

# 2025 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

## SILGA CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Merritt Reimbursing Local Governments for Medical Services Provided by Local Government Fire and Rescue Services
2. West Kelowna Implementation of Provincially Mandated Accessibility and Inclusion Plans
3. Kamloops Adequate Public Sanitary Facilities and Toilets

### HOUSING

4. Revelstoke Funding Support Infrastructure Upgrades Required Due to Bill 44
5. Penticton Implement a Regionally Balanced Approach to Supportive Housing
6. Revelstoke Homeless Encampments Within City Limits on Provincial Land

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

7. West Kelowna FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Funding
8. Coldstream Installation of Early Wildfire Detection Technology
9. Chase Increase Funding for Wildfire Prevention
10. CSRD Shift of Provincial Wildfire Response Responsibilities onto Regional Districts
11. TNRD FireSmart Policy Crown Lands
12. TNRD Disaster Financial Assistance Eligibility
13. Kamloops RCMP Cost Sharing
14. Merritt Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas
15. Logan Lake Fire Underwriters Survey Policy on Community Size Definition
16. Sicamous Compensation for Road Rescue Services
17. Merritt Victim Services Program Funding
18. Lumby Mailing Illegal Substances via Canada Post

### ENVIRONMENT

19. Coldstream Ministerial Oversight of Proposed Sewerage (Septic) Systems
20. Revelstoke British Columbia Conservation Officer Service Capacity
21. Spallumcheen BC Building Code Amendment to Include Natural Gas
22. TNRD Inclusion of Agricultural Plastics Under Recycling Regulation

### LAND USE

23. Sicamous Provincial Oversight of Water, Streams, Wetlands and Riparian Areas
24. RDOS Permit Vacation Rentals Within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
25. Lillooet Provincial Funding for Archaeological Costs Borne by Local Government
26. Summerland Approval of Aggregate Activities
27. Oliver/RDOS Updated Ancillary Uses for Airports Located on Crown Land

**TAXATION**

28. Merritt                      Burden of Delinquent Property Taxes

**TRANSPORTATION**

29. Merritt                      Small Community Transit Service Funds  
30. Kamloops                      Ministry of Transportation and Transit Approval on Minor Rezoning Applications  
31. Revelstoke                      Highway Speed Limits  
32. TNRD                      Commercial Transport Training Standards  
33. CSRD                      Equitable Status and Funding for Inland Ferries as Essential Infrastructure

**LEGISLATIVE**

34. Osoyoos                      Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders

**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

35. Lake Country                      Local Government Response to US Imposed Tariffs

**SELECTED ISSUES**

36. Sicamous                      Municipal Infrastructure Plan Library  
37. Lake Country                      Provincial Government Water Panel  
38. Vernon                      UBCM Voting Schedule

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### **(1) TITLE: Reimbursing Local Governments for Medical Services Provided By Local Government Fire and Rescue Services**

**Sponsor: Merritt**

Whereas communities across BC are facing significant increase in calls to respond to emergency medical incidents;

And whereas this increase in calls can be directly attributed to the prehospital patient care provided by fire departments in response to the opioid crisis and limited resources of the Provincial BC Ambulance Service;

And whereas many first responder agencies have signed agreements to provide this service without any financial funding to support the increased service requests required in their communities;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a funding model to compensate local governments who provide emergency medical services through their fire and rescue services fulfilling the responsibility of the provincial government with consideration given to community population and the fire departments authorized level of emergency medical response.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of medical services by local first responders (2024-EB9, 2023-EB4, 2023-EB5, 2023-EB6, 2022-NR2, 2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

### **(2) TITLE: Implementation of Provincially Mandated Accessibility and Inclusion Plans**

**Sponsor: West Kelowna**

Whereas the *Accessible BC Act* reflects the provincial government's commitment to fostering a society where individuals with disabilities can participate fully and equally;

And whereas the implementation of the Act is contingent upon the availability of resources to support local governments in meeting the outlined requirements;

And whereas solutions which support accessibility require the involvement of all stakeholders, including local governments, community organizations and the Province working together to achieve key objectives, a unified approach is necessary to effectively address the needs of disabled persons across the province;

And whereas the financial burden of implementing these accessibility initiatives will disproportionately impact local taxpayers, despite the Province allocating funding for critical areas like housing and

environmental management, it has failed to provide equitable financial support for accessibility initiatives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to allocate annual grant funding specifically for audits, expert consultant assistance, and capital improvements to assist local governments in implementing accessibility initiatives identified in provincially mandated accessibility plans;

And be it further resolved that the Province work alongside local governments to make the goal of accessibility become a reality by ensuring local governments have the necessary resources to provide essential training in the field.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions seeking funding from the Province to support local governments to develop and implement accessibility recommendations and plans (2024-EB15, 2023-NR3).*

*The Committee notes that the Province has created two funding programs for local governments, though neither provide annual funding. SPARC BC offers local governments up to \$25,000 to undertake projects for the built environment; education and awareness; development of policy and programs; modeling inclusive practices; strengthening communication and engagement; or to explore the use of assistive devices and technologies to support active participation and engagement of persons with disabilities. Disability Alliance BC offers approximately \$3,500 per local government to meet their three requirements. Disability Alliance of BC also offers a dedicated staff person who provides information on the requirements and assists organizations in meeting the requirements.*

*The sponsor has noted that ‘essential training’ for local governments refers to training in-house municipal staff which ultimately reduces reliance on costly consultants to perform accessibility audits and identify accessibility improvements. This includes training in areas such as facilities, transportation and infrastructure, communications and engagement, parks and trails, recreation and culture, which all represent different challenges in accessibility.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**(3) TITLE: Adequate Public Sanitary Facilities and Toilets**

**Sponsor: Kamloops**

Whereas the BC *Public Health Act* Regulations include Regulated Activity Regulation 161/2011, which addresses public sanitary facilities and toilets, and these regulations have been put in place to ensure public places contain, and the public has access to, adequate sanitary facilities;

And whereas more and more public toilets are being shut indefinitely, if not permanently, for many reasons including vandalism, drug use, and cost of maintenance;

And whereas in many areas, there are no longer public toilets available, and the current Act no longer results in access in many places:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government review the *Public Health Act* in consultation with residents, businesses, local governments, and health authorities, to find viable solutions to ensure public toilets are available and accessible in communities across BC to improve access for those traveling through communities, as well as visitors to and residents of communities.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to review the Public Health Act in consultation with residents, businesses, local governments, and health authorities, to find viable solutions to ensure public toilets are available and accessible in communities across BC to improve access for those traveling through communities, as well as visitors to and residents of communities.*

*The Committee is unclear if a review of the Public Health Act is necessary to address this issue, as each community is responsible for determining where public toilets are needed and how many can be maintained within their budgets.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**SILGA Comments:**

*The SILGA Resolutions Committee notes that this resolution does not indicate to whom the burden of responsibility for payment and maintenance should fall.*

## HOUSING

### **(4) TITLE: Funding Support for Infrastructure Upgrades Required Due to Bill 44**

#### **SPONSOR: Revelstoke**

Whereas in the fall of 2023, the BC government passed Bill 44: *Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023*, which amends the *Local Government Act* to support the supply of significantly more homes, faster, in British Columbia;

And whereas the provincial requirement to allow small-scale, multi-unit housing has a significant impact on existing municipal and regional district infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the government of British Columbia to provide consistent funding to municipalities and regional districts to manage the infrastructure costs resulting from increased densification under Bill 44.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2024-SR2 that asked, in part, that the Province provide long-term, predictable allocation-based funding program to support expansion and operation of local government infrastructure services to support provincially-mandated housing growth, including, but not limited to, water and sewer, transit, police and fire, and recreation.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for increased long-term, predictable allocation-based funding from the provincial and federal governments that would support growth and complete communities, and that recognizes the limited financial capacity of local governments under the current financial framework (2023-EB11, 2023-EB49, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2018-B111, 2012-A1, 2012-B13, 2011-B34). Recent provincial legislation mandating housing growth and further regulating the ability of local governments to collect growth charges from developers is creating more financial pressure.*

#### **SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

### **(5) TITLE: Implement a Regionally Balanced Approach to Supportive Housing**

#### **SPONSOR: Penticton**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia, through BC Housing, has made significant investments in supportive housing and shelter services, yet many smaller and rural communities continue to face challenges in accessing these resources;

And whereas ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness can access housing and supports within their home communities promotes stability and well-being;

And whereas a more equitable distribution of supportive housing and shelter services would ensure that all communities – urban, rural and regional – have access to supportive housing and shelter services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a regionally balanced approach to supportive housing by increasing dedicated funding streams for smaller and rural communities, ensuring supportive housing projects are proportionally distributed based on local needs assessments, and providing targeted incentives for non-profits and service providers to operate outside major urban centers and regional hubs.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement a regionally balanced approach to supportive housing by increasing dedicated funding streams for smaller and rural communities, ensuring supportive housing projects are proportionally distributed based on local needs assessments, and providing targeted incentives for non-profits and service providers to operate outside major urban centers and regional hubs.*

*However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2019-B183 which asked the Province to “work with local governments to develop policy to address rural homelessness, which is currently a gap in the Province’s response to homelessness.”*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking more housing in rural areas (2024-EB20, 2022-EB24, 2021-EB65, 2021-EB75).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2024-SR3, 2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2024-EB25, 2024-NR26, 2024-NR27, 2024-NR28, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA notes that many smaller communities do not have the wrap-around services to support those seeking shelter.*

**(6) TITLE: Homeless Encampments Within City Limits on Provincial Land**

**SPONSOR: Revelstoke**

Whereas the Province of BC is experiencing a housing crisis and the number of unhoused individuals is increasing;

And whereas municipalities and regional districts have adopted certain bylaws that prohibit encampments within the municipal or regional district boundary, yet these bylaws cannot be enforced when the homeless encampments are on provincial land;

And whereas some of these homeless encampments on provincial land are on the sides of roads and highways, and therefore fall under the purview of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) to manage homeless encampments on provincial road and highway lands within municipal or regional district boundaries.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) to manage homeless encampments on provincial road and highway lands within municipal or regional district boundaries.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing encampments (2023-NR25) and specifically requesting that the Province work with local governments to address homelessness and encampments (2021-EB74, 2019-B183).*

*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 including plans to address homelessness (2022-NR22, 2022-NR64, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2017-B52, 2017-B98, 2016-B45, 2015-B14, 2015-B45, 2015-B46, 2015-B108, 2015-B109, 2013-B54, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B58, 2007-B109).*

*More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2024-EB23, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA recognizes the need for intervention in encampments on Crown Lands. Instead of appealing to ministries based on location of encampments, SILGA advises calling for a single Provincial ministry to be appointed to address homeless encampments within all Crown jurisdictions.*



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### **(7) TITLE: FireSmart and Wildfire Mitigation Funding**

#### **SPONSOR: West Kelowna**

Whereas the Province of BC continues to face devastating wildfire events year after year and the risk of these events continues to climb;

And whereas the Province spends hundreds of millions of dollars on wildfire suppression, yet the amount dedicated to local governments for wildfire prevention via the Community Resilience Investment Grant is exponentially smaller;

And whereas In April 2024, the Premier’s Expert Task Force on Emergencies called the FireSmart program a “success story” but recommended “building capacity to expedite wildfire risk reduction projects” and “streamline administrative requirements, and providing more year-over-year certainty for communities applying for FireSmart funding”;

And whereas while improvements are being made, portions of the existing grant process is onerous and resource intensive, and does not allow for long term planning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, fully changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula for a term of at least 5 years to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response;

And be it further resolved that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia to reduce the grant approval timelines to less than 30 days.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB28, also from the same sponsor, that made a near identical request, asking the Province to dedicate additional grant funds to wildfire prevention and further ease and simplify the program, changing the process from a competition-based application process to an allocation-based formula to reduce red tape, and allow for future planning and more effective prevention-based response.*

*The Ministry of Forests responded to 2023-EB28 with the following, “Starting in 2024, First Nations and local governments with a higher risk of wildfire—generally demonstrated by risk class 1 to 3—that have a FireSmart Position, participate in a Community FireSmart and Resiliency Committee, and have an acceptable Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan/Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be eligible to receive FireSmart Community Funding and Supports for FireSmart activities through an allocation-based model. This will support communities with longer-term planning and reduce administrative burdens. Under the allocation-based model, recipients will be required to submit a brief allocation-based funding request form to confirm that the eligibility criteria have been met. If approved, recipients would receive an approval agreement which includes the terms and conditions of the grant.”*

*The Committee notes that recipients of allocation-based funding will be advised of the status of their application within 60 days of submitting a complete, eligible request.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding and/or support for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery (2024-NR34, 2023-NR33, 2023-EB28, 2022-NR26, 2022-NR27, 2022-EB36, 2022-EB37, 2022-EB88, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR12, 2019-B13, 2019-B26, 2019-B27, 2019-B76, 2019-B77, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2019-B95, 2019-B10, 2018-B22, 2018-B43, 2018-B96, 2018-B97, 2018-B99, 2018-B100, 2018-B107, 2017-B4, 2017-B84, 2017-LR1, 2017-LR2, 2017-LR4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

#### **(8) TITLE: Installation of Early Wildfire Detection Technology**

**SPONSOR: Coldstream**

Whereas the Province of BC spent \$1.1 billion on fire management in 2023 and continues to spend millions on fire management annually, and understanding that detecting and responding to fires at their earliest stage saves lives, structures, forests, the environment and reduces the costly burden of wildfire control;

And whereas early wildfire detection technology exists, is financially attainable and has been installed in some interface areas and successfully tested and used to detect fires:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to undertake installation of early wildfire detection technology in wildland-urban interface areas with a priority for installation in wildland interface areas bordering local government residential neighbourhoods.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to undertake installation of early wildfire detection technology in wildland-urban interface areas, prioritizing wildland interface areas bordering local government residential neighbourhoods.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding and/or support for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery (2024-NR34, 2023-NR33, 2023-EB28, 2022-NR26, 2022-NR27, 2022-EB36, 2022-EB37, 2022-EB88, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR12, 2019-B13, 2019-B26, 2019-B27, 2019-B76, 2019-B77, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2019-B95, 2019-B10, 2018-B22, 2018-B43, 2018-B96, 2018-B97, 2018-B99, 2018-B100, 2018-B107, 2017-B4, 2017-B84, 2017-LR1, 2017-LR2, 2017-LR4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse**

**SILGA Comments:**

*The SILGA Resolutions Committee notes that it is uncertain whether this technology can adequately protect urban interface areas, nor whether this technology can be meaningfully implemented.*

**(9) TITLE: Increase Funding for Wildfire Prevention**

**SPONSOR: Chase**

Whereas wildfire seasons are worsening due to climate change and wind-driven wildfire embers are responsible for igniting structures in up to 90% of wildfire-related losses;

And whereas home hardening and fire-resilient landscaping is a cost effective ways to mitigate a community against a wildfire disaster:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government increase financial commitments for wildfire prevention in the Wildland-Urban Interface by providing funding to harden community infrastructure against wildfire threats, support the drafting and implementation of policies and bylaws that enhance wildfire resilience, and offer resources and incentives to assist homeowners in improving the wildfire resilience of their properties.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2019-B13 which asked the Province to support and implement changes to its wildfire mitigation practices to significantly fund Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels treatments, provide fire resilient communities and to maintain an effective wildfire response capability.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding and/or support for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery (2024-NR34, 2023-NR33, 2023-EB28, 2022-NR26, 2022-NR27, 2022-EB36, 2022-EB37, 2022-EB88, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR12, 2019-B13, 2019-B26, 2019-B27, 2019-B76, 2019-B77, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2019-B95, 2019-B10, 2018-B22, 2018-B43, 2018-B96, 2018-B97, 2018-B99, 2018-B100, 2018-B107, 2017-B4, 2017-B84, 2017-LR1, 2017-LR2, 2017-LR4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(10) TITLE: Shift of Provincial Wildfire Response Responsibilities onto Regional Districts**

**SPONSOR: CSRD**

Whereas the effects of climate change are increasing disaster intensity, duration, frequency, and scale of emergencies and regional districts do not have the ability to increase the capacity of personnel, finances, or resources to meet the demands within identified jurisdictional fire protection zones to manage the increasing number of local wildfire emergencies;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has outlined changes to the Cooperative Community Wildfire Response program with an unattainable expectation of the role expected of the regional district

that includes the expectation the service area goes beyond established regional district fire protection zones:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to assume full responsibility of wildfire response efforts in areas outside of fire protection zones, with recognition of operational capacities of regional districts;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to support collaboration between BC Wildfire Service and regional districts to share resources in continued efforts to effectively respond to wildfire emergencies and enhance community resilience.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to assume full responsibility of wildfire response efforts in areas outside of a structural fire protection jurisdiction, and to support collaboration between the BC Wildfire Service and regional districts to share resources in continued efforts to effectively respond to wildfire emergencies and enhance community resilience.*

*In October 2024, UBCM began accepting applications for the 2025 FireSmart Pilot Program for Regional District Cooperative Community Wildfire Response Organizations. As one of three streams under the Province's Community Resiliency Investment program, this stream "provides funding to regional districts in BC to increase community resiliency and to help build a cooperative pathway for wildfire response by undertaking training and purchasing Personal Protective Equipment for local community members in areas that do not fall within a structural fire protection jurisdiction area."*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA notes that the second enactment clause resulted in conflicting interpretations by members of the Resolutions Committee.*

**(11) TITLE: FireSmart Policy Crown Lands**

**SPONSOR: TNRD**

Whereas the Province of BC faces the worsening effects of climate change, with wildland urban interface fires becoming more and more prevalent;

And whereas many residents and properties impacted by wildfire are located adjacent to Crown lands;

And whereas residents are encouraged to mitigate the threat of fire to their properties following FireSmart principles, Crown lands adjacent to private property are often not mitigated:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit to working with interested parties to develop a policy which would allow residents adjacent to Crown lands to follow FireSmart principles on those adjacent Crown lands (within a prescribed distance of private property) to reduce the risk of wildland urban interface fires.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to allow residents adjacent to Crown lands to follow FireSmart principles on those adjacent Crown lands (within a prescribed distance of private property) to reduce the risk of wildland urban interface fires.*

*However, the Committee notes that works on Crown Land are regulated by the Forest and Range Practices Act and that authorizations would be required for residents to undertake FireSmart activities on Crown land. Further, some aspects of this proposed work could only be undertaken by professional foresters (Professional Governance Act). Finally, it is likely that safety and training issues would need to be considered by the relevant Provincial Crown Land Managers.*

*The Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction program is administered through the Ministry of Forests in collaboration with the BC Wildfire Service, Natural Resource Regions and Districts, BC Parks, and Mountain Resorts Branch and includes fuel management planning and treatments, focusing on provincial Crown land around higher risk communities.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding and/or support for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response and/or recovery (2024-NR34, 2023-NR33, 2023-EB28, 2022-NR26, 2022-NR27, 2022-EB36, 2022-EB37, 2022-EB88, 2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR12, 2019-B13, 2019-B26, 2019-B27, 2019-B76, 2019-B77, 2019-B91, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2019-B95, 2019-B10, 2018-B22, 2018-B43, 2018-B96, 2018-B97, 2018-B99, 2018-B100, 2018-B107, 2017-B4, 2017-B84, 2017-LR1, 2017-LR2, 2017-LR4, 2016-B6, 2015-B5, 2014-A1).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(12) TITLE: Disaster Financial Assistance Eligibility**

**SPONSOR: TNRD**

Whereas the Province of BC faces the worsening effects of climate change, the disasters resulting in significant costs to rebuild homes and farms;

And whereas many residents and properties impacted by wildfire are located in rural, unincorporated areas outside of fire protection with these residents reporting that trying to obtain insurance has been met with refusal by insurance providers;

And whereas wildfire is considered to be an insurable event and therefore not eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit to working with the Insurance Brokers of Canada to ensure it is a legislative requirement that all insurance providers denying coverage provide a letter outlining the reasons insurance is being denied.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to adopt legislation that requires all underwriters providing homeowner insurance coverage in British Columbia to, when insurance coverage is being denied, provide a letter outlining the reasons for this decision.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking changes to disaster financial assistance and/or the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program, including those that expand the availability of support for residents, businesses and/or local governments (2023-LR2, 2022-NR29, 2019-B97, 2019-B104, 2017-B86, 2015-B78). In October 2023, the Province began a review of its financial assistance regulation by releasing a discussion paper and series of questions for stakeholders to consider. Work to develop a new post-emergency financial assistance regulation, to replace the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation, is ongoing.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking better access to insurance, including:*

- asking the Province to introduce and adopt legislation that requires all insurance providers in BC to provide insurance to all homeowners in the province (2022-NR19); and*
- asking the Province to review insurance practices in British Columbia to identify ways to insure property owners and small businesses during and after a disaster (2019-B103).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse****(13) TITLE: RCMP Cost Sharing****Sponsor: Kamloops**

Whereas the difficulty faced by local governments in responding to rapidly increasing policing costs, combined with limited mechanisms to generate revenue, is putting significant pressure on local budgets and creating challenges for local governments to adequately address other mandated responsibilities;

And whereas the RCMP contract policing model, which includes Police Service Agreements negotiated by provincial and federal orders of government, leaves local governments with very minimal control over policing decisions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government, as part of the upcoming Police Service Agreement negotiations, work with BC local governments to develop a new RCMP cost - sharing arrangement that considers local government revenue streams, mandated responsibilities, and ability to pay.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse****UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking various changes to the RCMP cost-sharing formula (2024-NR40, 2024-NR41, 2024-NR42, 2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2020-NR7, 2016-B75). Many of these resolutions request changes to the established population thresholds that have been used to determine the cost-sharing ratio for RCMP police services.*

*The Committee notes that the sponsor's assertion that the "police agreement is a 3-party agreement between municipal, provincial and federal governments" is incorrect. The federal government has entered into agreements with the Province for the provision of RCMP police services in British Columbia. B.C. municipalities over 5,000 in population that receive RCMP police services must enter into a 20-year Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) with the Province. Provisions in the MPUA, including the cost-share framework, may be examined through the Five Year Review process.*

*In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province "create a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities." This issue was also prioritized by UBCM and the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, which is currently working with the Province to address policing modernization.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(14) TITLE: Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas**

**SPONSOR: Merritt**

Whereas inflation, rising equipment costs, and increasing officer salaries have made the existing cost sharing formulas and RCMP costs unsustainable for local governments;

And whereas local governments have no ability to negotiate or regulate the rising costs;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments to develop a new RCMP funding framework that gradually increases the cost-share rate for local governments.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking a more gradual increase to RCMP costs for local governments (2024-NR42, 2023-NR34, 2022-NR33, 2020-EB5, 2016-B75). The membership has also endorsed resolutions seeking various changes to police funding models (2024-NR40, 2024-NR41, 2020-NR7).*

*In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province "create a fair and equitable shared funding model for municipalities" that includes "exploring options to phase in or incrementally increase the municipal share of policing costs." These issues were also prioritized by UBCM and the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, which is currently working with the Province to address policing modernization.*

*The cost-sharing framework for municipalities over 5,000 in population that receive RCMP policing services is outlined in the 20-year Municipal Police Unit Agreement (MPUA) that these municipalities have signed with the Province, and which does not expire until March 31, 2032.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(15) TITLE: Fire Underwriters Survey Policy on Community Size Definition**

**SPONSOR: Logan Lake**

Whereas fire suppression is a local government responsibility including the procurement of firefighting apparatuses;

And whereas there is a significant difference between the Fire Underwriters Survey's definition for insurance grading recognition, with Medium Sized Cities at 1,000 or greater to Major Cities at 100,000 or greater, with this definition having a direct impact on when fire apparatuses must be replaced;

And whereas fire apparatuses in communities of under 5,000 are still in excellent condition after 15 years due to very low hours of operational use, while the cost of replacement for first line fire apparatus every 15 years is extremely onerous to the taxpayer:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby for the Fire Underwriters Survey to change the definition of Small Communities and Rural Centres to include communities of under 5,000 in population.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that asks the Fire Underwriters Survey to change the definition of Small Communities and Rural Centres to include communities of under 5,000 in population.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate challenges faced by fire services, in particular to extend the life-span of fire apparatus (2023-NR32, 2023-NR53, 2022-EB38, 2021-EB8, 2021-EB9, 2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(16) TITLE: Compensation for Road Rescue Services**

**SPONSOR: Sicamous**

Whereas the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness does not compensate local governments for providing road rescue service in response to highway accidents within their jurisdiction;

And whereas provincial funding mechanisms fail to account for the full cost of road rescue, including training, equipment and operational costs;

And whereas ICBC, despite being the Province's primary auto insurer, does not contribute to road rescue response costs;

And whereas rural and remote municipalities provide road rescue services within and outside their jurisdictions, placing additional financial strain on local governments;

And whereas many non-profit road rescue societies in the province are experiencing reduced numbers of volunteers, resulting in pressure for more local governments to take on the service:



Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to establish a sustainable funding model to fully compensate road rescue service providers for response, training, equipment and operational costs.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication (2023-EB22, 2023-EB23, 2023-EB24, 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15).*

*The Committee also notes that some of the endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2023-EB24).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(17) TITLE: Victim Services Program Funding**

**SPONSOR: Meritt**

Whereas victim service programs provide support and assistance to victims of crime;

And whereas a variety of agencies and local governments deliver victim services programs in different communities, with varying degrees of expertise and resources;

And whereas the funding formula for victim services is built around population it does not take into consideration the absence of a community based program resulting in the responsibility falling on local police based programs along with additional responsibilities of committees, such as being the facilitator for Integrated Case Assessment Teams (ICAT):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to fully fund all victim services programs in British Columbia.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to increase funding for victim services programs (2024-EB32, 2020-EB2, 2019-B6, 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2015-B4, 2014-B4).*

*Local governments are not required to fund victim services programs, although some do provide financial contributions. The membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2016-B83, which requested that UBCM work with the Province to develop a mandatory funding formula for local government contributions towards victim services programs.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(18) TITLE: Mailing Illegal Substances via Canada Post**

**SPONSOR: Lumby**

Whereas Canada Post Corporation is the primary postal operator in Canada;

And whereas it has been reported that Canada Post unknowingly shipped controlled and illegal drug to and from individual residences and postal boxes;

And whereas there is no oversight as to the age of the persons ordering the illegal substances throughout our province;

And whereas British Columbia's communities are experiencing devastation caused by illegal substance use among youth;

And whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's office is responsible to advocate on behalf of the residents and youth of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General advocate to Canada Post to implement immediate process changes, such as increasing the use of ion scanners, narcotic sniffing dogs, and other means to detect and divert illegal drugs.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to advocate to Canada Post to implement immediate process changes to detect and divert illegal narcotics, such as increasing the use of ion scanners, narcotic sniffing dogs, and other initiatives.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## ENVIRONMENT

### (19) TITLE: Ministerial Oversight of Proposed Sewerage (Septic) Systems

**Sponsor: Coldstream**

Whereas the Sewerage System Regulation, under the *Public Health Act*, does not require an environmental impact study for sewerage systems (including septic systems) that receive a flow of less than 22,700 litres per day (5,000 Imperial gallons);

And whereas there is no requirement for provincial review of the cumulative effect of multiple systems on a parcel of land or their location relative to water sources that may be present, as part of the onsite sewerage system permitting process:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request, that as part of the onsite sewerage system permit approval process, the Ministry of Environment be required to review all permit applications for onsite sewerage systems when there is more than one onsite system to be installed on a parcel of land or where the sewerage system is proposed to be on a parcel adjacent to a water source.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Ministry of Environment be required to review all permit applications for onsite sewerage systems when there is more than one onsite system to be installed on a parcel of land or where the sewerage system is proposed to be on a parcel adjacent to a water source.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has considered resolutions addressing sewer systems and the Sewerage System Regulation, including:*

- *2013-B118 which asked the Ministry of Health to implement third party monitoring of sewerage installations on and abutting farm land;*
- *2008-SR1 which asked the Province to address local government concerns with the Sewerage System Regulation;*
- *2008-B28 which asked the Province to ensure water quality and security by, in part, ensuring that compliance with sewage regulations on recreational lease lots; and*
- *2006-B103 which asked the Ministry of Health to amend the Sewerage System Regulation to allow homeowners to conduct installations and repairs of sewerage systems subject to inspection by authorized inspectors.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA notes that such an increase in regulatory complexity may burden rural communities.*

**(20) TITLE: British Columbia Conservation Officer Service Capacity**

**SPONSOR: Revelstoke**

Whereas the provincial government is responsible for managing wildlife through its Conservation Service, with a reduction in the number of conservation officers in the field and the zone deployment model having a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of communities experiencing an increase in habituated wildlife population;

And whereas the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service has not been able to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, off road vehicle enforcement, illegal dumping, human wildlife conflicts prevention, or respond to wildlife human conflict;

And whereas the UBCM membership previously endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management (through resolutions 2018-B36, 2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2013-B27, 2012-B22, 2010-B25, 2003-B32, 1996-B27, 1996-B64, 1992-B35):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide additional funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing conservation services.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported several resolutions calling on the provincial government to increase numbers of conservation officers, funding and resources to support wildlife management and to reduce human-wildlife conflict (2024-EB52, 2021-NR38, 2018-B36, 2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2013-B27, 2013-B73, 2012-B21, 2012-B72, 2010-B25).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(21) TITLE: BC Building Code Amendment to Include Natural Gas**

**SPONSOR: Spallumcheen**

Whereas the BC Building Code has incorporated the BC Energy Step code, which sets increasingly stringent energy efficiency and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction requirements for new buildings and major renovations, effectively limiting the current uses and eliminating the future uses of natural gas as a fuel in areas of BC that use the BC Building Code;

And whereas many local governments, including those with significant agricultural, industrial, and rural residential needs, require flexibility and ongoing energy investment to ensure affordable, reliable, and diverse energy options for residents, businesses, and farms;

And whereas limiting or eliminating natural gas as an energy option could increase energy and construction costs, reduce economic competitiveness, and limit the ability of local governments to attract and retain families, businesses, and agricultural entities that rely on natural gas for their operations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to amend the BC Building Code to ensure that natural gas remains a viable energy option now and in the future, allowing residents, businesses and local governments the flexibility to determine the most appropriate energy solutions for their unique economic, geographic, and community needs, while still supporting reasonable and achievable energy efficiency goals.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the BC Building Code to ensure that natural gas remains a viable energy option now and in the future, allowing residents, businesses and local governments the flexibility to determine the most appropriate energy solutions for their unique economic, geographic, and community needs, while still supporting reasonable and achievable energy efficiency goals.*

*However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incentivize energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2023-EB20, 2023-EB21, 2022-EB31, 2022-NR43, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**(22) TITLE: Inclusion of Agricultural Plastics Under Recycling Regulations**

**SPONSOR: TNRD**

Whereas agricultural plastics, including net wrap and baler twine, typically end up in landfills or are burnt or buried on farms, resulting in decreased landfill capacity and environmental pollution;

And whereas the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in the Canada-Wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility has identified ICI packaging including agriculture plastics be a material to be considered in the future;

And whereas the Ministry will engage with local government as staff work towards strengthening current programs, while prioritizing options for potential program expansion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy expedite the inclusion of agricultural plastics as a new product category under the Recycling Regulation.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions that call for the inclusion of agricultural plastics into extended producer responsibility programs (2021-EB34, 2018-B28, 2012-B30, 2008-B84, 2007-LR3).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

## LAND USE

### **(23) TITLE: Provincial Oversight of Water, Streams, Wetlands and Riparian Areas**

#### **SPONSOR: Sicamous**

Whereas the Province has oversight through applications, permitting and leases for works in and around water, streams, wetlands and riparian areas;

And whereas the timelines for the completion of these processes are now extended to the point of hardship for communities and property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit additional resources to oversight processes to reduce timelines and increase responsiveness to communities' needs.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to commit additional resources to oversight processes **for works in and around water, streams, wetlands and riparian areas**, to reduce timelines and increase responsiveness to communities' needs.

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for additional provincial resources to support faster processing of applications, permitting and leases for works in and around water, streams, wetlands, and riparian areas (2024-NR36, 2020-EB52, 2012-B73).*

*In response to resolution 2020-EB52, which called on the Province to allocate greater resources to processing Section 11 approvals under the Water Sustainability Act, as well as establish a rapid response process for urgent situations, the provincial government highlighted several different existing programs for rapid and timely approvals if required.*

#### **SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

### **(24) TITLE: Permit Vacation Rentals Within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)**

#### **SPONSOR: RDOS**

Whereas the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is no longer permitting vacation rentals on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land;

And whereas local governments may have an objective to support agriculture and the local economy through agritourism;

And whereas allowing vacation rentals supports tourism and the local economy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Agricultural Land Commission to permit vacation rentals within the Agricultural Land Reserve and remove the existing requirement for a resident owner.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Agricultural Land Commission to permit vacation rentals within the Agricultural Land Reserve and remove the existing requirement for a resident owner.*

*In contrast, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2024-NR70 which asked the ALC to work with local governments to update event rules to ensure that farming is the primary use of ALR Lands, and that events avoid disruption of farming activities on nearby parcels, considering changes including (but not limited to):*

- *number of permitted events aligned to parcel size;*
- *stronger criteria for confirming farming is the primary use of a parcel; and*
- *ability of local governments to restrict events on a parcel in response to complaints from neighbouring properties.*

*The Committee notes that there are multiple legislative tools that dictate permitted accommodations in the ALR: the ALC Act, the ALR Use Regulation and the Short Term Rental Accommodations Act (STRAA).*

*Under ALR Use Regulation, two types of tourism related accommodations in the ALR are permitted without requiring an application to the ALC: 1) Agri-tourism accommodation requires the parcel to be actively farmed, have Class 9 - Farm classification, and that the accommodation is offered in relation to an agri-tourism activity; 2) Bed and breakfast type accommodation does not require the parcel to be farmed or have farm classification to conduct the use but is restricted to no more than 4 bedrooms in the principal residence where the landowner resides. Short-term rental of an entire principal residence (for example, via AirBnB or VRBO) is not permitted by this regulation and requires an application to the ALC.*

*As of May 2024, STRAA limits short-term rentals of certain residences, in some areas of the province in order to encourage long-term rentals to address BC's housing crisis. However, the STRAA does not exempt a landowner from complying with the ALCA and ALR Use Regulation with respect to tourist accommodation and agri-tourism accommodation.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse****(25) TITLE: Provincial Funding for Archaeological Costs Borne by Local Government****SPONSOR: Lillooet**

Whereas local governments within British Columbia are required to undertake major construction projects to provide services such as roads, community sewer systems and community water systems to service properties within their jurisdictions;

And whereas these works involve the excavation of lands, which may include First Nations lands, during the construction phase of such projects;

And whereas the provincial *Heritage Conservation Act* requires that all archaeological sites and findings be recorded and documented in accordance with the legislation and the costs incurred by local governments to comply with the legislation are prohibitive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to consider providing specific funding of the expenditures borne by local governments in all aspects of recording and documentation of

archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial *Heritage Conservation Act* in order to enhance government-to-government relationships with First Nations.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions addressing local government archaeological costs, including:*

- *2023-EB59 which asked the Province in part to provide funding to local governments to offset archaeological costs;*
- *2019-B52 which asked the provincial government to fund additional expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act; and*
- *2007-B139 which asked the Province to consider providing funding equal to 100% of the total expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act.*

*In response to the 2023 resolution, the provincial government confirmed that the Archaeology Branch does not provide funding to support archaeological assessments, but expressed optimism that “ongoing improvements” could decrease permitting timelines.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(26) TITLE: Approval of Aggregate Activities**

**SPONSOR: Summerland**

Whereas conflicts can arise when the provincial Ministry responsible for mining chooses to override local government zoning to approve new gravel pits and other aggregate activities in areas not zoned for such purposes;

And whereas provincial Aggregate Management Principles state that the Ministry should work with local governments to reduce conflicts that can develop when aggregate activities are proposed in urban and populated rural areas;

And whereas consideration of the provincial Aggregate Management Principles is at the discretion of the Statutory Decision Maker within the responsible Ministry, and there is no requirement to follow their principles:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to require Statutory Decision Makers to work with local governments to resolve conflicts prior to approving aggregate activities under a *Mines Act* permit whenever a proposed activity does not conform to existing local government zoning.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**



**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that concerns around resource extraction (i.e. pits and quarries) have been long-standing issues for many local governments, with the UBCM membership endorsing resolutions addressing this topic, including:*

- *2015-B34 which asked the Province to require compliance with local government zoning bylaws as a permit condition, and Ministry staff to cancel permits and deny applications that contravene local government zoning bylaws; and*
- *2011-B46 which asked the Province to cooperate with local governments, the extraction industry, and local citizens in developing and implementing regional plans to identify suitable and unsuitable sites for extraction; called for provincial funding to complete these regional plans; and granted local governments the authority to implement them.*

*In response to the 2015 resolution the provincial government indicated that “in circumstances where the local government opposes the application based on zoning, the Ministry’s [Statutory Decision Maker] may consider that opposition and all other relevant information in making a decision.”*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation****(27) TITLE: Updated Ancillary Uses for Airports Located on Crown Land****SPONSOR: Oliver/RDOS**

Whereas airports located on Crown Land have Crown Grants from the Province of BC to operate and must adhere to the ancillary airport uses listed in the Land Use Operational Policy;

And whereas the list of airport uses is restrictive and limited to what is considered necessary for the viable operation and management of a public airport;

And whereas capital renewal and operational costs for Crown Grant Airports continue to increase and are far outpacing the revenue generating opportunities from ancillary land use leases, and the socio-economic impacts from Crown Grant Airports is significant for local municipalities and their surrounding area:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with Crown Grant Airport owners to update the list of ancillary uses in the Land Use Operational Policy to allow for increased revenue generating opportunities to improve the economic viability of Crown Grant Airports.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation****UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with Crown Grant Airport owners to update the list of ancillary uses in the Land Use Operational Policy to allow for increased revenue generating opportunities.*

*While different than expansion of ancillary uses, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking sustainable provincial and federal government funding for small community airports, as well as funding for upgrades to those small airports (2012-B64, 2009-B162).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

## TAXATION

### (28) TITLE: Burden of Delinquent Property Taxes

#### SPONSOR: Merritt

Whereas the current *Community Charter* allows for taxpayers to become delinquent on their property taxes over a period of three years;

And whereas the *Local Government Act* further exacerbates the collection of taxes for an indefinite number of collection years regarding mobile homes;

And whereas property tax arrears significantly impact the operating capacity of municipalities thereby forcing significant tax increases or limits to essential services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government revise the *Community Charter* by reducing the number of years a property owner can be in arrears on their property tax;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government implement a province-wide, cost-effective solution for municipalities to recover taxes owed by mobile homes; and revise the *Local Government Act* and other related Acts, such as the *Manufactured Homes Act*, accordingly.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolution Committee notes that this resolution deals with two separate but related issues. The first enactment clause requests a reduction in the number of years before any property can be sold at tax sale. The second enactment clause is specific to mobile (manufactured) homes where the option of a tax sale for unpaid taxes or utility fees does not exist.*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2012-B128 that cites the length of time taxes can go unpaid before a property can go to tax sale as having an impact on budgets, and requests a change in legislation to allow for collection of property taxes in a timely manner. The membership also endorsed resolutions 2018-B19 and 2016-B78 that requested improvements in tax collection processes.*

*The Resolutions Committee further notes that the UBCM membership endorsed several resolutions concerning collection of taxes, including delinquent taxes, on manufactured homes (2005-B16, 1999-B10, 1995-B23, 1994-B50). The Committee acknowledges that some of these are dated references.*

#### **SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

## TRANSPORTATION

### (29) TITLE: Small Community Transit Service Fund

#### **SPONSOR: Merritt**

Whereas transit costs in small communities for the operation and leasing of vehicles continues to rise at a rate that is unaffordable for maintaining systems with smaller population bases;

And whereas the transit riders in rural and small communities rely on the systems to attend appointments in larger urban centres and to commute to places of employment;

And whereas rural and small communities have limited tax bases to draw on to pay for increased costs they are facing reductions in transit services to limited routes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a funding model for a small community transit service fund in addition to the small community transfer tax to support continuation of the vital links between and within smaller communities for those with limited means of transportation.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to fund the expansion of public transit in rural and remote areas, and for interregional transit, including:*

- *enhance transit in and between rural communities to improve citizen mobility and to assist those who may already have housing in and adjacent to rural communities, or who can only afford housing in proximity to rural communities (2024-EB82);*
- *doubling of services in BC regional, rural transit systems (2023-EB61);*
- *more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9); and*
- *implementation and expansion of interregional transit, to address safety concerns and rider demand (2022-NR56, 2015-B9, 2012-C37).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provision of and funding for public transit throughout BC (2023-EB61, 2022-NR56, 2022-NR57, 2020-EB17, 2018-SR2, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-LR3, 2015-B9, 2013-B15, 2012-B115, 2012-C37).*

#### **SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

### (30) TITLE: Ministry of Transportation and Transit Approval on Minor Rezoning Applications

#### **Sponsor: Kamloops**

Whereas rezoning applications within 800 metres from the intersection of a controlled access highway with any other highway requires approval from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit;

And whereas Kamloops is like many other local governments which have many kilometres of highways through their jurisdiction;

And whereas minor rezoning applications are considered those not requiring a Traffic Impact Assessment by generating no more than 100 new trips in the peak hour;

And whereas the approval times for rezoning applications can be many months;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province that minor rezoning applications not require approval of the Ministry of Transportation and Transit.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B92, which called on the provincial government to amend the definition of “controlled area” under Section 52 of the Transportation Act, reducing the effective distance from 800 metres to 500 metres. The sponsor at the time described as onerous the requirement for provincial approval of local government zoning bylaws within the 800 metre controlled area; and proposed reducing the size of the controlled area as a solution.*

*In response to the 2010 resolution, the Province clarified that the 800 metre distance for a controlled area “is not arbitrary; it is a distance which is commonly used by highway authorities as a minimum spacing guideline to provide efficient and safe traffic progression between traffic signals.” The Province indicated that this distance requirement is used throughout North America. The Province further suggested that a reduction to 500 metres “would introduce more risk to highway system performance.”*

*The 2025 resolution does not ask for amendment to the 800 metre controlled area; rather, it asks for the provincial government to adopt the sponsor’s own designation of selected rezoning applications within the controlled area as “minor” and exempt those “minor” rezoning applications from provincial approval.*

*The Resolutions Committee would observe that for “minor” rezoning applications as designated by the sponsor, in the absence of provincial review and approval, the resolution does not address the question of who would be responsible for preserving, to provincial standards, function and traffic flow in the 800m controlled area. In communications with UBCM, the sponsor has suggested that one option is delegation of this responsibility to local governments. The Committee would encourage UBCM members to exercise extreme caution around ideas of local governments taking on provincial zoning approval functions for intersections with provincial highways.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**(31) TITLE: Highway Speed Limits**

**SPONSOR: Revelstoke**

Whereas highways in British Columbia are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards, which includes setting and adjusting speed limits;

And whereas certain highway intersections, that are the only access to neighbourhoods, experience a high collision frequency:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit amend the current warrant process criteria to include community safety concerns when requesting a review of

speed limits for municipalities and regional districts experiencing significant highway collisions where alternate neighbourhood access is unavailable.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not perviously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to amend the warrant process criteria to include community safety concerns, when requesting a review of speed limits—particularly in areas where high collision frequency highway intersections provide the sole neighbourhood access.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership has supported numerous resolutions addressing speed limits and road safety, including:*

- *develop a matrix to determine the primary use(s) of the provincial roads, and base safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70); and*
- *implement lower, blanket speed limits (2019-B7, 2009-B19, 2006-B14).*

*The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to improve safety on provincial roads in rural and remote areas, including:*

- *review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction (2023-EB64);*
- *basing safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70);*
- *traffic calming measures in areas designated for growth in electoral areas (2019-B115); and*
- *a process for regional district boards to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to lower the speed limit on highways that pass through rural communities and neighbourhoods (2015-B12).*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(32) TITLE: Commercial Transport Training Standards**

**SPONSOR: TNRD**

Whereas serious crashes and other incidents, such as truck fires, involving commercial transport trucks continue to happen more frequently on BC highways in all weather conditions;

And whereas crashes involving commercial transport trucks often result in serious injuries or death, and crashes often lead to lengthy highway closures that cause significant disruptions and detours for other commercial and non-commercial motorists;

And whereas some commercial transport truck crashes may be attributed to unsafe driving actions or poor driver training, which puts all drivers at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA and UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) investigate whether commercial transport driver training standards are satisfactory and rigorous,

(including for Class 1 and 3 licensing, Air Brake endorsements, and Mandatory Entry Level Training requirements), to increase in-class and on-the-road training to meet a higher standard and reach a level of safety that the traveling public should expect from professional drivers;

And be it further resolved that MOTT investigate and report publicly on enforcement actions taken against commercial transport trucks by BC Highway Patrol, the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement branch, RCMP, and other agencies if applicable.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions seeking improvements to commercial vehicle driver license training in BC, including an accredited training program, graduated licensing system, re-assessment/re-testing of commercial drivers, and holding carriers responsible (2009-B20, 2005-B78).*

*However, the Committee advises that the second request, for MOTT to report publicly on enforcement actions taken against commercial transport trucks by BC Highway Patrol, the Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement branch, RCMP, and other agencies, has not previously been considered.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

**(33) TITLE: Equitable Status and Funding for Inland Ferries as Essential Infrastructure**

**SPONSOR: CSRD**

Whereas inland ferries provide historically critical infrastructure to the communities served, equivalent to roads, highways and bridges;

And whereas inland ferry services are essential services whose costs are funded by a portion of the taxes on sales of gasoline and diesel:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to ensure that all inland ferries are entitled to the same legal status as roads, highways and bridges, that all remain toll-free, and that the regular schedule of each inland ferry (whether on-demand or set schedule) be deemed the minimum necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the communities served.

**UBCM Recommendation: Endorse**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure that all inland ferries are entitled to the same legal status as roads, highways and bridges, that all remain toll-free, and that the regular schedule of each inland ferry (whether on-demand or set schedule) be deemed the minimum necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the communities served.*

*However, the Committee notes that membership endorsed resolution 2002-B78, which asked the Province to prepare a socio-economic impact analysis on the effects to tourism, industrial transportation and residential traffic expected as a result of reductions of inland ferry services. The Committee acknowledges that this is a dated reference.*

*More generally, the Committee notes that membership has endorsed resolutions which have requested that ferries be administered and funded as a critical component of the provincial transportation system and be treated as an extension of provincial highways and therefore travel must be affordable, accessible and dependable (2011-A3, 2010-B20, 2007-B18, 2004-B59, 2001-B64). The Committee acknowledges that some of these are dated references.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

## LEGISLATION

### **(34) TITLE: Personal and Defamatory Attacks on Local Government Leaders**

#### **SPONSOR: 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.

#### **UBCM Recommendation: Not Endorse**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2024-NR91, an identical resolution from the same sponsor. The Resolutions Committee notes that BC's Libel and Slander Act does apply to elected officials, who may pursue legal action under this Act.*

#### **SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**



## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**(35) TITLE: Local Government Response to US Imposed Tariffs**

**SPONSOR: Lake Country**

Whereas the US government is imposing tariffs on manufacturers in many local government jurisdictions;

And whereas federal and provincial officials are considering counter tariffs on US products;

And whereas federal and the provincial officials want to encourage more made in Canada goods:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province set aside funds collected from US counter tariffs for local governments to access to create economic opportunities for local Canadian manufacturers to invest in their communities.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide local governments with a portion of the revenues from counter tariffs on US products, to create economic opportunities for local Canadian manufacturers to invest in their communities.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA notes that tariffs are federal jurisdiction and therefore this Resolution is directed toward the wrong governing body.*

## SELECTED ISSUES

### (36) TITLE: Municipal Infrastructure Plan Library

#### **SPONSOR: Sicamous**

Whereas hiring firms to design common infrastructure buildings such as municipal halls, firehalls, water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants requires substantial time, money, and resources;

And whereas “For Construction” drawings represent substantial public investment and technical expertise;

And whereas a centralized repository of these designs would allow local governments to efficiently reuse existing designs, thereby expediting infrastructure projects and saving public funds and resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province implement an infrastructure plan library that is accessible to local governments.

**UBCM Recommendation: No Recommendation**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement an infrastructure plan library that is accessible to local governments.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Endorse**

### (37) TITLE: Provincial Government Water Panel

#### **SPONSOR: 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, along with maintaining and growing the agricultural sector to feed this new population;

And whereas UBCM is the voice of 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 governments’ members.

**UBCM Recommendation: Not Endorse**

#### **UBCM Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse resolution 2024-NEB12, which was an identical resolution from the same sponsor.*

*The Committee notes that the UBCM membership referred resolution 2023-RR32 to the UBCM Executive who, upon consideration, did not endorse the resolution. The resolution asked UBCM to establish a working*

*committee of Indigenous governments and all orders of government to address future flooding, completing and implementing a flood risk assessment and strategic flood protection for critical infrastructure.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse**

**SILGA Comments:**

*SILGA notes that an identical resolution was not endorsed last year at UBCM.*

**(38) TITLE: UBCM Voting Schedule**

**SPONSOR: Vernon**

Whereas the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention is the main forum for BC local governments to take a united position on key issues through resolutions submitted at the annual Convention;

And whereas these resolutions, if supported, are carried to other orders of government and other organizations involved in local affairs;

And whereas voting on submitted resolutions at the Convention currently occurs during the last 3 days, creating time constraints for all items to be addressed and for all members to be in attendance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM change the Convention agenda by scheduling resolutions at the start of Convention, providing time to address all resolutions submitted and allowing members to schedule their attendance accordingly.

**Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**Resolutions Committee Comments:**

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to change the convention agenda by scheduling resolutions at the start of convention, providing time to address all resolutions submitted and allowing members to schedule their attendance accordingly.*

*The Committee notes that the UBCM Executive is the most appropriate body for making scheduling decisions for the UBCM Convention. The UBCM Executive and Resolutions Committee put much focus and effort into completing the consideration of all resolutions at Convention each year.*

**SILGA Resolutions Committee Recommendation: No Recommendation**