2023 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(1) TITLE: INVESTMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE RECOVERY

SPONSOR: City of Kelowna and City of Kamloops

Whereas additional mental health and substance use programs and associated funding is needed to meet the complex needs of people living with challenges in BC communities that has contributed to an unprecedented level of deaths, poverty, criminal activity, social disorder, stress on first responders and health care professionals contributing to increased pressure on hospitals;

And whereas the lack of innovative models to treat patients with severe, complex mental health and substance misuse conditions has contributed to a health care and safety crisis in communities, urban and rural, throughout British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to further increase investment into 'on demand' mental health treatment, withdrawal management and substance use programs throughout the province, that meets the diverse needs of the people suffering from severe substance misuse and mental health challenges;

And be it further resolved that an update to "A Pathway to Hope" strategy includes a plan to fully fund and establish regional campuses of care, similar to the innovative model of Red Fish Healing Centre, to provide a safe, stable and compassionate environment for people requiring highly specialized mental health support with severe mental illness diagnoses.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed many resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-SR2, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

(2) TITLE: PRIMARY CARE CLINIC FUNDING

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas the investment in primary care is consistent with the strategic direction of the Ministry of Health and supports a team-based primary care model;

And whereas new physicians are choosing team based health and provincial incentives are targeting new graduates who want to work with teams of other clinicians;

And whereas the approval of new Rural Growth Plans and expansion of their Primary Care Networks includes capital funding to help streamline access to primary care for patients and families:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional funding, on a case by case basis, for expansion of existing Primary Care Networks to address regular health care needs closer to home.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse with amendment

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional funding, on a case by case basis, according to regionally defined needs, for expansion of existing Primary Care Networks to address regular health care needs closer to home.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

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Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for more resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks (2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2016-B44).

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

(3) TITLE: INCREASING RURAL HEALTH CENTER AUTONOMY

SPONSOR: District of Logan Lake

Whereas the Ministry of Health works together with a provincial health authority, five regional health authorities, and a First Nations health authority to provide high quality, appropriate and timely health services to British Columbians;

And whereas most British Columbia Hospitals are over capacity and demand for hospital care is at an all-time high;

And whereas all hospitals care for many types of injuries and emergency conditions ranging from minor to severe, but not all Health Centers are designated as a Trauma Center resulting in patients travelling long distances for minor trauma and experiencing long waiting periods in those Centers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to look at granting more autonomy to rural and remote health care centers in order to be able to administer minor trauma care and alleviate pressure on Emergency Room wait times.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Health to grant more autonomy to rural and remote health care

centers in order to be able to administer minor trauma care and alleviate pressure on Emergency Room wait times.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38,2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

(4) TITLE: RESOLVE HEALTH CARE SHORTAGES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SPONSOR: City of Merritt

Whereas the Ministry of Health committed in 2020 that supporting local health care is key to improving life in rural British Columbia in response to resolution 2020-NR64 (Kaslo);

And whereas Emergency Departments in communities across BC have had multiple short notice closures due to staff absences since that reply was issued;

And whereas a shortage of physicians and nursing staff has led to residents being unable to register for primary healthcare and become reliant on Emergency Departments for both emergencies and also issues that could not be dealt with earlier;

And whereas rural and/or non-centralized communities are particularly affected by healthcare shortages due to the distance to another community with healthcare provision and the additional time required to access healthcare can be the difference between and life and death:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to investigate and take immediate action on healthcare shortages in rural and/or non-centralized communities, and support Health Authorities to ensure that Emergency Departments across BC have the necessary resources to avoid temporary, short-notice closures.

SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution, 2022-SR1 that asked the Province to take urgent steps to ensure hospitals, emergency rooms, and ambulance services are open and available 24 hours a day, and to increase funding and training opportunities for health care professionals so that all residents of British Columbia can access an appropriate and necessary level of care.

While Special Resolution 2022-SR1 made a province-wide request, the current resolution has a rural focus. As such, the Committee notes that the membership has supported many resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province

and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

(5) TITLE: FUNDING FOR RURAL AND REMOTE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas in rural and remote areas ambulances are not able to get to medical calls in a timely manner because of distances travelled and members of community fire departments are able to arrive on scene much more quickly;

And whereas when first on scene first responders of community fire departments can assist the ambulance team by accessing the patient, gathering information, taking vitals and packaging the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival;

And whereas community fire departments are funded through local government taxes while BC Emergency Health Services are funded through provincial monies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for rural and remote volunteer fire department first responder programs.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**, but concerned about the larger issue of downloading ambulance services (paid by Province) to local governments.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).

(6) TITLE: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS

SPONSOR: City of Kelowna and City of Kamloops

Whereas there is a lack of publicly funded, evidence-based and accredited treatment options and outpatient services, including managed withdrawal (detox) and aftercare supports, while ensuring a variety of treatment options to support individual and family needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to urgently provide a substantial increase and investment into affordable, accessible on demand withdrawal management and substance use treatment programs with diverse, culturally sensitive, recovery driven transitional housing options (including abstinence and faith based) to support their commitment to wellness;

And be it further resolved that residents committed to a path to recovery, be eligible to participate in an provincially wide expanded version of the Addiction Recovery Program and/or the 'Single Parent Initiative ' while being connected with the program coordinators who encourage optimal recovery by assisting with counselling, life skills, job training and more to help individuals to build confidence, hope as well as a sense of purpose, all while living in safe, affordable transitional housing.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse with suggested amendment

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to urgently provide a substantial increase and investment into affordable, accessible on demand withdrawal management and substance use treatment programs **building on existing community supports** with diverse, culturally sensitive appropriate, recovery driven transitional housing options (including abstinence and faith based) to support their commitment to wellness;

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered the specific request for transitional housing residents to participate in an Addiction Recovery Program and/or the 'Single Parent Initiative' while being connected with the program coordinators who encourage optimal recovery by assisting with counselling, life skills, job training and more to help individuals to build confidence, hope as well as a sense of purpose, all while living in safe, affordable transitional housing.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2022-EB9, 2022-NR4, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB59, 2021-EB60, 2020-SR8, 2020-EB79, 2020-NR62, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

HOUSING

(7) TITLE: SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTAL LISTING PLATFORMS

SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas resolution 2018-A4 – Short-Term Vacation Rental Listing Platforms' Responsibility in Compliance asked the Province to negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance checks, whereby the short-term rental (STR) platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service, was endorsed by UBCM;

And whereas the provincial response was to continue to closely monitor the issue of STRs and their impact on communities across BC;

And whereas the local governments continue to recognize the impact of short-term rentals on the long-term rental market by reducing the amount of available long-term rentals for permanent residents and increasing the speculative value of traditional residential properties;

And whereas the required staffing resources to pursue active and reactive enforcement of illegal short-term rentals is beyond the ability of smaller local governments to be able to effectively respond to;

And whereas the tracking of illegal short-term rentals requires significant resources (time and capital) from small local governments as booking platforms are designed to withhold location details of rental properties:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Housing to expedite the drafting and subsequent consideration of provincial legislation that would accomplish the following:

- Require short-term rental booking platforms to verify that local government approvals have been obtained, and those that are advertising without appropriate approvals would be removed from the booking platform;
- Require short-term rental booking platforms to list the civic address of the rental property to support with local municipal tracking and verification of compliance; and
- Provide additional enforcement mechanisms for local governments with respect to noncompliant operators including, but not limited to, the issuance of municipal tickets that, should they not be challenged or paid, could be placed on property taxes.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No recommendation

Note: The Whereas clauses seem to be dealing with wider issues than the TBIR clauses

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for all three of the requests listed in the enactment clause.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing regulation of short-term rentals, including:

- 2022-NR11 which asked the Province to develop short-term rental enforcement solutions for all
 local governments, such as broadening authority to enforce compliance through simplified
 ticketing procedures, collection of evidence and the establishment of proof based on online
 investigation of accommodation listings, and expanding options to compel payment of unpaid
 fines through alternative mechanisms such as applying uncollected ticket fines to property
 taxes; and
- 2018-A4 which asked the Province to negotiate a province-wide agreement with Airbnb and
 other regionally-active short-term rental platforms to assist local governments with compliance
 checks, whereby the short-term rental platforms agree to require their hosts to provide proof of
 a valid business license, where applicable, in order to advertise using their service.

UBCM's housing strategy included a recommendation that the Province should investigate, in consultation with local governments, options for regulating short-term rentals with the goals of:

- enforceability;
- retaining local government choice; and
- providing local governments with more clarity, and regulatory power where needed.

UBCM's housing strategy also put forward the model of 'platform accountability' as one option for the Province to consider, because it places the onus on short-term rental platforms such as Airbnb for enforcement, alleviating the burden on local governments. The 2021 Report of the Joint UBCM-Province Advisory Group on Short-Term Rentals makes a range of recommendations consistent with past UBCM policy that are intended to give local governments greater flexibility and supports towards effective regulation of short-term rentals.

(8) TITLE: RURAL BC BUILDING CODE

SPONSOR: District of Lillooet

Whereas the lack of affordable housing has been identified as a crisis in British Columbia;

And whereas the Government of British Columbia has identified development approvals as having "a major impact on how quickly housing projects are built" in the 2019 "Development Approvals Process Review" (DAPR) report;

And whereas strict requirements in the British Columbia Building Code, specifically, but not limited to, the required implementation of Step Code and other regulations aimed at the impact of climate change have caused a hardship for construction in rural and remote areas where materials, labour, and expertise are not as abundant, but housing needs are still critical;

And whereas the density in rural and remote British Columbia communities does not have the same impact on energy usage and carbon emissions as cities and urban centres:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia acknowledge the complexity and cost that the BC Building Code and Step Code adds to the construction of housing and commercial occupancies, and that the limited availability of materials, labour, and expertise in remote and rural communities has created stagnate construction environments;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia consider the creation of a Rural and Remote BC Building Code with less strict prescriptions, focusing on Fire and Life Safety minimums only, with optional energy and environmental prescriptions.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Endorse

Note: The complexity of two building codes would be too difficult to manage.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to acknowledge the complexity and cost that the BC Building Code and Step Code adds to the construction of housing and commercial occupancies, and that the limited availability of materials, labour, and expertise in remote and rural communities has created stagnate construction environments. Nor has the membership considered a resolution asking the Province to

consider the creation of a Rural and Remote BC Building Code with less strict prescriptions, focusing on Fire and Life Safety minimums only, with optional energy and environmental prescriptions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing the difficulties that rural and remote communities face in trying to meet Step Code requirements, including:

- Province to secure additional Energy Advisors make grants available and review implementation timelines for the northern, rural and remote communities (2022-EB49);
- Province to provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings (2021-EB40); and
- Province to assist communities with Energy Step Code implementation in an equitable way by working with communities to address barriers (2020-EB87).

While the membership has recognized the challenges and sought additional support for rural and remote communities, the membership has not previously asked for a separate Building Code for rural and remote communities. Would having two Codes not create confusion; different standards for different regions / communities, and how would this be defined? As a result, no recommendation is offered.

(9) TITLE: 1.0 HECTARE POLICY/GUIDELINES

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline, which prevents the construction of additional housing on properties of less than one hectare without attaching to a community sewerage system, is nearly twenty years old;

And whereas technology and construction standards for septic systems has advanced since the policy/guideline was put into place;

And whereas there are many rural area small holding properties that lend themselves to densification without harming the delicate agricultural balance, which in time could assist to reduce the critical housing shortage:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2016-B93 which asks that s. 10 (1)(c) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation be amended such that the minimum parcel sizes created through boundary adjustment be reduced from no parcel in the

reserve of less than one (1) hectare to no parcel in the reserve of less than one-half (0.5) hectare or smaller.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2002-B58 which asks the Province to amend section 946 of the *Local Government Act* to allow local government to set a minimum and maximum size for a parcel created by a subdivision, pursuant to this section. The Committee acknowledges that this is a dated reference.

(10) TITLE: PROVINCIAL MATCHING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAND INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

Whereas local governments across the Province of BC faces an unprecedented housing crisis;

And whereas local governments have limited revenue and capability to address the crisis;

And whereas the Province of BC has made it their priority to provide attainable and affordable housing for all BC communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government of British Columbia to work collaboratively with local governments and establish a model that provides provincial funding equal or greater in value to any donated land a local government contributes for the purpose of attainable and affordable housing projects.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation*: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide funding equal or greater in value to any donated land a local government contributes for the purpose of attainable and affordable housing projects.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2022-EB25, 2022-EB26, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128, 2003-B40).

COMMUNITY SAFETY

(11) TITLE: CANNABIS CONTROL AND LICENSING ACT

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas Section 33(1) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* indicates that the British Columbia Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) must not issue or amend a cannabis license without a positive recommendation of the affected local government or Indigenous nation;

And whereas the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* does not require the LCRB to receive a positive recommendation from an affected local government in order to issue or amend a liquor license;

And whereas the public consultation requirements under Section 33(3) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* are seen to result in lengthy referral processing times:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to allow local governments the ability to "opt-out" of providing comment to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Branch with respect to applications for cannabis licenses.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to provide local governments the ability to opt out of providing comment to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) with respect to applications for cannabis licenses.

As part of the Province's liquor licensing framework, local governments have the authority to opt out of the review and public input process. If a local government decides not to participate, the LCRB will assume responsibility for gathering public input.

(12) TITLE: RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPENSATION FOR ATTENDANCE AT TRAFFIC INCIDENTS SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas there is an increasing need for fire departments to attend traffic incidents; And whereas this is unfairly increasing the tax load on rural residents;

And whereas continued downloading on volunteer fire departments is adding to the potential failure of these small departments as taxation costs are starting to overtake house insurance benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require ICBC to compensate rural fire departments for first responder attendance at traffic incidents at a per call out rate plus use of expendables/consumables.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2011-B5, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.

In response to resolution 2020-EB9, the Province responded that it "recognizes and appreciates the invaluable life-saving service that communities provide to motorists throughout British Columbia and is committed to developing a sustainable funding model."

The Committee also notes that some of the endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2013-B8, 2011-B5 and 2009-B88). The Province has previously rejected the idea of involving ICBC in a road rescue funding model, primarily due to potential impacts on insurance rates for BC motorists.

(13) TITLE: FIRESMART AND WILDFIRE MITIGATION FUNDING

SPONSOR: City of West Kelowna

Whereas the Province of BC faces ongoing and increased risk of wildfire, with more aggressive fires, that grow larger and threaten more lives and property each year;

And whereas the Province spends hundreds of millions of dollars on wildfire suppression (\$263 million/year - 10-year average);

And whereas the amount dedicated to local governments for wildfire prevention via the Community Resilience Investment Grant is exponentially smaller (\$13 million in 2022);

And whereas the existing grant process is onerous and resource intensive, whereby local governments must apply every year and compete for limited dollars, and does not allow for long term planning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Endorse

Note: Program works as designed. If we go to an allocation based formula, the smaller communities could be underfunded.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2022-NR26, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR21, 2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB37 which sought improvements to the Firesmart Program by asking the Province to review the guidelines restricting reimbursement maximums to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$500 per property, with

consideration to increasing these financial incentives to motivate more property owners to participate in the Firesmart rebate programs offered by local governments.

The FireSmart Funding & Supports programs received \$90 million of additional funding in 2022. Annual approved funding is based on the eligible applications that are received; there is not an annual funding cap and applicants do not compete for the funds. For the 2023 program, the funding maximum per high-risk applicant was increased and all applicants have the ability to apply for funding for two full years of eligible activities. The management committee that oversees the program is currently looking at opportunities to simplify the application process.

(14) TITLE: COMMERCIAL SEMI TRUCK DASH CAMS

SPONSOR: District of Barriere

Whereas the amount of time each commercial semi truck spends on the road, the weights they operate with, and the braking distances involved in stopping commercial semi trucks;

And whereas the use of dash cams can encourage commercial truck driver accountability in adhering to safe driving practices and can be affordable insurance in providing undeniable evidence for the almost inevitable near misses that professional drivers contend with in doing their job:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of BC to review the feasibility of requiring all commercial semi-trucks as defined in the *Transportation Act* registered in British Columbia to have dash cams installed and in operation while driving within the Province of BC as a step toward the positive progression of improving our highway safety.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to require all semi-trucks registered in BC to have dash cams installed and in operation while driving within the Province of BC, as a means to improve highway safety.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has previously endorsed resolutions asking the Province to improve highway safety through enhanced commercial vehicle inspection programs (2009-B21, 2007-B104; 2006-B38; 2005-B79; 2005-B38).

ENVIRONMENT

(15) TITLE: RECYCLE BC STEWARDSHIP PLAN PROPOSED COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Whereas the Recycle BC Stewardship Plan update proposes to introduce a Community Eligibility Criteria;

And whereas the proposed Community Eligibility Criteria will result in a significant reduction to regional district depot collection services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Recycle BC proposed Community Eligibility Criteria does not result in a decrease in funding of existing recycling depots.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on Recycle BC to ensure that its proposed Community Eligibility Criteria does not result in a decrease in funding of existing recycling depots.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting financial support and recycling services for smaller and rural communities (2022-EB55, 2019-B43, 2018-B69, 2017-B109, 2014-A6).

(16) TITLE: INVASIVE SPECIES – AMENDMENT TO THE WEED CONTROL ACT

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas the *Weed Control Act* [RSBC 1996] Chapter 487 provides that an occupier must control noxious weeds growing or located on land and premises, and on any other property located on land and premises, occupied by that person;

And whereas the proliferation of invasive plants has grown exponentially throughout British Columbia;

And whereas invasive plants continue to be sold commercially to uninformed property owners and landscapers;

And whereas S. 4(1) of the Weed Control Regulation provides that no person shall transport, keep for sale, offer to buy or sell, or buy or sell any screenings containing seeds of a noxious weed, it says nothing about plants:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Weed Control Act* to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the Weed Control Regulation.

SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: **Endorse** UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the *Weed Control Act* to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the Weed Control Regulation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:

- Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B31, 2013-B66, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);
- Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);
- Aquatic invasive species (2021-EB26);

- Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);
- Ban on sale of invasive species of plants and seeds (2017-B28, 2011-B44, 2008-B71);
- Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);
- Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57);
- Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).

(17) TITLE: WATER SUSTAINABILITY ACT

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

Whereas the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was brought into force and effect to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh, clean water that meets the needs of BC residents today and in the future, and the Okanagan, like most of BC, faces real threats to watershed security over the next decade and beyond;

And whereas inadequate enforcement tools, compliance monitoring, resources and penalties for contraventions under the WSA are perpetuating damages to streams, watersheds and aquifers that provide drinking water, irrigation and fisheries resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Forests to allocate more staffing, funding and enforcement tools, prioritize enforcement to ensure watershed security is maintained and work collaboratively with local governments.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No recommendation UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed 2018-B34 which asked the Province to work with UBCM and water governance specialists to establish regulations, implement Water Objectives, and designate areas for Water Sustainability Plans where necessary where necessary to ease the tensions arising due to competition between domestic and agricultural water use, source protection, resource extraction and wildfire mitigation. Members also endorsed 2020-EB52 which asked the Province to allocate greater resources to S.11 Approvals under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

(18) TITLE: GREATER ENFORCEMENT FOR PROVINCIAL INVASIVE MUSSEL DEFENCE PROGRAM SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas the invasion of zebra and quagga mussels poses a serious threat to watercourses in British Columbia and the primary vector for invasive mussels is watercraft entering the province;

And whereas the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) is the first line of defence and remains grossly underfunded with less than 10 watercraft inspection stations throughout the province;

And whereas the Province has yet to introduce 'pull-the-plug' legislation, legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels or mandatory watercraft inspections for vessels entering British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province increase funding for the IMDP, introduce legislation that requires watercraft owners to clean, drain and dry their vessels when entering BC and establish mandatory watercraft inspections to ensure the protection of our watercourses.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2021-EB26, which asked the provincial and federal governments to adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop and a watercraft inspection station.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including:

- Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B31, 2013-B66, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);
- Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);
- Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);
- Ban on sale of invasive species of plants and seeds (2017-B28, 2011-B44, 2008-B71);
- Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);
- Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57);
- Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49).

(19) TITLE: RIPARIAN AREAS PROTECTION REGULATION COMPLIANCE

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation regulates development within a riparian assessment area and a local government cannot approve a development application until an assessment report from a qualified environmental professional (QEP) has been submitted through the Riparian Areas Regulation Notification and approved by the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship;

And whereas the Ministry response time to review QEP reports continues to increase, unreasonably delaying local government development and significantly impacting local economies;

And whereas the effectiveness of the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation relies on local government compliance which is compromised by the Ministry's lack of resources and inability to respond in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to grant local governments the authority to accept and review QEP reports for developments within its own jurisdiction.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation*: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to grant local governments the authority to accept and review QEP reports for developments within its own jurisdiction.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed past resolutions seeking improved staffing and resources at the Provincial level to ensure the effectiveness of Riparian Area Regulations, including:

- 2013-B70 which asked the Province to, in part, appropriately fund enforcement of the RAR;
- 2012-B73 which asked the Province to provide the necessary staff resources to review QEPs to fully implement the RAR; and
- 2011-B97 which asked for adequate funding and resources to provincial ministries to ensure the adequate protection of BC lakes and rivers.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions seeking a more streamlined approval/permitting process from provincial and federal governments, including:

- 2021-LR3 which asked the Province to review its permitting processes that relate to local
 government development and infrastructure projects and investigate opportunities to
 streamline those processes to reduce delays, provide more certainty for communities and
 developers, and minimize cost overruns, as it related to approvals under the Water
 Sustainability Act;
- 2020-EB52 and 2019-B153 which asked the Province to allocate greater resources (funding and staff) to the processing of Section 11 approval wait times under the *Water Sustainability Act*, and to initiate a process in order to provide more rapid and timely approvals in cases of urgent situations;
- 2011-B127 which asked the Department of Fisheries Oceans commit to a 30 day response time for any development referral from a local government or First Nation; and that any referral not responded to in 30 days be deemed approved.

While the membership has asked the Province to increase its staffing resources and capacity to speed up response times, it has not asked that local governments be provided with the authority to accept and review QEP reports.

The Committee notes that taking on such an authority may raise questions around local government liability as well as future obligations.

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

(20) TITLE: PROTECTION OF TREES

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas regional districts currently have no regulatory authority to prevent tree cutting except as it relates to areas affected by flooding or other hazards;

And whereas municipalities have broad powers to regulate tree protection under Section 8(3)(c) and Division 7 of the *Community Charter*, including bylaws for protection, removal, replanting, and replacement of trees;

And whereas some regional districts, particularly regional districts experiencing development pressure, share similar concerns as municipalities with respect to protecting trees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide regional districts authority over tree cutting/tree protection that is equal to the regulatory power municipalities have for tree protection.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Not Endorse as covered under Part 14 Planning and Land Use. Further consideration is needed when dealing with unincorporated townsites.**UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions calling on the Province to grant regional districts the authority to enact tree protection bylaws (2021-EB52, 2019-B58, 2015-B39, 2003-B41).

FINANCE

(21) TITLE: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

SPONSOR: Town of Oliver

Whereas the Province of British Columbia provides a variety of funding and grants to local governments for programs that are not otherwise within the local government funding scope;

And whereas grants usually provide initial financial support, however local governments are often left with the burden of carrying future operational costs at the expense of the taxpayer;

And whereas a phased approach would decrease the financial burden to local governments and would allow local governments more time to determine the effectiveness of programs and if they should be continued:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia provide ongoing operational support in addition to initial grant funding to a minimum of 100% for the first 3 years and 50% for the following 3 years.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse with amendment:

Amendment:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia provide ongoing operational support, post initial grant funding, for activities and programs within the traditional provincial jurisdiction for a minimum of five years.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide ongoing operational support in addition to initial grant funding to a minimum of 100% for the first 3 years and 50% for the following 3 years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking improvements in the grant processes, including:

- 2022-EB58 which asked the provincial and federal governments to identify and expand grants
 that are more efficiently and effectively delivered on an non-application basis, and for those
 application based grant programs, that the delivery program be reviewed to increase certainty
 for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current
 application based grant funding programs;
- 2021-EB21 which encouraged the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate
 their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible
 application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the
 general administration of grant programs; and
- 2018-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments to restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding and it identifying the burden of having limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing grant programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:

- 2020-EB35 Doubling the Gas Tax;
- 2018-B109 Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access;
- 2014-B19 Federal Matching Grants;
- 2013-B19 Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;
- 2012-B13 Infrastructure Funding Criteria;
- 2012-B69 Local Government Funding; and
- 2009-B29 Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.

Finally, the Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2012-B137 - Federal Gas Tax Funding Eligibility which asked specifically for maintenance of roads to be considered eligible. The enactment read: "Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with its federal and provincial partners to amend the Federal Gas Tax Program agreement, specifically to expand the eligibility criteria to include maintenance and replacement of roadways at a sustainable level and to a standard that restores public safety for first responders and the travelling public."

(22) TITLE: SENIOR LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT – OVERSUBSCRIBED FUNDING

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas government funding programs such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Building BC Community Housing Fund have been established to realize government priorities;

And whereas local governments expend considerable effort and expense to prepare applications for government funding programs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the provincial government to review the granting process to improve efficiency and ensure its funding programs are adequately resourced so that shared objectives can be realized.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking improvements in the grant processes, including:

- 2022-EB58 which asked the provincial and federal governments to identify and expand grants
 that are more efficiently and effectively delivered on an non-application basis, and for those
 application based grant programs, that the delivery program be reviewed to increase certainty
 for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current
 application based grant funding programs;
- 2021-EB21 which encouraged the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs; and
- 2018-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments to restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding and it identifying the burden of having limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing grant programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:

- 2020-EB35 Doubling the Gas Tax;
- 2018-B109 Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access;
- 2014-B19 Federal Matching Grants;
- 2013-B19 Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities;
- 2012-B13 Infrastructure Funding Criteria;
- 2012-B69 Local Government Funding; and
- 2009-B29 Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding.

(23) TITLE: BC HYDRO – BEAUTIFICATION

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

Whereas BC Hydro suspended their Beautification Program in July 2022 which provided financial assistance for relocating electrical services to underground facilities;

And whereas overhead electrical services are vulnerable to wildlife interference or emergency events such as fire; require space within municipalities limited right of way area which conflicts with municipal infrastructure, cause barriers to creating active transportation improvements and limit greening projects such as street trees;

And whereas costs to convert overhead electrical services to underground facilities have become unsustainable for taxpayers in local government to carry alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reinstate the BC Hydro Beautification Program funding to support local governments in moving overhead electrical services to underground facilities.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to reinstate the BC Hydro Beautification Program funding to support local governments in moving overhead electrical services to underground facilities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions asking that hydro transmission infrastructure be protected from tsunamis (2005-B69), and for the visual impact of power lines to be minimized in areas of high tourism activity (2003-B95).

The Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2007-B163 which asked the provincial government and BC Hydro to take remedial measures to ensure that future power outages are minimized, if not eliminated, by taking immediate measures to protect transformers, hydro poles and power lines and to place power lines underground in areas where they are especially susceptible to damage by weather.

The membership also did not endorse resolution 2005-B151 which called for the adoption of a policy to route new transmission lines and reroute existing lines away from residential areas and, where this is not possible, to require undergrounding and shielding of such lines.

The Committee also advises that BC Hydro's Beautification Program was temporarily suspended in July 2022 to direct technical resources to facilitate critical new customer connections. The Program remains suspended indefinitely. The Beautification Fund provided financial assistance to municipal governments for conversion of overhead service to underground facilities to enhance and improve the use of public spaces.

LAND USE

(24) TITLE: AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION EXPANSION OF NON-FARM USAGE ON FARMLANDS SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas corporate and non-food crop farming on agricultural land has resulted in a decrease in crop diversity and increased stress on smaller/family-owned farms which produce tree fruit, vegetable, and berry crops;

And whereas smaller/family-owned farms are in need of additional sources of income from non-farm usage of their land (bistros, restaurants, etc.):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Note: The problem is the definition for "farm use" by the ALC. The committee feels the TUP isn't the appropriate vehicle to address this issue.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2013-B115 which sought permission for the establishment of licensed restaurants or lounges on agricultural land.

The Committee is aware that present provincial policy allows a winery to establish a restaurant or lounge to promote the products that it produces and sells. This agriculture-tourism business model is intended to provide additional revenue to the winery and promote tourism in the region. Local government is consulted regarding the location of such a facility, and further, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch must approve the facility.

Farm retail sales, non-farm use home occupation and gatherings for non-farm use events are also currently permitted in the ALR under certain circumstances.

(25) TITLE: JURISDICATION OF THE SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SPONSOR: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Whereas provincial legislation enabled the issuing of Crown-grant mineral claims from the mid-1800s until approximately 1960, and then the *Mineral Tenure Act* enabled miners to stake mineral claims on private property (entitling miners to prospect, explore, locate, mine and produce minerals, notwithstanding any negative impact of such activities on the rights of private property owners);

And whereas section 19 of the *Mineral Tenure Act* relates to "Right of entry on private land and compensation" and sets out a process for resolving disputes involving private property owners and miners undertaking mining activities on private property but does not specifically reference Crown-

granted mineral claims, and the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia's interpretation is that it has no jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the *Mineral Tenure Act* to clarify that the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia has jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crown-granted mineral claims.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the *Mineral Tenure Act* to clarify that the Surface Rights Board of British Columbia has jurisdiction to resolve disputes involving private property owners and Crowngranted mineral claims.

However, the Committee notes that membership has considered and endorsed a number of resolutions related to the *Mineral Tenure Act*, surface and sub-surface rights, including:

- 2013-B80 which asked for a broad-based public engagement process to determine how best to modernize the *Mineral Tenure Act*;
- 2008-B40 which asked for notification and to provide surface land owners the opportunity to comment at the time of an industry request for sub-surface parcels to be posted for sale, in order to facilitate early exchange of information and allow surface owners to inform prospective sub-surface bidders of surface activities that might affect access to sub-surface resources;
- 2007-B36 which asked to preclude the ability of a miner to stake a claim on private property without the consent of the property owner;
- 2007-B46 which asked to permit surface landowners with the same opportunity as local government to receive notification and make comments when sub-surface parcels are requested by industry; and
- development of the sub-surface rights holders.

The Committee would note that it is not clear why the Surface Rights Board has not been provided with the authority to resolve these early Crown-granted mineral claims. However, it does appear that there needs to be some mechanism in place to resolve these types of disputes and if not the Surface Rights Board then how else can these claims be addressed?

TRANSPORTATION

(26) TITLE: BC TRANSIT SHARE OF EXPENSES ON RURAL ROUTES

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas BC Transit works in partnership with 59 local governments to provide transit service;

And whereas regional transit system budgets are controlled by BC Transit and approved each year by local governments;

And whereas BC Transit pays 46.69% of expenses for both urban and rural areas;

And whereas rural areas have a higher costs than urban areas for operations, repairs, salary, and fuel as routes are longer and have less revenue due to lower ridership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Transit's share of the expenses be increased for rural routes.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that BC Transit's share of the expenses be increased, specifically for rural routes.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to implement a public transportation strategy and dedicate sustainable funding to public transit, particularly in rural communities (2020-EB17, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B95, 2012-B115, 2012-C37, 2004-B55).

More generally, members have supported resolutions on sustainable funding and future expansion of public transit services throughout BC (2017-B9, 2017-LR3, 2010-B21, 2005-B7, 2003-B65).

(27) TITLE: TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas the Trans-Canada Highway is BC's primary southern east-west corridor and is essential for trade and travel;

And whereas the 400-kilometre section of highway between Kamloops and the Alberta border is home of the most challenging terrain in Canada and is used by up to 12,000 vehicles a day;

And whereas in 2021 the Province committed to \$837 million over the next three years to allow traffic to move more safely and efficiently within the corridor, however, several projects identified in the Provincial plan are not yet underway, including the deteriorating RW Bruhn Bridge that poses significant public safety concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province initiate projects currently identified in the 2021 "Highway 1 - Kamloops to Alberta – Four-Laning" plan to improve the safety, reliability and capacity of the Trans-Canada Highway.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** *UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to initiate projects already identified in the 2021 "Highway 1 – Kamloops to Alberta – Four-Laning" plan.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).

(28) TITLE: IMPROVE INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SPONSOR: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Whereas road maintenance contracts between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (the "Ministry") and its contractors contain a requirement to develop 2-year summer road quantified maintenance plans (the "Road Maintenance Plans") but the Ministry does not share the Road Maintenance Plans with local governments;

And whereas the Ministry develops Infrastructure Improvement Priorities and Plans (the "Infrastructure Priorities") but the Ministry does not share the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments until the Infrastructure Priorities are fully developed and funded:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to be more transparent and start to share the Road Maintenance Plans and the Infrastructure Priorities with local governments and that a process be developed to do so.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse** UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB14, which asked the provincial government to require the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to engage in meaningful consultation with local governments throughout the planning stages, prior to undertaking works on highways. This request is similar to the concern about MOTI setting Infrastructure Priorities without consulting with local governments.

In response to resolution 2021-EB14, the Province committed that for capital projects, MOTI would "conduct public consultations, during project development to ensure the project considers comments and concerns from all interested parties." However, for rehabilitation projects (described as "like-for-like replacement of highway infrastructure"), the Province stated only that MOTI would "communicate with stakeholders" and did not commit to public consultation processes.

With regard to MOTI Road Maintenance Plans, the Committee advises that members have not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to share these plans with local governments.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved road and highway maintenance, including:

- regular provincial government audits and performance assessment of highway maintenance services, and communication of the audit findings to local governments (2017-B10, 2008-B113)
- improved snow clearing on roads and highways (2022-EB67, 2021-EB15, 2018-B85, 2007-B98)
- improved maintenance of rural and resource roads (2020-EB20, 2020-EB22, 2017-B58, 2017-B59, 2015-B74, 2013-B128, 2010-B19, 2008-B17);

- improved service level standards and maintenance funding for secondary provincial roads (2020-EB18, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17, 2003-B7);
- improved maintenance and funding for roads and bridges (2022-EB69, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2015-B75, 2014-B53, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110); and
- with local governments, improvement, expansion, and better maintenance of safe cycling and low carbon transportation infrastructure adjacent to provincial routes (2020-EB24, 2020-NR24, 2019-B16, 2016-B57, 2013-B66, 2011-B19, 2010-B17).

(29) TITLE: FUEL PRICING SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas in November of 2019 the BC government introduced the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* to help bring transparency to transportation fuel pricing in the province;

And whereas resulting BC Utilities Commission studies and data collection has found higher retail markup margins in specific rural markets, such as in March 2022 the BC Utilities Commission's Exploration Project #3, Retail Margins and Price Factors for Select cities including Golden, Revelstoke, Powell River, Sicamous, Whistler and Squamish, as well as stations in nearby cities found that sampled gas stations in those markets "appeared to earn higher margins on each litre of gasoline sold than the sampled retail stations in Metro Vancouver and the BC average;"

And whereas consumers in these and other rural markets often pay more per litre for transportation fuels such as gasoline and diesel than consumers in Metro Vancouver where there is an additional 18.5 cents per litre TransLink tax:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to follow through with legislative and/or regulatory action that will provide relief to consumers in rural BC fuel markets that experience chronic unexplained retail transportation fuel markups and higher than average transportation fuel prices.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to enact consumer relief legislation or regulations, for rural BC fuel markets that experience chronic unexplained retail transportation fuel markups and higher than average transportation fuel prices.

However, the Committee notes that membership considered, and referred to the UBCM Executive, resolution 2008-B150, which in part called on the Province to develop regulatory pricing controls for oil and gas corporations. Upon consideration of the resolution, the UBCM Executive referred 2008-B150 back to the sponsor.

The Committee further notes that members have endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about increasing gas prices (2001-B66, 2000-B46) and calling on other orders of government to develop strategies to deal with escalating fuel costs (2005-LR3). The Committee acknowledges that some of these are dated references.

LEGISLATIVE

(30) TITLE: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR: Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Whereas the requirement under s. 467 of the *Local Government Act* to notify, prior to first reading, that a public hearing will not be held on a rezoning application that is consistent with an official community plan is both burdensome and of unclear purpose;

And whereas the provincial government's stated purpose in amending s. 467 in 2021 was to "streamline local government development approvals processes";

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Local Government Act* by deleting s. 467 in its entirety.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* by deleting s. 467 in its entirety.

The Committee notes that the provision (s. 467) still serves as a notification to the public that a public hearing will not occur and the reasons why based on the provision. If this provision was removed, there would be no notice to the public to make them aware. As a result the Committee is offering no recommendation.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(31) TITLE: EXPEDITING FOREST APPROVALS

SPONSOR: City of Merritt

Whereas rural communities across British Columbia have historic and ongoing cultural and economic connections to forest and timber industries;

And whereas the closure of major employers such as mills can affect not only the immediately laid-off workers, but their families, and the economic viability of the entire community;

And whereas the Province of BC has committed to multi-million dollar funds such as the Rural Economic Development Fund and the BC Manufacturing Jobs Fund;

And whereas spending from these funds can be avoided if rural areas do not lose jobs unnecessarily:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the Province of BC to streamline and expedite the necessary approvals for forestry practices, including cutting permits (CPs), annual allowable cut (AAC), and necessary First Nations consultation within BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and to strictly follow stated approval timelines.

SILGA Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling upon the Province to streamline and expedite the necessary approvals for forestry practices, including cutting permits (CPs), annual allowable cut (AAC), and necessary First Nations consultation within BC's *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, and to strictly follow stated approval timelines.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed other resolutions seeking a more streamlined approval/permitting process from provincial and federal governments on approvals related to the *Water Sustainability Act* (2021-LR3, 2020-EB52, 2019-B153); DFO development referral (2011-B127) and mining project referrals (2009-B138)

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve the community benefits of forest resources through the establishment of community forests, incentives for value-added/build with wood initiatives and strengthening provisions to provide for local processing (2021-SR2, 2019-B156, 2018-B43, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2016-B42, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-LR2, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2013-B116, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44, 2007-B45, 2006-B44, 2006-B42, 2006-B43, 2005-B32).

In particular, special resolution 2021-SR2 asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and Indigenous communities as it moves forward to implement recommendations within the Modernizing Forest Policy in BC Intentions Paper, including matters related to old growth designations and deferrals, recognizing that there will be implications and impacts for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

While the sponsor is seeking to streamline and expedite approvals, the Committee would note that members have also endorsed resolutions that have asked the Province to give local governments a legislated avenue for providing input before cutting permits for forest licensees and woodlot tenures are approved and issued. So while the sponsor is asking to expedite approvals, local governments have also asked to be consulted and part of that approvals process which also takes time, so it is important to understand what streamlining and expediting would mean in the context of ensuring continued engagement and consultation with local governments.