

2025 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

SILGA CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS

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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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Moved/seconded by Matt Cherry/Gary Sulz

Amend final whereas clause and TBIR to read: 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 *Provincial Ministries*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province *for a single Provincial ministry to be appointed to address homeless encampments within all Crown jurisdiction lands.*

Amendment Carried

Carried

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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

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.

Moved/seconded by Simone Runyan/Jeremy Levy

Amend TBIR to read: 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 *the combined septic effluent from a parcel exceeds 80% of the Municipal Wastewater Regulation threshold of 22,700 liters per day and a septic system malfunction could contaminate a municipal water source.*

Amendment Carried

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

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.

Moved/seconded by Siobhan Rich/Marty Gibbons

Amend TBIR to read: 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.

Amendment Carried

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

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.

Carried

TRANSPORTATION

(29) TITLE: Small Community Transit Service Funds

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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

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.

Carried

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.

Moved/Seconded by Spencer Coyne/Todd Mckenzie

Amend TBIR to read: Therefore be it resolved that the *Federal Government* 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.

Amendment Carried

Carried

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.

Carried

(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.

Carried

(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.

Carried