

Minutes of the 2021 Business Sessions
North Central Local Government Association AGM & Convention
Virtual Event in Prince George, BC
May 5-6, 2021

Annual General Meeting

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) was called to order at 9:35 am on May 5, 2021.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting, which was held virtually from June 15 – July 3, 2020, be adopted. **CARRIED**

2. President's Report

President Sarrah Storey provided her report to delegates. Moved/Seconded that President Storey's report be received as presented. **CARRIED**

3. Financial Statements

First Vice-President Cori Ramsay presented the Finance Report and Financial Statements. Moved/Seconded that the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2021 be adopted. **CARRIED**

4. Budget

The 2021/2022 budget be approved as presented. **Move/seconded not done** **CARRIED**

5. Appointment of Accountant

Moved/Seconded that KPMG LLP Chartered Accounts be appointed as the North Central Local Government Association's Accountants for 2021/2022. **CARRIED**

6. Nomination Committee Report

Nomination Committee Chair Lara Beckett presented the Nomination Report. She explained that one nomination had been received for each Table Officer position and three nominations were received for the three Director at Large positions before announcing the nominees for each position. Thus, all elected positions for the 2021/2022 Board will be filled by acclamation. Nominations from the floor were not accepted due to the virtual nature of the 2021 NCLGA AGM & Convention. Chair Beckett also announced the seven Regional Representative appointments.

The 2021/2022 Board will be:

President: Cori Ramsay, Councillor, City of Prince George

First Vice-President: Steve Forseth, Director, Cariboo Regional District

Second Vice-President: Sheila Boehm, Councillor, City of Williams Lake

Directors at Large: Lynne Christiansen, Councillor, City of Terrace; Judy Greenaway, Councillor, District of Fort St. James; Gary Foster, Mayor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

Approved – May 4, 2022

Regional Representatives: Leonard Hiebert, Director, Peace River Regional District; Dolores Funk, Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako; Angie Delainey, Director, Cariboo Regional District; Dannielle Alan, Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George; Evan Putterill, Director, North Coast Regional District; Dean Paranich, Director, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine; Lorraine Gerwing, Councillor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

Moved/Seconded that Lara Beckett's Nomination Report be received as presented. **CARRIED**

First Business Session Adjourned at 10:00 am May 5, 2021.

Second Business Session Commenced at 11:30 am May 5, 2021.

Resolutions Session – Part 1

Resolutions Committee Chair Cori Ramsay provided an overview of the virtual resolutions debate process before commencing the debate of 2021 resolutions.

Move/Seconded that the 2021 resolutions be received as a block as presented in the Annual Report.

Executive Resolutions:

ER1 - Timely Information to Local Governments during Local/Provincial States of Emergencies (e.g. Floods, Wildfires and Pandemics) NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS local governments in BC are orders of government that are the first to respond to questions/concerns, resulting from emergencies, whether natural disasters like wildfires and floods or pandemics like the current COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS local governments require accurate and timely information that can be shared with their residents, both for safety purposes and to reduce anxiety of their residents;

AND WHEREAS the communication from local health authorities and the provincial government to local governments, although improving, has only reached the minimum acceptable standard of twice weekly updates once a local pandemic outbreak has been declared:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the BC Government to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency.

CARRIED

ER2 - Strengthening Rail Safety in BC

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS many BC communities are seeing a significant increase in hazardous goods being transported by rail through their communities;

AND WHEREAS those hazardous goods pose a real threat to the environment and communities along the rail corridor:

Approved – May 4, 2022

APPROVED

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA, UBCM and FCM request that Transport Canada review and consult with local governments on the safe transport of hazardous goods by rail in BC, in order to strengthen safety requirements and reduce the risk to BC communities and the environment in the event they are faced with a rail emergency.

CARRIED

ER3 - WorkSafe BC Coverage for Local Elected Officials

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS elected officials are regularly exposed to health and safety risks, including COVID-19, in the course of serving their constituents;

AND WHEREAS WorkSafe BC regulations cover local government employees, but not elected officials:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of BC amend the WorkSafe BC health, safety and COVID-19 regulations to provide coverage for local elected officials.

CARRIED

Member Resolutions:

R1 - BC Hydro Universal Net Metering for Municipalities

City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS most municipalities in BC have accounts with BC Hydro with several meters and several locations, and they are invoiced for the aggregate consumption of electricity on those meters;

AND WHEREAS many municipalities have undertaken power generation initiatives through BC Hydro's net metering program which limits reimbursement to only the connected meter and prohibits the application of any excess power generation capacity to the aggregate invoice;

AND WHEREAS the BCUC's June 23, 2020 decision on BC Hydro's application to amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289 encouraged, but did not require BC Hydro to consider how virtual net metering might be achieved that would allow this transfer to take place:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to enforce the BCUC's June 23, 2020 Decision on BC Hydro's application to amend Net Metering Service under Rate Schedule 1289 and direct BC Hydro to develop and implement virtual net metering.

CARRIED

R2 - Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in BC **Cariboo Regional District**

WHEREAS broadband and cellular services are essential components of sustainable, resilient, and vibrant communities;

AND WHEREAS there are still considerable impediments to overcome in looking to the private sector providing meaningful, cost effective service to rural and remote communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to directly invest in the ownership and development of the needed capital infrastructure to facilitate effective, efficient and cost effective broadband services in rural and remote communities where a private sector business case does not exist.

CARRIED

R3 - Dangerous Dog Legislation in British Columbia

District of Kitimat

WHEREAS *Santics v. Vancouver (City) Animal Control Officer*, 2019 BCC 294 sets out that there is no longer discretion of the Courts to provide conditional orders to rehabilitate dangerous dogs, and that Courts must decide whether a dangerous dog poses an unacceptable risk to the public and must be destroyed or released back to its owner;

AND WHEREAS animal control officers can create individualized remedies, but cannot require seizure and re-homing of dangerous dogs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Province of BC and relevant Provincial Ministries to amend legislation in the *Community Charter* with regards to dangerous dogs to allow for conditional orders by judges, which would provide the Courts alternative means of dealing with dangerous dogs if they are deemed to not be an unacceptable risk to the public, and to also allow animal control officers additional powers to seize and re-home dangerous dogs, and to determine destruction when a serious injury and/or death has occurred.

CARRIED

R4 - RCMP Costs for Municipalities

City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS municipalities between 5,000 and 14,999 in population pay 70% of RCMP costs and municipalities over 15,000 in population pay 90% of RCMP costs which is the largest cost centre in a local government's operating budget;

AND WHEREAS RCMP contract policing wage increases are imminent with the implementation of a unionized workforce within the next two years which will place an additional financial burden on municipalities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to implement a police funding formula that fairly and equitably distributes RCMP expenses to all governments throughout the province.

CARRIED

R5 - 911 Call Answer Levy

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS local government is only able to collect a 911 call answer levy from landline subscriptions;

AND WHEREAS landline subscriptions across the province are decreasing;

AND WHEREAS local governments in the province do not have the ability to collect a 911 call answer levy from cellular telecommunications platforms:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province of BC to enact a provincial 911 levy to include the collection of monthly charges from mobile devices, and provide these funds directly to local government 911 service providers.

CARRIED

R6 - Stronger Sentencing/Monitoring for Prolific/Repeat Offenders **City of Williams Lake**

WHEREAS Williams Lake has repeatedly called for stronger sentencing for prolific and repeat offenders being released into the community;

AND WHEREAS the judiciary has consistently failed to adequately ensure community safety when releasing prolific and repeat offenders on conditions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, including consistent use of electronic monitoring when released on conditions.

CARRIED

R7 - Funding for Independent Fire Services **Cariboo Regional District**

WHEREAS many of our smaller and remote rural communities are served by independent fire services;

AND WHEREAS many local governments are receiving legal advice that offering funding or other supports to independent fire services can expose the local government to legal and financial risk:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government for specific legal and statutory measures designed to remove any and all legal or financial risk from local government for providing financial or other supports to independent fire services.

CARRIED

R8 - Streamlined Funding – Overdose Prevention **District of Chetwynd**

WHEREAS overdose from illicit drug toxicity is now the leading cause of unnatural death in BC¹ and the BC Center for Disease Control advises that “wide access to harm reduction and development of a comprehensive system of care remain key goals for saving and improving lives”;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has made funding grants available to eligible agencies to provide initiatives for harm reduction and access to treatment centres for those at risk of drug overdose:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to streamline, expedite and increase the grant funding process to enable eligible agencies to more easily access funds for harm reduction and access to treatment centres for those at risk of drug overdose.

Note 1: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/overdose-fatalities-unacceptably-high>

CARRIED

APPROVED

R9 - Health Records Sharing for Allied Health Professionals

City of Williams Lake

WHEREAS there is lack of reasonable online access of health records such as x-rays and other diagnostics to allied health professionals, and health history is important in providing quality health care for British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to urge all the health authorities in the province to grant online access to health records for allied health professionals in BC.

CARRIED

Second Business Session Adjourned at 12:25 pm May 5, 2021.

Third Business Session Commenced at 3:35 pm May 5, 2021.

Resolutions Session – Part 2

R10 - Physical Activity in Grade 11 & 12 Curriculum

District of Chetwynd

WHEREAS physical activity is no longer required in the school curriculum for Grades 11 and 12;

AND WHEREAS research has proven that those who participate in consistent amounts of physical activity have better physical and mental health and reduced risks of developing many diseases¹, and the Province of BC recognizes that physical activity has a positive impact on students' health and achievement, and helps them develop good habits that can contribute to longer, healthier lives²:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to implement a change in the provincial school curriculum to mandate physical activities in all grades including Grades 11 and 12.

Note 1: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-13-813>

Note 2: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/daily-physical-activity>

DEFEATED

R11 - Increased Seats for Medical Students in BC

City of Williams Lake

WHEREAS there is a shortage of general physicians (GP's) throughout Canadian communities, especially rural communities, and the current number of medical school graduates are not able to meet the needs for GP's in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to engage or support our universities in increasing seats for medical students in British Columbia.

CARRIED

R12 - Housing in Rural British Columbia

District of Vanderhoof

WHEREAS housing shortages impede the livability of British Columbians and impact a rural community's ability to attract and retain professional talents and labour thereby negatively affecting the economy;

AND WHEREAS there has been a demonstrated need, transferred social responsibility and pressure on rural local governments that lack the financial capacity and professional expertise to develop lands suitable for various forms of housing to encourage small scale developers to construct such housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to partner with local governments by creating funding programs to encourage small scale developers to provide much needed housing in rural BC.

CARRIED

R13 - Long-term Strategy to Address Homelessness

City of Terrace

WHEREAS homelessness is an undesirable situation in every community in BC;

AND WHEREAS homelessness is a complex issue which may involve mental illness, addictions, systemic racism, and lack of appropriate housing options and supports:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the provincial government to develop a long-term strategy to eliminate homelessness, and in the meantime, fund year-round day programming and drop in spaces for the homeless population.

CARRIED

R14 - Housing Models for Seniors

City of Terrace

WHEREAS seniors in northern and rural BC have limited options for housing;

AND WHEREAS a range of seniors housing is needed in every community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby BC Housing to investigate new affordable housing models for seniors in northern communities.

CARRIED

R15 - Watershed Stewardship in British Columbia

District of Vanderhoof

WHEREAS watershed management lacks provincial oversight and capacity resulting in inadequate watershed management and consideration in the landscape level planning within BC;

AND WHEREAS local governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) do not have the jurisdictional authority, capacity and resources needed to properly manage watersheds to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of watershed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to work with local governments and NGOs to define the authorities and responsibilities while providing adequate resources needed to ensure proper watershed stewardship.

CARRIED

R16 - CleanBC Support for Northern and Rural Communities District of Kitimat

WHEREAS CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced, and sustainable future;

AND WHEREAS northern, remote, and rural communities face barriers to work towards the goals outlined in CleanBC due to lack of resources, training, and capacity at a local and regional level, such as Energy Step Code Certified Energy Advisor and dealerships providing options for electric vehicles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings.

CARRIED

**R17 - Provincial/Federal Government Grant Streams for Electoral Areas Only
Cariboo Regional District**

WHEREAS electoral areas have distinct needs for infrastructure and other purposes, and some electoral areas have challenges in making those projects viable due to lower residential populations and competition against municipalities for the same limited grant dollars:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to amend their grant programs to ensure a grant stream for electoral areas only.

DEFEATED

R18 - NCLGA Board Composition City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS NCLGA is comprised of a 14-member board that includes seven appointed regional representatives from each regional district that advocate issues on behalf of north central local governments;

AND WHEREAS larger municipalities have topics that require advocacy of which small communities/ regional districts are unfamiliar with:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA Executive be asked to consider the board member composition be amended to better reflect the members and communities it represents.

CARRIED

Third Business Session Adjourned at 4:15 pm May 5, 2021.

Final Business Session Commenced at 12:10 pm May 6, 2021.

Approved – May 4, 2022

APPROVED

Closing Ceremonies

1. 2020/2021 President Remarks

President Sarrah Storey welcomed members to the closing ceremonies, provided her closing remarks as the 2020/2021 NCLGA President, and introduced the NCLGA Board for the 2021/2022 term, which include:

Past President: Sarrah Storey, Mayor, Village of Fraser Lake

President: Cori Ramsay, Councillor, City of Prince George

First Vice President: Steve Forseth, Area D Director, Cariboo Regional District

Second Vice-President: Sheila Boehm, Councillor, City of Williams Lake

Director at Large: Lynne Christiansen, Councillor, City of Terrace

Director at Large: Judy Greenaway, Councillor, District of Fort St. James

Director at Large: Gary Foster, Mayor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

Regional Representatives:

Leonard Hiebert, Area D Director, Peace River Regional District

Dolores Funk, Mayor, Village of Burns Lake, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

Angie Delainey, Area E Director, Cariboo Regional District

Dannielle Alan, Area H Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

Evan Putterill, Area E Director, North Coast Regional District

Lorraine Gerwing, Councillor, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

Dean Paranich, Area B Director, Regional District of Kitimat Stikine

2. Community Leadership Awards

President Sarrah Storey announced the winner of the 2021 Community Leadership Awards and provided a brief summary of the winning projects.

Economic Development Category: City of Prince George for the Titans' Den Competition

Social Responsibility Category: City of Prince George for the Community Safety Hub

Mayor Lynn Hall accepted the awards on behalf of the City of Prince George.

3. AGM & Resolution Voting Results

Resolution Committee Chair Cori Ramsay summarized the AGM and Resolutions voting results, which are noted in detail under the previous business sessions of these meeting minutes.

4. 2021/2022 New President Address

Incoming President Cori Ramsay thanked Sarrah Storey for her hard work and dedication as President over the past year during the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cori Ramsay expressed that she is looking forward to continuing the work of NCLGA and working with the Executive in the coming year.

Final Business Session Closed at 12:35 pm May 6, 2021.