: The 63rd Annual Convention will be hosted by City of Fort Nelson from May 2nd to May 4th, 2018