

January 13, 2026

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Osborne,

As the President of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA), I am writing to seek your support for several critical resolutions adopted by our association at the 2025 Annual General Meeting & Convention in Prince Rupert, British Columbia (BC). These resolutions are essential to enhancing the capabilities and resilience of our municipalities and regional districts:

- **E1. Advancing Recovery-Informed Workplace Practices.** **Sponsor: NCLGA Executive**
Calls for local governments to adopt stigma-free workplace practices, while also advocating for provincial funding and resources.
- **E2. Blood Plasma Donor Centre for Northern BC** **Sponsor: NCLGA Executive**
Calls for a plasma donor centre in Northern BC to improve access and strengthen domestic supply.
- **R6. Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC** **Sponsors: Districts of Vanderhoof and Fort St. James**
Calls for a new psychiatric hospital in Northern BC to address gaps caused by the closure of Riverview Hospital and current strain on acute care.
- **R8. Enhanced Wraparound Supports and Second-Stage Housing for Individuals in Recovery In Rural Northern Communities** **Sponsor: District of Chetwynd**
Calls for a provincial strategy to expand access for transitional housing, integrated case management, and community-based wraparound services, such as peer support networks, and Indigenous-led recovery services, especially in rural and northern regions.

We are committed to working with your ministry to identify solutions that will provide the support our local governments need. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you (either virtually or in person) to discuss these resolutions in more detail and explore potential collaboration and next steps. Please contact admin@nclga.ca for any scheduling. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Gladys Atrill
President, NCLGA
www.nclga.ca

cc: NCLGA Board, Resolution Sponsors, Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs

Full Resolutions

E1. Advancing Recovery-Informed Workplace Practices

WHEREAS addiction and mental illness impact individuals across all sectors of society, and stigma remains a significant barrier to seeking help, sustaining long-term recovery, and maintaining employment, a key determinant of well-being that provides financial stability, purpose, and social connection;

AND WHEREAS local governments, as employers and community leaders, have the ability to implement Recovery-Informed Workplace Practices that foster inclusive and supportive work environments, reduce workplace conditions that contribute to substance misuse, and promote policies that recognize and celebrate recovery;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM encourage members to adopt Recovery-Informed Workplace Practices by integrating education, support programs, and policies that create stigma-free workplaces, while also advocating for provincial funding and resources to assist in the development and expansion of these initiatives to support employment retention as a critical component of recovery.

E2. Blood Plasma Donor Centre for Northern BC

WHEREAS plasma is a critical component in life-saving treatments for individuals with immune deficiencies, cancer, kidney disease, and other serious medical conditions;

AND WHEREAS Canada collects less than 20% of the plasma required to meet domestic patient needs, relying heavily on international supply chains despite growing demand for plasma-based treatments;

AND WHEREAS Canadian Blood Services closed its whole blood donation centre in Prince George in 2015, leaving Northern BC residents with no local option to donate plasma, while new plasma donor centres have been established in other remote regions such as Thunder Bay, Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government, through the Ministry of Health, and Canadian Blood Services to establish a Blood Plasma Donor Centre in Northern BC, to improve access for donors, and strengthen Canada's domestic plasma supply.

R6. Psychiatric Hospital for Northern BC – Carried. Submitted by: Districts of Vanderhoof and Fort St. James

WHEREAS in the face of the drug use epidemic, the rise in homelessness, and increases in related crime and the influence on mental health, Northern British Columbia communities are experiencing a critical lack of access to long-term secure psychiatric care. The closure of Riverview Hospital in 2012, the province's only psychiatric hospital, has created an unnecessary strain on the residents of our communities, families, local police services, and hospitals;

AND WHEREAS psychiatric patients are either released prematurely or forced to be admitted to acute care hospital beds causing cancelled surgeries, emergency department overcrowding, long emergency room waits, violence in emergency rooms, and staff attrition:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM endorse and advocate for the provincial government to work with the Northern Health Authority to recognize this urgent need and open a psychiatric hospital in northern British Columbia to contribute to the overall health and stability of our communities.

R8. Enhanced Wraparound Supports and Second-Stage Housing for Individuals in Recovery in Rural Northern Communities - Submitted by: District of Chetwynd

WHEREAS individuals returning to communities after completing addiction treatment often face significant barriers, including lack of stable housing, employment opportunities, mental health support, and community reintegration services;

AND WHEREAS the absence of comprehensive wraparound supports, including second-stage housing, case management, peer support, and access to mental health and substance use services, increases the risk of relapse and reduces the long-term success of recovery efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop and fund a provincial strategy that expands access to:

1. Second-stage and transitional housing for individuals completing treatment to provide stability as they reintegrate into their communities particularly in rural Northern regions.
2. Integrated case management services, including mental health, employment, and life skills programs, to support sustained recovery.
3. Community-based wraparound supports, including Indigenous-led healing programs, peer support networks, and long-term addiction recovery services.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government to work in collaboration with municipalities, Indigenous communities, health authorities, and non-profit organizations to ensure equitable access to these supports in rural and northern communities, where services are often limited or unavailable.
