

# 2024 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

## **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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Defeated**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

## 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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Moved/seconded Keith Thom/Gord Lovegrove**

**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.

**Amendment Carried**



**Moved/seconded Natalya Melnychuk/Debbie Cannon**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the government of British Columbia to review and implement a new policy concerning where septic fields and reserved secondary discharge areas may be located.

**Second amendment carried**

**Defeated**

**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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

## 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.

**Carried**

**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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Moved/Seconded by Randal Ostafichuk/Rick DeJong**

*Strike "Fees at boat launches to assist with funding"*

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

**Amendment Carried**

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**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.

**Carried**

## **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.

**Carried**

### **(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Defeated**

**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.

Carried

**(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.

Carried

**(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.

Carried

## 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.

**Rescinded**

## 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.

**Carried**

### **(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, rockslides 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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

**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.

***Defeated***

**(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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

## 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.

**Carried**

**(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.

**Carried**

## **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.

***Defeated***

## 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.

**Defeated**

### **(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.

**Carried**

### **(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.

**Moved/seconded Rick De Jong/Carol Zanon**

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.

**Amendment carried**

***Carried***