

**SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on**  
**April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 in Kelowna, B.C.**

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**1. Call to Order**

President Chad Eliason called the meeting to order at 8:16 am on April 21, 2016.

**2. President's Report**

President Eliason thanked the current executive and staff for their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the Kelowna City Council for their efforts in hosting a successful convention. He commented that SILGA is the only area association actively meeting with provincial ministries to advocate on member issues.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved/Seconded by Kevin Flynn/Tim Lavery THAT:

The minutes of the April 30<sup>th</sup>/May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 Annual General Meeting held in Kamloops be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**4. Business Arising From the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**5. Financial Report**

Mike Gilmour from BDO Canada presented the Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2015. Mr. Gilmour noted that all SILGA investments are held with MFABC – a very safe method of investing. He further commented that the structure of reserves have been amended to have \$35,000 set aside in a contingency fund. The statements showed a \$4,978 profit in 2015 mainly from the financial success of the Kamloops convention.

Moved/Seconded by Donovan Cavers/Diana Guerin THAT:

The Financial Statement and Statement of Activities of SILGA for the period ending December 31, 2015 and the 5 year plan from 2016 to 2020 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Nomination Committee Report**

Nomination Committee Chair Marg Spina thanked Ronaye Elliott and Robin Smith who also sat on the nomination committee with her. She read out the nominations and after calling three times for nominations from the floor, the following results were announced.

**Table Officers:**

President:	Chad Eliason, City of Salmon Arm (acclaimed)
First Vice-President	Shelley Sim, Clearwater (acclaimed)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Patty Hanson, CORD (acclaimed)

**For the position of Electoral Area Director:**

Director Karla Kozakevich, RDOS  
Director Willow Macdonald, TNRD

Following the election for the Electoral Area Director, Councillor Spina announced the successful candidate for the 2016/17 term.

Electoral Area Director                      Director Karla Kozakevich, RDOS

**For the 6 positions of Director at Large:**

Councillor Linda Brown, City of Merritt  
Councillor Donovan Cavers, City of Kamloops  
Councillor Diana Guerin, Village of Clinton  
Councillor Charlie Hodge, City of Kelowna  
Councillor Helena Konanz, City of Penticton  
Director Willow Macdonald, TNRD  
Director Mike Macnabb, RDNO  
Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby  
Councillor Pat Paula, District of Barriere  
Keith Thom, District of Peachland

Following the election for the Directors at Large, Councillor Spina announced that the following will be Directors at Large for SILGA for the 2016/17 term.

Councillor Donovan Cavers, City of Kamloops  
Councillor Charlie Hodge, City of Kelowna  
Councillor Helena Konanz, City of Penticton  
Director Mike Macnabb, RDNO  
Councillor Lori Mindnich, Village of Lumby  
Councillor Keith Thom, District of Peachland

Moved/Seconded by Doug Pateman/Ken Christian THAT:  
The ballots for the voting for the SILGA executive be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

**7. Resolutions Committee Report**

**(1) TITLE: Allocation of Provincial Funding Grants for Regional and Municipal Libraries**

**SPONSOR: Keremeos**

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;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM ask the Province to establish an adequate funding model for libraries in rural areas with a population of less than 5000.

**CARRIED**

**(2) TITLE: Community Economic Development Investment Fund**

**SPONSOR: CSRD**

WHEREAS it is recognized that there is a pressing need to stimulate rural economic development in British Columbia, and

WHEREAS mechanisms that allow rural regions to capture and reinvest some portion of regional economic activity has been identified as a best practice in rural economic revitalization, and

WHEREAS the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions has proven to be an effective and efficient means to generate investment capital to support small business expansion and creation in rural areas,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Finance for British Columbia initiate a CEDIF program for BC that would offer British Columbians a tax credit of 35% or more for investing in locally owned and operated corporations, cooperatives and other community economic development initiatives.

**CARRIED**

**(3) TITLE: DNA Analysis Costs**

**SPONSOR: Penticton**

WHEREAS the costs of DNA analysis services are steadily increasing;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has announced it will only contribute \$1.36 million per annum, regardless of the actual costs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate on behalf of all local governments for the Province of British Columbia to index their contribution to the rising costs of DNA analysis services.

**CARRIED**

**(4) TITLE: British Columbia Conservation Service Capacity**

**SPONSOR: Princeton**

WHEREAS the Provincial Government is responsible for managing wildlife through its Conservation Services, and the British Columbia Conservation Service has not been able to adequately address wildlife-human conflict;

AND WHEREAS underfunding is having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS reduction in offices has reduced the number of Conservation Officers in the field, while expecting them to adequately monitor and enforce activities throughout large Management Units;

AND WHEREAS the UBCM memberships has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Provincial Government to increase numbers of Conservation Officers and resources to support wildlife management; (resolutions: 2015-B26; 2013-B27; 2012-B22; 2012-B72; 2010-B25; 2003-B32; 1996-B27; 1996-B64; 1992-B35).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be requested to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing wildlife-human conflicts.

**CARRIED**

**(5) TITLE: Education Funding**

**SPONSOR: Summerland**

WHEREAS many municipalities in the Province of BC are facing school closures, amalgamation, or both;

AND WHEREAS such closures can have significant impact on the economic and social wellbeing of municipalities experiencing school closures;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education and the Province be urged by SILGA to investigate the adequacy of funding for education and actively engage in the public consultation process that is required before schools are closed in the Province.

**CARRIED**

**(6) TITLE: BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification Program**

**SPONSOR: CSRD**

WHEREAS the Province of BC made the decision to discontinue the BC Hydro Remote Community Extension Program;

AND WHEREAS numerous remote and rural communities in British Columbia continue to remain off-grid without electrical power;

AND WHEREAS the lack of electrification:

- Prevents investment in projects that would foster sustainable economic development creating employment opportunities that would assist families resulting in a stronger community, and
- Precludes these remote and rural communities, represented by local governments, to add to, enhance, or adequately improve safe drinking water and sewage disposal systems in accordance with the Province's legislation;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister Responsible for BC Hydro take immediate steps to reinstate and adequately fund the BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification program to sustain the economic and social well-being of remote and rural communities throughout BC.

**CARRIED**

**(7) TITLE: Fire Wage Arbitration**

**SPONSOR: Penticton**

WHEREAS recent firefighter wage arbitrations have awarded wage parity with lower mainland municipalities regardless of local circumstances of the subject municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Fire and Police Services Collective Bargaining Act requires an arbitrator to have regard for the need to maintain internal consistency and equity amongst employees and the terms and conditions of employment for other groups of employees who are employed by the employer;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocates to the Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training to exercise its statutory authority to specify that arbitrators are to give consideration to local conditions.

**CARRIED**

**(8) TITLE: Vacant Land Taxation**

**SPONSOR: Penticton**

WHEREAS vacant lands detract from the vibrancy of communities;

AND WHEREAS vacant lands contribute less property tax and utility billing revenues, no employment or other value to their community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM advocate on behalf of all local governments for an amendment to the Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation 438/81 to include prescribed classes for vacant land and vacant contaminated land that allows for a higher tax rate and / or flat taxes.

**CARRIED**

**(9) TITLE: Fortis Two Tiered Rate System**

**SPONSOR: RDOS**

WHEREAS FortisBC rate increases are causing significant hardship to people in areas where there is no access to natural gas, as they are seeing huge increases in power bills.

AND WHEREAS due to the challenge customers face with rising energy costs, heating and electricity have become a luxury for some British Columbia residents, especially in the Okanagan-Similkameen;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities request the Provincial Government and British Columbia Utilities Commission eliminate the two tiered rate structure until a remedy can be

found for users of electric heat who have no affordable alternative to their current inefficient home heating system.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Insert “of all power suppliers” after two tiered rate structure

**CARRIED**

**Vote on Motion as amended:**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Union of BC Municipalities request the Provincial Government and British Columbia Utilities Commission eliminate the two tiered rate structure of all power suppliers until a remedy can be found for users of electric heat who have no affordable alternative to their current inefficient home heating system.

**CARRIED**

**(10) TITLE: Local Government Infrastructure PST Exemption**

**SPONSOR: West Kelowna**

WHEREAS local governments within the Province of British Columbia are responsible for essential infrastructure in areas such as water, sewer, and storm sewer mains as well as roads;

AND WHEREAS these critical infrastructures, which were constructed years ago using a dollar which had a greater purchasing power, are subject to provincial health and safety regulations which require local governments to upgrade or replace the infrastructure despite limited funds and grant opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Finance to provide a provincial sales tax exemption on the upgrade or replacement of local government infrastructure projects.

**CARRIED**

**(11) TITLE: Disposal of Yard Waste**

**SPONSOR: Peachland**

WHEREAS burning of yard waste is no longer an option for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS disposing of yard waste at landfills is both cost prohibitive and not environmentally friendly;

AND WHEREAS the cost of composting yard waste is prohibitive without a reliable end-user market;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment provide communities with a solution based way to facilitate the disposal of yard waste.

**CARRIED**

**(12) TITLE: Watershed Protection**

**SPONSOR: Peachland**

WHEREAS it has long been recognized that water is a public trust, and the protection and control of local water resources requires adequate tools to enable local authorities to enact measures for protection of watersheds;

AND WHEREAS the modernization of the Water Act has not yet progressed to a point where regulations are in place to enable local authorities to enact such measures necessary in order to adequately protect their watersheds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment expedite the necessary steps to create regulations that will establish an increased local role in key decision making in matters affecting the health and protection of watersheds, including the right for local watershed authorities to be the agencies responsible for approvals and controls of activities in watersheds.

**CARRIED**

**(13) TITLE: Aquifer/Water Source Protection**

**SPONSOR: Spallumcheen**

WHEREAS there are many communities with highly sensitive, vulnerable aquifers and waterbodies that may be negatively impacted from intensive farming and other uses;

AND WHEREAS protecting our existing and future water sources are of the utmost importance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities lobby the provincial government to require mandatory environmental farm plans, including soil testing and that communities be allowed to limit uses in areas with sensitive vulnerable aquifers and waterbodies.

**CARRIED**

**(14) TITLE: MINES ACT PERMIT NOTIFICATION**

**SPONSOR: Lake Country**

WHEREAS approvals under the Mines Act have the potential to be highly impactful to communities making notification of all Mines Act applications to the public critical;

AND WHEREAS the Mines Act currently grants discretion to the Regional Manager to determine if newspaper notification is necessary;

AND WHEREAS some Mines Act applications are only advertised in regional newspapers, when local publications within the affected community are available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provincial government be requested to update Mines Act requirements such that newspaper notification be required for all applications, in a newspaper publication based within the affected community, should one exist.

**Proposed Amendment:**

Strike out the “therefore be it resolved” clause and replace with the following:

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provincial government be requested to update Mines Act requirements such that newspaper notification be required for all applications for permits, extensions and Notice of Work Updates for gravel, mineral or coal extraction in a newspaper publication based within the affected community, should one exist. Should a newspaper publication not exist within the affected community, the notification must be in the newspaper publication based closest to the location for the permit.”

**CARRIED**

**Vote on motion as amended:**

**CARRIED**

**(15) TITLE: Meat to Table**

**SPONSOR: Clearwater**

WHEREAS there are not enough Class A government regulated beef slaughtering facilities available to meet the demands of the butchering needs for livestock farmers in the Southern Interior; and

WHEREAS in order to increase local food security, the sustainability and capacity of the local livestock producers by allowing local farmers the ability to slaughter onsite and sell to local farmer’s markets within their regional district;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the province to change the policy on allowing unlimited Class E licenses and a minimum number of Class D licenses (market driven) for local livestock producers to operate in areas within the Southern Interior Local Government Management region.

**CARRIED**



**(16) TITLE: Integrity Commissioner for Local Government**

**SPONSOR: Kelowna**

Whereas the current legislative tools available to local government in British Columbia regarding matters of questionable conduct and breaches of code of conduct of elected officials result in expensive quasi-judicial processes eroding public confidence, strained internal relationships, and produce limited viable outcomes;

AND WHEREAS elected officials in local government do not have access to independent advice regarding conflict of interest or other matters related to Codes of Conduct, nor an effective process to objectively resolve contraventions, accusations or public complaints;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to enact enabling legislation that would empower local governments with the ability to appoint local independent Integrity Commissioners who would serve the public and elected officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the application and enforcement of Codes of Conduct.

**CARRIED**

**(17)TITLE: Timing of Ministry Approval of Zoning Bylaws**

**SPONSOR: West Kelowna**

WHEREAS the Local Government Act (LGA) permits a council to adopt a zoning bylaw at the same meeting at which the bylaw passes third reading (despite the requirements of the Community Charter) providing local governments the ability to streamline zoning application approvals;

AND WHEREAS this LGA provision is frustrated by the legislative requirement that ministerial approvals must be obtained after third reading and before adoption slowing the process and timely response to the development community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development to amend the Local Government Act to allow ministerial approvals for zoning bylaws to be obtained after Public Hearing and before adoption.

**Defeated**

**LATE RESOLUTIONS**

**Moved/Seconded by Doug Pateman/Wayne Carson THAT:**

**The late resolutions received by SILGA be debated.**

**CARRIED**

**LATE (1) TITLE: Gas Tax Funding Holdbacks**

**SPONSOR: Barriere**

Whereas UBCM currently holds back 15% of gas tax funded projects while the municipality can only hold back 10% of the tendered/contracted portion of those projects;

AND WHEREAS this may put some smaller municipalities in a financial situation that may compromise the success or initiation of an important infrastructure improvement;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the current policy on funding holdback amounts as follows:

- a) The current 15% holdback be changed to 10%
- b) The holdback be released as substantial completion is reached in the various components/phases as identified in the funding contract budget.

**CARRIED**

**LATE (2) TITLE: Bus Passes**

**SPONSOR: Lake Country**

WHEREAS the Province announced that beginning September 1, 2016 a Person with Disabilities on disability assistance will receive a monthly rate increase of \$77 which will be reduced by the amount for clients who receive transportation assistance. In addition, Persons with Disabilities will be required to pay a \$45 annual administration fee to apply for an annual BC Bus Pass.

AND WHEREAS the rate for disability assistance in BC has been frozen at \$906 a month since 2007;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities receive an increase in disability assistance of \$77 a month, that the cost of transportation assistance not be deducted from the increase in disability assistance and that the fee for a BC Bus Pass remain at \$45 annually.

**CARRIED**

**LATE (3) TITLE: EQUITABLE and GRADUAL POLICE FUNDING MODEL**

**SPONSOR: Oliver**

WHEREAS the current model of police services for emergent municipalities (5,000 population threshold) creates a sharp increase in costs to taxpayers that go from paying a nominal amount towards front-line police services to paying 70% or more of policing costs;

AND WHEREAS unincorporated areas with populations over the 5,000 threshold pay only the provincial police tax which is perceived as inequitable by municipalities and their taxpayers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the current model of funding police services for emergent municipalities be reviewed with consideration given to an incremental increase based on gradual population growth.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia review the structure of police services to consider a regional police service model in geographical areas where populations warrant an increased level of participation by both municipalities and unincorporated areas.

**CARRIED**

**LATE (4) TITLE: Gas Tax Fire Equipment**

**SPONSOR: Thompson-Nicola Regional District**

WHEREAS Federal Gas Tax funding is available to local governments for capital infrastructure and capacity building but with a limited set of eligible project criteria that does not include fire protection;

AND WHEREAS the costs of fire protection infrastructure and equipment for rural property owners is often prohibitive because there are fewer properties within small fire protection areas to share those costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government be requested to lobby the federal government to amend the Federal Gas Tax Agreement by adding fire protection to the list of eligible project categories that will allow fire protection service areas to access and utilize gas tax funding to construct fire halls and purchase firefighting equipment for the protection of their communities.

**CARRIED**

**LATE (5) TITLE: Watershed Protection outside of Community Jurisdiction**

**SPONSOR: Chase**

WHEREAS agencies responsible for areas impacted by logging are not required to consider cities, towns, villages and hamlets that may be affected by logging upstream of their communities;

AND WHEREAS agencies are not required to consult with communities and other water purveyors downstream of logging activity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial Government be lobbied to require that all agencies responsible for logging activity taking place in a watershed that will potentially affect a community or other water purveyor, inform the affected community through public consultation, providing mitigation measures and obtain their approval before logging begins.

**CARRIED**

**LATE (6) TITLE: Timber Sales**

**SPONSOR: RDNO**

WHEREAS the issuance of timber licenses on Crown Land impacts local governments and adjacent land owners;

AND WHEREAS the harvesting of lumber may have a significant impact with regard to water licenses, recreational tourism and slope stability:

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Provincial Government be requested to implement policy to ensure adequate consultation and response time between the Provincial Government, affected land owners and local governments to solicit input with regard to the issuance of timber licenses.

**CARRIED**

**Late (7) TITLE: Shelf Ready Design Documents**

**SPONSOR: Sicamous**

WHEREAS when small communities apply for grant funding related to larger projects detailed design documents are required;

AND WHEREAS the cost and resources of having these documents available and ready for a small community is difficult to achieve in a timely manner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that shelf ready design documents from other small communities should be allowed to be used to form part of the grant application.

**CARRIED**

**Late (8) TITLE: National Housing Strategy**

**Sponsor: Vernon**

WHEREAS safe, adequate and affordable housing is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of individuals and the social and economic wellbeing of communities;

AND WHEREAS local governments lack the resources to be able to fundamentally address issues of affordable housing in their communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM bring a resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 2017 Annual General Meeting to strongly encourage the federal government to prioritize the development of a national housing strategy to address access to affordable housing across the housing continuum, in conjunction with provincial and local governments.

**CARRIED**

**Late (9) TITLE: Accessible Affordable Childcare**

**Sponsor: Vernon**

WHEREAS access to high quality affordable childcare is vital to the social wellbeing and economic prosperity of communities and provides a strong foundation for greater social sustainability in the future;

AND WHEREAS the availability of childcare spaces and the costs associated with such care continues to present a challenge to working families in British Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the federal and provincial governments make access to childcare a top priority and work together to develop and implement the new National Early Learning and Child Care Framework proposed by the Federal Government to deliver affordable, high quality flexible and inclusive child care.

**CARRIED**

**8. 2016 Convention – Sun Peaks**

The 2017 Convention will be held at Sun Peaks from April 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Al Raine invited all the delegates to join him in his community and showed a short PowerPoint presentation promoting the resort.

**9. President's Closing Remarks**

Chad Eliason addressed the delegates and expressed appreciation for all the hard work of the Kelowna Convention Committee. He thanked outgoing directors Willow Macdonald and Diana Guerin and welcomed Karla Kozakevich and Keith Thom to the SILGA board. He expressed appreciation to all the sponsors, Ministers and MLA's that took the effort to join SILGA in Kelowna. He also thanked all the presenters and students from Kelowna Secondary School that made the program so unique.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved/Seconded by James Baker/Owen Dickie THAT:

The meeting be adjourned at 11:55 am on April 22, 2016.

**CARRIED**

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Alison Slater, Secretary Treasurer