

2026 SILGA RESOLUTIONS

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22. Merritt Victim Services Program Funding
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24. Spallumcheen BC Building Code Amendment to Include Natural Gas
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SILGA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. SILGA Constitution Fee Amendment - Appendix A

Sponsor: SILGA

Whereas current SILGA membership fees do not cover the base operations costs of the organization;

And whereas UBCM and other Area Associations use a progressive collection formula to share the burden of cost across member local governments;

And whereas SILGA's member services continue to expand to better support local government officials across the Southern Interior;

And whereas SILGA endeavours to be in good fiscal standing to reliably deliver services to its members:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA request an amendment to the SILGA Bylaws to reflect the following fee structure for each member:

\$1.00/Resident	First 5,000 Residents*	Next 10,000	Next 15,000	Residents after 30,000
2026	0.15**	0.13	0.11	0.085
2027	0.18	0.14	0.12	0.10
2028	0.21	0.165	0.14	0.11
2029	0.25	0.18	0.15	0.12
2030 & further: Annual BC CPI increase – estimated here at 2%	0.255	0.1836	0.153	0.1224

Dues will be calculated using the most recently available population data from UBCM

*Mandatory minimum \$500

**Multiplied by designated percentage of population

Appendix A to Section 9.7:

Schedule A

The Annual Dues for membership in the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) per Member are as follows:

\$1.00/Resident	First 5,000 Residents*	Next 10,000	Next 15,000	Residents after 30,000
2026	0.15**	0.13	0.11	0.085

2027	0.18	0.14	0.12	0.10
2028	0.21	0.165	0.14	0.11
2029	0.25	0.18	0.15	0.12
2030 & further: Annual BC CPI increase – estimated here at 2%	0.255	0.1836	0.153	0.1224

Dues will be calculated using the most recently available population data from UBCM

*Mandatory minimum \$500

**Multiplied by designated percentage of population

CARRIED

ENDORSE RESOLUTIONS

This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

LAND USE

2. Modernize Industrial Water Rates

Sponsor: Lake Country

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has limited funding available for watershed protection, while water is the most critical resource that requires protection and long-term stewardship;

And whereas British Columbia currently has the lowest industrial water rates in Canada, which have not been updated in over a decade;

And whereas aligning industrial water rates with those of other provinces could generate significant new revenue, \$38 million if aligned with Saskatchewan, \$84 million if aligned with Quebec, or up to \$357 million if aligned with Nova Scotia;

And whereas this additional revenue could be directed to watershed protection, helping to address critical funding gaps during a challenging fiscal period:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia modernize industrial water rates by bringing them in line with those of other provinces and dedicate the resulting revenue to watershed protection.

CARRIED

3. Foreshore Lease Applications

Sponsor: Sicamous

Whereas the Province requires and oversees applications for foreshore specific permissions and leases for the placement and use of private moorage facilities on Crown land;

And whereas application processing timelines for these approvals have become unreasonably prolonged, creating uncertainty, hardship and economic challenges for property owners, communities and local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to immediately provide a timeline for when existing applications will be processed and commit additional resources to the administration and oversight of foreshore special permissions and leases in order to address approval backlogs, reduce processing timelines and improve responsiveness to community needs.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

4. Off-Road Vehicle Management Framework

Sponsor: Sicamous

Whereas the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* (ORV) was intended to create safe and convenient incidental access to public roads and highways, better connect British Columbia's rural communities, support a first-rate ORV trail network and allow local governments to expand their trail networks to build economic development opportunities by way of tourism;

And whereas the administrative process to obtain Operation Permits as required under the ORV Act is onerous and not conducive to convenient incidental access to trail networks connecting communities because a separate operation permit must be obtained from each jurisdiction:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province amend the *Off-Road Vehicle Act* (ORV) to require only one (1) Operation Permit for approved access to multiple jurisdictions and/or communities along a connected, designated ORV route and trail network issued in any of the jurisdictions along the route; to allow Operation Permits to be issued by any local RCMP or local government along a connected, designated ORV route; and to extend the Operation Permit term from two (2) years to five (5) years to align with the driver's license term.

CARRIED

NO RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTIONS

This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation.

HOUSING

5. Provision of Data Concerning the Speculation and Vacancy Tax

Sponsor: Vernon

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implemented the Speculation and Vacancy Tax (SVT) with the stated objective of increasing long-term rental supply and improving housing availability for British Columbians;

And whereas the Province has publicly stated that approximately 20,000 homes province-wide have been returned to the long-term rental market as a result of the SVT;

And whereas despite the implementation of the SVT, many communities continue to experience persistently low rental vacancy rates and/or rising rental costs;

And whereas municipal governments require clear, verifiable, and community-level data in order to assess the effectiveness of provincial housing policies and to inform local land-use, housing, and affordability strategies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to provide municipalities with clear, transparent, and verifiable data regarding long-term rental outcomes attributed to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax (SVT), including the methodology used to collect and interpret the data, the total SVT revenue collected within each community, and a detailed accounting of how much of that revenue has been reinvested locally in both affordable and supportive housing.

CARRIED

6. Provision of Short-Term Rental Legislation Data

Sponsor: Vernon

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has enacted strengthened short-term rental (STR) legislation with the stated objectives of reducing housing speculation, increasing long-term rental supply, and improving housing affordability;

And whereas local governments are responsible for long-range land use planning, housing needs assessments, infrastructure investment, and many municipalities provide their communities with economic development, and tourism management, all of which rely on accurate, localized housing and accommodation data;

And whereas the absence of transparent outcome-based reporting makes it difficult for local governments to evaluate any unintended consequences that affect community sustainability and economic resilience requiring imminent action:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to provide local governments with clear, consistent, and verifiable data to evaluate the local impacts of provincial short-term rental legislation, along with the tools needed to confirm outcomes and mitigate unintended consequences.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

7. FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program

Sponsor: Clearwater

Whereas the UBCM-administered FireSmart Community Funding and Supports (FCFS) program provides critical funding to First Nations and local governments to undertake FireSmart planning and activities that reduce community wildfire risk including staffing, mitigation operations, and consistent implementation of wildfire risk reduction measures year over year;

And whereas UBCM has advised applicants that the FCFS intake was closed on January 30, 2026 due to lack of funding, and that the program transitioned to a competitive, adjudicated intake beginning February 2, 2026, creating uncertainty and reducing local governments' ability to plan and sustain ongoing wildfire risk reduction capacity;

And whereas communities throughout British Columbia rely on FCFS funding to deliver local wildfire risk reduction initiatives, and funding instability, reduction and uncertainty creates downstream impacts on program continuity, staffing retention, multi-year planning and undermines the continuity and effectiveness of local wildfire risk reduction efforts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to reinstate stable, predictable, long-term funding for the UBCM FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program sufficient to support ongoing local FireSmart staffing and mitigation operations, and to ensure communities can plan and implement multi-year wildfire risk reduction initiatives.

CARRIED

8. FireSmart Long-Term Funding for Community Wildfire Response Groups

Sponsor: Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia is experiencing increased wildfire risk due to rising temperatures and drought associated with climate change;

And whereas an increasing number of community-based wildfire protection and response groups have formed, particularly in rural, remote, and unprotected areas outside established fire protection

boundaries, to support FireSmart objectives, safeguard communities, and assist the BC Wildfire Service when requested or directed, and these groups require appropriate training (including, but not limited to, S-100 and S-185) and reliable funding to operate safely and effectively:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Province of British Columbia, Community Wildfire Roundtables, and other relevant partners to establish a reliable, long-term funding program to support training for community wildfire response groups as part of FireSmart implementation and broader community wildfire resilience.

CARRIED

9. FireSmart Program Funding

Sponsor: Chase

Whereas climate change is real, and is accelerating faster than most climate scientists have predicted;

And whereas climate change, coupled with the continued drought experienced in British Columbia is heightening wildfire risk particularly in the Interior of British Columbia;

And whereas the BC Wildfire Service is comprised of highly skilled, trained and dedicated firefighters, additional equipment and resources are very costly to the taxpayers of British Columbia in a time when other costs are straining the livability of a large proportion of British Columbians;

And whereas home hardening and fire-resilient landscaping are one of the least expensive and most effective ways to protect communities against wildfire disasters:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to reconsider its decision to reduce funding for the FireSmart program particularly for vulnerable, small communities who are at high risk of wildfire and whose residents are at their limit of taxation and other living costs.

CARRIED

10. Provincial Diking Reform

Sponsor: Merritt

Whereas provincial legislation requires local governments to conduct and report on annual dike inspections, and most local governments must contract this work at high cost to taxpayers due to a lack of certified staff;

And whereas there is a significant need for dike maintenance and construction, yet a clear gap exists in both technical expertise and sustainable funding models which contribute to delays and construction setbacks that leave local governments vulnerable:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to commit to stable flood and drought funding with predictable intake programs like the Disaster Resilience Innovation Fund; create a funded path forward to bring orphan dikes up to standard and assign authority to them or decommission them; provide cost-sharing and standardization for dike maintenance and inspection; update flood

protection guidelines with clear, scalable targets so small systems aren't held to the same standard as high-consequence areas; define how climate change is applied in design; and develop a single strategy that links flood mapping, land use rules, dike standards, funding, and responsibility.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

11. Adopt CleanBC Review Recommendations

Sponsor: Kamloops

Whereas the Government of British Columbia commissioned an independent review of CleanBC to assess its effectiveness and identify actions needed to meet provincial greenhouse gas emission reduction targets;

And whereas the final report of the independent CleanBC review concludes that British Columbia is not on track to meet its 2030 climate targets;

And whereas the review recommends establishing a Citizens' Assembly on Building a Sustainable Economy in British Columbia to help build public understanding and consensus on the actions required to achieve these targets;

And whereas the review identifies the need to strengthen CleanBC in order to ensure that British Columbia's clean energy system remains affordable and reliable, with energy efficiency and electrification as key components of the transition:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to establish a Citizens' Assembly, as recommended in the independent CleanBC review, to support implementation of the review's recommendations;

And be it further resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to adopt the CleanBC review recommendation to promote and increase the production of clean, provincially generated renewable electricity, biofuels, and renewable natural gas, in accordance with social, economic, and environmental best practices.

CARRIED

12. Provincial Certification for Mosquito Control Drone Technology

Sponsor: Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas current mosquito control methods by local governments in British Columbia rely on costly helicopter and ground applications of federally approved larvicides to improve quality of life for its residents;

And whereas Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) offer a cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and efficient alternative for aerial larvicide application;

And whereas British Columbia currently lacks a provincial certification process for RPAS in pest management, thereby preventing local governments from adopting this technology:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to develop and implement a provincial certification process for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) pesticide application.

Moved/Seconded by Bill Sarai/Matt Cherry

Amend enactment clause to read:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to develop and implement a provincial certification process for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) *larvicide* application.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

FINANCE

13. Eligibility Expenses for Grant-Funded Projects

Sponsor: Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia currently does not consider in-house expenses such as staff time, administrative support, and other internal resources used in the delivery of grant-funded projects as eligible recoverable expenses;

And whereas recognizing in-house expenses as eligible costs would increase administrative efficiency, reduce reliance on external contractors, and support local governments in delivering grant-funded projects more effectively and cost efficiently:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to amend its grant program criteria to include in-house expenses as eligible recoverable costs.

CARRIED

14. Revenue Sharing of PST and GST with Local Governments

Sponsor: Barriere

Whereas local governments across British Columbia face significant infrastructure deficits, with many municipalities and electoral areas unable to meet these needs through property taxation alone;

And whereas many infrastructure funding programs require local governments to compete through application-based grant processes that are unpredictable, resource-intensive, and often resemble a lottery system that creates winners and losers while diverting valuable staff capacity at both local and provincial levels;

And whereas reliance on competitive, application-driven funding programs creates uncertainty in long-term financial planning and delays critical infrastructure, fire smarting, and community resilience projects, while predictable and sustained funding would enable local governments to plan responsibly, deliver infrastructure upgrades more efficiently, and reduce overall costs to taxpayers;

And whereas in other jurisdictions, such as the United States, local governments retain a share of sales tax revenue, providing a stable funding source for community infrastructure and services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate that the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to establish a revenue-sharing model that allocates a portion of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues collected within municipal boundaries and electoral areas directly back to local governments;

And be it further resolved that this revenue stream be designed to gradually reduce reliance on competitive, application-based infrastructure grant programs, replacing a portion of those programs with predictable, sustained funding, while not affecting statutory or annually allocated grants currently provided to local governments.

CARRIED

TAXATION

15. Increase Municipality Authority Regarding Tax Sales

Sponsor: Clinton

Whereas municipalities have been given the responsibility and obligation to conduct tax sales but must follow prescriptive and inflexible provincial statutes in the conduct of tax sales;

And whereas municipalities should have more authority over the regulations governing tax sales including the issuance of disqualifications and fines for attendees who do not follow auction rules or use unfair tactics to delay or invalidate a tax sale;

And whereas municipalities currently do not have this jurisdiction:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province grant all municipalities greater authority to set and enforce the terms of the conduct of tax sales.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

16. Publicly Accessible Website for Tracking Rural Gravel Road Maintenance

Sponsor: Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas the BC Ministry of Transportation is often unable to manage local gravel roads to a reasonable standard:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC Ministry of Transportation to substantially increase the annual funding allocation towards repair and maintenance of rural gravel roads across BC;

And be it further resolved that the BC Ministry of Transportation produce a publicly accessible website on the service category for each rural gravel road the maintenance standards for each road category, and a public hotline to report and track road deficiencies which do not meet contracted service standards to help enforce contract standards during the contract period, track/grade contractor performance relative to confirmed hotline deficiencies, and incorporate that performance metric when renewing service contracts.

Moved/Seconded by Wayne Carson/Spencer Coyne

Amend all mention of rural/local gravel roads to “gazetted gravel roads”:

Whereas the BC Ministry of Transportation is often unable to manage *gazetted* gravel roads to a reasonable standard:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC Ministry of Transportation to substantially increase the annual funding allocation towards repair and maintenance of *gazetted* gravel roads across BC;

And be it further resolved that the BC Ministry of Transportation produce a publicly accessible website on the service category for each *gazetted* gravel road the maintenance standards for each road category, and a public hotline to report and track road deficiencies which do not meet contracted service standards to help enforce contract standards during the contract period, track/grade contractor performance relative to confirmed hotline deficiencies, and incorporate that performance metric when renewing service contracts.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE

17. Letters Patent for New Municipalities

Sponsor: Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas electors vote to incorporate a new municipality based on information provided through a provincial incorporation study which considers matters, including but not limited to, the name, boundary, area and classification and from which the Province of BC establishes a letters patent;

And whereas the most recent incorporation process in British Columbia is varying from this usual process causing concern to the residents and businesses, delaying the election of a Council and causing local economic decline:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to ensure that establishment letters patent are based on the incorporation study outcomes, and where the Province of BC determines a need to vary from those outcomes, the Province be required to provide notice to electors in the proposed municipality as outlined in the *Local Government Act* prior to finalizing the letters patent.

CARRIED

18. Regional Consultation for *Heritage Conservation Act* and *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*

Sponsors: Kamloops, Lytton

Whereas local governments in British Columbia are responsible for land-use planning, infrastructure, permitting, and development approvals, all of which are directly affected by provincial reconciliation policy, archaeology requirements, and the *Heritage Conservation Act* and Regulations;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is implementing the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) and also undertaking reviews of reconciliation, archaeology, and heritage policy frameworks;

And whereas local governments are not consistently included as formal partners in provincial policy development related to DRIPA implementation, archaeology processes, and heritage legislation, despite being responsible for implementation at the community level and for public infrastructure projects that are significantly impacted by these policies;

And whereas the current *Heritage Conservation Act* is outdated, and existing archaeology processes create uncertainty, delays, and cost impacts for local governments, Indigenous communities, and the public, which further contribute to challenges in delivering affordable development and housing in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to ensure that senior representatives of all local government associations in British Columbia are formally included in discussions and decision-making related to the review, reform, and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, reconciliation policy, archaeology processes, and any replacement or reform of the *Heritage Conservation Act*;

And be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, North Central Local Government Association, Lower Mainland Local Government Association, and Association of Kootenay and Boundary Local Governments.

Moved/Seconded by Gord Lovegrove/Isaac Gilbert

Amend wording in third whereas clause and first enactment clause:

And whereas local governments are not consistently included as formal partners in policy development related to DRIPA implementation, archaeology processes, and heritage legislation, despite being responsible for implementation at the community level and for public infrastructure projects that are significantly impacted by these policies;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to ensure that *elected* representatives of all local government associations in British Columbia are formally included in discussions and decision-making related to the review, reform, and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, reconciliation policy, archaeology processes, and any replacement or reform of the *Heritage Conservation Act*;

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

ASSESSMENT

19. Creation of Farm-Use Subclasses for Property Taxation

Sponsor: Coldstream

Whereas the Minister of Finance establishes property tax classifications, and all forms of farm use are currently grouped under Class 9 without distinguishing between small-scale, light-impact farm operations and large-scale, intensive industrial farm operations;

And whereas large-scale industrial farming typically places significantly greater demands on municipal infrastructure and services, yet is assessed and taxed at the same rate as small-scale farms with minimal impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that the Minister of Finance create farm-use property tax subclasses to differentiate between small-scale, light-impact farm operations and major, large-scale industrial farm operations, enabling municipalities to equitably allocate the property tax burden across farm property types.

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS CAPTURED BY FOUR CRITERIA PER UBCM EXTRAORDINARY RESOLUTION 2025-ER1

The following are the resolutions that UBCM has deemed to be captured by one or more of the four criteria as outlined in the Extraordinary Resolution 2025-ER1 Extraordinary Resolution to Amend the UBCM Bylaws to Streamline the Resolutions Process. The four criteria are:

1. Resolution is existing UBCM policy (policy for or policy against);
2. Resolution is outside of the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations;
3. Resolution is within the scope of BC local governments and member First Nations, but does not meet UBCM criteria for format or clarity; or
4. Resolution is regional in focus.

Current policy is set for the last five years: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

CURRENT POLICY

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

20. Brain Injury Supports

Sponsor: Revelstoke

Whereas acquired brain injury is highly prevalent among people experiencing homelessness, substance use, repeated overdose, and involvement with emergency and justice systems, yet remains significantly under-diagnosed and under-supported in British Columbia;

And whereas untreated and unsupported brain injury contributes to housing instability, repeated emergency service use, and increased pressures on policing, fire, health, and shelter services, creating ongoing costs and impacts for local governments across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA urge the Province of British Columbia to establish consistent, long-term provincial funding for community-based acquired brain injury supports as part of the Province's response to homelessness, mental health and substance use, and public safety, recognizing these supports as a cost-effective means of reducing downstream pressures on health, housing, justice, and municipal emergency services.

CARRIED

HOUSING

21. Establish a Permanent Provincial Housing Policy Roundtable

Sponsor: Revelstoke

Whereas British Columbia is facing ongoing challenges related to housing affordability, supply, and policy coordination across the province;

And whereas the complexity and scale of the housing situation have highlighted the need for meaningful, ongoing consultation with stakeholders who are directly involved in housing delivery and policy impacts;

And whereas local governments, Indigenous housing organizations, market and nonmarket housing providers, academic experts, and other housing sector stakeholders have emphasized the importance of collaborative, evidence-based housing policy development;

And whereas UBCM recently endorsed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Permanent Provincial Housing Policy Roundtable that would bring together representatives from multiple sectors to advise and inform provincial housing policy:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA request that the provincial government establish a Permanent Provincial Housing Policy Roundtable composed of representatives from local governments, Indigenous housing organizations, market and non-market housing sectors, academic experts, and provincial and federal housing ministries or officials, with a mandate to collaboratively develop, review, and provide advice on housing policies to ensure balanced, informed, and outcomes-focused housing solutions for communities across British Columbia.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

22. Victim Services Program Funding

Sponsor: Merritt

Whereas statistics show that family violence and intimate partner violence is on the rise in BC, often with tragic consequences;

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

And whereas the funding formula for victim services is built around population and does not take into consideration the absence of a community based program, resulting in the responsibility falling on local police-based programs and additional responsibilities falling to committees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to assess what funding is needed to expand victim services capacity and update the formula utilized to determine provincial contributions accordingly.

Moved/Seconded by Isaac Gilbert/Jim King

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA* ask the provincial government to assess what funding is needed to expand victim services capacity and update the formula utilized to determine provincial contributions accordingly.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

23. Compensation for Food Recovery Programs

Sponsor: Revelstoke

Whereas community food recovery programs have organized to collect food that would otherwise go to the landfill from grocery chains, fast food establishments, and locally owned food businesses along the procurement, processing, and distribution chain;

And whereas the costs of diverting organic and recyclable items from for-profit businesses from mainstream landfill sites is being shouldered by non-profits, thereby adversely burdening food recovery programs who addressing food security and improving food access to vulnerable community members:

Therefore be it resolved that the province offer rebates to food recovery programs to offset escalating costs of organics, recycling, and waste disposal fees.

Moved/Seconded by Isaac Gilbert/Bill Sarai

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA request* the province offer rebates to food recovery programs to offset escalating costs of organics, recycling, and waste disposal fees.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

24. 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;

And whereas there have also been recent changes to implementation strategies in the CleanBC legislation by the Province of BC government, in coordination with the federal government, that should also be considered in context with the BC Energy Step Code and BC Building Code:

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Spallumcheen asks the members of SILGA to request 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, and that any such amendment consider applicable provincial building and energy regulations, and be implemented in a manner that expands rather than restricts local autonomy and opportunity, and is flexible and practical for all British Columbia local governments.

Moved/Seconded by Matt Cherry/Wayne Carson

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA request the Province of British Columbia 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, and that any such amendment consider applicable provincial building and energy regulations, and be implemented in a manner that expands rather than restricts local autonomy and opportunity, and is flexible and practical for all British Columbia local governments.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

FINANCE

25. Capital Funding Program and Advisory Body for Libraries

Sponsor: Thompson-Nicola RD

Whereas Public Libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by local governments, the Provincial Government's financial contribution is also critical to ongoing library operations;

And whereas the Province's \$14 million in core funding for BC's 71 library systems has not increased since 2010, even as the population has grown by nearly 30 percent and inflation by more than 35 percent;

And whereas libraries have taken on an ever-expanding role in advancing provincial objectives for community well-being: helping job seekers and small businesses, providing safe spaces during emergencies and extreme weather, supporting residents facing mental health, addiction, and housing challenges, and advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;

And whereas despite the passage of a Special Resolution at the 2025 UBCM Convention calling for increased provincial investment in libraries, no additional funding has been provided, and libraries continue to shoulder growing expectations without the necessary provincial support:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to immediately increase the annual core funding for public libraries to \$30 million, and to index that amount to cost-of-living and inflationary pressures in future years, as recommended by the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services and repeatedly requested by the BC Public Library Partners;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to establish both a dedicated capital funding program to assist local governments in upgrading, expanding, and constructing library facilities, and an advisory body under Section 52(1) of the *Library Act* to review the provincial library funding model in consultation with local governments and First Nations.

Moved/Seconded by Vivian Birch-Jones/Wayne Carson

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

And be it further resolved that *SILGA* urge the provincial government to establish both a dedicated capital funding program to assist local governments in upgrading, expanding, and constructing library facilities, and an advisory body under Section 52(1) of the *Library Act* to review the provincial library funding model in consultation with local governments and First Nations.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

LAND USE

26. Improve Old Growth Ecosystem Conservation

Sponsors: Columbia Shuswap RD, Revelstoke

Whereas intact old-growth forests provide province-wide public benefits including climate regulation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, watershed stability, fresh water, clean air and reduced hazard risk (e.g. floods, fires, landslides), while improving ecological resilience, community public safety, and economic outcomes associated with British Columbia's growing tourism industry;

And whereas local governments throughout British Columbia bear direct responsibility and expense for responding to the downstream impacts of deforestation, giving all municipalities and regional districts a legitimate and shared interest in the protection of remaining intact old-growth forests regardless of location;

And whereas the Inland Temperate Rainforest is a red-listed ecosystem underrepresented in existing protected area networks:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to act on provincial conservation commitments, including the protection of 30% of lands by 2030 and Old Growth Strategic

Review recommendations, and work with First Nations and local governments to establish long-term protection measures for intact ancient and old-growth ecosystems of provincial significance, including increased conservation efforts for the Rainbow-Jordan wilderness and the Inland Temperate Rainforest.

Moved/Seconded by Wayne Carson/Kevin Kraft

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA* urge the Province of British Columbia to act on provincial conservation commitments, including the protection of 30% of lands by 2030 and Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations, and work with First Nations and local governments to establish long-term protection measures for intact ancient and old-growth ecosystems of provincial significance, including increased conservation efforts for the Rainbow-Jordan wilderness and the Inland Temperate Rainforest.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Moved/Seconded by Patrick Van Minsel/Gary Sulz

Amend enactment clause to include land management:

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA urge the Province of British Columbia to act on provincial conservation commitments, including the protection of 30% of lands by 2030 and Old Growth Strategic Review recommendations, and work with First Nations and local governments to establish long-term protection measures for intact ancient and old-growth ecosystems of provincial significance, including increased conservation efforts for the Rainbow-Jordan wilderness and the Inland Temperate Rainforest, *including a land management plan.*

Van Minsel/Gary Sulz

SECOND AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

27. Forest Service Road Closures and Crown Land Access

Sponsor: Revelstoke, Sicamous

Whereas the Province of British Columbia is responsible for the management of forest service roads (FSRs) and associated infrastructure on Crown land, and declining forest harvesting activity has resulted in the closure and deactivation of many FSRs and bridges across the province, limiting public access to backcountry areas;

And whereas forest service roads provide essential access for outdoor recreation, tourism, search and rescue, wildfire suppression, emergency response, and resource-based economic activity, particularly in rural, remote, and destination communities;

And whereas the closure or deactivation of forest service roads without adequate consultation has increased public safety risks, reduced emergency access and egress options, negatively impacted tourism and recreation-based economies, and shifted costs and operational pressures onto local governments, volunteer organizations, and first responders;

And whereas the UBCM membership has repeatedly endorsed resolutions recognizing the importance of forest service roads and calling on the Province to maintain access for recreation, tourism, and emergency response (2013-B128, 2017-B58, 2017-B59, 2020-EB19 through 2020-EB22, 2024-EB79, 2024-EB80, and 2025-EB68):

Therefore be it resolved that SILGA urge the Province of British Columbia to maintain and protect public access to backcountry and public lands by strengthening consultation, coordination and collaboration between local governments, Indigenous partners, and BC Timber Sales when planning logging road deactivation to ensure access decisions support recreational, economic and emergency response interests.

CARRIED

28. Cost of a Public Transit System in Communities under a Population of 10,000

Sponsor: Merritt

Whereas local governments with populations under 10,000 people are predominantly rural in nature, characterized by low population density, dispersed development patterns, and limited ridership potential;

And whereas these smaller rural communities lack the tax base and ridership volumes necessary to offset operating and capital costs through fares or local revenues;

And whereas provincial transit funding models tend to favour large urban centres, leaving rural communities to shoulder a disproportionate share of transit costs through local taxation resulting in low-ridership rural transit systems which are financially unsustainable to maintain and which divert limited local government resources from essential services and infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government develop flexible, long-term, and predictable funding programs tailored specifically to rural transportation needs.

Moved/Seconded by Isaac Gilbert/Wayne Carson

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA* request the provincial government develop flexible, long-term, and predictable funding programs tailored specifically to rural transportation needs.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE

29. Legislate Local Government Consultation

Sponsor: Lake Country

Whereas local governments are key partners in the implementation, administration, and enforcement of provincial legislation and regulatory changes;

And whereas provincial legislation introduced under accelerated or urgent timelines can have significant financial, operational, planning, and service delivery impacts on local governments;

And whereas meaningful consultation with local governments supports improved policy outcomes, reduces unintended consequences, and strengthens collaborative governance between the Province and local governments;

And whereas local governments may have limited opportunity to review, analyze, and provide feedback on proposed legislation when bills are introduced or advanced under urgent or expedited timelines:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province ensure any new or pending legislation or regulatory changes be subject to a minimum six-month consultation period prior to implementation or final approval.

Moved/Seconded by Wayne Carson/Gord Lovegrove

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA* request that the Province ensure any new or pending legislation or regulatory changes be subject to a minimum six-month consultation period prior to implementation or final approval.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

30. Transparency of Governance

Sponsor: Sicamous

Whereas local governments have primary responsibility for land use planning and decision-making and rely on timely, clear, and consistent engagement from the Province of British Columbia when decisions or discussions affect lands within local government boundaries;

And whereas significant and precedent-setting court decisions related to land use in British Columbia, together with the provincial implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the *Heritage Conservation Act*, have created uncertainty for property owners and local governments regarding provincial expectations, legal implications, and future land use considerations;

And whereas a lack of early, coordinated, transparent, and ongoing communications with affected municipalities during and following such decisions has hindered local government planning processes and undermined public confidence in local and provincial governance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to increase transparency by engaging directly with local governments when the province is involved in decisions, discussions, or policy developments

affecting lands within local government boundaries to reduce uncertainty for local governments and the public.

Moved/Seconded by Alena Glasman/Gord Lovegrove

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA* urge the Province to increase transparency by engaging directly with local governments when the province is involved in decisions, discussions, or policy developments affecting lands within local government boundaries to reduce uncertainty for local governments and the public.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SCOPE

TRANSPORTATION

31. Expand Pilot Education Support

Sponsor: Kamloops

Whereas Canada is facing a critical airline pilot shortage due to retirements, rising training costs, and insufficient public investment that have created critical gaps between workforce demand and supply;

And whereas this national shortage in airline pilots is reducing service to regional and rural communities, increasing economic disruption, threatening aviation safety, and putting a growing strain on the national transportation system;

And whereas excessive training costs and inadequate government funding have unnecessarily prevented qualified Canadians from becoming pilots:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments to take immediate action to expand funding, training capacity, and financial support for pilot education in order to protect public safety, economic stability, and reliable air service for all Canadians.

CARRIED

REGIONAL

TRANSPORTATION

32. Improve Highway Maintenance Standards

Sponsors: Clearwater, Kamloops

Whereas the Interior Health and Northern Health regions of BC in combination make up the largest number of fatalities for vehicle incidents in the province, being 189 out of 331 deaths in 2023 or 57%, while only representing 22% of the province's population;

And whereas the Interior Health region has a death rate of 15.2 per 100,000, and the Northern Health region has a death rate of 18.1, both of which are well in excess of the provincial average of 6.0;

And whereas the safety of highways in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions impacts all British Columbians due to the centrality of these highways;

And whereas the province's commitment to a \$728 million to upgrade Highway 1 between Kamloops and the Alberta border mitigates safety issues on one specific corridor, but does not address safety concerns on the many other highway corridors in Interior and Northern BC:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province work with regional districts and municipalities in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions to prioritize upgrades, as well as ongoing road maintenance standards and oversight, to provincial highways within municipal borders and in regional districts;

And be it further resolved that the Province commit to funding improvements with the goal of reducing death rates in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions.

Moved/Seconded by Barbara Roden/Patrick Van Minsel

Amend enactment clause to call upon SILGA:

Therefore be it resolved that *SILGA request* the Province work with regional districts and municipalities in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions to prioritize upgrades, as well as ongoing road maintenance standards and oversight, to provincial highways within municipal borders and in regional districts;

And be it further resolved that *SILGA request* the Province commit to funding improvements with the goal of reducing death rates in the Interior Health and Northern Health regions.

AMENDMENT CARRIED

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTION:

33. Local Government PST Exemption

Sponsor: Peachland

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced the expansion of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to include professional services such as engineering, accounting, legal, and consulting services that local governments are required to obtain to meet legislative obligations and deliver infrastructure and services;

AND WHEREAS local governments cannot recover PST and will incur significant unbudgeted cost increases, particularly to smaller communities that rely more heavily on external professional services, resulting in increased property taxes and additional financial burden on local taxpayers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Province of British Columbia exempt local governments from Provincial Sales Tax on professional services required for local government operations, legislated requirements, and capital projects, or provide equivalent financial offsets to ensure these additional costs are not borne by local government taxpayers.

Moved/Seconded by Wayne Carson/Julius Bloomfield

That the late resolution be admitted for debate.

ADMITTED FOR DEBATE

CARRIED