

Minutes of the 2018 Business Sessions

North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, May 7-10, 2018

Business Session Number One

1. **Call to Order**

The 2018 Annual General Meeting of North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) was called to order at 9:07am on May 9, 2018.

2. **President's Report**

President Shaely Wilbur welcomed the delegates, sponsors and speakers to the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the North Central Local Government Association.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved/Seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 3-5, 2017, BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

4. **Financial Statements**

Moved/Seconded that the Financial Statements of March 31, 2018 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 2018-2019.

CARRIED

Present Budget

Moved/Seconded that the proposed 2018-2019 budget BE APPROVED.

CARRIED

5. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg presented the Nomination 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

Gord Klassen of Fort St. John was nominated for the position of President. Nomination Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

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

Nominations for First Vice-President

Lara Beckett of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George was nominated for the position of First Vice-President. Nominations Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Lara Beckett, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George, was declared First Vice-President by acclamation.

Nominations for Second Vice-President

Sarrah Storey from the Village of Fraser Lake was nominated for position of Second Vice-President. Nominations Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Sarrah Storey, Village of Fraser Lake, was declared Second Vice-President by acclamation.

First Business Session Adjourned at 9:20am May 9, 2018

Second Business Session Commenced at 11:00 am May 9, 2018

7. Resolutions Debate

The Resolutions Debate was opened by Resolutions Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur. Shaely Wilbur 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

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

Lara Beckett took over resolution debate.

A1: MLA ATTENDANCE AT AREA ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

NCLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS local MLA's, cabinet ministers and critics can learn about key regional issues at area association meetings;

AND WHEREAS area association meetings provide opportunities for local government officials to meet with MLA's, cabinet ministers and critics:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the provincial government schedule the legislative session to facilitate the ability of local MLA's, cabinet ministers and critics to attend local area association meetings.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered the matter of synchronizing area association spring conventions with the provincial legislative calendar. The Committee notes that each area association has the ability to set its own convention dates, but these convention dates are booked at least a year in advance of the event. However, the Legislative Calendar is not usually made public until early in the New Year, so coordinating dates can be challenging in the absence of knowing when the House is in session.

A challenge that occasionally arises is the scheduling of two area association conventions during the same week, which limits the ability of Ministers and party leaders to attend both events. In the past, these scheduling challenges have been addressed through Area Association Presidents and Executive Directors.

We would also note that with a minority government it is currently challenging for MLAs to get leave of their House duties to attend outside meetings.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

A2: GAS TAX FUNDING FOR VOLENTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

NCLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS the need for safety equipment and response vehicles for volunteer fire departments is continually increasing to meet provincial, federal and insurance requirements;

AND WHEREAS the expense of safety equipment and response vehicles is an extraordinary cost for volunteer fire departments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the FCM and federal government to appropriately fund safety equipment and response vehicles for volunteer fire departments.

UBCM COMMENTS:

The UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2016-B74, calling for fire protection service areas to access and utilize gas tax funding to construct fire halls and purchase firefighting equipment. However, membership has not considered a resolution specifically identifying Volunteer Fire Departments.

UBCM would observe that distinguishing VFD from other first responders may be divisive amongst UBCM membership who have previously endorsed resolutions for all first responders supplies/equipment to be eligible for Gas Tax funding.

Members have endorsed resolutions seeking sources of funding for first responder supplies and equipment (2014-B15, 2012-B10, 2010-B6, 2000-B15); and seeking grant funding for local government priorities (2014-B18, 2013-B19).

Note that during the negotiation of the Renewed Gas Tax Agreement (2014), UBCM advocated, unsuccessfully, for the inclusion of emergency response infrastructure as an eligible expense within the Gas Tax Agreement.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

A3: EPR FOR AGRICULTURE PLASTICS

NCLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS agriculture plastic is currently disposed of as solid waste in landfills, or by burning and burying on site, resulting in decreased landfill capacity or air and environmental pollution;

AND WHEREAS local governments are working to reduce waste to landfills, and producers of agriculture plastic should be responsible for it's' disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request that the province establish a regionally based Extended Producer Responsibility Stewardship program for agricultural plastics.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling for the inclusion of agricultural plastics into extended producer responsibility programs. Resolutions B30-2012, B84-2008 and LR13-2007 all called for agricultural plastics to be included within a product stewardship program.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

A4: MEAT PROCESSING REVIEW

NCLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS consumers are increasingly interested in sourcing locally and ethically produced meat products;

AND WHEREAS current slaughter and meat processing regulations create a barrier for smaller farming operations to fulfil this consumer demand:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to review meat processing regulations in order to facilitate expansion of safe, local, slaughter and meat processing.

UBCM COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not endorsed a resolution calling for the Province to review existing meat regulations to facilitate the expansion of safe, local, slaughter and meat processing. However, the membership has called on the Province to enact several measures to support the agricultural community, farm gate sales, and local food security.

The membership endorsed Resolution B38-2013, which called for BC to reinstate farm gate sales of meat, as well as Resolution B39-2016 that sought changes to licensing requirements for abattoirs for local livestock producers. Similarly, Resolution B39-2010 called for the Meat Inspection Regulations to support local and mobile small-scale abattoir facilities that would allow local meat sales.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

**A5: CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR RURAL PLACES,
SMALL MUNICIPALITIES AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES** **NCLGA EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS the current level of transportation services does not adequately address the safety, economic interests, and social needs of the citizens who live in many rural places, small municipalities, and remote communities;

AND WHEREAS there is not a clear, multi-faceted plan in place that coordinates all modes of transportation and takes into consideration the current reality or foreseeable transportation needs of rural and remote areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government reviews the current state of transportation in British Columbia and creates a comprehensive, forward looking plan that fulfills the safety, economic interests, social needs and environmental well-being of rural places, small municipalities and remote communities.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not specifically asked the Provincial Government to “review the current state of transportation in British Columbia and creates a comprehensive, forward looking plan that fulfills the safety, economic interests, social needs and environmental well-being of rural places, small municipalities and remote communities.”

However, UBCM members have endorsed resolution 2003-B59 which asked the Province to “begin work on an integrated transportation management plan that would take into account the particular needs of all parts of the province including the North, examining the interrelatedness of the various modes of transportation and their economic impact on the province as a whole; and that UBCM be consulted before any further major changes to transportation infrastructure are made.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

MEMBER RESOLUTIONS
COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

B1: UNDERFUNDING OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

WHEREAS public libraries in British Columbia are underfunded to meet the evolving needs of their communities;

AND WHEREAS public libraries provide necessary access to knowledge and learning to all members of their communities, including those most marginalized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia restore funding levels to the pre-2009 rates;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia commit to forming a Task Force to work with Public Library Associations to ensure that funding formulas do not allow urbanization to threaten Public Library Association sustainability.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B27 which requested the Province restores funding for BC libraries and reading centers to the levels that were achieved as part of the strategic plan prior to 2009. However, members have not specifically asked for the creation of a Task Force to work with Public Library Associations to ensure that funding formulas do not allow urbanization to threaten Public Library sustainability.

UBCM notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56, 2002-B13, 2000-B28, 1999-B13, 1996-B82).

Resolution 2017-B60 in particular asked the Province to restore funding for libraries “to a level of 21 per cent of the core annual budget required to operate the British Columbia Public Library System in an efficient, effective and equitable manner.”

In response to resolution 2017-B60, the provincial government advised, “The Ministry is currently engaged with the library community to deliver its vision and strategic plan: Inspiring Libraries, Connecting Communities (released November 2016). In year one of this three year plan, we focused on improving access to digital resources and building the capacity of libraries to deliver enhanced public library services and programs.

The Ministry recognizes the cost of delivering library services has increased with changing technology and other demands. As such, the public library funding framework is being examined within the context of the vision and strategic plan.”

NCLGA Membership:

**MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
MOTION TO RESCIND AMENDMENT CARRIED
CARRIED**

B2: CANNABIS LEGISLATION ENFORCEMENT

DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE

WHEREAS it is likely that a substantial portion of the regulatory burden and associated costs for compliance with and enforcement of the new cannabis legislation will fall on Local Government;

AND WHEREAS Local Government does not currently have the resources to deal with these issues:

THEREFOE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to take whatever measures necessary to regulate the consumption of recreational cannabis in the same way they do with alcohol and prohibit consumption in public places, vehicles and workplaces.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution that specifically requests the Province regulate the consumption of non-medical cannabis similar to alcohol, prohibiting consumption in public places, vehicles and workplaces.

UBCM members have endorsed resolution 2017-SR1, which among other things requested that the Province provide funding to address “responsibilities and increase in administrative burden” related to the regulation of non-medical cannabis. In response to this resolution, the Province noted, among other things, cited its recent announcement regarding a provincial regulatory framework for non-medical cannabis. This announcement included details of its regulations regarding public consumption, including the extension of existing tobacco restrictions towards cannabis consumption, allowing consumption in public except for areas frequented by children, such as beaches and parks, as well as inside vehicles. Similar to tobacco use, additional restrictions will be at the discretion of local governments. These regulations are in alignment with recommendations endorsed by UBCM and the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR).

The JCCR provides a forum for local governments to share their experiences and knowledge, and discuss issues of interest or concern with the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat. Since October 2017, local governments and the Province have worked collaboratively to develop a BC framework for non-medical cannabis legalization, and in the process gain understanding of local government responsibilities and costs associated with legalization.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

WHEREAS communities could increase public safety and benefit economically with the expansion of existing Community Forests;

AND WHEREAS the long-awaited amendments to the Community Tenures Regulation regarding existing Community Forests expansion would support the development and diversification of efficient and economically viable forest and wildfire mitigation practices that would maximize benefits to local economies and reduce the wildfire risks to communities;

AND WHEREAS support for Community Forest agreement holders to invest in wildfire hazard reduction, rehabilitation, intensive silviculture and economic diversification would create more resilient communities and forests:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to create changes to the Community Tenure Regulations to allow for the expansion of Community Forest Agreements that will foster self-reliance, build capacity and promote a prosperous, healthy, and sustainable future for all Community Forests to meet the Provincial Government's rural development mandate.

UBCM COMMENTS: The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to work with local governments and First Nations to improve the community benefits of forest resources (most recently 2016-B32, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-B63, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44).

Resolution 2010-B104 specifically calls for the expansion of the Community Forest Agreement Program. In response the Province advised: "Aside from the 120K m3 in existing plans there is no other volume available. Any expansion to the CFA program is at the expense of other programs (woodlots, first nations, etc). Government is always trying to find the right mix/balance. When more volume becomes available the expansion of CFAs will be considered."

Resolution 2011-B57 in particular asked the provincial government to undertake a comprehensive review of the forest tenure system, to develop a “blueprint for reform” that would:

- guarantee long-term environmental sustainability for our forests;
- allow for more community control in decisions about forest management; and
- ensure more of the benefits from developing forest resources stay in local communities.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B4: WILDFIRE RELATED ISSUES

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS very little has been done to actually protect rural communities from the threat of wildfires since the 2003 Filmon Firestorm Report;

AND WHEREAS the threat of year-over-year catastrophic wildfires is increasing, putting communities at greater risk;

AND WHEREAS the fundamental weakness in the current approach to protecting interface communities from wildfire risk is the downloading of the responsibility for managing and treating Crown forest land to local government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA requests the Provincial Government to enable the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to become the lead agency for developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, fuel management prescriptions for the Wildland Urban Interface (“WUI”), and fuel management treatments in collaboration with local government;

And be it further resolved that the Province provide sufficient funding to the Forest Enhancement Society to fully fund WUI fuel management treatments so they can be undertaken expeditiously.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B4 which requested that the Province develop a more efficient and effective model to address the interface wildfire risk reduction needs of BC communities under the supervision of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Resolutions Committee also notes that the UBCM membership

has not previously considered a resolution in relation to funding for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

UBCM has administered the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) since 2004. In 2017, SWPI was enhanced to include the opportunity for joint funding with the Forest Enhancement Society. As of April 2018, SWPI is not accepting funding applications pending the outcome of the Provincial Flood and Wildfire Review.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B5: NORTHERN RESOURCE CORRIDOR PLAN

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

WHEREAS the economies of northern communities (as well as the wider economies of British Columbia and Canada) are closely linked to the ability of resource industry products to be transported from their source to export markets;

AND WHEREAS the transportation of natural resources is often challenged and impeded in routes that traverse large, urban centres:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial and Federal governments to develop a “Northern Resource Corridor Plan” to enhance and coordinate railway, road, pipeline and power infrastructure across northern BC with the goal of faster, safer and more cost effective resource transportation.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM members have not specifically called for the development of a “Northern Resource Corridor Plan” to enhance and coordinate railway, road, pipeline and power infrastructure across northern BC with the goal of faster, safer and more cost effective resource transportation.”

However, in 2008, members endorsed B10 which asked “the provincial government to take immediate steps to fulfill its commitment to the completion of the Heartland Connector to ensure

the efficient and safe movement of people and goods and to solidify the economic opportunities of the Asia Pacific Gateway and Corridor.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B6: WILDFIRE MITIGATION PRACTICES

CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

WHEREAS wildfires have plagued much of British Columbia’s Interior this summer, and will continue to threaten communities, particularly with predicted climate change;

AND WHEREAS forest restrictions continue to hamper fire mitigation efforts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM support lobbying the provincial government to support and implement changes to its wildfire mitigation practices that allow for increased spacing of fibre stands, prescribed burning, larger fuel breaks around residential communities, and other methods to lessen the provincial landscape’s susceptibility to “mega-fires” and better protect our citizens and assets from this growing threat.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to support and implement changes to its wildfire mitigation practices that allow for increased spacing of fibre stands, prescribed burning, larger fuel breaks around residential communities. However, the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions requesting that the provincial government increase efforts to mitigate wildfire risk (2017-B4; 2016-B6; 2015-B5).

UBCM has administered the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) since 2004. As of April 2018, SWPI is not accepting funding applications pending the outcome of the Provincial Flood and Wildfire Review.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

EDUCATION

B7: STATUS CHECK ON RURAL EDUCATION

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS as approximately one third of British Columbia students attend rural schools, defined as being in communities outside of Greater Victoria, the Lower Mainland, and Kelowna, with a population of less than 15,000;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Education solicited input from parents, teachers, and the public at large in 2016 as part of a ‘Status Check on Rural Education’ seeking feedback to inform a rural education strategy to guide rural education and planning for the future:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request that Premier John Horgan direct the Ministry of Education to publicly release the results of that Status Check on Rural Education in the form of an unredacted report on the findings and to actively pursue any recommendations made toward the creation of a rural education strategy which places priority on availability of affordable transportation to schools and equality of education available in both rural and urban areas.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not specifically asked for the public “release the results of that Status Check on Rural Education in the form of an unredacted report on the findings and to actively pursue any recommendations made toward the creation of a rural education strategy which places priority on availability of affordable transportation to schools and equality of education available in both rural and urban areas.”

However, UBCM members have endorsed resolutions supporting rural schools, equal access to public education and ensuring that funding and supports such as transportation are in place to support students and families. (2017-B119, 2017-B47, 2017-B119, 2013-B50, 2013-B51, 2007-B162, 2006-B165, 2005-B157, 2004-B94, 2003-B36, 2002-LR2, 2000-B109, 1999-B96).

Most recently members endorsed 2017-B119 which requested that the Ministry of Education consult with affected stakeholders to make clear definitions of rural and remote, identifying the significant difference between lower mainland rural and remoteness with northern rural and remoteness and that the Ministry of Education 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.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be **WITHDRAWN**.

ENVIRONMENT

B8: LANDSCAPE LEVEL PLANNING

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS the resource extraction activities in and around communities within the Nechako Watershed take place under a lack of landscape level planning;

AND WHEREAS these poorly planned resource extraction activities contribute significantly to the provincial economy, but generate wealth at the expense of environmental and economic sustainability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province move quickly to landscape level planning and provide the oversight required to ensure a balanced approach to resource extraction and land management across BC;

UBCM COMMENTS: UBCM notes that the resolution is making two requests; the first is a move to landscape level planning and the second is a royalty surcharge on resource extraction activities by the Province to be directed to watershed restoration and enhancement.

UBCM can advise that the UBCM membership endorsed 2012-B109 asked the Province to create Integrated Landscape Planning Guidelines and that all companies harvesting timber in BC consider future wildfire impacts while planning for harvesting, and that the Province make changes to the Forest and Range Practices Act to require landscape planning.

With respect to watershed restoration and enhancement, UBCM members have not specifically asked the Province to levy a royalty surcharge on resource extraction activities to fund watershed restoration and enhancement. However, UBCM members have consistently supported actions and activities that would result in greater protection, regulation and oversight of watersheds and activities within watersheds to protect drinking water. (2017-B31, 2015-B32, 2013-B105, 2011-B100, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B122, 2001-B93, 1999-A17, 1998-B65).

As well in 2017, members endorsed B36 which asked that the Province “work with First Nations, regional districts and municipalities to substantially improve community benefits of forest resources, including: expansion of community tenures, introduction of regional log markets, incentives for value-added production, and strengthened standards of forest stewardship to increase legislated protection of drinking watersheds and biological diversity.”

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to delete “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the province levy a royalty surcharge on resource extraction activities, with the revenues directed to support watershed restoration and enhancement”.

NCLGA Membership:

**MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

B9: STREAMLINED PROCESS FOR SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT-FLOOD MITIGATION

DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the accumulation of gravel, sediment and debris such as trees and other obstructions in an active creek bed (aggradation) can increase flood hazards on alluvial fans and promote erosion of previously deposited materials, and an environmentally appropriate in-stream sediment and obstruction management program can be an important part of a local government’s flood hazard mitigation program;

AND WHEREAS careful consideration needs to be given to the scale of intended actions, and recognizing that much larger excavations done under emergency conditions during flood events could greatly increase the scale of unintended actions to the environment;

AND WHEREAS removal of gravel and obstructions from creek beds as a means of managing water surface elevations is possible, the regulatory requirements are relatively complex, and the timing of the various steps must be considered well in advance of the intended works since the approval process needs to be completed prior to nesting periods and fisheries work windows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal government to work with local governments to streamline the regulatory processes and develop management guidelines,

best practices, policies, and regulations to permit local governments to perform sediment and obstruction removal work, in the most minimally disturbing way to aquatic habitats, in streambeds in order to minimize flooding during heavy-rain events;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the development of these stream-bed management guidelines, best practices, policies, and regulations be given high priority.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a specific resolution calling for streamlined regulatory processes and the prioritized development of management guidelines for sediment management and flood mitigation. However, Resolution 2012-B62 similarly called for the development of clear and consistent policies for the implementation of environmental legislation and associated approvals for flood mitigation works. The membership also endorsed Resolution 2009-B8 that called on the senior orders of government to allow proactive and co-operative solutions to flood mitigation and dyke repairs through ‘in-stream’ work.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to include “Federal Government”

NCLGA Membership:

**MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

B10: RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KITIMAT-STIKINE

DISTRICT OF NEW HAZELTON

WHEREAS Recycle BC provides funding to local governments for the collection and processing of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) materials and the operation of residential EPR Depots;

AND WHEREAS Recycle BC proposes expansion of the current program to include only incorporated municipalities with a population greater than 5000 with curbside collection established prior to May 2014:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to require Recycle BC's Program Plan to include access and financial support from Recycle BC for unincorporated and rural communities.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not endorsed any resolutions calling for Recycle BC's new program plan to include access and financial support for unincorporated and rural communities.

However, Resolution 2014-A6 called for service delivery by Recycle BC in all communities, including rural and small, in which regulated products are retailed. In terms of financial assistance, Resolution 2017-B109 called on the Province to direct Recycle BC to negotiate a cash transfer to regional districts to support existing packaging and printed paper recycling programs.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B11: RECLAIMED WATER USE

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS fresh water is a finite resource that is being consumed faster than it can be replenished;

AND WHEREAS the conservation of water is a shared responsibility between the Province and local government and the vast majority of wastewater flows back to the natural environment without being treated or re-used:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to implement provincial policy that requires, where reasonably available, the use of reclaimed water for operations such as dust control, agricultural irrigation, and industrial uses, prior to the use of potable or fresh water.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed resolutions calling for the Province to require the use of reclaimed water for agricultural and industrial operations prior to the use of potable water. However, the membership has endorsed Resolution 2012-B31 which called on the Province to promote the use of reclaimed water. As well as Resolution 1995-B44 which called on the Province to develop criteria for the use of reclaimed water in residential areas for landscape irrigation and agricultural purposes.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

WHEREAS the Southern Mountain Caribou has been identified as a species at risk and the Province has announced a draft conservation agreement under the federal Species at Risk Act regarding recovery measures for the Southern Mountain Caribou, the goal of which is to articulate the actions the Parties will take over the next five years to support the long term objective of achieving recovery of self-sustaining populations of the Southern Mountain Caribou in BC;

AND WHEREAS the initial focus includes the Pine, Narraway, and Quintette Local Population Units in in the Peace River Regional District in northeastern BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Provincial Government consider the impact of actions proposed to assist with the recovery of the Southern Mountain Caribou will have on back country access, which is integral to the success of Tourism in BC; and further resolve that the Province be requested to commit to involve the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in the process as they have significant knowledge regarding health concerns specific to the Southern Mountain Caribou and potential impacts to other domestic and wild animal species in the region.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to give community health and viability high priority when pursuing the worthy objective of recovering the Southern and Central Mountain Caribou;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to strongly urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to enter into real consultation with all the affected communities before announcing decisions.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to consider the impact of South Caribou recovery actions on back country access, and for the involvement of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. However, the membership endorsed Resolution 2017-B114 that called for the Province to investigate and consider the socio-economic impacts of implementation plans for the conservation and regeneration of woodland caribou in BC. In response to the resolution, the Province acknowledged that a socio-economic assessment is developed to inform decisions on all species-at-risk implementation plans.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to add two (2) “AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED” sections.

NCLGA Membership:

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

FINANCE

B13: AMENDMENTS TO RURAL DIVIDEND FUND PROCESS

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the purpose of the Province’s Rural Dividend Fund is to support rural communities and strengthen their economies;

AND WHEREAS this goal could be achieved in a more efficient manner if local governments did not have to apply and report on each application individually, but could plan the funding for appropriate projects with a cooperative, strategic lens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide a Rural Dividend allocation to local governments each year through a multi-year agreement, similar to the federal Gas Tax Fund, allowing the local government to effectively utilize the funds for local projects based on provincial criteria, and to complete the process through a simplified annual reporting structure.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the province to amend the funding process/allocation for the Rural Dividend Fund. However, previous endorsed resolutions (2009-B29 Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding and 2012-B69 Local Government Funding) have both requested for efficiency and streamlining improvements to existing federal and provincial funding programs.

UBCM notes that the Province has committed to extending the Rural Dividend Fund to 2021 (\$25 million/year). It is also noted that the Province will be considering a program review of the Rural Dividend Fund in 2018.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B14: ELECTRICITY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

CITY OF TERRACE

WHEREAS the electricity rates in British Columbia can be difficult for low-income households to pay;

AND WHEREAS electricity rates have increased significantly in the past 10 years and are expected to continue to increase in the next decade:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to direct BC Hydro to develop an electricity affordability program for low-income residential customers and that a northern subsidy program be developed for over the winter months.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not specifically asked “BC Hydro to develop an electricity affordability program for low-income residential customers and that a northern subsidy program be developed for over the winter months.”

However, UBCM members have endorsed resolutions opposing two tier rates for electricity specifically in regions where natural gas is not an available alternative option for reducing electric heating costs (2015-B40, 2013-B85).

More generally, the Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions supporting postage stamp, cost-based rates for electricity (1996-B7; 2001, 2002 and 2003 UBCM energy policy positions). In 2004, members endorsed resolution B87 which objected to BC Hydro’s proposed increase in electricity rates. Prior to that, resolution 1992-B99 requested that BC Hydro be encouraged to promote electric heating at equitable rates in homes that are adequately insulated, especially in areas where natural gas service is not available.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B15: CANNABIS TAX REVENUE SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

CITY OF TERRACE

WHEREAS the Federal Government plans to bring Bill C-45 into force in July 2018, which will legalize non-medical marihuana (cannabis) in Canada;

AND WHEREAS it will be the responsibility of local governments to establish and/or enforce regulations related to zoning, business licensing, building code, public consumption and impaired driving, which will result in initial and ongoing costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to provide an equal share of the cannabis tax sharing formula to local governments to support these costs.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED to support the four principle approach that focuses on the following:

- Cannabis legalization should not result in additional local government funding by property taxpayers.
- Local governments should be reimbursed for costs associated with the implementation of legalized cannabis.
- Local governments should be reimbursed for any additional policing costs resulting from cannabis legalization.
- Remaining excise tax revenue (after taking out expenses incurred as part of principles 1-3 and the federal share) should be shared between the Province of British Columbia and local governments.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions related to the equitable distribution of cannabis taxation revenue, including resolutions 2017-LR1 and 2016-A3.

In response to resolution 2017-SR1, the Province cited the current work of the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR), and committed to working with local governments to address issues such as revenue sharing, and costs experienced by local governments as a result of cannabis legalization. The JCCR provides a forum for local governments to share their experiences and knowledge, and discuss issues of interest or concern with the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat. Since October 2017, local governments and the Province have worked collaboratively to develop a BC framework for non-medical cannabis legalization, and in the process gain understanding of local government responsibilities and costs associated with legalization. Once a thorough understanding of these costs and responsibilities has been achieved, UBCM will engage

the provincial government regarding cannabis excise tax revenue sharing. The UBCM Executive has endorsed a principled approach that focuses on the following:

- 1) Cannabis legalization should not result in additional local government funding by property taxpayers.
- 2) Local governments should be reimbursed for costs associated with the implementation of legalized cannabis.
- 3) Local governments should be reimbursed for any additional policing costs resulting from cannabis legalization.
- 4) Remaining excise tax revenue (after taking out expenses incurred as part of principles 1-3 and the federal share) should be shared between the Province of British Columbia and local governments.

In response to resolution 2016-A3, the Provincial Government noted that the issue of cannabis taxation would be addressed after the regulatory framework was completed; and that any transfer of taxation revenue to local governments must first consider the Province's need to fund the regulatory framework and essential services impacted by cannabis.

It is currently unclear if non-medical cannabis will be legalized by July 2018 or at a later date in 2017, given the need to approve federal legislation (Bills C-45 & C-46) and provide a transition period (estimated at 8-12 weeks) to allow stakeholders to prepare for legalization.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to support four principles as suggested by UBCM Comments and add equally share of tax revenue.

NCLGA Membership:

**MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

B16: PROVINCIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING A STATE OF EMERGENCY

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS fighting wildfires is the responsibility of the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS local fire departments and search and rescue teams are critical in fighting large scale wildfires during a declared State of Emergency:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact any legislative and/or policy changes necessary to ensure that local emergency organizations that are requested to and do assist during a declared State of Emergency receive timely compensation for their time and supplies used assisting the Province in this manner.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that local governments receive “timely compensation” for their time and supplies used to assist during a provincial State of Emergency.

UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions related to funding for first responder supplies and equipment, including 2017-B61, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2014-B15, 2012-B10, 2010-B6, and 2000-B15. In response to endorsed resolution 2017-B61, requesting a grant program for emergency vehicles and equipment, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General listed several initiatives (e.g. Gas Tax, Investing in Canada Plan) that it would like to see eventually include funding streams for emergency equipment/preparedness.

The Committee would also note that UBCM is now administering the new \$32 million Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. This new funding program includes a funding stream that focuses on building capacity for Emergency Social Services teams through new equipment, training and volunteer recruitment/retention.

The Resolutions Committee would request clarification from the sponsor regarding what constitutes “timely compensation.”

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B17: DOWNLOADING OF WILDFIRE MITIGATION COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITY

VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

WHEREAS current wildfire trends in British Columbia, being driven by the effects of climate change and the devastating and lasting effects of the mountain pine beetle, show increasing impacts to timber values from unwanted wildfires and associated suppression costs, an increased threat to infrastructure and communities and increased losses of natural resources; including mid-term timber supply;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia introduced the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) in 2004 which resulted in the cost, responsibility and expertise of wildfire mitigation on Crown land, areas surrounding municipalities and land inside municipal boundaries, being shifted onto local governments which create significant additional pressure on municipal finances and staff resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to discontinue downloading wildfire mitigation costs and responsibilities onto Municipalities and First Nations through the SWPI program and take responsibility for wildfire mitigation costs on Crown land and areas surrounding municipalities.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2017-B4 which requested that the Province develop a more efficient and effective model to address the interface wildfire risk reduction needs of BC communities under the supervision of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

UBCM has administered the Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative (SWPI) since 2004. As of April 2018, SWPI is not accepting funding applications pending the outcome of the Provincial Flood and Wildfire Review.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to replace “municipal government” with “local government”.

NCLGA Membership:

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

B18: PRIORITY FUNDING OF FLOOD PREVENTION CAPITAL PROJECTS

DISTRICT OF STEWART

WHEREAS in early history, settlements occurred by waterways to provide for the transportation of people and goods;

AND WHEREAS these settlements have become the villages, towns and cities of today;

AND WHEREAS many of these communities are threatened by the potential of catastrophic flooding;

And whereas small communities with relatively low tax bases are heavily dependent on senior government grants for flood protection as well as other infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS grant programmes are heavily subscribed resulting in long approval processes and a shortage of grant money;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for more funds dedicated to flood prevention in a more expedient manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby both the provincial and federal governments for small community priority funding of flood prevention capital projects.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that the provincial and federal governments provide funding to small communities for flood prevention capital projects.

However, UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures, including most recently 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B6, 2014-B76, 2013-A2, 2013-A1, 2012-B4, 2011-B79, 2011-B12, 2011-B11, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, and 2007-A1.

In response to endorsed resolution 2016-B56, the provincial government re-affirmed its commitment to support local governments in emergency and disaster response activities. The Province also outlined the Emergency Program Act provisions requiring provincial assistance in large magnitude emergencies or disasters, as well as other assistance provided by provincial authorities. The Province is also committed to continuing to provide guidance, training, and funding of incremental response costs (e.g. overtime, equipment rental, specialized support).

UBCM has a long standing policy position that the Provincial Government should provide local government with financial assistance to manage disasters and to undertake the studies needed to improve the system.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B19: PROVINCIAL FUNDING HIGHWAY RESCUE

VILLAGE OF VALEMOUNT

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF FRASER-FORT GEORGE

WHEREAS highway rescue services should be consistent throughout the Province of British Columbia, available on all provincial highways and funded in full by the Provincial Government;

AND WHEREAS highway rescue services are available on some highways, but:

1. Funded through local taxation if the incident location is within the local rescue service area boundary; and
2. Funded in part by Emergency Management BC if the incident location is outside of the local rescue service area boundary;

AND WHEREAS the Province is responsible for maintaining all provincial highways in the Province of British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government assume the responsibility of ensuring that highway rescue services are provided in a consistent manner on all provincial highways and are fully funded by the Province.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution that specifically requests the Province fully fund and provide road rescue services in a “consistent manner.”

With that being said, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including recently endorsed resolutions 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, and 2007-B10. Resolution 2015-B17 requested that the Province fund road rescue services

throughout British Columbia. In response, the Provincial Government noted support, through reimbursed response rates, that is provided to road rescue responders who provide services outside their jurisdiction, as well as provisions in the Emergency Program Act that provide WorkSafeBC coverage and exemption from civil liability for road rescue organizations.

Additionally, resolution 2017-B83 was referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration. The resolution requests amendments to provincial legislation to allow for more timely removal of damaged vehicles on provincial highways, bridges and tunnels.

UBCM would request clarification from the sponsor as to what constitutes “consistent” provision of road rescue services, in the context of this resolution.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B20: FUNDING FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN

WHEREAS restorative justice is an alternative to the formal court process for certain criminal offences that enhances victim satisfaction while also encouraging offenders to take responsibility for their actions and provide direct restitution to repair the harm they have caused;

AND WHEREAS the success rates of restorative justice processes are higher than that of traditional criminal justice that result in significant cost savings while providing a valuable service to the Province of British Columbia but receive minimal, ongoing funding from the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a stable, long-term funding source for Restorative Justice Programs.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the provincial government provide a sustainable funding source for restorative justice programs, including resolutions 2016-B8, 2014-B5, 2013-B10, 2010-B2, 2009-B7, 2008-B4 and 2007-B3.

In response to endorsed resolution 2016-B8, requesting funding for restorative justice programs equivalent to what is provided to victims assistance programs, the provincial government made note

of the full range of restorative justice programs it provides, as well as funding it has made available through the Community Accountability Program and Civil Forfeiture and Crime Reduction fund.

UBCM continues to monitor provincial developments related to restorative justice funding. In the past, the Province and Federal Government have encouraged local governments to establish restorative justice programs; some would prefer to retain more local autonomy over their restorative justice programs while many have placed a higher priority on receiving sustainable federal and provincial funding.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B21: GRANT FUNDING

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS local governments are accountable and autonomous orders of government;

AND WHEREAS local governments have legally mandated obligations to prepare official community plans, multi-year budgets, long term capital plans based on more and more sophisticated asset management systems, and a variety of other strategic plans for their communities;

AND WHEREAS local governments must be able to focus on implementing their publicly approved budgets and strategic plans rather than expending their limited staff and financial resources on grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial and Federal Governments restructure all their infrastructure and social and economic grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax allocation to local governments in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting both the federal and province government to amend all programs to align with the funding structure of the Gas Tax Fund.

However, previous endorsed resolutions (2014-B19 Federal Matching Grants, 2013-B19 Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities, 2012-B13 Infrastructure Funding Criteria, 2012-B69 Local Government Funding, and 2009-B29 Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding) have

all requested various changes to existing programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods.

In BC, the Gas Tax Fund is allocated in two ways: (1) The Community Works Funds provides a direct, per-capita allocation to each individual local government, and (2) Pooled Funding (the Greater Vancouver Regional Fund for Metro Vancouver region) and (the Strategic Priorities Fund for all local governments outside of Metro).

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B22: PUBLIC GEOSCIENCE FOR INVESTMENT AND DECISIONS

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN

WHEREAS BC municipalities wish to make informed decisions about natural resource development and attract investment to their area;

AND WHEREAS Geoscience BC provides unbiased earth science research, as set out in the five-year Geoscience BC Strategic Management Plan 2018-2022:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM requests that the provincial government provides Geoscience BC with funding of \$10 million per year over five years (\$50 million total) from March 31, 2019.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to fund Geo Science BC.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

HEALTH

B23: AMBULANCE SERVICES

DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

WHEREAS the ongoing shortages of manpower in Ambulance Halls throughout rural British Columbia are prevalent in most communities outside of larger Urban Centres;

AND WHEREAS because of the declining volunteer nature of the B.C. Health Emergency Service (BCHES)'s ambulance service it is critical that the BCHES be properly addressed by the Province to ensure life safety while respecting budgets:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to initiate a full and in-depth review of BC Health Emergency Service (BCHES)'s ambulance service in BC, with the intent of modernizing those services to consider additional duties to warrant more full time value and work for ambulance personnel;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a review be made a high priority of the government of British Columbia.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not specifically requested a full and in-depth review of ambulance service in BC to examine additional duties for ambulance personnel to allow for full time employment.

The Committee suggests amending the enactment clause to replace 'BC Health Emergency Service' with 'BC Emergency Health Service (BCEHS)', which is the correct name for the organization that oversees the BC Ambulance Service.

However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking adequate funding for province wide ambulance services (2017- B133, 2014-B73, 2013-B44, 2013-B142, 2010-B45, 2007-B50, 2007-B156, 2006-B48, 2003-B33, 2000-B14, 2000-B93, 1999-B91, 1996-B5, 1992-B79, 1988-A29).

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B24: REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT CAPITAL FUNDING FORMULA

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF KITIMAT-STIKINE

WHEREAS regional hospital districts were created under the Hospital District Act to raise a "local share" of capital costs for hospital equipment and buildings through property taxation;

AND WHEREAS the Province is moving towards making other provincial services such as transportation totally a provincial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS the current standard practice for capital infrastructure projects is a cost sharing formula of 40% for regional hospital districts and 60% for the Province, resulting in unsustainable continuous increases to local property taxation levies for regional hospital districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government review the method of using property tax revenue for funding health care infrastructure projects and formally reduce the expectation placed on regional hospital districts.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has considered and endorsed resolutions on this issue in 2017-B39 and 2016-B114 .

While the provincial response for resolution 2017-B39 has not been received at the time of writing, the Provincial Government responded in 2016 by expressing a general openness to a review of the historic cost sharing ratio, with the caveat that it can only undertake a review when the legislative agenda permits. The Province indicated that it would consult with regional hospital districts as part of such a review.

UBCM's Health and Social Development Committee is currently seeking a meeting with the Minister and his staff to discuss Regional Hospital Districts at their May 2018 meeting.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

JUSTICE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

B25: PROVINCIAL POLICING

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Province of BC has established a population based formula to allocate RCMP resources to provide police services to the rural areas of the province, which does not address growing property crimes and traffic offences in rural communities;

AND WHEREAS other jurisdictions have enabled peace officers and sheriffs to assist with traffic offences, warrant apprehension, surveillance and other duties to assist the RCMP:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of BC explore the roles of peace officers and sheriffs in other jurisdictions to determine if legislation could be enacted in BC to assist the RCMP by providing similar services, in an effort to increase policing services in the rural areas of the province.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution that specifically requests the Province research the roles of sheriffs and peace officers in other jurisdictions to potentially expand their roles in BC and increase policing services in rural areas.

UBCM membership did endorse resolution 2013-B89, which requested that the Province amend the Police Act and create another level of police services. In response, the BC Ministry of Justice cited an upcoming “comprehensive review” of law enforcement, related to the recently completed BC Policing and Public Safety Plan. To UBCM’s knowledge, there were no tangible results from this review.

UBCM would observe that local governments, in the past, have expressed concerns about costs associated with an additional level of policing (e.g. additional staff, training, equipment).

Additionally, the RCMP Senior Executive Committee recently elected to expand the duties of Auxiliary Constables through a new tiered Auxiliary Constable Program model, consistent with the results of an October 2016 UBCM membership survey. The tiered model will allow Auxiliary Constables to participate in a wide range of activities based on experience, training and a local community’s needs. This decision will also impact the January 2016 amendments to the Auxiliary Constable Program (ACP) that ended firearms familiarization training and ride-alongs, among other things. The UBCM membership recently endorsed resolution 2016-B3, seeking a reversal of the January 2016 amendments.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE

B26: BY-ELECTION NOT REQUIRED BY REGIONAL DISTRICTS IN ELECTION YEARS

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act*, municipalities are not required to conduct a by-election if a vacancy occurs after January 1st in a general election year;

AND WHEREAS under the *Local Government Act*, regional districts are required to conduct a by-election unless a vacancy occurs after June 1st in a general election year, which is expensive and unnecessary for such a short period of time:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to enable regional districts to decide whether they wish to conduct a by-election if a vacancy occurs after January 1st in a general election year.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM members have not specifically considered the request to amend the Local Government Act to enable regional districts to decide whether they wish to conduct a by-election if a vacancy occurs after January 1st in an election year.

However, in the absence of existing policy, UBCM would recommend endorsement since this would provide parity with the existing legislative provisions for municipalities.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B27: ELECTED OFFICIAL DISQUALIFICATION

CITY OF TERRACE

WHEREAS there is no provision in BC legislation for disqualification from local government office, or mechanism for recall, in the event that an elected official is convicted of a serious criminal offense:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement legislation to require that an elected local government official be disqualified from office upon conviction of a serious criminal offense;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an elected local government official be required to take a paid leave of absence from office upon Crown approval of charges until the court process is complete.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership endorsed 2003-B57, which requested amendments to the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to include the following disqualification provisions:

An elected official is immediately disqualified from continuing to hold office:

- On conviction of an indictable offence; or
- On conviction of a criminal offence against the local government to which he or she is elected to serve.

In its response the Province stated in part: “With respect to indictable offenses, the legislation prevents those who have not completed the sentence for an indictable offence - unless the person is released on probation or parole and is not in custody - from running for or continuing to hold local government office.”

Prior to the 2003 resolution members also endorsed 1996-A5 which also advocated a legislative change so that a person would be disqualified from holding local government office if he or she had been convicted of an indictable offence.

The membership has no policy on whether elected local government official should be required to take a paid leave of absence from office upon Crown approval of charges until the court process is complete.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B28: WILDFIRE CRIME

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS in the wake of BC wildfires, many reports were made of persons illegally accessing restricted fire zones and in particular vulnerable evacuation zones to commit wildfire crime including trespass, vandalism, looting, theft of personal property, theft of wildfire fighting equipment and supplies and impersonation of wildfire or emergency personnel ('fire marshals');

AND WHEREAS the *BC Emergency Act* and the Criminal Code of Canada are in need of strengthened language and provisions to specifically and appropriately target and prosecute perpetrators of wildfire crime, including crime which potentially threatens firefighter life and safety;

AND WHEREAS penalties appropriate to the severity of such criminal activity in fire zones and vulnerable evacuation zones would enable and provide for meaningful prosecution and conviction, as well as providing a strong and effective deterrent to persons considering such crime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government and federal government be encouraged to take whatever actions deemed necessary to enable and provide for more appropriate and meaningful penalties for such wildfire crime and/or other similar emergencies situations.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that specifically requests the Federal and Provincial Governments increase penalties related to crimes committed in active wildfire areas or during other active emergency situations.

UBCM membership recently endorsed resolution 2016-B6 seeking greater consultation and involvement of local governments in fire management planning, communication and activity. In response, the provincial government cited its work to keep local governments informed about fire activity, as well as funding options to reduce wildfire risks.

In 2016, Emergency Management BC initiated a review of the Emergency Program Act. As part of the review, local governments were asked to respond to a number of specific questions related to the Act, including potential policy changes, as part of a provincial discussion paper. Although wildfire crime was not included as a topic for discussion in the provincial paper, respondents were asked to consider adding authority for police to apprehend any person who refuses to comply with an evacuation order issued under a declared state of emergency for the purpose of taking the person to a place of safety. Local government respondents were generally not supportive of this policy option.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B29: PROFESSIONAL RELIANCE

CITY OF QUESNEL

WHEREAS the provincial government is undertaking a review of BC's natural resource sector professional reliance model to be complete by Spring 2018;

AND WHEREAS the use of professional reliance within BC's resource sector is a long-standing practice;

And whereas over the past decade the use of professional reliance has increased in response to government's regulatory reform initiatives;

AND WHEREAS since 2013 the Environmental Appeal Board, Forest Practices Board, Office of the Auditor General and Office of the Ombudsperson have highlighted the need for adequate oversight of qualified professionals in providing independent, objective advice to government regulators;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing public concern related to specific instances of decision-making based on professional reliance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government ensure that government oversight of professional associations, and professional associations that oversee qualified professionals, employ best practices to protect the public interest in the management of public land by the natural resource sector.

UBCM COMMENTS: The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership endorsed a similar resolution regarding the need for government oversight of professional associations and qualified professionals. Endorsed Resolution 2016-B108 called on the Province to assess the effectiveness of current professional reliance regimes in order to reduce potential for conflicts of interest, ensure appropriate checks and balances, improve environmental performance and restore government approval authority where necessary.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

SOCIAL ISSUES

B30: SENIORS HOUSING

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS the lack of appropriate affordable senior's housing, in resource based communities in BC makes it extremely difficult for seniors to age at home or access to intermediate senior housing;

AND WHEREAS access to safe, affordable and appropriate Senior's housing helps to create vibrant, sustainable communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to work with community partners to develop solutions for the lack of seniors' housing and to provide the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of a full range of affordable seniors' housing choices in resourced based communities in British Columbia.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2014-B45 that requested long term funding to support the construction of a full range of affordable seniors' housing choices across BC.

Membership has also consistently supported resolutions calling for affordable housing more broadly (including 2017-A2), accessible housing (2010-B52, 2008-B158) and age friendly communities (2007-B152). In addition, UBCM recently released an affordable housing strategy, A Home for Everyone: A Housing Strategy for British Columbians, recommending a range of supports for affordable housing for British Columbians including seniors.

UBCM would recommend broadening the scope of the enactment clause to BC as a whole.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B31: AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING AND CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS the lack of affordable housing and co-operative housing in resource based communities is having a detrimental effect on the local economies and the quality of life for many British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS affordable housing and co-operative housing are essential to support vibrant and healthy communities, attract and retain skilled workers to our communities and affects the footprints into resource based communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the Provincial Government to increase the number of new affordable housing units and new co-operative housing units constructed in British Columbia and allocate funding for all communities to plan in advance of funding announcements.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the province to increase the supply of affordable housing, including 2017-A2, 2017-B17 and 2014-B43.

Membership has also endorsed resolution 2014-B44 calling for rental assistance for housing cooperatives. In addition, UBCM recently released an affordable housing strategy, A Home for Everyone: A Housing Strategy for British Columbians, containing recommendations that call for greater supports for rental housing.

The Resolutions Committee would recommend broadening the scope of this resolution to British Columbia.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to removed “resource based” and add “all communities”

NCLGA Membership:

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

B32: ELIMINATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICE IN NORTHERN BC

VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE

WHEREAS on February 20, 2018, the Passenger Transportation Board approved Greyhound’s application to reduce or eliminate service on several routes in various areas of British Columbia and,

effective June 1, 2018 Greyhound will eliminate its inter-city bus service completely on 6 routes in Northern BC;

AND WHEREAS the loss of the Greyhound service in Northern BC will further isolate the communities, intensify passenger safety concerns and increase the hardships that many people are currently experiencing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA request that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure immediately address the vital passenger transportation void left by the withdrawal of services by Greyhound in Northern BC.

UBCM COMMENTS: The UBCM membership endorsed Resolution LR3 in 2017 that requested the Passenger Transportation Board to decline Greyhound’s application to cease operation of selected inter-city bus service and asked the province to “review and strengthen transportation infrastructure and networks across the province...”

In its response the Province indicated that Greyhound is a private company and needs to make decisions based on customer demand in compliance with the terms of their license and the Passenger Transportation Board but indicated it had urged the Board to conduct public hearings regarding this application.

UBCM notes that prior to 2017-LR3, members have consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial and federal governments to ensure that passenger transportation networks throughout BC remain safe, convenient, affordable and accessible (2016-B117, 2010-B15, 2003-B7, 2003-B62). Three of these resolutions focused specifically on passenger rail service.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

B33: CELLULAR COVERAGE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

VILLAGE OF PORT CLEMENTS

WHEREAS there was a resolution passed at UBCM in 2004 to cover the Highway 16 corridor with cell phone service, when 59% of Canadians had cell phones; and

AND WHEREAS 14 years later, while 86% of Canadians have cell phones, Port Clements and other rural areas along Highway 16 still suffer from the impacts of having no cell phone service, emphasized for Port Clements residents by the stress and demands of the January 2018 earthquake and subsequent tsunami evacuation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to ensure that the increasingly essential infrastructure of cell phone coverage is made available to Highway Corridors in Rural BC as soon as possible and without any further delay.

UBCM COMMENTS:

UBCM notes that resolution 2004-B9 was amended to remove the specific reference to highway 16 recognizing there are other areas of the province that lack cell service. The final wording of 2004-B9 was that “UBCM lobby the Province to ensure that cell phone coverage is available to the travelling public along the entire BC highway system.”

In its response 2004-B9 the Province “agreed that the provision of cellular telephone service is an increasingly important service that effects economic development, tourism and safety. This issue is complicated by the fact that there are a number of suppliers of cellular service in British Columbia as telecommunications in Canada is a federal government responsibility and there are no regulations requiring cellular service in any region of the country. The provincial government will continue to urge telecommunications vendors to expand their services, particularly in remote regions of the province.”

Prior to the 2004 resolution the membership endorsed resolution 2003-B35, which called upon the UBCM “to lobby and work to ensure that every community in northern BC has access to the latest telecommunication technology such as broadband and cellular phone service, in order to develop economic growth opportunities.”

Members have consistently endorsed other resolutions seeking both cellular service and internet connectivity for rural and remote areas of the province (2012-B45, 2011-B72, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2007-B57, 2006-B54, 2005-B5).

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to add “Highway Corridors in Rural BC”

NCLGA Membership:

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

L1: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

DISTRICT OF HUDSON’S HOPE

WHEREAS daylight savings time no longer serves a vital function in today’s connected economy, the practice costing more to sustain today than the actualized savings historically achieved through its implementation, and;

AND WHEREAS there is a measurable impact to the health and safety of the general public each time daylight savings time changes are implemented (twice a year):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to abandon the practice of Daylight Savings Time and implement a single time zone province wide.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to replace “District of Hudson’s Hope” with “NCLGA and UBCM”

NCLGA Membership:

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED
AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

L2: ANNUAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTED OFFICIALS

DISTRICT OF HUDSON’S HOPE

WHEREAS there has been a recent change in Local Government to move from 3 year to 4 year terms for Local Government Elected Officials, and;

AND WHEREAS the current requirement is that Local Government Elected Officials complete a Financial Disclosure Statement Annually within 15 days of the beginning of the calendar year whether there has been a change in the Financial Position of the Elected Official or not,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the requirement of annual filing for Financial Disclosure Statements for Local Government Elected Officials be amended to require these disclosures only once per term of any time that the Financial Position of the Elected Official changes in a reportable way.

NCLGA Membership:

DEFEATED

L3: RURAL LIVING ALLOWANCE

VILLAGE OF FRASER LAKE

WHEREAS, the Village of Fraser Lake, on behalf of all Rural Communities request that the Federal Government consider a Rural Living Allowance for communities that have limited access to vital services;

AND WHEREAS, residents of many rural communities in BC are disadvantaged by the lack of in community services. Residents are often required to travel out of town for medical appointments, specialist appointments, cancer treatments, dialysis, access to Service Canada resources, optometrist appointments, dental appointments, shopping and groceries. The additional costs of accommodations and travel are hardships that are not endured by all British Columbians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government of Canada establish an application process for a Rural Living Allowance to residents of rural communities meeting the criteria of a lack of medical services, government services or basic consumer supplies such as groceries, travel barriers and significant economic downturn as determined by the Treasury Board of Canada.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

L4: FRESH WATER HAZARD MARKERS OR BUOYS

VILLAGE OF FRASER LAKE

WHEREAS the Federal Government has Constitutional jurisdiction over navigation;

AND WHEREAS, the Village of Fraser Lake is concerned that unmarked water hazards pose a threat to the health and safety of persons involved in motorized water sports on freshwater lakes and rivers in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS, the installation and maintenance of navigational markers and buoys will improve the safety of persons involved in motorized water activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Federal Government of Canada installs and maintains water hazard markers on known water hazards to protect lives and property on water ways in lakes, rivers and streams.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

L5: BROWNFIELD SITE ASSESSMENT VALUE

VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE

WHEREAS, local governments, particularly in rural and remote areas, are experiencing a growing number of brownfield sites well situated along their transportation of municipal services corridors which provides zero municipal property tax revenues to municipalities;

AND WHEREAS when the brownfield sites require contamination remediation, BC Assessment assess' the brownfield sites, usually in the business class with a one dollar value to the land, resulting in zero tax revenues to the municipality;

AND WHEREAS these brownfield sites are not carrying their fair share of the tax burden for the community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to amend the Assessment Act to provide municipalities with the authorization to assess brownfield site properties in a "separate" class that creates greater motivation by the owners, generally corporate, to mitigate the environmental hazards and redevelop these unsightly properties.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

L6: PROPOSED EMPLOYER HEALTH TAX

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN

WHEREAS the Province has brought in a new employer health tax to replace medical services plan premiums without any consultation with local governments;

AND WHEREAS there are significant cost impacts of this new tax for local government members that will need to be recovered through property taxes or through the other limited revenue sources available to local governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province meet with UBCM to discuss the proposed tax, the implications of the tax, and to request a delay to its implementation until UBCM has had the opportunity to provide feedback to the province.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

OE1: WILDFIRE FIREFIGHTING INVENTORY

RURAL DIRECTORS ROUNDTABLE

WHEREAS local knowledge of the local climate, terrain, travel routes, communication channels and resources can contribute to the safety of emergency responders and the public in the dangerous and demanding work of fighting wildfires;

AND WHEREAS many locals, including contractors and industry, have heavy equipment, local expertise, and are required to have firefighting equipment and trained personnel on site when carrying out any activities on the land base and will stay to fight wildfires to protect their assets, structures, land, and livestock, sometimes for significant periods before the BC Wildfire Service is able to arrive;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Wildfire Service be urged to maintain current inventory listings of the local resources available for firefighting purposes and find ways to work collaboratively with them in the suppression of wildfires.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

OF2: PARITY IN HOSPITAL DISTRICTS CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS under the *Hospital District Act*, hospital districts may contribute up to 40% of capital expenses incurred by their local health authorities;

AND WHEREAS those contribution percentages should be equitable across all hospital districts;

AND WHEREAS Metro Vancouver has been relieved of their obligation to provide a contribution to hospital capital costs, shifting additional costs to the Health Authority and ultimately further impacting the ability of the Ministry of Health to fund capital projects for hospitals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM commence discussions with the Provincial Government to work toward a system that creates parity in the capital contributions that hospital districts in BC provide to their local health authorities.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

OF3: SENIOR FUNDING

NCLGA DIRECTOR SARRAH STOREY

WHEREAS seniors health and well-being are a primary concern to all levels of government; and for older adults to remain at home for longer, to remain socially connected and independent in their communities, Health Promotion and Prevention initiatives based on physical activity, social connectedness and independence offered by the Community Based Seniors' Services (CBSS) Sector which are key components of the service delivery continuum;

AND WHEREAS seniors aging in place is best for the health of seniors; their friends and families; for the communities that they are in; and for the control of health care costs;

AND WHEREAS crucial community-based services include physical activity and recreation, information and referral, nutritional supports, consistent medical care, education and creative arts, seniors centres, and initiatives such that support seniors aging in place;

AND WHEREAS stronger collaboration of all levels of government and Health Authorities is required to be better aligned and integrated with the CBSS Sector;

AND WHEREAS municipalities lack the financial resources to address the physical and social needs of the growing senior population:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM lobby the Federal and Provincial governments to provide consistent funding, easier access to grants, and support the development of programs for all seniors in BC and non-profits that support aging in place; and municipalities that lack the tax base to be effective.

NCLGA Membership:

CARRIED

Second Business Session Adjourned at 12:10 p.m. May 9, 2018

Third Business Session Commenced at 12:54 p.m. May 9, 2018

8. Elections Process (Continued)

Nominations for Director at Large

Nominations Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg announced that there were three positions available for Director at Large and that two nominations had been received for the Director at Large positions:

- o Betty Anderson, Cariboo Regional District
- o Cheryl Shuman, City of Dawson Creek

Nominations from the Floor for Director at Large:

Steve Forseth, Cariboo Regional District, has been nominated for the position of Director at Large.
Lynne Christiansen, City of Terrace, has been nominated for the position of Director at Large.
Dave Birdie, District of Fort St. James, has been nominated for the position of Director at Large.

Nominations Committee Chair Laurey-Anne Roodenburg 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.

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg reviewed the procedure for voting for the three Director at Large positions and the timeframe in which to do so.

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg encouraged everyone to visit the voting booth and vote for who they want to be Director at Large.

Gold Star Resolution Award:

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg award the Gold Star to the Village of McBride for Resolution B32 – “Elimination of Transportation Service in BC”

9. Elections Results

President Shaely Wilbur announced the winners of the NCLGA 2018-2019 Director at Large vote. The winners are: Dave Birdi, Lynne Christiansen, and Cheryl Shuman.

10. Motion to Destroy Ballots

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

The Final Business Session adjourned at 1:55 p.m. on May 9, 2018

Next Convention: The 64th Annual Convention will be hosted by the City of Williams Lake.