

2024 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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(1) TITLE: SILGA Constitution Fee Amendment

SPONSOR: SILGA

WHEREAS inflation over the past years have greatly exceeded the current dues increases set out in the current SILGA constitution; and

WHEREAS SILGA continues to provide additional services to its membership;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SILGA request an amendment to the SILGA Bylaws to reflect the following fee structure for each member based on the 2023 calculation of

\$300(7.5% of population) *2%:

For 2024 dues 5% increase based on the 2023 dues

For 2025 dues and beyond Increased each year by the annual BC CPI calculated on December 31st of the previous year

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

(2) TITLE: SILGA Life Member Convention Registration

SPONSOR: SILGA

WHEREAS SILGA Past Presidents and UBCM Past Presidents from the SILGA region are granted lifetime membership in SILGA; and

WHEREAS SILGA understands that these officials often stay in local politics after they have stepped away from SILGA or UBCM, continuing their contribution to local communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all SILGA lifetime members basic convention registration fees be waived, regardless of their current elected status.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

(3) TITLE: SILGA Bylaw Section 7.5 and 7.9 on SILGA Executive Voting Procedures

SPONSOR: SILGA

WHEREAS electronic means have the capacity to determine the outcome of voting quickly and accurately; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Sections 7.5 and 7.9 of the SILGA Constitution and Bylaws be changed as follows:

7.5 If an election of the Executive is required, ballots shall be prepared and distributed with the names of the candidates listed alphabetically in order of surnames on the ballots, and shall show only the candidates' names, official positions, municipality or regional district. Those candidates receiving the most votes of the Members being elected to the Executive, and ballots shall be destroyed by resolution of the Members following the declaration of the successful candidate for office or directorship.

7.9 Scrutineers shall be appointed by the President, and it shall be among the duties of such Scrutineers to count the votes, or verify the votes, or both, on such ballots and declare the result of such elections to the Chair of the Nominating Committee who shall report the results of the elections to the Convention. In the case of a ballot vote being held for the seven positions of Director at Large, all ballots marked for more than the number to be elected, subject to subsection 7.11 and 7.12 below, shall be counted as spoiled ballots.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

(4) TITLE: SILGA Bylaw on Resolution Voting (Section 11.3)

Sponsor: SILGA

WHEREAS current standing votes can take time and may not be completely accurate, and

WHEREAS electronic means have the capacity to determine the outcome of voting quickly and accurately;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 11.3 of the SILGA Constitution and Bylaws be changed as follows:

Voting on ordinary resolutions shall be by show of voting card or by electronic means, as determined by the Chair and the Chair's decision as to whether a motion is won or lost shall be final.

In cases where the number of votes for or against a motion is difficult to discern using a show of voting cards, the Chair may at their discretion call for a vote using electronic means. The results of a vote using electronic means are final.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(5) TITLE: Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire Department First Responder Programs

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

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 Recommendation: Endorse but with comments

Committee comments: As BC Ambulance is not adequately funded in rural areas by the Province, it means that Volunteer Fire Departments are now doing the job of ambulance attendants for medical callouts and highway accidents.

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 (2023-EB4, 2023-EB5, 2023-EB6, 2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26).

(6) TITLE: Complex Care Facilities

SPONSOR: City of Penticton and Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas the toxic drug crisis continues to surge across the province and the lasting effects of overdose can potentially lead to acquired brain injury which can include organ failure, nerve damage, paralysis, memory loss, mental disorientation, diminished motor skills, reduced physical and cognitive functioning, and behavioural changes;

And whereas communities across the province are implementing many initiatives in support of all residents' safety and wellbeing such as Public Safety and Social Development Frameworks;

And whereas the Province has developed a complex care framework that acknowledges the growing number of people in our communities who require housing and have overlapping health, mental health, trauma and acquired brain injuries; yet there are no established timelines and residents continue to suffer in the interim;

Whereas the Province has appointed Health Authorities as the lead for plan implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province provides immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not specifically asked the Province to provide immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2021-NR44, 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).

(7) TITLE: Food Accessibility and Affordability

SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas it is vital for BC residents to have access to affordable, healthy food;

And whereas food inflation has increased prices so much that many more individuals and households have been forced to use food supports in their communities which puts severe pressure on local food banks;

And whereas subsidized housing is calculated based on household total gross income, yet food costs have no mechanism for reduction based on income levels:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish a framework for a multi-year funding model to support a food security system with tiered pricing to alleviate the increased pressure on Food Banks emergency food support(s) programs.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

Comments: Food is based on free market pricing and it is very difficult to ask people what they earn. And would it be accurate anyway?

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 establish a framework for a multi-year funding model to support a food security system with tiered pricing to alleviate the increased pressure on Food Banks emergency food support(s) programs.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians (2023-NR48, 2023-NR61, 2022-NR8, 2021-EB70, 2020-EB78, 2019-B66, 2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2014-A3).

(8) TITLE: Resolving the Toxic Drug Crisis

SPONSOR: City of Kamloops

Whereas it has been eight years since the declaration of the toxic drug crisis as a public health emergency;

And whereas local governments need their provincial partners to move from reaction to action by developing and implementing a holistic plan that brings into balance all four pillars: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province develop, implement and fund equally a balanced holistic plan, based on these four pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement) for resolving the toxic drug crisis.

SILGA Recommendation: No Recommendation

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 develop and implement a balanced holistic plan, based on these four pillars (prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and enforcement) for resolving the toxic drug crisis.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2021-NR44, 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).

Kamloops comments:

This resolution is pinpointing that the three pillars that are not being resourced and funded the same level as the Harm Reduction pillar.

(9) TITLE: Impact on Local Government from the Decriminalization of Drugs in BC

SPONSOR: City of Merritt

Whereas the Province of BC was granted an exemption under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* for the personal possession of small amounts of certain illegal drugs for a trial period beginning January 31, 2023 until January 31, 2026;

And whereas communities have seen increased pressure on RCMP and first responders since the implementation of the decriminalization pilot program;

And whereas no statistics or reporting dashboard has been provided to support the continuation of the program or demonstrate the decrease in harm associated with decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of illegal substances:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to create a workable dashboard which reports statistics of the impact decriminalization has had on reducing the harm of criminalization and demonstrates whether the continuation of the pilot program is of benefit to communities.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

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 Minister of Mental Health and Addictions to create a workable dashboard which reports statistics of the impact decriminalization has had on reducing the harm of criminalization and demonstrates whether the continuation of the pilot program is of benefit to communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions in support of decriminalization (2023-SR3, 2021-NR44); sought legislation to regulate the possession and use of illicit drugs in specific areas (2023-SR4) and have called on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province: (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).

HOUSING

(10) TITLE: BC Homeowners Solar Power Incentive Program

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas meeting the need for additional power sources in BC with industrial scale wind and solar installations is expensive, potentially damaging to environmentally sensitive land, and insufficient;

And whereas private solar installations would reduce these negative economic and environmental impacts;

And whereas solar installation is costly and often beyond the financial ability of many property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province create a Provincial Solar Power Rebate Program for homeowners.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions seeking financial incentives and support for residential solar power, including:

- *2022-NR18 which asked for financial incentives, including increased feed-in-tariffs, for home and building owners to install solar (photovoltaic) panels and solar hot water systems;*
- *2018-B58 which asked the provincial and federal governments for support for the development of alternative home heating products that are more affordable to consumers, yet sensitive to environmental sustainability targets; and*
- *2009-B166 (Executive endorsed) which asked the Province to provide incentives to encourage new construction to be pre-plumbed and pre-wired for future solar panels or other alternative energy installations.*

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).

(11) TITLE: Residential Tenancy Act Review

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas British Columbia is in a housing crisis and the *Residential Tenancy Act* is intended to provide a fair balance between the right of tenants to safe and secure affordable housing and the right of landlords to maintain their property and see a return on their investment;

And whereas the current *Residential Tenancy Act* was enacted in 2004 and the last comprehensive review was completed over 20 years ago (2001-2002), and there is no indication from the Province that a new review will be conducted;

And whereas the Province is investing \$15 million over three years to hire and train more Residential Tenancy Branch staff and the Province reports a growing caseload for adjudicating disputes between renters and landlords:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to conduct a formal review of the *Residential Tenancy Act* that includes meaningful consultation with stakeholders and considers tenancy legislation enacted in other Canadian jurisdictions.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2014-B51 which asked the Province “to initiate a complete review of the Residential Tenancy Act in order to address gaps within the legislation which adversely impact both landlords and tenants.”

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed some resolutions seeking a review of the Residential Tenancy Act to address a variety of issues (2020-EB84, 2019-B182, 2017-B120, 2017-B126, 2016-B121).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking additional resources for Residential Tenancy Branch, including:

- *2023-EB17 which asked, in part, for adequate resourcing of the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB); and*
- *2022-NR12 which asked, in part, to provide the RTB with additional resources to ensure timely support for adjudication, as well as tracking of health related concerns.*

(12) TITLE: Increased Funding for the Implementation of New Provincial Housing Development Requirements

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas the Province provided funding in January 2024 for local governments to implement the requirements of new housing legislation;

And whereas the actual expected costs of implementation have been estimated by multiple local government speakers at the UBCM Housing Summit to be two to three times the amount of the provided funding:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request of the provincial government that the initial funding to support the implementation of new housing development requirements be increased to reflect actual costs.

SILGA Recommendation: No recommendation

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 increase the initial funding to support the implementation of new housing development requirements to reflect actual costs.

(13) TITLE: Cold Weather Shelters

SPONSOR: City of Kamloops

Whereas the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) reports people at risk of hypothermia include:

- People experiencing homelessness (persons who are unsheltered, unhoused, or living in places not fit for human habitation)
- People who use substances, including alcohol, that modify their ability to feel the effects of cold exposure or to respond or modify their responses to cold conditions
- People who spend long hours outside for work or recreation
- People with disabilities, limited mobility, certain medical conditions such as diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, and diseases affecting blood vessels and people taking certain medications
- Older people (over 60 years of age), infants and young children;

And whereas the BCCDC has established guidelines to open cold weather shelters when temperatures drop below 0° C or enacted at higher degrees when the weather forecast includes wet, snowy, or windy conditions as recommended by the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response.

SILGA Recommendation: Not endorsed

Comments: Each community should be allowed to determine their threshold.

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 standardize the opening of cold weather shelters throughout the province based on the recommendations from the BC Health Effects Anomalous Temperatures (HEAT) Committee's cold-weather response.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions that asked the Province to provide funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response shelters and warming and cooling centers (2023-EB18, 2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy as part of a comprehensive plan to address homelessness (2022-NR64, 2020-NR70, 2017-B52, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109). As well, the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2021-LR5.

The provincial government's website offers a list of expenses and their eligibility for reimbursement during an extreme weather emergencies:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/policies/514_eligibility_assessment_addendum.pdf

(14) TITLE: One Hectare Limit for Septic Services

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas British Columbia is facing a housing crisis and part of the reason for the housing crisis is lack of developable land;

And whereas additional land for housing could be available but for the requirement of a minimum of one hectare of land for the installation of a septic field;

And whereas this one hectare minimum is an arbitrary rule which is in no way related to the ability of a location to support a septic system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields may be located based on scientific research and factual evidence in harmony with the 2014 Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual and the professional reliance model.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Amend TBIR to read: Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields may be located.

Comments: Communities need to be aware of the current capital grant funding policy for expansion of community sewer in an area historically serviced by septic.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2023-NR17 which asked the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

The Committee notes that the provincial government originally introduced the 1.0 hectare policy to end the subdivision of small parcels of land that relied strictly on septic fields as the means of waste disposal. The Province identified one hectare as being the minimum parcel size upon which a septic field for a single residential use should be utilized.

The Committee also notes that during the 2000's UBCM was a part of a committee that explored servicing issues, at which time concerns were raised regarding the need to ensure that if land was to be developed with septic systems, it should be done in a way to ensure that septic systems are viable as long term solutions due to the high costs of bringing in community sewer at a later date.

The Committee further notes that the 1.0 hectare policy is required to be eligible to receive a capital grant that is used to provide community sewer to an area historically serviced by septic. If local governments choose to not implement a 1.0 hectare policy, they have that ability, but they will not be eligible for funding from the Province.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

(15) TITLE: Bylaw Offence Notice Limits

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas the *Community Charter* Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation has been amended to increase maximum Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) fine amounts from \$1,000 to \$3,000, but the maximum fine amount for Bylaw Offence Notices (BON) under the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* remains at \$500, which is inconsistent with inflation rates and is not enough of a financial disincentive for many bylaw infractions, especially for short-term rentals;

And whereas BONs are more commonly used for bylaw enforcement as they require less evidentiary and administrative work than MTIs and can be disputed through a neutral adjudication process rather than tying up the court system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to increase the maximum penalty for Bylaw Offence Notices and amend the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act* accordingly.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed resolution 2016-B84 which sought an increase to the maximum penalty provided under the Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act from \$500 to \$1,000.

UBCM has raised the need to increase the bylaw adjudication maximum fine amount with the provincial government on numerous occasions. To this point, the Province has been unwilling to meaningfully consider this change, despite overseeing the increase of certain costs associated with the adjudication process.

(16) TITLE: Intersection Safety Cameras

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

Whereas intersection safety is a matter of paramount importance for the well-being and security of for the residents and visitors in British Columbia;

And whereas intersection safety cameras have been proven to reduce the incidents of traffic violations, collisions, and fatalities at high-risk intersections across various jurisdictions;

And whereas several local governments across British Columbia have expressed the desire to install intersection safety cameras at key intersections to enhance road safety and reduce traffic related incidents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM supports the installation of intersection safety cameras at the request of local governments in BC;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide the necessary funding and resources to facilitate the installation, maintenance, and operation of intersection safety cameras in local governments that request them.

SILGA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that UBCM support the installation of intersection safety cameras at the request of local governments; and, that the Province provide the necessary funding and resources to facilitate the installation, maintenance and operation of intersection safety cameras in local governments that request their installation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions (2023-EB25, 2019-B8, 2017-B90) asking the Province to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras on local roads at the local government's expense. These resolutions did not contemplate how revenue would be managed. As part of its response to resolution 2023-EB25, the Province stated that it does not intend to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking the usage of traffic enforcement cameras, including:

- *2018-B103 which asked the Province to pilot average-speed-over-distance technology at one or more suitable locations in BC, including but not limited to the Sea-to-Sky Highway 99 at Lions Bay, the Malahat Highway 1 or the Coquihalla Highway 5;*
- *2013-B91 which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and*
- *2011-B84 which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.*

(17) TITLE: Priority of Post Wildfire Debris Cleanup in Riparian Areas

SPONSOR: Squamish Lillooet Regional District

Whereas BC has experienced unprecedented wildfire activity resulting in significant detrimental and toxic environmental impacts, especially within riparian areas;

And whereas many homeowners who have been impacted by wildfires are unable to afford the expensive assessments due to financial constraints thereby not proceeding with cleanup on their properties;

And whereas the lack of a timely and flexible Riparian Area Protection Regulation (RAPR) permit process has not only hindered legitimate cleanup efforts but has also given rise to an increase in reports of illegal dumping causing additional environmental harm;

And whereas the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship was responsive to developing an expedited and flexible assessment process for wildfire debris cleanup:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to prioritize the development and implementation of an expedited process for cleaning up wildfire debris in riparian areas and develop clear policy guidelines to support the post-wildfire debris cleanup in riparian areas in preparation for future wildfires.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking to prioritize the development and implementation of an expedited process for cleaning up wildfire debris in riparian areas and develop clear policy guidelines to support the post-wildfire debris cleanup in riparian areas in preparation for future wildfires.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2023-EB28, 2020-EB12, 2019-B13, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).

(18) TITLE: Provincial Support for Rebuilding Following Disasters

SPONSOR: Thompson Nicola Regional District

Whereas the Province of BC faces the worsening effects of climate change, the disasters resulting from which impact more residents and properties with each year;

And whereas many residents and properties impacted by wildfire and flooding are located within regional districts;

And whereas disasters do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries (as was the case with Lytton Creek wildfire):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit to ensuring that in the case of disasters such as wildfire and flooding, all of those who are impacted - regardless of jurisdictional boundaries - receive the same access to, and level of, support as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.

SILGA Recommendation: No Recommendation

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 commit to ensuring that in the case of disasters such as wildfire and flooding, all of those who are impacted - regardless of jurisdictional boundaries - receive the same access to, and level of, support as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.

ENVIRONMENT

(19) TITLE: Non-Compliant and Illegal Buoys

SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Whereas many BC local governments continue to experience an ongoing significant proliferation of non-compliant and illegal buoys on our lakes, which has led to an untenable enforcement and public safety situation as well as diminished environmental and fisheries values;

And whereas both the Province of BC and Government of Canada have a shared jurisdictional authority and responsibility regarding enforcement and removal of these structures because

- the buoys are placed on Crown lands (being anchored to the lake bottom),
- the landowners are using Crown lands for exclusive ongoing use without tenure; and
- the buoy float and its placement/adjacency on the water to other buoys and structures is regulated by Transport Canada:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to utilize their enforcement powers and authorities to remove non-compliant and illegal buoys which are in trespass on

Crown lands, through a multijurisdictional project between the Province of BC, Government of Canada, and impacted local governments.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions (2017-B68 and 2009-B173) requesting the provincial and federal governments remove unsafe, unsightly and hazardous objects (buoys, docks, boats and other structures) from waterways. In particular, resolution 2017-B68 requests that buoys on lakes and rivers that have been illegally placed be removed by Transport Canada.

Note: Resolutions /20/21/22 will be voted as a block

(20) TITLE: Federal Funding for BC's Invasive Mussel Defence Program

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas invasive mussels represent one of the biggest national and regional transboundary threats to our waterways;

And whereas the threat of invasive mussels has dramatically increased with Idaho announcing quagga mussels were detected in the Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia River and less than a day's drive to the BC and Alberta borders;

And whereas none of the \$750 million allocated to the Canada Water Agency addresses this threat or supports existing gaps in BC's Invasive Mussel Defence Program, including the need for additional watercraft inspection stations;

And whereas the Province of BC allocates over \$1 million a year to the Invasive Mussel Defence Program, and it would only take \$4 million a year to protect the Canadian Columbia Basin, the Fraser Basin, Peace Region and other major western river systems:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) lobby the Government of Canada to protect our waterways by allocating and matching the provincial funding for BC's Invasive Mussel Defence Program.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2023-EB36, 2021-EB26, 2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

(21) TITLE: Funding Increase for Invasive Mussel Defense Program

SPONSOR: City of Salmon Arm

Whereas it is widely acknowledged that the infiltration of invasive mussels in British Columbia waterways would have catastrophic environmental and economic impacts on local governments;

And whereas the primary mechanism for invasive mussels entering the province is on or in watercraft:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for the Invasive Mussel Defense Program, introduce supportive legislation and update the Early Detection, Rapid Response Plan;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to work with the Government of Canada to support these efforts to prevent invasive mussel infestation in BC waterways by allocating significant, long-term funding.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2023-EB36, 2021-EB26, 2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

(22) TITLE: Invasive Mussels

SPONSOR: City of Kelowna

Whereas bodies of water in British Columbia are at very high risk for infestation of invasive mussels, particularly following the discovery of quagga mussels in a tributary of the Columbia River in Idaho;

And whereas an infestation of invasive mussels would cause significant economic and environmental losses, with economic losses alone estimated at \$64 million to \$129 million annually across the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC take action based on the Okanagan Basin Water Board's recommendations to the Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship for invasive mussel prevention, dated September 25, 2023, including requesting the federal government enhance inspections, increasing funding and staffing for the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program, introducing provincial "pull-the-plug" legislation, and updating the provincial Early Detection, Rapid Response plan;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC work with the federal government to increase long-term funding and support to prevent invasive mussels from entering waterways in British Columbia.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported numerous resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions addressing watercraft and invasive mussels:

- *2023-EB36 which asked the province to 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; and*
- *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.*

(23) TITLE: Boat Launch Fees to Fund Watercraft Inspection Stations at Boat Launches

SPONSOR: Village of Lumby

Whereas the provincial government has only six permanent and two mobile watercraft inspection stations and these stations are the last point of potential inspection before a watercraft enters a body of water or waterway;

And whereas stopping at watercraft inspection station is the obligation of the individual transporting the watercraft;

And whereas the fine for failing to stop at an inspection station carries a maximum fine of \$345;

And whereas the cost to mitigate invasive zebra and quagga mussels exceeds the cost of the fine by millions of dollars:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to establish fees at boat launches to assist with funding additional watercraft inspection stations at boat launches to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

SILGA Recommendation: Not endorse

Comments: SILGA agrees that additional watercraft inspection stations are needed but don't agree with this funding model.

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 establish a fee at boat launches to assist with funding additional watercraft inspection stations at boat launches to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed two resolutions addressing watercraft and invasive mussels:

- *2023-EB36 which asked the province to 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; and*
- *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 several resolutions seeking increased funding, support and enforcement from the provincial and federal governments to address invasive mussels (2023-EB36, 2021-EB26, 2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

(24) TITLE: Produce Stickers in Composting Facilities

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas the Government of Canada, Province of BC, and 17 regional districts, municipalities and local First Nations have together invested up to \$30 million through the Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) to keep organic waste out of landfills and to increase organic composting capacity in BC;

And whereas the organic composting process is hindered by the difficulty of screening out non compostable plastic Price Look-Up (PLU) stickers applied to fruit and vegetable items that inevitably end up in curbside collection bins:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the governments of British Columbia and Canada to require the use of certified industrially compostable PLU stickers on all fresh produce.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

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 provincial and federal governments to require the use of certified industrially compostable PLU stickers on all fresh produce.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2017-B111 which asked the provincial and federal governments (where applicable) to change both domestic and import regulations

related to food labeling to require vegetable-based ink/food safe stamps on all fruits and vegetables sold in Canada, to address the issue of the plastic, non-compostable produce stickers.

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

(25) TITLE: Allow Regional Districts to Become Taxing Authorities

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas regional districts are not taxing authorities and not able to change the tax multipliers, unlike municipalities that are allowed to adjust to swings in assessments between residential and business classes;

And whereas municipalities are able to change the multiplier which creates a consistency in taxes from year to year, while regional districts are not;

And whereas the taxpayers within a regional district are charged by the Province a 5.25% collection fee, which for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is over \$900,000:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry to allow regional districts, at their discretion, to become a taxing authority.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolutions asking for a review and modernization of the Local Government Act, seeking more legislative authority for regional districts, including:

- 2023-EB66 which asked the Province for a comprehensive review and modernization of the Local Government Act, during the current municipal term of office;*
- 2022-EB80 which asked the Province to further a legislative reform initiative for the purpose of comprehensively reviewing and modernizing the Local Government Act, in order to grant regional districts legislative authority in a variety of areas, [including taxation which was referenced in the whereas clause];*
- 2018-B4 which asked for a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act to ensure it meets modern needs and addresses the issue of equity between municipalities and regional districts (e.g. scope of regulatory authority, requirements for service establishment, etc.); and*
- 2015-B1 which asked the Province to act upon its commitment to modernize and harmonize the legislation governing regional districts.*

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR19 which asked the Province to reduce the provincial collection fee (5.25%) on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

FINANCE

(26) TITLE: Grant Processing Timelines

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas local governments are required to meet tight and firm deadlines for submissions to provincial and federal application-based grant programs;

And whereas after submitting a grant application, local governments are left to wait indefinitely due to the absence of established timelines for grant adjudication and approvals, thereby affecting local governments' ability to plan projects with certainty and financial accuracy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to establish and adhere to processing timelines and award decision dates for all application-based grant programs.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

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 provincial and federal governments to establish and adhere to processing timelines and award decision dates for all application-based grant programs.

The Committee notes that while the Province does establish timelines for various programs under Local Government Program Services (LGPS) which is administered by UBCM, there are no set timelines for provincial/federal capital infrastructure programs.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to improve and streamline grant processes, including:

- 2022-EB58 which asked, in part, for the provincial and federal governments to review the delivery program for application-based grant programs 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 asked that the provincial and federal governments 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 that the provincial and federal governments restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding (and remove need to expend limited staff and financial resources on grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements).*

Additionally, 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;
- 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.

(27) TITLE: Servicing Agricultural Land Reserve Properties

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) plays a critical role in protecting and promoting food security for all British Columbians;

And whereas distances between agricultural parcels makes the cost of maintaining infrastructure to those properties disproportionately expensive and cannot be recovered from farm-class property taxes;

And whereas as a result, the cost of servicing farmland for the benefit of all British Columbians falls unfairly on residential taxpayers within agricultural communities and limits the ability of the local governments of those communities to adequately serve their residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the government of British Columbia to develop a reliable and consistent revenue source for local governments to adequately service their Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

SILGA Recommendation: Not endorse

Comments: SILGA does not see this as a regional issue.

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 develop a reliable and consistent revenue source for local governments to adequately service their Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for increased financial support from the Province to support the viability of agricultural initiatives including funding for local governments (2019-B32, 2014-A3, 2011-B52, 2009-B89, 2008-B47).

(28) TITLE: Tax Restrictions for the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program

SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas local governments collect taxes through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program (MRDT);

And whereas the current restrictions on what this money can be spent on are restrictive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to investigate expanding the eligible expenditures of the funds collected through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program, to allow each local government to have a larger say in what projects these funds should go towards to directly support their community and impacts of tourism, allowing for better long term planning and the ability to adapt the funds to the specific needs of the community it serves.

SILGA Recommendation: Not endorse

Comment: TBIR clause is not clear enough

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 investigate expanding the eligible expenditures of the funds collected through the Municipal and Regional District Tax Program, to allow each local government to have a larger say in what projects these funds should go towards to directly support their community and impacts of tourism, allowing for better long term planning and the ability to adapt the funds to the specific needs of the community it serves.

The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) was introduced in 1987, by the provincial government to provide funding for local tourism marketing, programs, and projects. The tax is intended to help grow BC revenues, visitation, and jobs, and amplify BC's tourism marketing efforts. The MRDT is an up-to three percent tax applied to sales of short-term accommodation provided in participating areas of British Columbia on behalf of municipalities, regional districts and eligible entities. Affordable housing was added as a permissible use of funds in the 2018 Provincial Budget, to help address local housing needs.

(29) TITLE: Resort Municipality Initiative Funding to support Local Food Banks

SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas workers in resort municipalities struggle to maintain an adequate living wage, and these community members are essential to sustaining the tourism economy in our communities;

And whereas these individuals are leaning on food banks to be able to survive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to allow Resort Municipality Initiative funds to support local Food Banks.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

Comment: The ask is too far outside the purpose of the Resort municipality Initiative fund.

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 allow Resort Municipality Initiative funds to support local Food Banks.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians (2023-NR48, 2023-NR61, 2022-NR8, 2021-EB70, 2020-EB78, 2019-B66, 2013-B56, 2011-B101, 2014-A3).

The Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI) program is managed by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. The program is intended to support small, tourism-based municipalities to build and diversify their tourism infrastructure, deliver exceptional visitor experiences, and incorporate sustainable tourism practices and products.

LAND USE

(30) TITLE: Funding Mechanism for Small Community Water Systems

SPONSOR: Thompson Nicola Regional District

Whereas BC regional districts, at the direction of the Province, have assumed responsibility for many small community utility systems (water and wastewater);

And whereas small community utility systems are not sustainable if funded by user fees alone:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish an annual funding mechanism for small community utility systems (less than 500 connections) which matches the revenue from user fees charged by the regional district;

And be it further resolved that the Province consider using funding from Property Transfer Tax of the homes connected to the utility systems for this purpose.

SILGA Recommendation: Not endorse

Comment: The Province should be holding the system operators accountable for all upgrades and establishment of a reserve to fund additional costs.

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 establish an annual funding mechanism for small community utility systems (less than 500 connections) which matches the revenue from user fees charged by the regional district; nor has the membership considered asking the Province to consider using funding from Property Transfer Tax of the homes connected to the utility systems for this purpose.

However, the Committee notes that the membership supported two recent, identical resolutions addressing funding for small water systems, both submitted by Thompson-Nicola RD: 2023-EB47 and 2022-EB81. These resolutions asked for sustainable funding for very small water systems to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax (PTT) with local governments to address new and aging infrastructure needs (2023-EB52, 2012-B18); and to address affordable housing and homelessness (2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).

TNRD Background

- 1) The Province requested Regional Districts take over failing small water systems that were inadequately capitalized and lacked operational capacity - Regional Districts did that.*
- 2) The Province asked Regional Districts to implement water meters and meet current drinking water standards - Regional Districts have done that.*
- 3) The Province recommended user fees be reset to reflect the value of the utility for those connected - Regional Districts have maximized user rates.*
- 4) The Province requests Regional Districts implement 5 and 10-year capital plans to adequately fund Regional infrastructure - Regional Districts have prepared these financial reports.*

Notwithstanding these initiatives, small water systems lack the economies of scale of municipal systems. They are remote, cannot be interconnected and are not growing at a self-supporting rate. A consequence of diminutive scale is that small systems inherently cannot build reserves to address intermittent failures, equipment obsolescence, or increasing drinking water standards. Many systems are on annual boil water advisories because financial capacity limits Regional District capability to respond. A utility capital shortfall is inevitable.

Regional Districts request a predictable funding mechanism to prudently address the inevitable capital shortfall. Intermittent grant funding is not a best practices approach and generally unfair to Regional District constituents not connected to these systems.

A Provincial Small Water Utilities Fund that matches user fee revenue, would prudently address inevitable capital deficiencies of Provincial small water systems, while prompting Regional Districts to ensure user fee rates are maximized.

Regional District participation in Property Purchase Tax revenues for those properties connected to the small utility, would ensure a capital reserve contribution on turnover to the future owner, whom will directly benefit from the utility connection.

(31) TITLE: Provincial Watershed Security

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services and most supply irrigation for agriculture to their communities and BC faces real threats to the health, security and supply of water to our rapidly growing communities over the next decade and beyond, and all BC municipalities have high growth targets to achieve;

And whereas the \$100 million announced in the BC 2023 budget to kickstart support for watershed security is insufficient to ensure adequate restoration and long-term security for drinking water, cultural heritage values, and agriculture needs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Province of BC build on their initial investment in the BC Watershed Security Fund to create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source that provides \$100 million annually for community-driven watershed security initiatives.

SILGA Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

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 (2023-EB37, 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 also notes, that while we have policy supporting additional provincial funding for water stewardship and security, the membership has not previously asked for an annual set amount of funding to be allocated, so we are offering No Recommendation.

(32) TITLE: Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Wildfires

SPONSOR: Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Whereas the current forest ecosystem contains significant unnatural old growth forest, excluding Interior Cedar Hemlock and Coastal Rainforest, and experiences damage from devastating wildfires and insect epidemics;

And whereas the biodiversity and sustainability of forests in British Columbia is at risk, impacting human and wildlife health, ecosystem health, and the economy of the forest sector:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC, in conjunction with Indigenous Nations, to modernize forest management policies and regulations, update biodiversity targets, and promote environmental stewardship, which are key in creating healthy forests, reducing fire hazards, and protecting community safety and critical infrastructure;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to support education on the value of reintroducing fire plan strategies to responsibly manage fuel sources as a healthy way to maintain the forest, ungulate, bird, and amphibian populations, and protect community safety and infrastructure.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking all of the items noted in the enactment clauses but most issues have been addressed separately by resolutions.

The Committee notes that the membership did endorse 2010-B91 which asked, in part, that the Ministry of Forests:

“(c) amend existing policies to ensure that the primary management goal within the wildland-urban interface should be the reduction of wildfire hazard and promotion of ecosystem health and resilience; and

(d) work with local governments to fund and implement a comprehensive management program based on current sound science research that protects the economic, environmental and social assets of community interface forests.”

The Committee also notes that members have endorsed resolutions addressing modernizing forest management policies as well as protection of ecosystem health and biodiversity, including:

- 2023-EB55 which asked the Province to engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review;*
- 2023-LR1 which asked the Province to defer its current land base forestry initiatives until a comprehensive inventory is conducted after the 2023 wildfire season; and*
- 2022-NR38 and 2022-NR39 both requested that the Province “develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous and western scientific experts, and the concerned public.”*

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2023-NR33, 2022-EB36, 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).

TAXATION

(33) TITLE: Volunteer Firefighter and Search and Rescue Members Income Tax Credit (Bill C-310)

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas Bill C-310, an Act to amend the *Income Tax Act* (volunteer fire fighting and search and rescue volunteer tax credit), was introduced and passed first reading on December 8, 2022, sitting 144, and has since stalled;

And whereas it is becoming more and more difficult to attract and maintain volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members to rural detachments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government in supporting and requesting that Bill C-310 be expedited through the House of Commons and the Senate as an emergency situation.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse with the following amendment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government in supporting and requesting that Bill C-310 be expedited through the House of Commons and the Senate.

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 support and request that federal Bill C-310 be expedited through the House of Commons and the Senate as an emergency situation.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR75 which asked the Province to increase the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

The Committee also notes that the membership supported a number of resolutions that sought a tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, prior to the current credit of \$3,000 being put into place (2011-B118, 2006-B22, 2005-B15, 2004-B61).

The Committee further notes that a federal private member's bill proposing an increase in tax credits from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services was submitted by the MP for Courtenay-Alberni. Bill C-310 received first reading at the House of Commons on December 8, 2022.

TRANSPORTATION

(34) TITLE: Adjustment of Funding Formula for Small Rural Transit Services

SPONSOR: Village of Ashcroft

Whereas operational costs for the provisions of rural transit services continue to escalate in this inflationary environment;

And whereas BC Transit budget projections for existing small rural transit services appear to have a higher percentage cost increase for community partners than the Province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider the unique challenges faced by small rural transit services and consider the diverse needs of these communities;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government through BC Transit adjust the funding formula for anticipated annual operational increases to a fair and equal cost-share formula between BC Transit and community partners.

SILGA Recommendation:

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Comment: Need clarification on what is a "small rural transit service".

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR77 which asked that BC Transit's share of the expenses be increased for rural routes.

As well, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit in small, rural and remote communities (2023-EB60, 2023-

EB61, 2023-NR75, 2020-EB17, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B95, 2012-B115, 2012-C37, 2004-B55).

(35) TITLE: Resource Roads

SPONSOR: City of Penticton

Whereas several communities across the province have single or limited access/egress routes leaving them vulnerable during extreme events such as wildfire, rock slides or flooding;

And whereas some communities are required to use resource roads on an ongoing basis to remain connected;

And whereas resource roads are built for industrial purposes or access to natural resources in remote areas and the Province, or its contractors, do not maintain these to the same standards as paved public roadways:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to define standards of maintenance and construction that supports the economic continuity and connectedness of residents across the Province where these resource roads are being used as alternate commuter routes or would be used in the event of an emergency.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to identify resource roads that are essential for community access or egress, and commit to maintaining these as public roads, including:

- review forest service roads to determine which ones are critical for the public's access/egress and develop a plan to maintain them as public roads (2020-EB22); and*
- work with communities and stakeholders to identify key resource roads no longer required for industrial use, and designate these roads as recreational roads that require provincial oversight and funding for ongoing maintenance in support of, in part, emergency uses (2017-B58).*

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for provincial maintenance of resource roads so that they can be used for emergency purposes:

- establish defined standards for construction, maintenance, and enforcement for resource roads that serve as the primary or secondary access roads for communities, funded similarly to the public highway system (2020-EB19);*
- explore by policy the ways and means and criteria to distinguish resource road classes defined as high community or public use resource roads, along with flexible, result-oriented definitions for their maintenance (2020-EB20); and*
- additional funding and improved maintenance of resource roads (2015-B74, 2010-B19, 2008-B17).*

The Committee is aware that the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), a program intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations, and communities in responding to emergencies, includes a funding stream to support the development of evacuation route plans. The Province allocated \$110 million in 2021/22 in new funding to the CEPF.

(36) Title: Short-Term Rental Tax Class

SPONSOR: City of Revelstoke

Whereas a dwelling unit that meets the definition of a short-term rental within BC's Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act can be rented out, but places additional demands on local government infrastructure, such as water and sewer, and should pay extra tax commensurate with the additional demand;

And whereas tourist overnight accommodation uses such as motels, hotels, and resorts are classed and taxed as businesses;

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Therefore be it resolved that a dwelling unit offered and used for short term rentals be assigned a tax class created specific to that use, or alternatively that a dwelling unit offered and used for short-term rentals be redefined as Class 6: Business and Other;

And be it further resolved that ~~municipalities do not see a further commoditization of our housing industry.~~ **the Province continue to explore ways to reduce commodification of housing, in consultation with local governments.**

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed two resolutions, 2020-EB45 and 2019-B34, both of which asked the Province to assign a dwelling unit (or secondary dwelling unit located on the same property), offered and used as a whole for short term rentals, to the appropriate tax class and be redefined as "Class 6: Business and Other".

The Committee also advises that the membership has supported resolutions supporting the use of housing as housing rather than as a commodity (e.g. 2017-A2). In addition, UBCM's 2018 Housing Strategy incorporates wide ranging recommendations relating to management of speculative demand.

(37) TITLE: Provincial Highway Construction and Maintenance

SPONSOR: Town of Princeton

Whereas private highway contractors primarily aim to generate profit, which can lead to compromised safety and quality in highway construction and maintenance;

And whereas the essential goal of highway management should be to prioritize public safety and infrastructure integrity over financial gains;

And whereas recent evidence suggests that highways under private management are experiencing deteriorating conditions, posing risks to public safety and transportation efficiency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call for the re-establishment of public management of highway contracts to prioritize safety, durability, and public service over private profit;

And be it further resolved that a review and transition plan be developed for existing private highway contracts, ensuring effective public sector oversight and safeguarding the rights and employment of the current workforce.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the re-establishment of public management of highway contracts; nor calling on the Province to develop a review and transition plan to move existing private highway contracts to public sector oversight.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2016-B141, which asked the provincial government to protect the rights and employment of the current workforce by awarding highway maintenance contracts to companies that will maintain local employment and successorship rights.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions addressing road and highway maintenance contracts and plans, including:

- 2023-EB62 which asked 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; and*
- 2021-EB14 which asked the Ministry of Transportation, when working on arterial provincial highways, to conduct meaningful consultation with local governments and residents of all municipalities located within the highway corridor throughout the planning stages of the project and before the work has commenced.*

The Committee also notes that the membership has 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); and*
- *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).*

LEGISLATIVE

(38) TITLE: Board of Variance

SPONSOR: Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas local governments in British Columbia are now authorized to delegate to staff the power to issue a permit addressing a minor variance;

And whereas the delegation of minor variances was promoted as simplifying and speeding up local government development approvals processes, bypassing barriers and speeding up housing approvals to help get the homes people need built faster;

And whereas the establishment and maintenance of a Board of Variance can be an administrative burden for many smaller local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request of the provincial government that the *Local Government Act* be amended so the establishment of a Board of Variance by a local government is optional.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

Comments: See UBCM comments

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2012-B140 which asked the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act to allow local governments to opt out of the requirement to establish a board of variance.

The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2017-B80 which called for the elimination of boards of variance.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B3 which asked the Province to review the current provisions in the Local Government Act relating to boards of variance and consider amendments to ensure that the interests of public accountability, transparency, and local democracy are upheld.

(39) TITLE: Bullying and Harassment by Local Elected Officials

SPONSOR: City of Kamloops

Whereas there is currently no legislation in place that effectively safeguards local government staff or elected officials from bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of other local elected official;

And whereas Worksafe BC does not include local elected officials as “workers” pursuant to the *Workers Compensation Act*, thus preventing municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from utilizing Worksafe BC policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And whereas local government codes of conduct are ineffective against a local elected official who chooses to blatantly ignore and disregard council or board resolutions, including protective measures put in place to safeguard local government staff and elected officials from that local elected official;

And whereas the absence of statutory or common law authority to practically and effectively prevent a local elected official from continuing to bully, harass, and mistreat municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board can seriously jeopardize the mental health and safety of staff and other members of council or the board.

And whereas due to the risk of continued and unconstrained bullying and harassment of staff at the hands of local elected officials, local governments and their taxpayers face significant legal exposure arising out of the unsafe workplaces in the form of costly investigations, wrongful termination claims based on constructive dismissal law, and increased legal costs:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Government of British Columbia amend the *Workers Compensation Act* to include local elected officials in the definition of “worker” as defined in section 1 of that Act, thereby affording access to Worksafe BC’s existing policies, procedures, and safeguards against bullying, harassment, and other inappropriate treatment at the hands of a local elected official;

And be it further resolved that the Government of British Columbia adopt statutory provisions to effectively safeguard municipal or regional district staff and other members of council or the board from the ethical misconduct of local elected officials, including, without limitation, repeated bullying, harassment, and inappropriate treatment, up to and including suspension or disqualification from participation in elected office.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Comments: Elected officials, as well as staff, should be protected by law.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions seeking an amendment to the Workers Compensation Act to include local government elected officials in the definition of “worker” (2021-EB2, 2014-B98). In response to 2014-B98, the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and

Skills Training, and Minister Responsible for Labour indicated that it did not have plans at that time to amend the Workers Compensation Act to provide worker coverage to elected officials.

However, the Committee advises that the membership has not considered prior resolutions seeking suspension or disqualification for bullying by elected officials.

Resolutions calling for the disqualification of elected officials for serious criminal offenses have been endorsed in 2018-B83 and 2018-B84. In 2022 the Province introduced legislative amendments providing local governments with additional tools when elected officials are charged with or convicted of a criminal offense. The first amendment makes a change to the existing disqualification rules to ensure that a local elected official is disqualified at the time of conviction for an indictable offence. The second will require an elected official be put on mandatory paid leave when charged with a criminal offence until the criminal process is complete or the charges are resolved.

The Resolution Committee also notes that a locally elected official who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter and contravenes the ethical standards provisions in the Community Charter may be disqualified from holding public office and sets out the procedure for applying to the Supreme Court of BC to have an elected official declared disqualified.

(40) TITLE: Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders

SPONSOR: Town of Osoyoos

Whereas local governments recognize the importance of fostering respectful and constructive dialogue within the community;

And whereas personal and defamatory attacks on local government leaders, including both senior staff and elected officials, undermine the integrity of the democratic process and create a hostile working environment;

And whereas current legislative and legal frameworks, including those of WorkSafeBC and *Workers Compensation Act*, do not provide adequate protection against such attacks, thereby hindering the ability of local government leaders to carry out their duties effectively:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks by members of the public on local government leaders;

And be it further resolved that these changes should aim to strengthen protections for local government leaders against unfounded, defamatory and malicious accusations by members of the public while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency;

And be it further resolved that UBCM is encouraged to collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

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 and federal governments for legislative changes that address the issue of personal and defamatory attacks by members of the public on local government leaders, while also upholding principles of freedom of speech and transparency; and that UBCM collaborate with other relevant stakeholders, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, including legal experts and advocacy groups, to develop comprehensive proposals for legislative reform.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed three resolutions seeking assistance for local governments with matters relating to conduct, including investigation and enforcement of Codes of Conduct:

- 2023-EB69 which asked the Province to create a shared local government ethics commissioner's office(s) to serve local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of Code of Conduct policies;*
- 2022-B77 which asked the Province to create an Office of the Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and*
- 2021-2020 NR1 which asked the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials.*

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(41) TITLE: Tourism Diversification Needs

SPONSOR: Town of Oliver

Whereas tourism provides great value to the provincial economy as it is one of the largest employers and largest small business generators;

And whereas the impacts of climate change have created hardship in numerous tourism destinations throughout the province;

And whereas the hardship is prolonged in rural destinations as the economy is slower to renew than in urban destinations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide financial investments to local governments to identify how to diversify tourism in impacted communities throughout British Columbia.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

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 provide financial investments to local governments to identify how to diversify tourism in impacted communities throughout British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions in support tourism, including:

- 2021-EB23 which asked the Province to fund the provincial ministries responsible for managing parks, crown lands, and recreation sites and to local governments to assist in establishing sustainable tourism policies and programs to ensure that visitor use of lands and natural resources is done in a manner that protects the natural environment in perpetuity;*
- 2020-SR7 which asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort, highlighting in part, the significant revenue losses as a result of reduced tourism due to the pandemic;*
- 2018-B45 which asked the Province to provide additional funding to increase staffing, maintenance and enforcement operations in respect of existing Provincial Recreation Assets; and to investigate the development and addition of new recreation assets to the existing inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets (such that the increased number of visits may be spread over a larger inventory of Provincial Recreation Assets);*
- 2015-B66 and which asked the Province for increased funding to support Visitor Information Centres; and*
- 2011-B49 which asked the Province to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, year-round where appropriate, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians.*

(42) TITLE: Economic Resiliency for Tourism-Dependent Communities

SPONSOR: District of Sicamous

Whereas tourism is the primary industry for many rural communities in BC and these communities rely on peak travel periods during the summer months to support their local economies;

And whereas natural disasters such as wildfires and resulting smoke have an impact on travel, and enforced travel restrictions further discourage visitors from traveling to regions with active wildfires;

And whereas tourism is supported by small businesses that breathe life into local economies by creating jobs and employment opportunities, supporting local supply chains, and generating tax revenue for local governments;

And whereas the business cycle for tourism-dependent communities, is limited to a short window during the summer months, and the loss of one summer season can be detrimental to the economic vibrancy of a community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to:

1. Develop economic recovery supports for tourism-dependent rural communities, and

2. Consult with local governments, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Destination BC to develop long-term economic supports that focus on building resiliency for tourism-dependent rural communities.

SILGA Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to 1. Develop economic recovery supports for tourism-dependent rural communities, and 2. Consult with local governments, the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Destination BC to develop long-term economic supports that focus on building resiliency for tourism-dependent rural communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-LR2 which asked the provincial and federal governments to administer immediate assistance and financial aid to the commercial and industrial business sectors within the province that have been impacted by the wildfires and associated highway closures. 2023-LR2 also asked that government programs, such as Disaster Financial Assistance be expanded to acknowledge both the direct and indirect impacts of natural disasters to ensure support of affected businesses during and following natural disasters.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2017-LR4 which asked the federal and provincial governments to establish a \$1 billion recovery fund to assist BC communities, including First Nations communities, impacted by the unprecedented record-breaking wildfire season of 2017 and that this fund be called the Rural Fire Recovery Fund 2017, with the federal and provincial governments encouraged to act quickly to provide financial assistance to encourage economic recovery in all BC communities impacted by wildfires in 2017.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing disaster financial assistance for local governments and for businesses, including:

- *2019-B103 which asked the Province to review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster;*
- *2019-B104 which asked the Province to change the Disaster Financial Assistance program criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners; and*
- *2019-B97 which asked the Province to work with local governments to establish policy and best practices for disaster recovery assistance and to direct all disaster recovery assistance funding to local governments.*

ELECTIONS

(43) TITLE: Assent Voting Ballot Questions

SPONSOR: District of Summerland

Whereas assent voting ballots in the form of a "yes" or "no" question can sometimes be too restrictive, create interpretation challenges, discourage compromise and polarise public debate;

And whereas alternative voting methods, including multi-option questions and ranked choices, are used in referendums elsewhere, including by the Province of BC for the 2018 referendum on electoral reform:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the government of British Columbia to amend the assent voting process under the *Local Government Act* to allow alternative ballot options beyond a binary choice.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

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 amend the assent voting process under the Local Government Act to allow alternative ballot options beyond a binary choice.

SELECTED ISSUES

(44) TITLE: Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

SPONSOR: City of Vernon

Whereas burning carbon-based fuel causes climate warming with harmful socio-economic and environmental consequences; and in response Canada and BC have developed legislation, targets and incentive programs to rapidly decarbonize the economy; and local governments must assist in achieving these goals, and have developed Climate Action Plans and decarbonization programs to do so;

And whereas the fossil-fuel industry funds conventions and meetings of local government associations, which benefits the industry while the rising costs of delay are borne by governments and society:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA and UBCM will no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

Comments: SILGA does not want to have to distinguish between various categories of sponsors. Pitting urban centres with limited resource based companies vs rural areas where these companies provide jobs and economic benefits. Freedom of Speech is a slippery slope. Where do you draw the line at what type

of business isn't allowed to sponsor? Disallowing fossil fuel company sponsorships may not have an impact on climate change.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on SILGA and UBCM to no longer accept funding from the fossil fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.

The Committee is aware that similar resolutions were considered at the AVICC and LMLGA Conventions in 2023, and both were not endorsed; UBCM cannot speak to the direction SILGA wishes to take on this matter.

The Committee would note that a resolution seeking MFA to divest from the fossil-fuel related companies and endeavours; or move forward with plans for a Socially Responsible Investment fund free from investments in fossil-fuel related companies and endeavours was not endorsed by members in 2018 (B113). Prior to the 2018 resolution, UBCM members did endorse 2016-B77 which asked MFA to create a fossil fuel free investment fund to provide local governments with an investment choice that aligns with the priorities for climate action and social responsibility.

The matter of corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel companies is currently being reviewed by the UBCM Executive. At the February 2024 Executive meeting, the Executive supported direction to improve transparency about sponsor contribution to the Convention revenues, including fossil fuel companies.

Vernon background:

Throughout our region we are all living with the devastating impacts of fires and floods, which are made worse by climate change. Burning fossil fuels is a major cause of climate change. Today we are all reliant on gasoline, diesel, and natural gas. However, the transition to a low or zero-carbon future is underway, led by higher levels of government in Canada and around the world. This transition will take several years, and there will be challenges to overcome along the way. The transition will be costly, but less costly than the ongoing and worsening impacts of climate change, and it will require sustained leadership from all levels of government.

In B.C. we have a better alternative to burning fossil fuels. BC Hydro produces much cleaner renewable electricity and has plans to accommodate the additional demand that will result from broad-based electrification. The fossil fuel industry is competing against electrification. Their best efforts to become "sustainable" will not substantially reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Their primary objective is self-preservation, rather than helping us prepare for the future. Their messaging at our conventions promotes complacency among us. This messaging is not helpful – instead we need to be acting boldly and doing more to prepare for the electrified future.

(45) TITLE: Provincial Government Water Panel

SPONSOR: District of Lake Country

Whereas BC faces real threats to a sustainable water supply, droughts flood and fire to name a few;

And whereas increased water supply will be necessary to accommodate the housing growth that the BC Government is mandating, and maintaining and growing the agricultural sector to feed this new population;

And whereas UBCM is the voice of the local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strike a water panel to advocate to the provincial government on water issues pertaining to their local government members.

SILGA Recommendation: Not Endorse

Comments: SILGA would encourage UBCM to be more engaged with member local governments on water issues.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to create a water panel to advocate to the provincial government on water issues pertaining to their local government members.

The Committee also advises that resolution 2023-RR32 asked UBCM to establish a working committee consisting of local government, provincial, federal and First Nation members to address the future flooding disaster and to restore flood protection by completing and implementing a flood risk assessment to develop strategic flood protection for critical infrastructure and to build back resilient communities. At the 2023 Convention members chose to refer this resolution to the UBCM Executive for consideration as matters related to the establishment of UBCM Committees and UBCM appointments to external committees and working groups is the responsibility of the Executive. In the case of resolution 2023-RR32, the Executive did not endorse the request to establish a new Committee.

The Committee would note that water issues are currently addressed through the UBCM's Environment Committee.

(46) TITLE: Allocating Resources Towards Cyber Security Health and Protection of Privacy

SPONSOR: District of Logan Lake

Whereas public bodies are responsible for the management and protection of personal information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA);

And whereas personal information is stored and gathered through many methods including digital technology;

And whereas local governments face major challenges with digital technology including capacity and the lack of knowledge and awareness around cyber security;

And whereas Section 69 (5) of FOIPPA legislation, which states that local governments are required to conduct Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) on new initiatives for which no PIA has been conducted or before implementing a significant change to an existing initiative, places hardship on local governments to allocate more staff and resources to meet these requirements, along with costs of upgrades to digital technology:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.

SILGA Recommendation: Recommend with the following amendment:

Therefore be it resolved that the **Province of BC** allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.

Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation

Resolutions Committee Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to allocate additional resources to assist local governments with assessing and maintaining cyber security health by collaborating with Information Technology Professionals to produce relevant and effective Privacy Impact Assessments.

As the request is in response to FOIPPA requirements that are being placed on local governments, the sponsor may wish to consider whether the request for resources and assistance should be directed to the Province, through the Ministry of Citizens Services who are responsible for the legislation, instead of UBCM.