
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SECTION A, held on Wednesday May 10, 2023

1. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OPENING CEREMONIES

North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) President Steve Forseth provided opening remarks and offered a Territorial Acknowledgement. He reflected on the Chetwynd Tour and evening entertainment at the Welcome Reception held the previous day. He then referenced the 2022 NCLGA Annual Report and Program which were provided to all delegates prior to the event.

NCLGA President Forseth welcomed Metis Elder, Malcolm Supernault, representing the North East Metis Association who said a prayer in his Cree Language to bless the Annual General Meeting. NCLGA President Forseth announced that the Hon. Minister Anne Kang was unfortunately unable to attend as planned, and introduced Parliamentary Secretary, Jennifer Rice, who provided a virtual Welcome Message to all delegates. Following this, NCLGA President Forseth introduced the 2023 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) President, Jen Ford, and invited her to the podium to address the delegates.

NCLGA President Forseth welcomed local Kindergarten and Grade 4/5 students from Crescent Park Elementary School to the stage and they performed a rendition of “O Canada”. Following this, the NCLGA President took a moment to name and thank the members of the 2023 NCLGA AGM & Convention Organizing Committee for their hard work in preparing for the event and thanked all local and provincial government representatives for attending.

2. CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Forseth called to order the 2023 NCLGA AGM & Convention at 9:36 am on May 10, 2023.

3. AGENDA

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the Agenda of the North Central Local Government Association 2023 Annual General Meeting, held in Dawson Creek, BC from May 10-12, 2023, be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

4. MINUTES

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the North Central Local Government Association 2022 Annual General Meeting, held in Fort St. John, BC from May 4-5, 2022, be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

5. NCLGA PRESIDENT’S REPORT

NCLGA President Steve Forseth provided the President’s Report to delegates. NCLGA staff and Board were recognized and thanked for their service.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association President’s Report be RECEIVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

NCLGA President Forseth invited the Mayors of the co-host local governments, City of Dawson Creek and District of Chetwynd, Mayors Dober and Courtoreille to address delegates from the region. Elders, Chiefs and First Nations attending the event were acknowledged and thanked; land acknowledgements were given and the Mayors welcomed delegates to the 2023 NCLGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Convention.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

NCLGA First Vice-President, Sheila Boehm, reviewed the 2022/23 Financial Report and presented the North Central Local Government Association financial budget/statements.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association 2022/23 Financial Statements, be RECEIVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

7. 2022/2023 NOTICE TO READER

NCLGA First Vice-President, Sheila Boehm, reviewed the 2022/23 Notice to Reader.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's 2022-2023 Notice to Reader be RECEIVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

8. APPROVAL OF 2% MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's Membership Fee Increase of 2% be APPROVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

9. BUDGET

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's 2023/2024 Budget be APPROVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

10. AUDITOR

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the appointment of KPMG as the North Central Local Government Association's 2023/24 Annual Auditor be APPROVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

11. BOARD NOMINATIONS REPORT

NCLGA Past President, Cori Ramsay, explained the nominations and election process contained in the Annual Report for the Board positions of Executive, Directors at Large and Regional Representatives for 2023/24.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the 2023/24 NCLGA Board Nominations Report be RECEIVED as presented. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED - President Forseth recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session A at 10:15 am on May 10, 2022 and reconvened at 10:36 am on May 10, 2022.

12. EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR AT LARGE NOMINATIONS

NCLGA Past President Cori Ramsay, read out the names of nominations received in advance for the First Ballot (Executive):

- **President:** Sheila Boehm, Councillor, City of Williams Lake
- **First Vice-President:** Judy Greenaway, Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- **Second Vice-President:** Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers

NCLGA Past President Ramsay then called for any additional nominations from the floor. No nominations were received and the following NCLGA Executive Members were announced as the successful nominees:

President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Sheila Boehm, Councillor, City of Williams Lake be ELECTED NCLGA President by acclamation. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

First Vice-President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Judy Greenaway, Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako be ELECTED NCLGA First Vice-President by acclamation. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

Second Vice-President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers, be ELECTED NCLGA Second Vice-President by acclamation. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

NCLGA Past-President Ramsay read out names of nominations received in advance for the Second Ballot (Directors at Large):

- **Director at Large:** Jerilynn Kirk, Director, Fraser-Fort George Regional District
- **Director at Large:** Michael Moses, Councillor, City of Williams Lake
- **Director at Large:** Tony Zabinsky, Councillor, City of Fort St. John

NCLGA Past-President Ramsay then called for any additional nominations from the floor, and seeing there were none, called the vote.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the three nominated Directors at Large on the Second Ballot be appointed by acclamation. **CARRIED BY CONSENSUS**

12. PLENARY SESSION – NCLGA BYLAW REVIEW

NCLGA Director at Large, Gladys Atrill, Moderated the Plenary Session and identified where the proposed bylaw changes were in the Annual Report.

WHEREAS the North Central Local Government Association Constitution and Bylaws were last updated in April 2018; and

WHEREAS maintaining an updated Constitution and Bylaws is important for the integral governance of the NCLGA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the amendments identified in Table 1 (NCLGA Society Constitution and Bylaws Summary of Amendments) be APPROVED.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

13. RESOLUTIONS SESSIONS – PART 1

NCLGA 2ND Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, Moderated Part 1 of the NCLGA Resolutions Session and described the resolution process. It was explained that resolutions would be voted on until 12:30 pm marking the end of Part 1 of the Resolutions Sessions and further resolutions would continue between 1 – 2:30 pm on May 11, 2023.

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

E1 – Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Ratios

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS capital costs for healthcare facilities in North and Central British Columbia are shared between the Provincial Government and Regional Hospital Districts (RHD) at a 60%/40% split (Province/local RHD); and

WHEREAS the cost share ratio borne by a local Regional Hospital District is not financially sustainable, long term, due to escalating construction/inflationary costs and scope of healthcare capital projects increasing without adequate and proactive consultation with the local RHD Board;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to modernize the RHD Cost Share formula under the Hospital District Act with the ability to pay being a key consideration of cost-sharing of healthcare capital projects.

CARRIED

E2 - Review of Health Authorities Structure

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS access to healthcare services is of paramount importance to all British Columbians, a detailed evaluation of structure/ management is required to inform future strategies; and
WHEREAS local governments have limited access to Health Authority reports;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to require a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities.

CARRIED

REGULAR RESOLUTIONS

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R1. Withdrawal Management Services

City of Terrace

WHEREAS the January 31, 2023 BC Coroners Service report identifies a disproportionately higher illicit drug toxicity death rate outside of large urban centres, and furthermore the First Nations Health Authority identifies that Indigenous people are dying at a rate five times greater than other BC residents; and

WHEREAS the long distances and limited public transportation options required to travel to the nearest withdrawal management facility creates unrealistic access to services for people living in rural communities across the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to provide withdrawal management services in rural centres in British Columbia in an expedited manner.

CARRIED

R2. Stand-Alone Mental Health and Addictions Facility

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

WHEREAS the number of British Columbians experiencing mental health issues continues to rise while the current facilities in the North are not equipped to address the current issues surrounding mental health and addictions; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has committed to expanding new complex care, treatment, detox, recovery and after-care facilities across the province in order to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province to consider the establishment of a stand-alone mental health and addictions facility in the Prince George area to provide access to treatment and support services for residents of Northern BC inclusive of the First Nations Health Authority to deliver culturally appropriate mental health and substance use services for Indigenous Peoples.

CARRIED

R3. Addiction Treatment in Rural and Remote Communities

City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS substance dependence is viewed as a health concern and the Province has committed to treatment and recovery services that meet the needs of people who are suffering from addiction; and WHEREAS residents in rural and remote communities are required to travel significant distances for addiction treatment services, including detox, and these services are oversubscribed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to further support the creation of addiction treatment capacity, including detox programs, in rural and remote communities in British Columbia.

CARRIED

R4. Health Authorities Performance Review

District of Taylor

WHEREAS accessible health care is a cornerstone for providing quality of life for the residents of British Columbia and supports economic prosperity and sustainability of communities; and WHEREAS access to quality health care without financial or other barriers is critical to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of all Canadians under the Canada Health Act:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the provincial government for an independent operational performance review of the Health Authorities to assess: the distribution and level of health care services provided, the distribution of administrative services within services delivery areas, the effectiveness of support services for health care professionals, the scope and effectiveness of recruitment and retention policies, and the sustainability of health care from the scope of emerging trends in the delivery of health care services.

CARRIED

R5. Rural Health Care Provider Crisis

City of Williams Lake

WHEREAS there is a provincial crisis in health care that is even more pronounced in rural BC, and an estimated one in five BC residents do not have a family physician or primary health care provider; and WHEREAS rural BC is at increased risk of Emergency Room closures due to lack of health care providers: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide financial and policy support to facilitate training/supporting/using allied health care providers (i.e. chiropractors, physiotherapists, massage therapists) to help recruit and retain to rural BC including incentives such as loan forgiveness and signing bonuses with a minimum time commitment.

CARRIED

R6. Ministry of Health Communication

City of Williams Lake

WHEREAS health care is a critical need for all British Columbians; and WHEREAS transparent and open communication between levels of government is required, and citizens should be assured their leaders are working together as they were elected to do:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to improve the communication between the Ministry of Health and local levels of government to ensure the health care system meets the needs of all residents of BC.

CARRIED

R7. Vaccine Mandate for Healthcare Workers

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS British Columbia is one of the last remaining provinces in Canada requiring a vaccine mandate for healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS the shortage of healthcare workers in the Province of British Columbia has been exacerbated considerably by the dismissal of those healthcare workers who chose not to be vaccinated against COVID-19:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial government to lift the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work to lessen the strain on the healthcare system.

CARRIED BY MAJORITY

R8. Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers

District of Kitimat

WHEREAS the COVID-19 Provincial vaccine mandate for health care workers continues and British Columbia's health care system is under severe stress; and

WHEREAS the District of Kitimat wrote a letter to BC's Chief Medical Officer in January of 2023 asking that the vaccine mandate for health care workers be removed or, if the mandate continues, the conditions needed to end the mandate be communicated, to which there has been no response as of March 21, 2023:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM ask the Province to provide the criteria that must be in place in order to remove the vaccine mandate for health care workers.

CARRIED BY MAJORITY

HOUSING

R9. BC Housing Delays

City of Williams Lake

WHEREAS there is a significant housing shortage in most areas of the province; and
WHEREAS BC Housing has been put in place to assist communities with this issue, especially with low income/emergency housing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to commit to a timeline to address the ongoing delays with BC Housing that contribute to the lack of progress in providing housing for communities that are experiencing an ongoing housing crisis.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R10. 2022 Emergency Support Service Program Guide

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

WHEREAS the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) released in December 2022 the new Emergency Support Services (ESS) Program Guide; and

WHEREAS less than sufficient broad-based meaningful consultation was undertaken including responsible local authorities under the current legislation and associated Indigenous Nations; and

WHEREAS the EMCR has committed to having multiple updates in the first year of release and yearly updates afterward noting that feedback can be provided to the ESS Program Office:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask that the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness proactively consult with local authorities and associated Indigenous Nations throughout the province as part of the commitment to provide regular updates to ensure practices are consistently reflected in its resources.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

R11. Clean Transportation Action Plan for Rural and Northern Communities

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS the Province of BC has released the Clean BC Roadmap to 2030 outlining measures to reach its legislated greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;
And WHEREAS zero-emission vehicles may not be a suitable alternative for remote rural resource based industries including forestry, oil and gas, and agriculture;
And WHEREAS public transit is not available in many rural and remote communities:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a Clean BC Transportation Plan specific to rural and northern communities that addresses the unique challenges and identifies how the GHG targets can be achieved.

CARRIED

LAND USE

R12. Public Lake Access

Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

WHEREAS requirements for highway access to water is legislatively required for subdivisions that border a body of water and these accesses become the responsibility of the Province under the Transportation Act; and
WHEREAS many of these highway access points on Crown Land have organically developed into public access points such as boat launches which the public desires use of; and
WHEREAS the Province does not maintain these access points and the public continues to express their concern for lack of maintenance to local governments:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province recognize these highway access points established under provincial legislation as official public access points and that the Province maintain these sites to provide the public with access to British Columbia's lakes.

CARRIED

R13. Public Notification for Rural Subdivision Applications

Regional District of Cariboo

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure currently does not provide policy guidance to provincial approving officers regarding criteria for determining when to engage in a process of public notification or consultation on rural subdivision applications; and
WHEREAS concerns have been expressed about lack of public consultation and consideration for sufficient water supply where a significant subdivision application is being considered by the Provincial Approving Officer in a rural neighbourhood:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to revise its policies, processes, and guidance documents to require the Approving Officer to provide notification to owners and occupiers of land which may potentially be impacted by a subdivision.

CARRIED

R14. Registering Fees on Title

City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS local area service and latecomer fees are not registered on certificates of title and this has caused issues for realtors and new home buyers who may be unaware of these costs until they receive their property tax notice; and

WHEREAS the disclosure of these costs on title provides disclosure to future property owners and protects taxpayers from unknown costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide local governments the ability to register latecomer fees and local area service on certificates of titles.

CARRIED

TAXATION

R15. Provincial Sales Tax Levied on Private Used Vehicles

Regional District of Cariboo

WHEREAS used vehicle sales are an economical and affordable means of attaining motor vehicle ownership for drivers of all income levels, skills, abilities, and ages, where consideration of the vehicle’s actual condition, previous use, and costs of functional repairs can be reflected in a final sales price; and WHEREAS the Province has revised how Provincial Sales Tax is calculated on the sale of used vehicles, resulting in a disconnect between the real market value of used vehicles and the estimated values used to determine taxable value, making vehicle ownership increasingly unaffordable for British Columbians while unduly increasing tax revenues for the provincial government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial Ministry of Finance to discontinue the use of the Canadian Black Book as a means of determining the taxable value for used vehicles sales, and return to using the actual sale price of the used vehicle being sold when determining Provincial Sales Tax payable.

CARRIED

R16. Provincial Sales Tax on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems

City of Dawson Creek

WHEREAS in 2022 the BC Government initiated a Provincial Sales Tax increase of an extra 5% to be paid on all Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems for heating homes including: central forced air furnaces, unit heaters, fireplaces, boilers, storage water heaters, instantaneous water heaters, air conditioners and all replacement parts for said heating systems or similar systems to those listed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to exempt those who live in the northern regions of British Columbia from paying the Provincial Sales Tax surcharge of 5% on Fossil Fuel Combustion Systems in consideration of the climate in this geographical area and the inefficiencies of electric heat pumps in heating northern homes when temperatures drop to -20 degrees Celsius or below.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

R17. Jasper National Park West Gate Upgrade

Village of Valemount

WHEREAS all commercial truck traffic that passes through the East gate of Jasper National Park also passes through the West gate of the park; and

WHEREAS Highways 16 and 5, the Yellowhead Highway, are the primary transportation corridors for commercial, tourism and local traffic and the designated over-size route for industrial traffic movements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a letter be written to Government of Canada, Parks Canada requesting that the West gate of Jasper National Park be upgraded to be consistent with the East gate improvements that have been recently completed and are proving beneficial to all travellers.

CARRIED

R18. Zero Emission Vehicles

District of Kitimat

WHEREAS the provincial government plans to require only zero emission vehicle sales in British Columbia by 2040;

And WHEREAS northern and rural communities may not have the necessary infrastructure, capacity building ability, and related upgrades necessary to support the province's objective for zero emission vehicles:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to recognize the challenges in northern British Columbia and outline their plan for supporting capacity building, improved infrastructure and other upgrades in northern British Columbia to meet zero emission vehicle sales targets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if interim zero emission vehicle sales targets for 2030 are not met by the Province, then the Province may reconsider their 2040 objectives.

CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE

R19. Building Bylaw Enforcement

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

WHEREAS local governments face building bylaw enforcement challenges, particularly in low density rural areas; and

WHEREAS Technical Safety BC regularly issue electrical, gas and other permits for installations in buildings which are in contravention of local government building bylaws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to require Technical Safety BC to confirm that necessary building permits have been issued prior to the issuance of installation permits.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**R20. Local Government Involvement in
Broadband Improvement Projects**

Regional District of Cariboo

WHEREAS local governments are the level of government which are closest to the communities they serve and are which best understands local needs, knowledge, and opportunities of these communities; and

WHEREAS the current framework for planning, funding, implementing, and announcing broadband improvement projects excludes local governments at every stage beyond the funding application phase, particularly as projects are implemented, resulting in disconnection between projects being supported and projects being delivered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the BC Ministry of Citizens Services and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada to include local governments at all stages of every internet and broadband improvement project and funding application to provide effective means of keeping local elected officials informed and providing an avenue for local knowledge to be incorporated.

CARRIED

R21. Foreign Worker Program

City of Fort St. John

WHEREAS employers in all sectors across the province are experiencing labour shortages and face challenges filling vacancies with foreign workers; and

WHEREAS the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program Rural Renewal Stream enables local governments to work directly with their business communities promoting a streamlined path for skilled and unskilled workers to enter the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to create an economic immigration program that enables local governments to streamline application and approval to allow foreign workers to work in British Columbia.

CARRIED

SELECTED ISSUES

R22. Support for Local Government Implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act

Regional District of Cariboo

WHEREAS all levels of government in British Columbia have a role in advancing the principles of reconciliation as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act;

And WHEREAS local governments have statutory obligations in relation to a number of provincial Acts and regulations, which has resulted in expectations on local government to more broadly consider the principles of reconciliation when exercising those statutory obligations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to provide timely clarification, support, and involvement for local governments regarding the expectations and requirements of local governments in advancing commitments to reconciliation and UNDRIP when fulfilling their statutory obligations under relevant provincial legislation.

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the Late Resolutions L1 – L6 be submitted to the 2023 NCLGA AGM & Convention be approved for consideration.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

L1. Treatment for Mental Health and Addictions in Rural Communities

Town of Smithers

WHEREAS the number of people in BC, including rural and remote communities, experiencing mental health and addictions issues continues to increase; and

WHEREAS rural and remote communities lack sufficient resources, including treatment beds, detox facilities, and specialized staff to provide adequate quality care, and travel to distant treatments facilities is a barrier to treatment; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has committed to expanding complex care, treatment, and aftercare across the Province to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province commit to establishing mental health and addictions treatment facilities in smaller communities in Northern BC, reducing the barriers to treatment for all residents including Indigenous Peoples.

CARRIED

L2. Rural Approval for Ride-Hailing Services

City Of Williams Lake

WHEREAS there is a chronic labour shortage of qualified Class 4 taxi drivers and licensed taxi vehicles in northern communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC swiftly allows for the expansion of ride-hailing services such as Uber or Lyft outside of the major urban centers.

CARRIED

L3. Prioritizing Municipalities in the Provincial Land Acquisition Process

District of Houston

WHEREAS Municipalities are currently not prioritized in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process that matches ministry and agency demands with existing surplus properties during the Provincial land disposition process; and

WHEREAS the opportunity to access lands that are being disposed by the Provincial Government would further the ability of Municipalities to pursue community planning, economic diversification, and asset management efforts within their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to consider and prioritize Municipalities in the Provincial Enhanced Referral Process when lands are being disposed of in communities.

CARRIED

L4. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plant Program for Rail Lines

District of Houston

WHEREAS The Provincial Government's approach to invasive species is to find, identify, and systematically eradicate, contain or control new invasive species before they can spread beyond their point of entry; and

WHEREAS the Province does not have jurisdiction to perform noxious weed and invasive plant control activities on CN Rail right of ways; and

WHEREAS current invasive plant management programs for noxious weeds and invasive plants along rail lines are not being effectively performed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to assess and improve the noxious weeds and invasive plant removal program along rail lines throughout British Columbia.

CARRIED

L5. Locally Offered Training and Support for Public Health Officers in Northern BC

District of Houston

WHEREAS there is a lack of Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia; and
WHEREAS the current staffing levels are impacting development approval processes for obtaining public health permits; and
WHEREAS there is limited training opportunities for Public Health Officers in rural and northern British Columbia;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to increase the provision of locally offered training and support for Public Health Officials in rural and northern British Columbia.

CARRIED

L6. Limiting Ability of Major Industrial to Reduce Assessed Value.

District of Houston

WHEREAS there is a lack of transparency for how assessed value is calculated for major industrial properties in British Columbia; and
WHEREAS there is a closure allowance for major industrial and electrical properties in British Columbia that allows for the reduction of improvement value to 10% of the cost for major industrial and electrical properties when they cease operations in British Columbia; and
WHEREAS Municipalities face significant economic and taxation challenges when major industrial and electrical proponents cease operations in their communities;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM advocate for greater transparency in major industrial and electrical property assessments and the lessening of closure allowances available to major industrial and electrical proponents when they cease operations in communities.

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Late Resolutions O1 – O2 submitted from the Floor at the 2023 NCLGA AGM & Convention be approved for consideration.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

O1 – ENCAMPMENT MANAGEMENT

WILLIAMS LAKE

WHEREAS the Province of BC is experiencing a homeless crisis and the number of individuals experiencing homelessness is increasing; and
WHEREAS the number of shelter spaces is not sufficient or lack staff capacity to house our vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness and results in a number of individuals living in encampments; and
WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for land use and mental health, addictions and housing does not fall under the jurisdiction of municipalities;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to direct BC Housing to provide management and oversight of encampments in all communities across British Columbia.

CARRIED

O2 – AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS amendments to the Agricultural Land Commission Act and Agricultural Land Reserve Regulation were amended such that the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is no longer accepting Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) Exclusion Applications from private property owners; and

WHEREAS ALR Exclusion Applications are now only accepted from local governments (or First Nation or other prescribed bodies): and

WHEREAS under the new legislative scheme, the responsibility for submitting ALR Exclusion Applications – including all application requirements such as public hearings, advertising, signage, and review of technical reports – falls to local governments; and

WHEREAS responsibility for ALR Exclusion Applications require considerable administration, staff time, and financial resources; and

WHEREAS ALR Exclusion Applications solely benefit private property owners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA petition the ALC to rightfully reinstate responsibility for ALR Exclusion Applications back on private property owners.

CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED

NCLGA President Steve Forseth adjourned the Annual General Meeting - Business Session A at 12:30 pm on May 10, 2023 and the delegates continued to attend Concurrent Panel Sessions which started at 1:15 pm and 2:30 pm on the following topics:

- a. Overview of Property Assessment and 2023 Property Assessment Roll;
- b. Northern Leadership Through Collaboration: A Home-Grown Climate Action Network; and
- c. Community Risk Assessments and Community Risk Reduction Plans.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SECTION B, held on Thursday, May 11, 2023

NCLGA President Steve Forseth reconvened the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 9:00 am on May 11, 2023 and outlined the Agenda for Day 2.

14. PLENARY SESSION – UBCM: CANADA COMMUNITY BUILDING FUND (CCBF) RENEWAL

NCLGA Director at Large, Jerrilyn Kirk, introduced guest speakers Glen Brown, General Manager of Victoria Operations, and Brant Felker, CCBF Manager, who provided an overview of the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) Renewal.

15. PLENARY SESSION – MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF BC (MIABC)

NCLGA Past President, Cori Ramsay, introduced guest speaker Gord Klassen, MIABC Board Director, who provided an update on the Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

16. PLENARY SESSION – NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST (NDIT)

NCLGA Director at Large, Tony Zabinsky, introduced guest speaker Holly Plato, Director of Communications who provided Northern Development Initiative Trust updates.

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

President Steve Forseth recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 10:45 am on May 11, 2023 and reconvened at 11:00 am on May 11, 2023.

17. NCLGA STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

NCLGA Director at Large, Gladys Atrill, introduced Al Richmond, NCLGA Vice-Chair to say a few words. Afterwards NCLGA President Forseth delivered a presentation to provide an overview of the North Central Local Government Association. Following this, NCLGA Director at Large, Sheila Boehm, gave an

overview of the Victoria Delegation advocacy experience. NCLGA Executive Director, Terry Roberts, was invited to provide an overview of the NCLGA Strategic Plan and afterwards moderated questions from the audience and provided summary remarks.

MEETING RECESSED

President Steve Forseth recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 12:05 pm on May 11, 2023 for the lunch break and reconvened at 1:00 pm on May 11, 2023.

18. PLENARY SESSION – COMMUNITY SAFETY PLANS

During the lunch break, Councillor Clay Bassendowski, District of Chetwynd, introduced a panel of guest speakers which included himself, Graham Hartl and Wahnese Antonioni-Stevens, both with RCMP, and Denis Friesen, a Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor and the panel discussed Community Safety Plans and afterwards moderated questions from the audience and provided summary remarks.

MEETING RECONVENED

President Steve Forseth reconvened the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 1:00 pm on May 11, 2023.

19. RESOLUTIONS SESSIONS – PART 2

NCLGA 2ND Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, returned to moderate Part 2 of the NCLGA Resolutions Session. Vic-President Greenaway called three times for resolutions from the floor. Seeing that there were none, the Resolutions Sessions of the Annual General Meeting were declared closed.

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

In the absence of receiving resolutions for consideration, President Steve Forseth recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 1:05 pm on May 11, 2023 and reconvened at 1:30 pm on May 11, 2023.

20. PLENARY SESSION – COMMENTS FROM THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

NCLGA President, Steve Forseth, introduced MLA Mike Bernier (Peace River South) and welcomed him to provide comments as the Official Opposition in the BC Legislature.

21. PLENARY SESSION – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC (EMBC) ELECTED OFFICIALS ORIENTATION – WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

District of Chetwynd Councillor, Julia Nelson, introduced guest speaker Heather MacRae, Regional Manager with the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, who provided updates from EMBC.

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

President Steve Forseth recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 2:45 pm on May 11, 2023 and reconvened at 3:00 pm on May 11, 2023.

22. PLENARY SESSION – MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CONTINUUM

City of Dawson Creek Councillor Jeremy Earl introduced guest speakers Stacy Ashton, Chair of the BC Crisis Line Network and Executive Director of the Crisis Centre of BC who attended the meeting virtually (via Zoom) and Riley Skinner, Executive Director of Northern BC Crisis Line in Prince George who also attended virtually (via Zoom) to deliver a presentation on the Mental Health Crisis Continuum.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NCLGA President Steve Forseth highlighted the Dawson Creek Dine Out portion of the agenda and adjourned the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 4:00 pm on May 11, 2023.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SESSION C, held Friday, May 12, 2023

NCLGA President Steve Forseth reconvened the Annual General Meeting – Business Session C at 9:00 am on May 12, 2023. He provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, recapped the events of Day 2 and outlined the Agenda for Day 3.

NCLGA President Forseth invited Past President, Cori Ramsay, to the podium. On behalf of the 2022/23 NCLGA Board President Forseth thanked Cori Ramsay for her service to the NCLGA. President Forseth invited the new NCLGA President, Sheila Boehm, to the podium. On behalf of the 2022/23 NCLGA Board, President Boehm thanked Steve Forseth for his service to the NCLGA and delivered the new NCLGA President's Address.

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

NCLGA President Boehm recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session C at 9:15 am on May 12, 2023 and reconvened at 9:30 am on May 12, 2023.

23. PLENARY SESSION – STRATEGIES FOR MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF PART 3 OF ACCESSIBILITY ACT

NCLGA 1st Vice-President, Sheila Boehm, introduced three guest speakers who attended the meeting virtually (via Zoom); Dr. Mike Prescott, Project Manager of the Accessible Organizations Project at Disability Alliance BC; Helaine Boyd, Executive Director of Disability Alliance BC (DABC), and Anna Wijesinghe, Consultant with Accessible Organization Project, Disability Alliance BC who presented strategies for meeting the requirements of Part 3 of the Accessibility Act in BC.

ACTION ITEM: Provide the Accessible Organizations Project Presentation to all delegates.

24. PLENARY SESSION – PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE MINISTER OF HOUSING ADDRESS

NCLGA 1st Vice-President, Sheila Boehm, introduced guest speaker, Roly Russell, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development to the Minister of Housing who addressed the delegates about Rural Development and Emergency Management.

25. PLENARY SESSION – MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS ADDRESS

NCLGA President Forseth introduced guest speaker, the Hon. Minister Anne Kang, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, who provided the Minister's address to delegates. Minister Kang highlighted the rapid growth and development in the north, spoke about the Ministry's partnership with the NDIT, and the recent announcement of ten new health projects through the Northern Healthy Communities Fund. Minister Kang spoke to the rapid migration of people to northern communities, and housing challenges arising and highlighted the Province's new Homes for People Action Plan. Referencing ageing infrastructure, Minister Kang explained that the Growing Communities Fund and Critical Infrastructure Fund are geared towards helping local governments address infrastructure needs, and provided examples of recent initiatives in northern communities. Regarding UNDRIP, Minister Kang thanked local governments for working together to build relationships with Indigenous communities and to advance principles of reconciliation and fulfilling commitments to create inclusive local and regional governments. Minister Kang thanked elected officials for dedicating their time to learn and lead in their communities and encouraged delegates to reconnect at the 2023 UBCM Convention.

26. CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE 68TH ANNUAL NCLGA AGM

NCLGA President Forseth provided closing comments, thanked all sponsors, NCLGA staff, the host communities and host communities staff, the Event Planner and the NCLGA Organizing Committee members following which the draw/prize winners were announced.

MOVED/SECONDED THAT the 68th Annual North Central Local Government Association Annual General Meeting held from May 10-12, 2023 be ADJOURNED at 11:00 am on May 12, 2023.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Note: This was not done as in the prior year?

NCLGA President Forseth formally introduced the NCLGA Board for the 2023/2024 term as follows:

- **Past President:** Steve Forseth, Area D Director, Cariboo Regional District
- **President:** Sheila Boehm, Councillor, City of Williams Lake
- **First Vice-President:** Judy Greenaway, Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- **Second Vice-President:** Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers
- **Director at Large:** Jerilynn Kirk, Director, Fraser-Fort George Regional District
- **Director at Large:** Michael Moses, Councillor, City of Williams Lake
- **Director at Large:** Tony Zabinsky, Councillor, City of Fort St. John
- **Regional Representatives:**
 - Dannielle Alan – Fraser-Fort George Regional District
 - Betty Anderson – Cariboo Regional District
 - Barry Cunningham – North Coast Regional District
 - Lorraine Gerwing – Northern Rockies Regional District
 - Julie Matiland – Regional District of Kitimat Stikine
 - Sarrah Storey – Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

ADOPTED