

SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on
May 2nd and 3rd 2019 in Penticton BC

1. Call to Order

President Shelley Sim called the meeting to order at 8:20 am on May 2, 2019.

2. President's Report

President Sim thanked the current executive and host committee for their hard work and dedication. She welcomed the returning delegates along with the new locally elected officials and hoped that they will be able to "reach higher" to make a difference in their communities. Shared advocacy, connections and networking make issues or problems easier – together we are stronger.

Last year SILGA addressed issues around "state of emergency", mental health, the struggle of rural communities to get infrastructure and the need for vigilance to continue to fight for more conservation officers.

She commented that SILGA is excited to bring to the convention the topics you are interested in – please enjoy these speakers and presenters and continue to let the executive know what the issues are in your community.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded by Ken Christian/Chad Eliason THAT:

The minutes of the April 26th and 27th, 2018 Annual General Meeting held in Revelstoke, BC be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Business Arising From the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Financial Report

Mario Piroddi from BDO Canada presented the Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2018. He commented that SILGA had a strong financial year in 2018 and had revenues \$20,000 higher than budgeted with expenses \$20,000 lower than budgeted. BDO Canada gave a clean report for SILGA as a not for profit association.

The 5 year plan was presented by Director Tim Lavery who commented that SILGA has an over reliance on convention revenues vis a vis membership dues.

Moved/Seconded by Rod Crowe/Judy Sentes THAT:

The Financial Statement and Statement of Activities of SILGA for the period ending December 31, 2018 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

6. Nomination Committee Report

Nomination Committee Chair Chad Eliason read out the nominations and after calling three times for nominations from the floor, the following results were announced for the 2019-20 term.

Table Officers:

President:	Lori Mindnich, Lumby (acclaimed)
First Vice-President	Karla Kozakevich, RDOS (acclaimed)
2 nd Vice-President	Toni Boot, Summerland (acclaimed)

For the 7 positions of Director at Large Past President Eliason read out the names recorded in the nomination package:

Councillor Debbie Cannon, Salmon Arm
Councillor Ruth Hoyte, Coldstream
Mayor Robin Smith, Logan Lake
Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm

Past President Eliason then asked for nominations from the floor:

Councillor Akbal Mund, Vernon
Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops
Councillor Judy Sentes, Penticton

Past President Eliason announced that the following will be Directors at Large for SILGA for the 2019/20 term. All acclaimed.

Councillor Debbie Cannon, Salmon Arm
Councillor Ruth Hoyte, Coldstream
Mayor Robin Smith, Logan Lake
Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm
Councillor Akbal Mund, Vernon
Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops
Councillor Judy Sentes, Penticton

7. Resolutions

Moved/Seconded by Tim Lavery/Christine Fraser THAT:

Lynda Shykora be appointed as the SILGA parliamentarian for the resolutions session.

CARRIED

(1) TITLE: FULL SOCIAL SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HOMELESS HOUSING

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

WHEREAS the Province through BC Housing has invested in creating housing for those individuals struggling with homelessness;

AND WHEREAS individuals experiencing homelessness are often in need of social services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province ensure all forms of social services (mental health services, addiction services, social assistance services, employment services, etc.) also referred to as “wrap-around services” are available to individuals housed in homeless housing at the housing site or within a short walking distance.

Carried

(2) TITLE: ADDITION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY FACILITIES AND BEDS

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

WHEREAS an opioid crisis has been identified in British Columbia, and addictions can also take many other forms such as alcohol and other drugs, with addictions being so detrimental to an individual’s health and well-being;

AND WHEREAS there are not enough Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation/Recovery Facilities and space available for those who are seeking help to combat addictions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province fund significantly more licensed rehabilitation facilities and beds in every municipality to enable all those who seek assistance in recovering from addictions an opportunity to beat addictions.

Carried

(3) TITLE: FUNDING FOR DESIGN OF CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE (BIKE LANES) FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

WHEREAS the Province of BC is cost sharing cycling infrastructure projects with local government through our BikeBC program to encourage healthy living and to help address climate change;

AND WHEREAS prior to building cycling infrastructure, such as bike lanes, it is necessary to conduct a design stage that can be a very expensive endeavor:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province cost share not only cycling infrastructure but also the design of the infrastructure, especially as it relates to bike lanes.

Carried

(4) TITLE: Health Authority Asset Management Plans

SPONSOR: Township of Spallumcheen

WHEREAS accurate planning for our future healthcare needs is critical and the Ministry of Health is fiscally responsible to all British Columbians:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health undertake asset management plans for all of the health authorities in the province.

Carried

(5) TITLE: GAS TAX FUNDING FOR VOLUNTEER OR PAID ON-CALL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

WHEREAS volunteer or paid on-call fire departments provide emergency firefighting response services to rural communities throughout British Columbia while struggling to meet the increasing costs driven by expanded regulations to meet provincial, federal and insurance requirements;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia does not contribute directly to the delivery of emergency firefighting response services by volunteer fire departments resulting in service delivery challenges for fire departments in rural communities where costs are attributable to the citizens of that area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the RDOS Board request the Province of British Columbia to utilize gas tax funding for volunteer or paid on-call fire departments to assist with annual operating costs associated with purchase and maintenance of capital infrastructure and equipment, training, and the administration of the emergency firefighting response services.

Carried

(6) TITLE: RURAL LIBRARY FUNDING

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

WHEREAS the allocation of provincial funding grants for regional and municipal libraries is based on a formula of half the converted value of land and improvements, and half the population of the service area;

AND WHEREAS in rural areas with low population and lower land values this formula results in insufficient funding and hardship to the residents who are more dependent on library services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the provincial government to implement a Rural Libraries Fund due to the current funding formula not working effectively for libraries in rural areas with a population of less than 5,000.

Carried

(7) TITLE: SHORT TERM RENTALS ASSESSMENT CLASSIFICATION

SPONSOR: Thompson Nicola Regional District

WHEREAS a dwelling unit that is used as a commercial enterprise for short term rentals and does not serve as the primary residence for the owner, a manager or other person;

AND WHEREAS tourist overnight accommodation uses such as motels, hotels, and resorts are classed and taxed as businesses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a dwelling unit, typically a detached dwelling, offered and used as a whole for short term rentals be assigned the appropriate tax class and be redefined as “Class 6: Business and Other”;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT where the property is offered, be it only seasonally, as a whole (rather than as a Bed & Breakfast with a permanent resident) this be in respect of the property as a whole rather than be limited to a portion or a split assessment between Class 1 and 6.

Carried

(8) TITLE: GAS PRICES

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has the highest retail fuel prices in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the entire Okanagan and Shuswap region depends on the tourism industry to support our businesses and local economies;

AND WHEREAS the District of Sicamous has researched the cost of fuel across Canada, finding when combined, the excise taxes (\$0.10 per litre), the provincial taxes (\$0.13-\$0.15 per litre), and the carbon taxes (\$0.0778 per litre and \$0.0673 per litre respectively), the difference between BC and Alberta is ONLY approx. \$0.025/litre;

AND WHEREAS at the pump the average retail fuel cost in BC is \$1.24/litre. The average retail fuel cost in Alberta is \$0.94/litre. That’s a difference of \$0.30/litre:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to regulate fuel costs in BC to better be in line with the fuel costs across Canada.

Proposed Amendment

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in the interests of full transparency UBCM petition the Province to require public disclosure of all taxes included in fuel costs on a regular basis, including Vancouver and Victoria.

Vote on Motion as Amended

Carried

Vote on resolution as amended

Carried

(9) TITLE: RECOUPING LOSSES FROM REDUCED ALR TAXATION

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

WHEREAS the provincial government requires property taxes on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) to be a fraction of what they would be if they were taxed at market value;

AND WHEREAS maintaining infrastructure to agricultural land is disproportionately expensive to local governments because of the distances between parcels;

AND WHEREAS the cost of the provincial priorities of preserving farm land and reduced taxation of land in the ALR puts an unfair burden on the taxpayers of the non-agricultural lands communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government provide funding in lieu of the reduced taxation from ALR land to local governments proportionate to the amount of ALR land in their communities.

Defeated

(10) TITLE: BUILDING ACT – INNOVATION COMMITMENT

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

WHEREAS the *Building Act* includes a provincial commitment to innovation that supports local governments and other local authorities through the implementation of a provincial review process to evaluate innovative building proposals;

AND WHEREAS the complexity of building design, new products and expansion of the Codes have challenged local governments to provide a level of consistency, interpretation and alternate solution reviews without adequate Provincial support;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province fulfill its commitment under the *Building Act* to provide adequate staffing to support the consistency, competency of code interpretation and efficiencies to deal with innovations within the building industry.

Carried

(11) TITLE: PROACTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF BUILDING OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia passed the new *Building Act* (the “ACT”) in 2015 and mandatory certification requirements for Building Officials come into effect in March 2021;

AND WHEREAS the ACT requires that a Level 3 certification will be required for Building Officials for the review and permitting of all complex projects;

AND WHEREAS the Building Officials Association of British Columbia (BOABC) certification exams have

an average 41% failure rate due to the complexity of all certification exams and Level 3 takes a minimum of 4 years to obtain;

AND WHEREAS there is already a shortage of qualified Building Officials:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to work with Building Officials Association of British Columbia (BOABC) to ensure that enough Building Officials are certified and more candidates are attracted to the profession to meet the requirements of the Building Act, effective March 2021.

Carried

(12) TITLE: INSPECTION OF ROOMING HOUSES BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

WHEREAS landlords may open rooming houses and accommodate low income individuals;

AND WHEREAS landlords may take advantage of the vulnerable individuals they house:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Health (e.g. Interior Health) and Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction create policy and an inspection process to ensure the integrity of the rooming houses.

Carried

(13) TITLE: BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION

SPONSOR: Village of Lumby

WHEREAS the cost to remediate brownfields is quite onerous often costing more than the value of the property resulting in private property owners choosing to leave brownfields vacant/dormant to avoid these costs, leaving brownfields and contaminated sites a detriment to development and aesthetics in many communities;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial and Federal Governments have not provided the funds or the means to local governments to remediate brownfields:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the province to allow local governments to create a municipal taxation structure for brownfields that would allow local governments to increase taxation value on brownfields over time up to the equivalent value of the property in a remediated state to encourage property owners to make efforts to remediate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local governments be required to create a remediation reserve fund from the additional taxes collected for the purposes of remediation of brownfields whether publicly or privately owned.

Carried

(14) TITLE: CANNABIS PRODUCTION ODOUR PREVENTION

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

WHEREAS new federal legislation has legalized cannabis production and retail as of October 17, 2018 and that such legislation has left provincial and local governments with regulation gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS cannabis production operations cause disturbing odours that can create issues and breathing problems to those with respiratory vulnerability;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that legislation be created to require cannabis production operations to install filtration systems to prevent pervasive smells from these operations to disperse into surrounding communities.

Proposed Amendment

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that provincial legislation be created to enforce the federal regulation that cannabis operations install filtration systems to prevent pervasive odours from these operations from dispersing into surrounding communities.

Vote on motion as amended

Carried

Vote on resolution as amended

Carried

(15) TITLE: DRONE USAGE

SPONSOR: City of Salmon Arm

WHEREAS flying recreational drones is an increasingly popular hobby that can disturb and pose risks to wildlife in sensitive ecological areas and recreational drones are prohibited in Canada's national parks for similar reasons;

AND WHEREAS there are multiple stakeholders including federal and provincial agencies and complex regulations involved in drone usage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the federal and provincial governments collaborate to provide clarity and options for local governments in restricting the use of drones in local sensitive ecological areas.

Carried

(16) TITLE: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MITIGATION IN BC

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia passed the *Emergency Program Act* (the "ACT") in 1996; and,

WHEREAS the ACT requires local authorities, ministries, Crown corporations, and government agencies to develop plans and programs to prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters in

the province;

AND WHEREAS there is no acknowledgement of who is responsible to develop a proactive program to mitigate emergencies and disasters in the province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to add mitigation to its Emergency Management BC mandate.

Carried

(17) TITLE: DISASTER RESPONSE

SPONSOR: City of Vernon

WHEREAS many areas across the Province have suffered through a range of natural disasters that require the resources and response from all levels of government;

AND WHEREAS some natural disasters, such as flooding, can be reasonably predicted in advance of the actual disaster, and municipalities require Provincial and Federal approvals to mitigate potential impact:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM approach the Province of BC to ensure sufficient Provincial staff are in place to administer necessary permitting processes, and to work with local jurisdictions such that imminent disasters are mitigated in advance of potential loss of life and serious destruction of private and public property.

Carried

(18) TITLE: PROVINCIAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sponsor: City of Vernon

WHEREAS the wildfire burden to BC's society, economy and environment over the last decade can be measured in billions of dollars;

AND WHEREAS successive provincial governments have significantly underfunded mitigation programs;

AND WHEREAS the current wildfire management strategy is overly reliant on FireSmart, placing wildfire risk mitigation at the homeowner level while much of the land requiring treatment is government controlled;

AND WHEREAS the BC government inconsistently mitigates natural disasters:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM support lobbying the provincial government to support and implement changes to its wildfire mitigation practices to significantly fund Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels treatments, provide fire resilient communities and to maintain an effective wildfire response capability.

Carried

(19) TITLE: BACKCOUNTRY CLOSURES

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

WHEREAS many local governments and communities rely on backcountry industries (e.g. forestry, tourism) for economic stability and development, and at the same time, those local governments and communities care about sustaining and protecting the environment;

AND WHEREAS some communities find their backcountry areas closed to all users, based on reports and recommendations of higher levels of government, without notice to communities, first nations, regional & local governments as well as industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM work with the provincial and federal governments to ensure that there are no further closures of backcountry areas in BC, until and unless the local governments, stakeholders and communities are consulted on social and economic impacts, and a sustainable solution for both be considered.

Carried

(20) TITLE: “EVACUATION RE-ENTRY AUTHORIZATION” PROCESS AND DOCUMENT

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia enacted the Emergency Program Management Regulation (the REGULATION) under the authority of the *Emergency Program Act* (the “ACT”) in 1996, including amendments up to B.C. Reg. 200/98;

AND WHEREAS there is no standardized process or document provided by the Provincial Emergency Program for planning and authorizing re-entry into evacuated areas during emergencies to facilitate coordination and cooperation between local authorities, the government, government ministries, government corporations and government agencies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be requested to develop a process and standardized document for all local authorities and response agencies to utilize for authorizing re-entry into evacuated areas;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to incorporate the process and standardized document for authorizing re-entry into evacuated areas into future training and education materials supported by Emergency Management BC.

Carried

(21) TITLE: ONLINE VOTING

SPONSOR: Thompson Nicola Regional District

WHEREAS resolutions supporting legislative changes to allow for online voting in local government elections were endorsed at the 2011 and 2015 UBCM Conventions;

AND WHEREAS the Province's response in 2015 indicated that it is open to exploring the topic further with UBCM and specific local governments who are interested in implementing internet voting:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be lobbied to initiate legislative changes that would allow local governments to implement online voting for upcoming elections and assent voting opportunities.

Carried

(22) TITLE: PROVINCIAL COURT COSTS

SPONSOR: District of Barriere

WHEREAS the current formulas used to calculate provincial court costs awarded to the successful party appear not to reflect actual legal costs;

AND WHEREAS the party being taken to court does not have a choice in the matter other than to participate in litigation or settle on a matter;

AND WHEREAS some matters before the courts, such as a judicial review, are not covered by normal municipal insurance policies;

AND WHEREAS small municipalities do not have the capacity to pay for an extensive court case which can often include an appeal to a higher court:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to review and amend the formulas used by the courts to determine the final Bill of Costs to be awarded to successful litigants.

Carried

(23) TITLE: CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SPONSOR: City of Vernon

WHEREAS Provincial Ministries fund projects that have significant impact upon communities;

AND WHEREAS there is at present no mechanism for community consultation, including with the local government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Provincial Ministries be required to undertake community consultation, including with the local government, prior to introducing any new project that may significantly impact the character of that community.

Carried

(24) TITLE: PUBLIC NOTICE PROVISIONS

SPONSOR: Regional District of North Okanagan

WHEREAS the *Local Government Act* requires that when public notice must be given by publication in a newspaper, the notice must be published in accordance with section 94(1)(b) of the *Community Charter*;

AND WHEREAS traditional print publication of local newspapers is declining and the cost of advertising is increasing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to conduct a review of the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* to update the legislation relating to public notification provisions to incorporate new technology.

Carried

Motion to allow to vote on resolution

Carried

LATE (1) TITLE: RESOURCING A COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM OF DATA SHARING IN BC

SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap Regional District

WHEREAS natural disasters pose an increasing risk to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is taking action to improve resilience by strengthening disaster preparedness and disaster risk governance in the context of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the sharing of integrated asset data, information, and knowledge across all sectors is key to improving emergency management and resiliency planning in BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be urged to take a strong leadership role and provide long-term sufficient funding and resources to increase the coordination, assembly, and access of asset data, information, and knowledge across multiple levels and sectors of government and stakeholders (including First Nations, local governments, provincial and federal government agencies, qualified professionals, and industry sectors).

Carried

Motion to allow to vote on resolution

Carried

LATE (2) TITLE: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

SPONSOR: District of Logan Lake

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced introduction of legislation to implement United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP);

AND WHEREAS the announcement did not specify details in relation to framework and process implementation;

AND WHEREAS Local Governments require a clear delineation of their responsibilities where the implementation of Provincial legislation is concerned:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia provide clarity to Local Governments regarding implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) processes and framework;

AND THAT the Province of British Columbia provide a clear delineation of the responsibilities of Local Governments in relation to the implementation of these processes.

Carried

Motion to allow to vote on resolution

Carried

LATE (3) TITLE: MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE MORATORIUM ON LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

SPONSOR: Township of Spallumcheen

WHEREAS the Ministry of Agriculture has made legislation changes in regards to Bill 15 and Bill 52 that impact the Agricultural Land Commission authority with regards to land use applications;

AND WHEREAS these changes are impacting local governments and how they review and potentially refer their residents' applications that are located in the Agricultural Land Reserve to the Agricultural Land Commission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Agriculture place a moratorium on the development of any new ALC regulations until such time as local governments understand the implications on their residents and have provided input in developing any new regulations.

Carried

8. Community Excellence Awards

Social Responsibility	Town of Oliver	Food Secure
Economic Development	District of Logan Lake	Community Forest
Environmental Sustainability	District of Clearwater	Bio Energy Systems

9. President's Closing Remarks

President Lori Mindnich addressed the delegates and expressed appreciation for all the hard work of the Penticton Convention Committee for putting on such a great convention. She thanked the outgoing SILGA directors, Tim Lavery and Barbara Roden, and welcomed new directors to the SILGA team.

10. 2020 Convention – Vernon

The 2020 Convention will be held in Vernon from April 28th to May 1st, 2020. Mayor Victor Cumming invited all the delegates to join him in his community and showed a short video promoting his community.

11. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded by Chad Eliason/Tim Lavery THAT:

The meeting be adjourned at 12:10 am on May 3, 2019.

CARRIED

Alison Slater, Secretary Treasurer