

# 2018 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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**(1) TITLE: Community Gaming Grant Funded by eGaming Revenues**

**SPONSOR: District of Lillooet**

WHEREAS the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC), pursuant to its Corporate Social Responsibility Charter, was created to benefit the lives of British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS according to the 2016/17 BCLC Annual Service Plan Report the provision of gambling services through traditional channels such as casinos and community gaming facilities is maturing and close to meeting existing market demand while eGaming business performance was very strong with double digit growth in revenue;

AND WHEREAS host local governments received \$95.8 million and non-profit community organizations received a further \$134.8 million from gambling revenue in fiscal year 2014/15;

AND WHEREAS small communities are unlikely to be host local governments and have proportionally fewer non-profit community organizations that may not have the sophistication to apply for community gaming grants creating a structural inequality between large urban communities and small rural communities with respect to the sharing of gambling revenues;

AND WHEREAS eGaming is an activity engaged in province wide and not restricted by geography:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province of British Columbia be encouraged to establish a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support communities with populations of less than 25,000 to be funded from BCLC eGaming revenues.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to establish a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support non-host communities with populations of less than 25,000 to be funded from BCLC eGaming revenues.*

*The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B100, requesting the province increase the percentage return from gaming revenues to host local governments. At that time, the provincial response identified that profits from eGaming made up only 1.5 % of BCLC's total net income in 2012/2013.*

**(2) TITLE: Provincial Funding for Volunteer Fire Departments**

**SPONSOR: Thompson-Nicola RD**

WHEREAS volunteer fire departments provide emergency firefighting response services to communities throughout British Columbia while struggling to meet the increasing costs driven by expanded regulations and compliance requirements, increasing demand for services and changes in the legal environment;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC does not contribute directly to the delivery of fire services by local volunteer fire departments making service delivery very challenging for small fire departments and communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia set up a program to provide ongoing funding to all volunteer fire departments to assist in the annual operating costs associated with purchase and maintenance of capital infrastructure and equipment, training, and administration of the fire service.

**SILGA Recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting the Province to establish a program to provide ongoing funding to volunteer fire departments.*

*UBCM membership has recently endorsed several resolutions requesting provincial and/or federal funding for fire equipment and services, including 2017-B61 and 2015-B3.*

*Endorsed resolution 2017-B61 requested the provincial government establish grants for emergency vehicles and equipment, and make them available to local governments at a cost share of no less than 50-50. In response, the provincial government discussed current funding opportunities available to local governments, as well as the newly created Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.*

**(3) TITLE: Mutual Aid Agreements Between Regional/Local Fire Departments & BC Emergency Health Services**

**SPONSOR: Village of Lumby**

WHEREAS British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) is the sole ambulance service and provider of pre-hospital emergency care in the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia Ambulance Service is managed by British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and falls under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA);

AND WHEREAS local or regional fire departments are funded by local governments who have limited financial resources;

AND WHEREAS calls from BC Ambulance for assistance have increased over the years and come at a cost to local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Emergency Health Services initiate and enter into mutual aid agreements with paid on call regional/local fire service authorities so that each party can be fairly compensated when called upon for support.

**SILGA Recommendation: no recommendation**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*While the UBCM membership has not previously requested mutual aid agreements with paid on-call regional/local fire service authorities, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking compensation for local government provision of first response services (2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26, 2001-B4, 1999-B7, 1995-B74, 1994-B16).*

*In response to resolution 2014-A2, the Province advised that participation in the First Responder program is voluntary, and that some municipalities have chosen to have first responders continue to attend both urgent and routine (non-emergency) calls, but others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.*

*The Province noted that BC Emergency Health Services has several working groups in place that were created to help resolve concerns that may arise for first responders with respect to the services they provide. They also provide reimbursement for initial training costs for new first responder agencies, as well as reimbursement for all medical supplies for first responder agencies serving small communities (under 25,000).*

#### **(4) TITLE: Transportation Equity**

**SPONSOR: City of Vernon**

WHEREAS a range of transportation options should be available to all British Columbians—including those who live in smaller communities, as well as children, older adults, people of diverse abilities, non-drivers, and people with low incomes;

AND WHEREAS providing world class transit and active transportation options throughout BC will greatly facilitate access to education, employment, shopping, health services, recreation, culture, and social connections by a diversity of British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Interior Local Government Association urge the Province of British Columbia to ensure transportation funding is allocated more equitably across the province recognizing the infrastructure deficits for pedestrian, cycling and transit modes as well as recognizing limitations faced by rural, remote, geographically isolated and small communities, as outlined in the Communities on the Move Declaration.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks the Province to ensure transportation funding is allocated more equitably across the Province.*

*However, the membership has sought a public transportation strategy with solutions leading to the sustainability of public transit in all rural communities (2017-B8); funding for local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities (2015-B9); and provincial funding for cycling infrastructure (2012-B63).*

*Additionally, the membership has endorsed resolutions that ask the Province to:*

- *provide provincial assistance with the development of bicycle and walkway projects within a municipal system (1991-B54);*
- *establish of highway shoulders when highway upgrading projects are undertaken near communities to promote walking and cycling (2006-B140, 2007-B14, 2007-B99);*
- *fund commuter highways for non-greenhouse gas emitting transportation (2006-B110);*
- *fund sweeping of road shoulders and cycle lanes in order to remove gravel and debris and thus create safer cycling (2008-B108);*
- *fund improvements to major roads that intersect the provincial highway system, including improvements related to capacity increases as well as pedestrian and cycling facilities associated with those roadways (2009-B83); and*
- *undertake a BC Cycling Development Program (2010-B17).*

*The Resolutions Committee would suggest removing the reference to Communities on the Move in the enactment clause.*

**(5) TITLE: Transportation Services**

**SPONSOR: RD of Okanagan-Similkameen**

WHEREAS the availability of transportation services provided to many small, rural and remote communities across BC has declined;

AND WHEREAS there exists a need for a socially-mandated intercity bus transportation program to provide essential transportation services for small, rural and remote citizens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government initiate a “Connecting Communities Fund”, made available to eligible municipalities, to address significant transportation challenges for citizens and taxpayers who reside in small, rural or remote communities with a view of providing them with access to transportation hubs located on primary transportation corridors.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution to initiate a fund to address significant transportation challenges for those living in small, rural or remote communities to provide them with access to transportation hubs on primary transportation corridors.*

*However, membership has endorsed resolution 2015-B9, calling for adequate funding to support local and intercommunity transportation in rural communities.*

*In addition, membership has endorsed wide-ranging resolutions aimed at improving transportation infrastructure in rural and remote areas, including:*

- 2009-B15, 2012-B38 and 2014-B9 requesting supports for medical transport;*
- 2012-B115, 2013-B15 and 2017-B8 addressing public transportation and taxis in rural communities; and*
- 2007-B15, 2008-B17, 2009-B16 and 2014-B54, calling for funding and improvements to rural roads and highways.*

*See also Resolution (4) TITLE: Transportation Equity.*

**(6) TITLE: Information Technology Security Program & Funding**

**SPONSOR: City of Penticton**

WHEREAS local government has become reliant on use of information technologies including the Internet, wireless technology and smart devices to advance communications and citizen services and create operational efficiencies;

AND WHEREAS protection of privacy and security of digital and physical assets and services is critical to local government in a situation where rapidly evolving technology poses significant risk of theft and damage to hardware, software and information:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia establish a program that supports local government and provides grant resources for information technology security audits and information technology security system upgrades.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the province to provide grant resources to information technology. The sponsor has provided the following background information:*

*Every online connection is associated with security risk, and as the City's use of technology advances, the risks increase. To provide fundamental services such as water, sewer and electricity the City relies on information technologies to efficiently manage and maintain them. On top of this, the City hold records with personal information that we are required by law to protect.*

*Given the potential damage that could result from a security breach, local governments need to conduct security audits to mitigate risk. Security audits are costly and the risk remediation identified is urgent and can be very costly, well beyond an annual budget allocation.*

*The province has recently taken the initiative, through the Corporate Supply Arrangement, to identify service providers for public sector entities for:*

- *Incident handling*
- *Incident response*
- *Digital forensics*
- *Data recovery*
- *Vulnerability assessment*
- *Penetration testing*

*Identifying resources is helpful, however, monetary assistance may be necessary. A provincial grant program to assist with IT security audits and critical remediation is imperative to safeguarding our citizen's assets and services.*

**(7) TITLE: Cannabis Tax Revenue Sharing Model**

**SPONSOR: City of West Kelowna/Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS legalization of recreational cannabis sales is occurring in 2018 in Canada and the federal government has committed to sharing tax revenues collected as a result of those sales with provincial governments;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia will create its own framework model including the role of local governments leading to additional resources needed to regulate land use, to monitor businesses and respond to bylaw issues, and for RCMP and fire department resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the provincial government to establish a revenue sharing ratio of fifty per cent of the tax revenues received from cannabis sales with local governments.

**SILGA recommendation: no recommendation**

**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.*

**(8) TITLE: BC Conservation Officer Service**

**SPONSOR: Town of Princeton**

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for managing conservation service, with underfunding having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service has not been able to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, off road vehicle enforcement, illegal dumping, human wildlife conflicts prevention, or respond to wildlife human conflict:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be required to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing conservation services.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to adequately fund and staff the BC Conservation Office Service (2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2012-B21, 2012-B22).*

*The sponsor submitted a similar resolution in 2017, which was endorsed by the membership. Resolution 2017-B29 asked the government to adequately fund and staff the BC Conservation Service to provide public education and partnerships with local communities, deliver awareness training to the RCMP and municipal forces and review their risk assessment models and call centre response criteria.*

*In response to this resolution, the Province advised that they are committed to hiring additional conservation officers, and that funding for this would be confirmed in the February 2017 budget.*

**(9) TITLE: Medicines for Life-threatening Conditions**

**SPONSOR: RD of Okanagan-Similkameen**

WHEREAS thousands of British Columbia residents face life-threatening conditions which can trigger imminent death if not treated immediately, such as allergic reactions, asthma and type 1 diabetes, creating a hardship for many families that must choose between meeting their basic needs and paying for these lifesaving medications;

AND WHEREAS Naloxone and other drug overdose reversing medications are covered free of charge by the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government develop an equitable system that would make available, free of charge, all medications which could halt immediate death.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province make available, free of charge, all medications which could halt immediate death.*

*The membership did, however, endorse resolution 2016-B122 which asks the provincial and federal governments to develop and implement a national pharmacare program to improve the health outcomes of citizens, ensure fairness in access to medicine, and provide for greater efficiency and effectiveness in Canada's health care system.*

**(10) TITLE: Emergency Management Incident Commander**

**SPONSOR: Village of Lumby**

WHEREAS Emergency Management BC is the Province of BC's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including training, testing and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness;

AND WHEREAS Emergency Management BC works in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-governmental organizations and volunteers during emergency response efforts;

AND WHEREAS local governments with a population under 5,000 people, make up more than half of the 162 municipalities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS local governments with a population under 5,000 often do not have the capacity during an emergency event to coordinate with Emergency Management BC and also cannot afford to incur a financial obligation that is later disputed and not reimbursed though the Provincial Emergency Program administered by Emergency Management BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Emergency Management BC make available to small, micro communities with populations under 5,000, Provincial Incident Commander(s) to make the critical on-site decisions during emergency events.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting Emergency Management BC make Provincial Incident Commanders available to communities under 5,000 in population for the purpose of making decisions during emergency events.*

*UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions requesting provincial assistance with the provision of emergency services, including 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B78, 2015-B77, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-B44, and 2013-A1.*

*Endorsed resolution 2017-B86 requested the Province increase its share of emergency recover costs to 90%, with local governments paying the remaining 10%. In response, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General the funding already available to local governments through the current cost-sharing model, as well as ongoing disaster mitigation reviews.*

*In 2016, as part of the provincial review of the Emergency Program Act, UBCM made a submission to Emergency Management BC (EMBC). UBCM's submission outlined feedback provided by BC local governments, while also providing recommendations for consideration. Recommendations included the need for further local government consultation; caution against the transfer of additional responsibilities to local governments; and, a desire to maintain the current level of local government authority. It is unknown whether the current provincial government plans to continue this review.*

**(11) TITLE: Ongoing Provincial Funding for First Nations Reconciliation & Relationship Building**

**SPONSOR: Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS current provincial programs offer some financial assistance to advance reconciliation and relationship building efforts, they generally support “one off” events as opposed to more systemic and sustained engagement efforts;

AND WHEREAS funding under such provincial programs is far less than the actual cost of convening multi-party collaborative processes, resulting in the contribution of funding by local governments;

AND WHEREAS funding under such provincial programs is not stable, on-going funding and results in large amounts of staff time to apply for these programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia develop stable, ongoing funding programs with systemic, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to assist with First Nations reconciliation and relationship building efforts.

**SILGA recommendation: no recommendation**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution for the province to develop stable, ongoing funding programs to assist with First Nations reconciliation and relationship building efforts.*

*Membership has endorsed resolutions to support local government - First Nation dialogue in specific contexts:*

- *resolutions calling for inclusion of local governments within Strategic Engagement Agreements between the province and First Nations groups (2009-B143, 2012-B32); and*
- *funding for Treaty Advisory Committees (2011-A7).*

*Note that since 1999, both the Province and Federal Governments have provided funding in most years for the Community to Community Forum program administered by UBCM. This program supports the convening of meetings between First Nations and local governments to discuss common goals and opportunities for joint action.*

**(12) TITLE: Local Police Services – Amendments to Service**

**SPONSOR: City of Vernon/City of Penticton**

WHEREAS the Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) is intended to be a “forum for consultation, analysis and communication between local government and the Province regarding the management of the Municipal Police Unit Agreement;”

AND WHEREAS the LGCMC is to “receive and disseminate information to local governments about issues that may impact the cost, quality, governance or capacity of the RCMP to deliver local police services;”

AND WHEREAS the LGCMC is to “consider changes proposed by the Province, the Federal Government and/or the RCMP in relation to any aspect of the delivery of local government police services;”

AND WHEREAS the RCMP British Columbia (“E”) Division consistently makes unilateral changes to the costs and delivery means of police services for local governments, with little or no consultation and clearly without advising the LGCMC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM appeal to the Solicitor General to require the RCMP “E” Division to provide one calendar year notice to local governments when there will be a change in means of service delivery that will have a substantial budget impact greater than 0.5% of the total RCMP Service Contract to the local government beyond historical costs.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that the RCMP “E” Division provide one calendar year notice to local governments for any changes to service delivery that have a budget impact of greater than 0.5% of the total RCMP contract to local governments.*

*UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-SR1, RCMP Police Costs & Accountability, requesting, among other things, “the need for increased accountability for the RCMP” with respect to the increasing cost of police services. In response to this resolution, the provincial government indicated support, while the federal government noted the cost pressure on all orders of government as a result of increasing policing costs, and the need to address accountability in upcoming RCMP contract renewal discussions.*

*The RCMP Local Government Contract Management Committee (LGCMC) has repeatedly raised the issue of RCMP accountability with respect to consultation, service delivery, and increasing costs, among other issues. Most recently, UBCM was not meaningfully consulted during the process to amend the Auxiliary Program, despite requests to be included as a primary stakeholder.*

**(13) TITLE: Business Licensing**

**SPONSOR: RD of North Okanagan**

WHEREAS regional districts do not have business licensing powers;

AND WHEREAS it is imperative to regulate and manage businesses to enhance economic development, fire fighter safety and community planning within electoral areas of regional districts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be requested to recommend an amendment to the *Local Government Act* to provide business licensing powers to regional districts.

**SILGA Recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution C4 in 1992, which asked the Province to amend the then-Municipal Act to grant business licensing powers to regional districts.*

*The Province responded by stating that regional districts can request the service as an extended service, so it is at the discretion of the regional district. Regional districts continue to have this ability today.*

*It is not clear whether the sponsor is seeking to require all regional districts to take on the licensing of business. The Committee is concerned that the resolution makes a blanket request on behalf of all regional districts, some of which may have deliberately decided not to take on this service within their regional district.*

**(14) TITLE: Business Case for a Provincial Police Force**

**SPONSOR: City of West Kelowna**

WHEREAS local governments contract with the Province of BC for law enforcement services using the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP);

AND WHEREAS the current arrangement has resulted in escalating contract costs, unanticipated budget requests, lack of local priority setting and unbalanced municipal to provincial integrated unit ratios and is no longer a sustainable or affordable solution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call on the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to undertake a business case for a BC provincial police force.

**SILGA recommendation: no recommendation**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that the provincial government undertake a business case examining the option of a provincial police force.*

*UBCM membership has not previously endorsed resolutions related to the idea of a provincial police force, but has endorsed resolution 2013-B89, which requested that the Police Act be amended to allow for another more affordable tier of policing in addition to RCMP policing.*

**(15) TITLE: Fibre Optic Infrastructure Funding**

**SPONSOR: Village of Keremeos**

WHEREAS many small and rural communities lack the financial resources to invest in the infrastructure to provide fibre optics;

AND WHEREAS fibre optic infrastructure is increasingly necessary to provide advanced technology in community-sustaining sectors such as business development, health, education, government, and emergency response management:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province to provide funding programs that enable small and rural communities to invest in fibre optic infrastructure.

**SILGA Recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently supported resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of broadband internet service for all communities in BC (2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).*

*Members also endorsed resolution 2005-B160, which called on the federal government to cease plans for termination of the Community Access Program (CAP) and its ongoing support for public internet access and training through library and community networks. And in 2012, B49 was endorsed calling for the reinstatement of federal funding to CAP.*

**(16) TITLE: Expanding the Definition of Utility to Include Telecommunications**

**SPONSOR: Squamish-Lillooet RD**

WHEREAS the federal government, through the Connecting Canadians program, has the goal of providing high speed Internet to an additional 280,000 underserved Canadians by 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has the goal of 100% of its residents having access to high-speed Internet services by the end of 2021;

AND WHEREAS when approached by local Internet providers for assistance with capital costs associated with expanding their Internet services to underserved communities, local governments are constrained by the statutory prohibition on providing assistance to industrial, commercial or business undertakings (section 273 of the *Local Government Act*);

AND WHEREAS local governments wish to have the flexibility to consider providing capital funding to initiatives that support the development of high speed Internet and cell coverage across their regions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia consider an amendment/update of Section 275 of the *Local Government Act* so as to specifically list telecommunications (i.e. internet, broadband, cellular) as a utility for which a regional district may operate the service of providing capital financing.

**SILGA recommendation: no recommendation**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*Refer to Resolution (17) TITLE: Exception to the Prohibition Against Assistance to Broadband Service Providers.*

**(17) TITLE: Exception to the Prohibition Against Assistance to Broadband Service Providers**

**SPONSOR: District of Lillooet**

WHEREAS a purpose of the *Community Charter* is to provide municipalities and their councils with the authority and discretion to address existing and future community needs and the flexibility to determine the public interest and to respond to the different needs and changing circumstances of their communities;

AND WHEREAS the availability of high speed broadband service has become critical to economic development, education and communication, and has recently been declared a ‘basic’ service by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

AND WHEREAS there may not be a viable business case for a commercial or business undertaking to provide high speed broadband service to a community; and in particular, to rural communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be encouraged to amend the *Community Charter* to create an exception to the general prohibition against assistance to permit municipalities to operate the service of providing capital financing for services provided by a broadband service provider.

**SILGA recommendation: no recommendation**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee notes that a similar resolution was endorsed in 2010-B72 which asked UBCM to “petition the provincial government to amend Section 797.1(3) of the Local Government Act by adding broadband as a service for which capital financing can be provided.”*

*In its response the Province indicated it was awaiting a more detailed proposal from the CAOs and Chairs Forum but that it was willing to engage in further discussions.*

*In 2017, B37 was endorsed referencing the request but asking to amend “Section 275 of the Local Government Act by adding broadband as a service for which capital financing can be provided.” Ministry staff have advised that they are willing to consider the request.*

*The Committee notes that members have also endorsed a number of resolutions calling on the federal government, provincial government, and industry to ensure that every community in BC has access to broadband service, in order to develop economic growth opportunities (2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35).*

**(18) TITLE: Commitment to Road Safety**

**SPONSOR: City of Vernon**

WHEREAS the design and rules of the road should ensure that all British Columbians can arrive at their destination safely and recognizing that traffic fatalities and serious injuries are preventable;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has the goal of having the safest roads in North America by 2020:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern Interior Local Government Association urge the Province of British Columbia to prioritize safety measures for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and those in wheelchairs and mobility devices as outlined in the Communities on the Move Declaration.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM membership has consistently supported resolutions on improving road safety (2017-B90, 2016-B10, 2015-B12, 2015-B10, 2012-B63, 2009-B64, 2008-B108, 2007-B14, 2007-B102), including those focused on vulnerable road users (2013-B91, 2015-B103), and calling for continued funding for road safety (2007-B80).*

*The Committee would however recommend removal of the reference to the Communities on the Move Declaration in the enactment clause.*

**(19) TITLE: Allowable Parkland Uses of Development Cost Charge Reserve Funds**

**SPONSOR: City of West Kelowna**

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* legislates the manner in which local governments may collect, hold and use development cost charges (DCCs) for the capital costs of parkland;

AND WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* permits the use of DCC money for landscaping on parkland, allowing for the construction of playing fields including such items as levelling ground, planting grass and other plant material, the legislation does not contemplate different forms of playing field surfaces such as manufactured surfaces and artificial turf which promotes water conservation, is environmentally friendly, and requires less maintenance:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to broaden the allowable uses of development cost charge reserve funds to include alternate recreation and field surfaces.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B23, which called on the provincial government to amend Section 935.3(b)(ii) of the Local Government Act (now Part 14-Division 19) to include synthetic turf fields. The UBCM membership also endorsed 2016-SR1 whereby it was resolved that UBCM continue to work collaboratively through the Province's Development Finance Review Committee to seek changes to the existing development finance system that will address the present challenges facing local governments*

*In response to 2010-B23, the provincial government identified that development cost charges (DCCs) are based on the principle of 'user pay' – the cost of the infrastructure should be paid by those who utilize and benefit from it. The province stated that upgrading these facilities beyond basic improvements provides a benefit to the wider community, and should be shared by all property owners. In response to 2016-SR1, it was stated that the province will continue to work collaboratively on issues of development finance with local governments and the broader development community.*

*The UBCM Resolutions Committee notes that there are new and emerging challenges in providing services needed to accommodate development and growth. Alternative and/or innovative ways to address the development-related demands on infrastructure and service requirements should and are now being considered. As an example, water conservation infrastructure has recently been considered as a DCC capital expense in lieu of traditional drinking water DCC infrastructure to increase development related demand. Similarly, improvements like artificial turf (and lights) can have the same outcome as the creation of an additional park by increasing the usability (more hours per day and longer season) while having the further benefits of reduced operation, maintenance and water conservation.*

**(20) TITLE: Customer-supplied Containers for Residential Recycling**

**SPONSOR: RD of Okanagan-Similkameen**

WHEREAS rural areas within the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen have unique challenges associated with curbside collection of recyclable materials including many long rural driveways, concerns of animals getting into unsecured materials and higher than average senior population;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen has determined that the use of clear bags and other customer supplied containers allows for the most efficient collection of residential recycling in their existing collection areas by increasing ease of use, increasing the volume of materials collected, reducing total program costs, reducing contamination as compared to cart collection, limiting windblown litter and protecting recycling from rain and snow;

AND WHEREAS RecycleBC intends to require that all participating local governments ban the use of clear bags and other customer supplied containers for their residential recycling by July 2020:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment intervene with RecycleBC in allowing clear bags and other customer supplied containers to remain an option for existing local government collection programs.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*The Resolution Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that Recycle BC allow clear bags and other customer supplied containers to remain an option for existing local government collection programs.*

**(21) TITLE: Resourcing Collaborative Planning on Provincial Crown Land**

**SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS cumulative development pressures and conflicts on provincial Crown land continue to escalate in a context of outdated land use management plans, most of which have not been updated for approximately 15 or more years;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has recently stated its intent to modernize land-use planning and sustainable management of BC ecosystems in collaboration with stakeholders:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development be urged to take a leadership role and immediately provide sufficient funding and resources to enable effective, community-based, collaborative land use planning for Crown land which includes First Nations, local governments, provincial government agencies, industry sectors, interest groups, and local residents.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that requests for community-based, collaborative land use planning have been consistently endorsed by UBCM members.*

*Recently, UBCM members have asked the Province to provide resources to complete LRMPs for the entire province (2003-B24). The membership has also sought better consultation and engagement with the Province and industry on activities that affect the land base (i.e. forestry, mining, IPP projects and aquaculture) and have the potential to impact community watersheds (2017-B31, 2017-B114, 2014-B88, 2013-B80, 2010-B94, 2009-B138, 2008-B38, 2003-B88).*

*Earlier in 1992, members endorsed B48 requesting the Province “to develop a comprehensive land use plan to manage all provincial lands, with this planning to allow public involvement at the local, regional and provincial levels.” In 1992, the Province responded noting the establishment of the Commission on Resources and Environment (CORE) process; which later led to the development of the Land and Resource Management Planning LRMP) process.*

*In 1989 member endorsed A12 that requested the Province “to develop a comprehensive land use strategy for the province of British Columbia involving a review of Crown and private lands in order to protect energy, forestry, tourism, water quality and community watersheds, and other sustainable values, and that for lands within a local government’s boundaries, the local government be involved in developing the land use strategy.” The Province at that time referred the matter to the Roundtable on Environment and the Economy.*

**(22) TITLE: Active Transportation Corridors & Greenway Plans – Highway Projects**

**SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap RD**

WHEREAS it is believed that adding active transportation corridor and greenway plans into all current and future highway projects would greatly benefit communities, residents and visitors as the corridors can be used for non-motorized forms of transportation or recreation such as cycling and walking;

AND WHEREAS pre-planning of highway and bridge designs that incorporate bike lanes and sufficient road rights-of-way for paved shoulders, sidewalks, or pathways can:

- (1) allow for the safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists, and improve public safety;
- (2) provide opportunities for more physical activity, and social and health benefits; and
- (3) be more cost effective than adding this type of infrastructure afterwards:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure incorporate active transportation corridors and greenway plans into all future highway planning projects.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

***UBCM COMMENTS:***

*Refer to Resolution (23) TITLE: Active Transportation Corridors in Current & Future Highways Projects.*

**(23) TITLE: Active Transportation Corridors in Current & Future Highways Projects**

**SPONSOR: Village of Chase**

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and local governments continually encourage people of all ages to be more physically active;

AND WHEREAS the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) promotes active transportation and healthy living by encouraging cycling, and contributing funds to cycling infrastructure projects such as bike lanes, separated bike paths, shared roadways, shoulder bikeways, and bicycle/pedestrian overpasses;

AND WHEREAS the 2017/2018-2019/2020 MOTI Service Plan includes a commitment to make life more affordable for British Columbians, and to build a strong, sustainable, innovative economy that works for everyone:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure be compelled to retain and improve existing active transportation corridors and incorporate new active transportation corridors into all current and future highways projects.

**SILGA recommendation: endorse**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM Membership has not previously considered a resolution to retain and improve existing active transportation corridors and incorporate new active transportation corridors into all current and future highways projects.*

*Membership has however endorsed many similar resolutions that are less comprehensive in scope, including those calling for:*

- *bike lanes where possible (2006-B140);*
- *bike lanes on numbered highways (2007-B99);*
- *increased shoulder width of highways (2010-B16);*
- *priority for bicycle lanes within regional districts limited by a single highway (2016-B9); and*
- *refurbished shoulders for safe travel by pedestrians and cyclists adjacent to communities (2007-B14).*

*Members have also endorsed Resolution 2016-B57, requesting that regional governments have the option of participating in the planning and development of regional walking and cycling networks and infrastructure within Ministry road rights-of-way. Resolution 2013-B66 was endorsed requesting that permit conditions for construction and maintenance do not create a deterrent to local governments wishing to expand active transportation networks.*

*See also Resolution (23) TITLE: Active Transportation Corridors in Current & Future Highways Projects.*

**(24) TITLE: Three-year Civic Term of Office**

**SPONSOR: Village of Lytton**

WHEREAS the term of office was increased to a four-year term at the last election cycle and membership was not united in that decision and in previous conventions had defeated such change;

AND WHEREAS the four-year term is viewed by many as a barrier to participation in that three years may be a more attractive time commitment for candidates especially in smaller and rural communities and a four-year term provides electors less opportunity to express opinion on the performance of their local elected officials:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the provincial government to return the interval between civic elections to three years.

**SILGA Recommendation: no recommendation**

**UBCM COMMENTS:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2013-B94 requesting that the term of office be extended to four years, and that legislation be passed to do so in time for the 2014 election.*

*In response to the 2013 resolution, the Province brought forward legislation in March 2014 to implement four year terms, effective for the 2014 local elections.*

*Prior to 2013, the UBCM members' position on terms of office changed over the years. Members considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2010-A2, which called on the provincial government to extend the term of office for local government elected officials to four years. In 2007 members endorsed resolution B95, which requested the provincial government to "increase the interval between civic elections from three years to four years." However, in the previous year, 2006, members considered resolution A9 with the same wording, but did not endorse the resolution.*