



GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING RESOLUTIONS

The Construction of a Resolution:

All resolutions contain a preamble and enactment clause. The preamble describes *the issue* and the enactment clause outlines *the action being* requested. A resolution should answer the following three questions:

- What is the problem?
- What is causing the problem?
- What is the best way to solve the problem?

Preamble:

The preamble commences with a recital, or "WHEREAS", clause. This is a concise paragraph about the nature of the problem or the reason for the request. It should clearly and briefly outline the reasons for the resolution.

The preamble should contain no more than two "WHEREAS" clauses. If explaining the problem requires more than two preliminary clauses, then provide supporting documents to describe the problem more fully. Do not add extra clauses.

Enactment Clause:

The enactment clause begins with the words "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED". It must convey the resolution's intent, and should propose a specific action by AVICC and UBCM.

Keep the enactment clause as short as possible, and clearly describe the action being requested. The wording should leave no doubt about the proposed action.

How to Draft a Resolution:

1. Address one specific subject in the text of the resolution.

Since your community seeks to influence attitudes and inspire action, limit the scope of a resolution to one specific subject or issue. Delegates will not support a resolution if the issues it addresses are too complex for them to understand quickly.

2. Use simple, action-oriented language and avoid ambiguous terms.

Explain the background briefly and state the desired action clearly. Delegates can then consider the resolution without having to parse complicated text or vague concepts.

3. Provide factual background information.

Even a carefully constructed resolution may not clearly indicate the problem or the action being requested. Where possible, provide factual background information to ensure that the "intent" of the resolution is understood.

Two types of background information help to clarify the "intent" of a resolution:

i Supplementary Memo:

A brief, one-page memo from the author, that outlines the background that led to the presentation and adoption of the resolution by the local government.

ii **Council/Board Report:**

A report on the subject matter, presented to council or board in conjunction with the resolution. If it is not possible to send the entire report, then extract the essential background information and submit it with the resolution.

Resolutions submitted without adequate background information will not be considered until the sponsor has been consulted and has provided documentation outlining the intent of the resolution.

4. Construct a brief, descriptive title.

A title assists to identify the intent of the resolution and eliminates the possibility of misinterpretation. It is usually drawn from the "enactment clause" of the resolution.

For ease of printing in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book and for clarity of intent, a title should be no more than three or four words.

5. Check legislative references for accuracy.

Where necessary, identify:

- the correct jurisdictional responsibility (e.g., ministry or department within the provincial or federal government)
- the correct legislation, including the name of the Act

6. Focus on issues that are province-wide.

The issue identified in the resolution should be relevant to other local governments across the province. This will support proper debate on the issue and assist UBCM to represent your concern effectively to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional districts.

7. Avoid repeat resolutions.

In the past, Resolutions have often come back year after year on the same topic. Members and staff are encouraged to search the UBCM Resolutions database available through the website at www.ubcm.ca. Click on the Resolutions and Policy tab at the top of the page. It will be possible to locate any Resolutions on the same topic that have been considered in the past and what the provincial response has been.

8. Ensure that your own local government's process for handling/approval of resolutions to AVICC/UBCM is followed.

GOLD STAR AND HONOURABLE MENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Gold Star and Honourable Mention resolution recognition initiative was launched at the 2003 Convention, and is intended to encourage excellence in resolutions drafting and to assist UBCM members in refining their resolutions in preparation for submission to the annual UBCM Convention.

To be awarded Gold Star or Honourable Mention recognition, a resolution must meet the standards of excellence established in the following Gold Star Resolutions Criteria, which are based on the resolution:

1. Resolution must be properly titled.
2. Resolution must employ clear, simple language.
3. Resolution must clearly identify problem, reason and solution.
4. Resolution must have two or fewer recital (WHEREAS) clauses.
5. Resolution must have a short, clear, stand-alone enactment (THEREFORE) clause.
6. Resolution must focus on a single subject, must be of local government concern province-wide and must address an issue that constitutes new policy for UBCM.
7. Resolution must include appropriate references to policy, legislation and regulation.
8. Resolution must be submitted to relevant Area Association prior to UBCM.

If you have any questions, please contact Iris Hesketh-Boles by email at iheskethboles@ubcm.ca or by calling (250) 356-5122.

MODEL RESOLUTION

SHORT TITLE: _____

Sponsor's Name _____

WHEREAS _____

AND WHEREAS _____

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that _____

(Note: A second resolve clause if it is absolutely required should start as follows:)

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that _____
