

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.

CARRIED

(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.

Proposed 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.

1st Lori Mindnich, Lumby

2nd Kevin Acton, Lumby

Vote on Amendment: CARRIED

Vote on Amended Resolution: CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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 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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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 a 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.

Proposed 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;

1st Tim Staphenhurst, RDOS

2nd Jim King, Osoyoos

Vote on Amendment: CARRIED

Vote on Amended Resolution: CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

(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.

DEFEATED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

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.

Proposed 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.

1st Sal De Mare, SLRD

2nd Keith Thom, Peachland

Vote on Amendment: CARRIED

Vote on Amended Resolution: CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

(25) TITLE: JURISDICTION 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.

CARRIED

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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

(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.

CARRIED

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.

DEFEATED

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.

CARRIED