

**SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of Executive Meeting – November 7, 2025**  
**Kelowna City Council**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

President	Councillor Louise Wallace Richmond, Salmon Arm
Past President	Councillor Aimee Grice, Oliver
Directors	Mayor Spencer Coyne, Princeton
	Councillor Stephen Karpuk, Kamloops
	Councillor Gord Lovegrove
	Director Tricia Thorpe, TNRD
	Mayor Ruth Hoyte, Coldstream
	Councillor Bill Sarai, Kamloops
	Councillor Adam Etchart, Merritt
	 General Manager Koryn de Vries
 Absent	 Councillor Tasha Da Silva, West Kelowna
	Councillor Keith Thom, Peachland

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Louise Wallace Richmond called the regular board meeting to order at 10:37am.

**COMMUNITY UPDATE**

Staff Darren Caul presented on Kelowna's advocacy concerning The city's advocacy paper on Chronic Offenders. Seeing increased investments in community safety across North America: rising costs, particularly RCMP (105% increase) are unsustainable, however, Kelowna crime is down 18% 2022-24. Still, public trust is waning, creating social disorder.

What is a chronic offender? Minority of offenders responsible for most crime. 2024 – 15 individuals accounted for 1,335 police files in Kelowna (89/person average). Incredibly complex because intersects with addiction, brain injury, and homelessness. This approach may focus on accountability but acknowledges we need a multiplicity of intervention paths.

Community impacts? Public, police, prosecution adapt: all three need to do their part, and if the public does not trust the others, that erodes the foundation. Crown prosecutors are too few to handle these cases. Lower-level crimes (ones that are more noticed by the public, like petty theft) are getting triaged and that means cases are being dismissed. Technical procedures for police have also increased, yet they still need to keep their timelines within those prescribed by the Province. 12% decrease in BC incidents but a 43% decrease in charge rates nationally: 6% decrease in incidents and 11% decrease in charge rates (lowest since 2019). Incarceration rates lowest since 2019.

Focus: Kelowna wants to deal with repeat property crime offenders differently than others and is pushing changes via federal bail reform. The proposed legislation currently in Ottawa has been impacted by Kelowna's advocacy, but there is still a need to examine the number of offenses an individual has because people who will not show up to court and who will commit new offenses within days, if not hours, are being let out.

Of course, bail reform is not a silver bullet: we need comprehensive supports. This should, however, help reduce bureaucratic backlog that is overworking our police and prosecution systems. We also need more crown prosecutors across all Local Governments in BC.

Stephen Karpuk commented that the courthouse consolidations that occurred did not coincide with an expansion of remaining courthouse services, increasing the issues: a major point of concern for Kamloops who is now servicing Ashcroft, Williams Lake, and Merritt, to name a few.

Many major policy changes have not come with the infrastructure changes needed to set them up for success.

Kelowna requests that this be highlighted in SILGA's advocacy as a unifying issue for the Southern Interior. Solidarity concerning this issue at this timely federal juncture will support the bail initiative alongside having the Province step up re: prosecutor employment. There are currently no analytics for what the reasonable amount of work is for a crown prosecutor. The threshold for prosecution is also higher than any other region in Canada.

**Interest in presenting at SILGA 2026** concerning this item, as well as submitting a Board resolution.

BC Crown must determine charges because RCMP cannot. This is a good thing, but it is also an added workload. Alberta just changed to the proposed policy last year, so Kelowna is studying their workload statistics.

Kelowna has begun educating the public on this issue: these papers illuminate that the problem is on the province and federal government/the crown; the police do not approve charges.

RCMP/Crown Prosecutors are not at liberty to speak up about this; SILGA's role can be to add to the voices. Federal government is working on bail reform, so now we need the province to step up and provide crown prosecutors.

**Aimee and Louise to share analysis paper with UBCM and FCM policy committees.**

### **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA**

Addition to agenda: Memorial for Keith Thom. To new business.

**Moved/Seconded by Tricia/Adam THAT:**

The agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved/Seconded by Tricia/Stephen THAT:**

The draft minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 19 August, be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. COFI Conference Invitation

**Moved/Seconded by Spencer/Tricia THAT:**

SILGA send President Louise Wallace Richmond to COFI and reimburse for two nights of stay.

**CARRIED**

2. Legislative Reform Letter of Receipt from the Province
  - a. UBCM will move forward with advocacy, but it will be slow now
  - b. There is a sense that the Province is at a loss concerning municipal affairs. Eg: OK Falls, Land Claims: Province doesn't want to touch these issues
  - c. We need to keep an eye on it and support reform initiatives where we can

**Moved/Seconded by Ruth/Spencer THAT:**

Correspondence be accepted and filed.

**CARRIED**

3. JP Centre Presentation
  - a. Requesting help with promotion, want ideas getting off the ground ASAP
  - b. Intend to be at SILGA 2026 but would like promotion to occur prior

Recommendations:

SILGA Winter Newsletter to promote JP Centre submissions process

Tricia to attend Nov 25<sup>th</sup> expert panel on behalf of SILGA with permission from JP Centre

Coordinate a panel for SILGA with Rural Health Network?

In the Interim, SILGA recommends JP Centre reach out to RDOs and Hospital Districts

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **1. Spencer updates**

- a. Nervous about moving forward with the C2C forum in current climate. Only a short timeline remains if we are to accomplish one by early 2026.
- b. Minister Herbert, Indigenous Relations: Koryn to reach out to staff about collaborating to get C2C off the ground and CC Spencer
  - i. Stephen Karpuk to replace Keith Thom on the working group
- c. Regional Transit Working Group – tentative interest from RDOS
  - i. Louise to reach out to Dr. Will Garrett-Petts on
- d. FNBC received \$3 million for a planning study; there is an urgency to get this off the ground before April
  - i. Only Valley Rail included at this point, but will be meeting George Anderson next week for more planning. An opportunity to see what else the Province is willing to do to support transit.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Keith Thom's memorial**

Councillor and SILGA Executive Keith Thom passed away on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. His absence is greatly felt, and SILGA wishes to commemorate his contributions.

**Moved/Seconded by Spencer/Tricia THAT:**

SILGA send the District of Peachland a \$500 food bank donation, a letter of condolence to the District, and flowers.

**CARRIED**

## 2. UBCM Reflections

Points for next year:

- Use a SIGNAL groupchat for last minute changes
- Mahoney's tavern: book the back table for a UBCM SILGA Board lunch on Monday
- SILGA Board will offer an Executive to sit in on member Minister meetings concerning resolutions passed at convention

## 3. Board Resolution re: repeat offenders

- a. SILGA will wait to see the UBCM and FCM support response and draft a resolution at a later date if needed

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. Convention Committee

**Keynote:** aim to have a featured speaker every day  
Other preparations coming along slowly but surely

#### **Finance**

- a. Bank Statements and Bookkeeping in order

#### **HR**

In-Camera

### UBCM REPORT:

Aimee Grice brought attention to UBCM's latest Compass Article: concern about bill M216 that stipulates local governments must go through the province for important infrastructure planning, increasing bureaucratic strain and reducing local government autonomy.  
- SILGA to watch and potentially send a letter.

### FCM REPORT:

Advocacy day in October: tone has shifted, much more relaxed with the opposition, there was lots of talk about infrastructure funding, more ambition from MPs  
Budget for infrastructure is mostly re-announced projects from the prior parliamentary session, further advocacy is needed to increase projects.

#### **Next meeting:**

January 9th at 8:30am, Remote

**Moved/Seconded by Bill/Gord THAT:**

At 1:12pm the SILGA Executive Meeting of November 7, 2025 be adjourned.

**CARRIED**