

PART SR - SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR 1 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

AVICC Executive

PART 1 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions were referred for AVICC consideration in 2016.

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

The following are the resolutions received by the February 22, 2016 resolutions deadline. The resolutions include the Resolutions Committee's Comments and Recommendations. Those resolutions supporting existing UBCM policy have an endorse recommendation, those that would be new policy have no recommendation for debate at the AGM & Convention.

Part 2 - Section "A" – This section contains resolutions that feature new issues of interest to all members.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R1 RCMP Funding

City of Courtenay

Whereas the Comox Valley is served by an integrated detachment of the RCMP and all the jurisdictions in the Comox Valley receive the same level of service from the RCMP regardless of financial commitment or funding contribution;

And whereas the City of Courtenay funds the greatest number of RCMP members in the Comox Valley and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and responsibility of the RCMP funding model for British Columbia rests with the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to develop an equitable funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts including those served by integrated detachments.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to revisit the funding model for police services provided by the RCMP, specifically to address concerns about the portion of the financial burden borne by larger local governments served by integrated RCMP detachments.

ELECTIONS

R2 Amendment To *Local Government Act*: Municipal Election Process

City of Victoria

Whereas the British Columbia *Local Government Act* prescribes municipal election processes, including the candidate nomination period and other election timelines;

And whereas local governments endeavour to ensure best practices and operational efficiencies are employed to encourage voter turnout;

And whereas the time period between the end of the nomination period and the beginning of the election period, through advance voting opportunities, is insufficient to enable voters who are absent from the jurisdiction during the voting period, to participate in voting through a mail ballot process:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia amend the *Local Government Act*, prior to the 2018 Local General Elections, to increase the time period between the end of the candidate nomination period and the beginning of the election period, to facilitate the administration of the mail ballot process and provide greater voting opportunities for citizens.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to increase the time period between the end of the nomination period and the beginning of the election period, in order to allow sufficient time for administration of the mail ballot process.

TRANSPORTATION

R3 Island Corridor Foundation Federal Funding

City of Port Alberni

Whereas the Esquimalt & Nanaimo (E&N) Railway corridor remains a critical transportation asset for the current and future needs of the people and economy of Vancouver Island;

And whereas AVICC passed a resolution urging action in 2012 and further delay in repairs to the corridor jeopardizes its viability:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the Government of Canada to approve and release the \$7.5 million for capital works on the Victoria to Courtenay rail line in order for work to begin as soon as possible and ensure the future of rail based freight and passenger transportation between Victoria, Courtenay and Port Alberni.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government release \$7.5 million in funding for capital works on the Victoria to Courtenay rail line, to ensure the rail line's continued ability to support rail based freight and passenger transportation.

Members have endorsed several resolutions specifically regarding the Esquimalt and Nanaimo rail corridor:

- *2008-LR4 called on the provincial and federal governments, in partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation, to fund Vancouver Island rail infrastructure upgrades to rejuvenate the E & N right-of-way to meet modern rail transportation standards;*
- *2005-B143 called on the provincial and federal governments to waive certain taxes in order to support the Island Corridor Foundation's efforts to acquire the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way; and*
- *1995-B57 asked the federal government to continue operating the E & N rail service on Vancouver Island or transfer the service to the provincial government with the assurance that the Province would operate the service.*

UBCM would suggest that the use of this transportation corridor is a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

See also resolution R18 from Langford on this topic.

TAXATION

R4 Affordable Homes and Property Transfer Tax

Capital RD

Whereas the issue of affordable housing is one of critical growing concern;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia take action to reduce the negative impacts on housing affordability in our province by reducing the Property Transfer Tax on both new and existing homes.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2006-B81, which called on the Province to exempt non-profit housing organizations from the property purchase tax, in support of those organizations' role in providing affordable housing. In response to the resolution the provincial government highlighted the work of its own agency, BC Housing, to support the efforts of non-profit housing organizations.

UBCM would observe that the scope of the 2016 resolution is broader, in that it seeks to reduce the property transfer tax levied on all property sales. UBCM notes that as part of the 2016 provincial budget, the provincial government expressed intent to increase the property transfer tax rate on the portion of fair market value over \$2 million, to three per cent from two per cent.

FINANCE

R5 Vancouver Island Regional Library Costs

City of Port Alberni

Whereas the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is a much-valued cooperative regional library system that serves over 400,000 people on Vancouver Island, Haida Gwaii and the Central Coast and has a member board comprising thirty-eight representative local governments;

And whereas many local governments are struggling to fund significant annual rate increases imposed to levies:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the Vancouver Island Regional Library to fully consider the ability of local governments to continue to pay for rate increases that impose an increased burden on the already-strained municipal property tax base.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Vancouver Island Regional Library consider the ability of member local governments to meet rate increases.

UBCM would suggest that the member rates levied by the Vancouver Island Regional Library are a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

R6 Social Procurement

Village of Cumberland

Whereas fostering the social wellbeing of the community is identified as a municipal purpose by the *Community Charter* and a regional district purpose by the *Local Government Act*;

And whereas the widespread adoption of social procurement practices by all local governments in BC will diversify the vendor pool and further leverage tax dollars to better align with community values:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advance the use of social procurement practices by local governments;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to consider the inclusion of social procurement into Part 6 (Financial Management) of the *Community Charter* and Part 11 (Regional District-Financial Management) of the *Local Government Act*.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution encouraging local governments to implement social procurement practices; nor has the membership considered a proposal to amend the Community Charter and Local Government Act to include social procurement in the statutory requirements regarding local government financial management.

UBCM would observe that local governments already have the discretion and ability to include social procurement in their policies and practices if they so choose.

R7 Marijuana Sales & Distribution Tax Sharing for Local Governments

City of Duncan

Whereas the federal government plans to establish a federal/provincial/territorial task force to seek input from experts in public health, substance abuse, and law enforcement to design a new system of strict marijuana sales and distribution with federal and provincial excise taxes applied;

And whereas regulation and enforcement for medicinal marijuana retail dispensaries will likely fall to the local governments once the law changes, thus creating additional burdens on local government resources:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the federal government to request that a portion of any future federal or provincial tax collected through marijuana sales and distribution be shared with local governments, and that the concept of tax sharing with local governments be forwarded to the task force looking into the new system of marijuana sales and distribution, for consideration.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to share with local governments a portion of future federal or provincial tax revenue collected through marijuana sales and distribution.

UBCM notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2015-B98, which asserted that local governments held the authority to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

See also resolution R17 from Cumberland on this topic.

R8 Empowering Local Governments to Pursue Socially Responsible Investing

City of Victoria

Whereas many local governments have committed to climate action and socially responsible investing;

And whereas a central strategy for climate change mitigation is to reduce emissions into the atmosphere relating to the consumption of fossil fuels, which includes divesting from fossil fuels and reinvesting in renewable sources of energy, employment and revenue;

And whereas local government are empowered in provincial legislation to invest through the Municipal Finance Authority, and the current investment portfolio offered by the Municipal Finance Authority does not include a fossil-fuel free investment option:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the Municipal Finance Authority to create a fossil-fuel-free investment fund to provide local governments with an investment choice that aligns with priorities for climate action and social responsibility.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Municipal Finance Authority to create a fossil-fuel-free investment fund as an investment option for local governments.

The Resolutions Committee notes that a related 2015 resolution, B120 sponsored by Esquimalt, due to time constraints was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. The resolution asked the Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) to report on investments presently held in fossil fuel-related companies, and conduct an impact analysis regarding divestment of fossil fuel-related assets over time.

After study by the UBCM Presidents Committee, the UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2015-B120 with an amendment. With the amended resolution, the UBCM Executive expressed interest in working “with the BC Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC) and the Municipal Pension Plan to prepare a [...] ‘primer’ on the MPP, its board and governance structure as well as its role and that of others with respect to responsible investing that can be shared with the broader UBCM membership as well as other Plan partners as required.”

The Committee would observe that the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) is an organization with its own membership and governance authority. Such a request might best be made directly through the MFA’s own governance and policy processes, rather than through a third-party organization such as AVICC.

ENVIRONMENT

R9 Rainwater as a Potable Water Source

RD of Nanaimo

Whereas small water systems that operate under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* and provide water to the public have the need for alternate potable water supplies in rural, un-serviced communities in BC;

And whereas rainwater has the potential to be a safe additional drinking water source to augment low-yielding groundwater or surface water supplies;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province to develop rainwater-specific treatment objectives and standards, source characterization protocols and infrastructure requirements, to enhance the ability of small water system operators to implement and local health authorities to approve rainwater source(s) for potable water.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to develop regulations to enable use of rainwater as a potable water supply.

R10 Pop For Parks: Establishing A Fund For Nature's Future

District of Highlands

Whereas the protection of greenspace is essential to our environmental, social and economic wellbeing and many of BC's most valuable and most threatened ecosystems are found on private lands;

And whereas \$10-15 million could be raised annually for conservation by following the example of several states and recapturing the windfall monies that accrue when consumers fail to redeem container deposits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government redirect unredeemed container deposits into an annual fund for the acquisition and protection of privately owned natural spaces in BC.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution proposing that the Province establish a fund, using revenues from unredeemed container deposits, to acquire and protect privately owned natural spaces in BC.

LAND USE

R11 Protection of Old-Growth Forests

District of Metchosin

Whereas old-growth forest is increasingly rare on Vancouver Island, and is gone for centuries once logged;

And whereas old-growth forest has significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resource, carbon sink and much more;

And whereas current plans on provincial Crown land call for logging the remaining old-growth forest, outside of protected areas, Old-Growth Management Areas, and similar reserves, over the next 10-20 years:

Therefore be it resolved that the old-growth forest on provincial Crown Land on Vancouver Island be protected from logging;

And be it further resolved that AVICC send a letter to the provincial government—Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations—as well as relevant government organizations requesting that the *Vancouver Island Land Use Plan* be amended to protect all of Vancouver Island's remaining old growth forest on provincial Crown land.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to protect all old-growth forest on provincial Crown land from being logged, and to reflect this protected status in the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan.

UBCM would observe that the resolution frames protection of old-growth forest on provincial Crown land as a regional Vancouver Island issue. Advocacy on a regional issue would best be pursued by the area association.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R12 Funding For Agricultural Rainwater Harvesting Systems

Alberni Clayoquot RD

Whereas the cost of water conservation, sustainability, and drought management are currently high profile issues, and developing a policy framework and funding program to support rainwater harvesting systems is vital to supporting the agricultural industry and enhance vibrant local food systems across the province with safe, consistent and affordable access to water;

And whereas the establishment of a fund for the rebate portion for agricultural rainwater harvesting systems will:

- Reduce the draw on regional, municipal and ground water systems,
- Lead to an increase in the amount of irrigated land,
- Increase overall agricultural production,
- Increase water availability for trending urban agricultural initiatives,
- Promote conservation strategies, and
- Showcase simple and effective solutions for increased water system sustainability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of BC to establish immediately the development of policy and procedures for a rainwater harvesting system rebate program for agricultural users, which includes both above ground (cistern) and in-ground systems province-wide.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to develop policy and procedures for a rainwater harvesting system rebate program for agricultural users, including both above ground (cistern) and in-ground systems province-wide.

R13 Review of Professional Reliance Model

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the provincial government is increasingly utilizing professional reliance regimes where industry proponents employ professionals to meet the public interest in natural resource management and environmental protection associated with their projects;

And whereas recent reports and audits suggest serious deficiencies in monitoring and compliance on the part of qualified professionals and a lack of oversight on the part of provincial regulating agencies:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province assess the effectiveness of current professional reliance regimes in order to reduce potential for conflicts of interest, ensure appropriate checks and balances, improve environmental performance and restore government approval authority where necessary.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the provincial government to conduct a review of liability and risk assessment regarding professional reliance regimes, including but not limited to the professional reliance established through environmental or natural resources regulatory frameworks.

HEALTH

R14 Recognition and Regulation of Physician Assistants

Central Coast RD

Whereas the BC Ministry of Health has undertaken operational reforms in an attempt to revitalize the primary care system, but communities across the province still experience physician shortages and other significant primary care challenges;

And whereas physician assistants (PAs) are qualified health professionals whose role is to provide a broad range of medical services under physician supervision; who are licensed to practice in many provinces across Canada, as well as in the Canadian Armed Forces; and who are recognized by the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants and the British Columbia Medical Association (Doctors of BC);

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM strongly encourage the provincial Ministry of Health to recognize and regulate physician assistants so that they may practice in BC, with establishment of an appropriate system for liability coverage, and regulatory oversight by an organization similar to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, as one of the steps toward meeting health care demands and alleviating physician shortages in all areas of the province.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to recognize and regulate physician assistants to enable physician assistants to practice in BC.

R15 New North Island Hospitals Parking Fees

Strathcona RD

Whereas the Minister of Health has advised that he is supporting the imposition of parking fees at the new North Island Hospitals in Campbell River and Courtenay,

And whereas our geographic service area is vast and requires many patients and families to travel hundreds of miles, across multiple ferries, etc.,

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC support the North Island in requesting that the Ministry of Health eliminate parking fees at the new North Island Hospitals.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government not to charge fees to park at the new hospitals in Campbell River and Courtenay.

UBCM would suggest that the question of parking fees at new hospitals in Campbell River and Courtenay is a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

R16 National Pharmacare Program

City of Victoria

Whereas the City of Victoria has been recognized and demonstrated its commitment to the importance of healthy citizens as the foundation of a healthy, engaged and economically vibrant community; and Canada is currently the only country with a national medicare program that does not have a national pharmacare program, with over 3 million Canadians unable to afford the cost of medicines prescribed by doctors, and the risk of having no insurance for medicines particularly high among lower income Canadians, including many workers with precarious and seasonal employment;

And whereas research suggests that adding a national pharmacare program to our national health care system is sound policy, both economically and socially; would lower costs to businesses by as much as \$8 billion per year, with a corresponding competitive advantage for Canadian companies; and could produce substantial cost savings for local government expenditures on employee benefits;

And whereas a national prescription drug formulary would support better quality prescribing, including reducing dangerous and inappropriate prescribing to Canadian seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia work with all provinces and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program as an extension of Canadian Medicare, to improve the health outcomes of citizens, ensure fairness in access to medicine, and provide for greater efficiency and effectiveness in Canada's health care system.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

A similar resolution, 2015-B114, sponsored by the City of Vancouver, was brought forward to the 2015 UBCM Convention but due to time constraints was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. After study by the UBCM Healthy Communities Committee, the UBCM Executive referred resolution 2015-B114 to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMGLA) for consideration by their membership at their annual meeting in spring 2016. The LMLGA annual meeting has not yet taken place.

In its comments on the 2015 resolution, the Resolutions Committee advised that the UBCM membership had not previously considered a resolution requesting the provincial government to work with the other provinces and territories and the federal government to develop and implement a national pharmacare program.

SELECTED ISSUES

R17 Medical Marijuana Retail Dispensaries

Village of Cumberland

Whereas the federal Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulation authorizes Health Canada to approve access to marijuana for medical use to help treat the symptoms of certain medical conditions;

And whereas the legalization of storefront medical marijuana dispensaries and regulation by local governments would benefit local communities through legitimate contributions to economic development and vibrancy in commercial areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the federal Minister of Health and the Minister of Justice proceed with the legalization of medical marijuana dispensaries without delay.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *No Recommendation*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the federal government to legalize medical marijuana dispensaries.

UBCM notes, however, that members endorsed resolution 2015-B98, which asserted that local governments held the authority to regulate medical marijuana dispensaries.

See also resolution R7 from Duncan on this topic.

R18 Island Corridor Foundation

City of Langford

Whereas the Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) was established in 2003 to oversee the management and operations of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) rail line which has a direct impact on many municipalities on Vancouver Island but these same municipalities have no direct representation on the ICF board;

And whereas although the rail service has not been operating for the past several years, and the services provided to municipalities along the corridor by the management of ICF have not met the standard expected, the costs to local governments to support the ICF continue to be significant:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC work with impacted local governments and the ICF board to conduct a financial and governance review of the Island Corridor Foundation;

And be it further resolved that the review include the consideration of options to provide a cost effective transportation alternative should the costs of resurrecting rail prove too costly.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for a finance and governance review of the Island Corridor Foundation, including "consideration of options to provide a cost effective transportation alternative should the costs of resurrecting rail prove too costly."

Members have endorsed several resolutions specifically regarding the Esquimalt and Nanaimo rail corridor:

- *2008-LR4 called on the provincial and federal governments, in partnership with the Island Corridor Foundation, to fund Vancouver Island rail infrastructure upgrades to rejuvenate the E & N right-of-way to meet modern rail transportation standards;*
- *2005-B143 called on the provincial and federal governments to waive certain taxes in order to support the Island Corridor Foundation's efforts to acquire the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company right-of-way; and*
- *1995-B57 asked the federal government to continue operating the E & N rail service on Vancouver Island or transfer the service to the provincial government with the assurance that the Province would operate the service.*

UBCM would suggest that the finances and governance of the Island Corridor Foundation are a regional issue, therefore advocacy on the issue would best be pursued by the area association.

See also resolution R3 from Port Alberni on this topic.

Part 2 - Section "B" - This section contains resolutions that support existing UBCM policy, including:

- Previously considered and endorsed resolutions; or
- Resolutions in keeping with the UBCM policy, including previously approved policy papers or other documents.

LEGISLATIVE

R19 Establishing Local Public Notice Policies

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas newspaper closures in communities throughout British Columbia are affecting local governments' ability to publish mandatory public notification advertisements in local newspapers especially in regional districts which already have unique geographical challenges due to local newspaper circulation areas not aligning with regional district boundaries;

And whereas the *Municipalities Act* of the Province of Saskatchewan enables local governments to choose their own manner of providing public notice that suits their communities;

Therefore be it resolved that both the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* be amended to replace the mandatory requirement to advertise in newspapers with the requirement for local governments to adopt a public notice policy based on local criteria that would enable local governments to choose their own manner of providing public notice tailored to best serve their communities.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B88, which called on the provincial government to amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to "allow statutorily required public notices to be published using a variety of media channels [...] as long as reasonably equivalent or better reach than that of solely using printed newspapers can be demonstrated."

UBCM is awaiting the provincial government response package for the 2015 UBCM resolutions.

R20 No Forced Amalgamations

District of Metchosin

Whereas local governments in Canada have traditionally been viewed as "creatures of the Province" and do not enjoy separate distinct legislative status, but rather are subject to the wishes and will of provincial authority;

And whereas In British Columbia, local governments enjoy the highest level of autonomy among Canada's local governments and the nation's most equitable relationship with provincial authority, as laid out in the *Community Charter*;

And whereas the practice of the current provincial government has been to recognize and respect the local autonomy of local governments over matters of local jurisdiction including on matters of local government amalgamation;

And whereas more specifically, Section 279 of the *Community Charter* titled "No Forced Amalgamations", legally ensures and reinforces that municipal autonomy is the highest value in the relationship with the provincial government:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC seek confirmation from the provincial government and all provincial political parties within the British Columbia legislature with respect to their position on maintaining and respecting Section 279 of the *Community Charter*.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

Resolution 2002-C59 in part expressed support for provisions to be included in the Community Charter to prevent forced amalgamations of local governments. The resolution was referred to a UBCM policy paper on the Community Charter, published the same year. Members endorsed the Community Charter policy paper.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R21 Reversal of Recent Amendments to RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program Town of View Royal

Whereas in January 2016 amendments to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program came into effect, including the immediate elimination of ride-alongs with RCMP members in police cars and firearms familiarization training, as well as the review of duties that could eliminate auxiliary constable participation in special events and crowd/traffic control;

And whereas public safety is a critical objective of BC local governments, RCMP detachments and municipal police departments with auxiliary constables serving an important role in assisting and complementing an already overburdened police force in the provision of public safety programs and in the delivery of basic police services:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia be requested to exert pressure on both the Government of Canada and the RCMP's "E" Division for the immediate reinstatement of the Auxiliary Constable Program in British Columbia to its pre-January 2016 role complete with the ride-along and firearms familiarization training programs as well as continued participation in special events and crowd or traffic control.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments:

While members have not previously considered a resolution reacting specifically to January 2016 amendments to the RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting continued funding and a robust role for RCMP Auxiliary Constables, including special events, crowd or traffic control, and firearms training (2003-B47, 2000-B5, 1999-A12, 1999-A13, 1998-B39, 1998-ER, 1997-B28).

R22 BC Child Protection Services City of Colwood

Whereas the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has recommended improvements to the delivery of BC child protection services, and for the Province of BC to adhere to the principles enunciated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

And whereas the Sooke School District (No. 62) has also called for these improvements and for the province to fully fund the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC government be asked to take action to improve the delivery of BC child protection services, fully fund the office of the BC Representative for Children and Youth, and follow the provisions in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution that generally called on the provincial government to improve the delivery of child protection services in BC.

UBCM would acknowledge, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to enact legislation and implement practical measures to reduce the risk of abuse, exploitation, or trafficking of children and youth (2014-B3, 2004-B1, 2004-B100, 2004-B102, 2002-B2, 2002-B3, 2001-B48, 1998-B49, 1996-B24, 1994-B22, 1994-B29).

TRANSPORTATION

R23 Pedestrian/Cycling Pathways Along Rural Road Rights-Of-Way

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has formally recognized the importance of mobility alternatives in achieving transportation goals pertaining to reduced greenhouse-gas emissions and promotion of healthy lifestyles;

And whereas rural communities are experiencing growing populations that rely on road infrastructure not suited to mobility options:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to demonstrate the Province's commitment to mobility alternatives in rural areas by introducing regional government authority in the planning and development of regional off-road transportation networks and infrastructure within Ministry road rights-of-way.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B63, which called on the Province to “invest in cycling infrastructure in order to accelerate the availability and broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational, and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas.”

See also resolution R24 from Sunshine Coast Regional District on this topic.

R24 Priority for Construction of Bicycle Lanes

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Whereas the provision of safe cycling infrastructure is a costly but critical component of improving transportation options;

And whereas the construction of bicycle lanes on provincial highways within regional districts would alleviate safety concerns for cyclists, support growth in bicycle tourism and promote alternative transportation options that would reduce local greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government review the “BC on the Move Transportation Plan” to prioritize the construction of new bicycle lanes within regional districts limited by a single highway and where bicycle usage is a prominent form of transportation and economic driver for tourism.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B63, which called on the Province to “invest in cycling infrastructure in order to accelerate the availability and broaden the range of cycling opportunities for commuter, recreational, and competitive cyclists living in and visiting rural and urban areas.”

See also resolution R23 from Cowichan Valley Regional District on this topic.

ENVIRONMENT

R25 Federal Government Cooperation for Oil Spill Response in BC

Alberni Clayoquot RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has declared that Canada should become a world leader in marine spill prevention, preparedness and response and has stated its concern about the current level of marine protection and potential spill response available on Canada's West Coast;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is acting on the development and implementation of such protection and response but requires cooperation and support from the federal government in order to implement most of the recommendations it has identified to strengthen Canadian capacity for marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response on Canada's West Coast;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM and FCM support the Province of British Columbia's position with respect to the need for world-class marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and lobby the federal government to support and co-operate with BC to the fullest extent, committing sufficient resources, to achieve the highest level of spill prevention, preparedness and response capacity on Canada's West Coast.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically supporting a provincial government commitment to world-class marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, and calling on the federal government to support such an initiative. UBCM would seek clarification as to whether the provincial government has, in fact, made such a commitment – or whether the Province has focused rather on a response strategy for land based spills, not marine spills.

UBCM represents local government on the Advisory Committee for the proposed provincial Land Based Spills Preparedness and Response Strategy, and has undertaken ongoing advocacy regarding the issue, based on several key tenets:

- any oversight organization must be provincially led, industry funded*
- establishment of a BC-based contingency fund that is 100% industry funded – including a full cost recovery mechanism to reimburse local governments who engage in spill cleanup*
- any application for expansion of oil pipelines or tanker traffic should undergo the highest degree of environmental assessment, including meaningful public consultation with local governments and First Nations*

More generally, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about potential negative impacts of land based and marine spills (including but not limited to 2015-A4, 2015-B13, 2015-B30, 2015-B31, 2014-LR3, 2012-A8, 2012-B122, 2011-LR6, 2010-B87, 2010-B139, 2008-B32, 2008-B143, 2007-B6, 2007-B19, 2007-B173, 2006-LR2, 2005-LR4, 2003-B23).

See also resolution R26 from Islands Trust on this topic.

R26 Assessment and Mitigation of Marine Shipping Risks and Impacts in the Salish Sea

Islands Trust

Whereas numerous projects are proposed that would increase marine traffic and anchorage use in the confined waterways of the Salish Sea;

And whereas the Salish Sea is among the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, and presents challenging conditions for oil spill response:

Therefore be it resolved that Transport Canada assess the cumulative risks and impacts associated with projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea and develop an innovative 20-year mitigation plan.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government assess projected vessel traffic increases in the Salish Sea and the potential cumulative risks and impacts of such increases, and develop a mitigation plan.

UBCM notes, however, that members have consistently endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about potential negative impacts of increased marine traffic in the Salish Sea and other BC coastal waters - especially increased tanker traffic (2012-A8, 2011-LR6, 2010-B139, 2008-B143, 2003-B23).

See also resolution R25 from Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District on this topic.

R27 Limit or Ban Burning on Forest Lands in Community Airsheds

City of Port Alberni

Whereas data from the BC Ministries of Environment and Health indicate that seasonal air quality concerns from outdoor wood burning combined with common air ‘inversion’ events greatly impact the health of residents, and noting that municipalities and regional districts have taken strong measures to limit or ban outdoor burning by residents;

And whereas the BC *Wildfire Act* and *Environmental Management Act* permit the burning of woody debris (“slash”) from forestry operations on private and Crown land within community air-sheds that often contribute to poor seasonal air quality:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the BC Ministry of Environment to bring forward new regulations to further limit or ban the burning of wood debris piles on private and crown forest lands within community air-sheds in order to ensure communities and industry are synchronized in working toward the same goal of a safe and healthy environment for all.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse with Proposed Amendment*

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the BC Ministry of Environment to bring forward new regulations to further limit or ban the burning of wood debris piles on private and crown forest lands within community air-sheds in order to ensure communities and industry are synchronized in working toward the same goal of a safe and healthy environment for all.

And be it further resolved that the Province encourage industry to chip wood debris for biofuel or sell it for heating homes in energy efficient woodstoves.

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 1990-B39, which called on the provincial government to require “all clearing debris less than four inches in diameter or less than merchantable timber be disposed of or dealt with in manners other than incineration.”

UBCM also notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions proposing that wood waste from forestry operations be used for co-generation (1998-B12, 1996-B10, 1993-B47, 1992-B106).

UBCM would propose an amendment to reflect the resolution from Cumberland on this topic, as well as aligning with previous policy direction endorsed by the membership.

See also resolution R36 from Cumberland on this topic.

R28 Ban on Single Use Shopping Bags

Cowichan Valley RD

Whereas the use of thin film plastic shopping bags continues to impose a variety of negative impacts on our natural and human environments;

And whereas bans have been proven in many countries to be the single most effective method of controlling the volume of plastic bags entering the waste stream and our environment:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government enact legislation to prohibit the distribution of thin film plastic shopping bags by businesses.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B88, which called on the provincial government to ban thin film plastic grocery bags.

R29 Climate Change Recommendations

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Whereas communities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and local governments are seeking ways to strengthen their resiliency;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to developing a Climate Leadership Plan that supports mutually beneficial climate actions:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be urged to implement all 32 policy action recommendations set out in the "Climate Leadership Team Recommendations to Government" report and work collaboratively with local governments in order to develop policies and programs to mitigate the impacts of climate change on BC communities.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

While members have not previously considered a resolution that specifically supported provincial implementation of all policy action recommendations from the "Climate Leadership Team Recommendations to Government," the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change. These resolutions include but are not limited to 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140.

R30 Abandoned or Derelict Vessels Programs

District of Saanich

Whereas the November 2012 Transport Canada Study recommends the establishment of an inter-jurisdictional working group that would address and provide recommendations on issues related to abandoned and derelict vessels, including potential sources of funding to remove abandoned and derelict vessels;

And whereas the incidents of vessels left abandoned or derelict by owners through neglect or lack of financial resources to dispose of the vessel cause municipalities serious concerns for public safety and the potential harm to the environment and have significant financial impact to taxpayers for removal and cleanup:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC, UBCM and FCM urge the federal and provincial governments to proceed with recommendations of the 2012 Transport Canada Study to establish an “Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program” funded through reasonable fees sourced from vessel purchases, registration, insurance and moorage, and that such funds be available for disposition costs;

And be it further resolved that the federal and provincial governments further establish an “End of Life” Vessel Disposal Program that is sustainable and protects the environment, including appropriate facilities and coordination with local landfills and private sector for proper disposal methods.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a solution to the issue of abandoned and derelict vessels (2014-B23, 2014-B62, 2013-B30, 2012-B23, 2012-B78, 2010-B30, 2005-B112).

See also resolution R37 from Sunshine Coast Regional District on this topic.

LAND USE

R31 Site C Dam Project

District of North Saanich

Whereas the proposed 60 meter high dam project at Site C on the Peace River will flood over approximately 12,000 hectares of high quality agricultural land between Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope in creating an 83 kilometer long reservoir, while pre-empting the Agricultural Land Reserve status of the land;

And whereas the flooding will devastate a major portion of ungulate winter range, will impact migratory bird flyways, and will destroy a major heritage site and countless First Nations' burial grounds and hunting, gathering, and trapping areas on their recognized traditional territories:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC petition the BC Government to call on BC Hydro and its contractors to immediately suspend all work until the project can be reviewed by the BC Utilities Commission and proceed through a public hearing and consultation process.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2015-B71, which asked the Province to refer the proposed Site C hydroelectric dam project to the BC Utilities Commission for review and consultation.

UBCM is also aware that members have consistently endorsed resolutions supporting a full and robust role for the BC Utilities Commission in the oversight of all power projects undertaken in BC (2014-B108, 2010-B102, 2007-B146, 2006-A4, 2003-B96).

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R32 Business Façade Improvement Grant Programme

Town of Lake Cowichan

Whereas the smaller local governments are looking at ways and means of encouraging the revitalization of their downtowns through incentives that would encourage small businesses to undertake much needed improvements to building facades, signage and siding;

And whereas the Province had previously instituted a grant programme that provided financial assistance to businesses so they may undertake improvements through application to their respective local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province be petitioned to re-implement the Business Improvement Grant Programme that will provide each local government an annual intake to a maximum of \$20,000 so local businesses may participate in a programme that would see the rejuvenation of business areas with the end goal of enhancing community appearance and pride which are integral to economic activity and growth.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2009-B22, which asked the provincial government to reinstate the downtown building façade revitalization grant program, to assist building owners with façade improvements that conform to adopted downtown design guidelines.

SELECTED ISSUES

R33 Legislation and Action for a Barrier-Free BC

City of Victoria

Whereas British Columbians with disabilities encounter a variety of physical, sensory and technological barriers as well as ones related to communication, education, employment, attitudes and many others on a daily basis;

And whereas the Government of British Columbia launched a non-mandatory, non-legislated initiative entitled “Accessibility 2024” in 2014 with the goal of making BC the most progressive province in Canada for people with disabilities by the year 2024;

And whereas both the Province of Ontario and the Province of Manitoba have enacted disability legislation with the Province of Nova Scotia working toward the introduction and enactment of disability legislation in 2016:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC believe it is important to achieve a barrier-free province for all persons with disabilities and calls upon BC’s Legislative Assembly to enact a strong and effective British Columbians with Disabilities Act.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting specifically that the provincial government enact a British Columbians with Disabilities Act.

However, UBCM notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to reduce barriers and provide accessible places and services for individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to 2015-B8, 2015-B110, 2015-B118, 2014-B12, 2013-B55, 2013-B140, 2012-B43, 2011-A2, 2011-B62, 2011-B67, 2010-B70, 2010-B70, 2009-B145, 2009-B167, 2009-B174, 2008-B157, 2008-B158, 2008-B159, 2007-B106, 2007-B191, 2007-B199, 2006-B73, 2006-B132, 2002-B62, 2002-B94, 2000-B113).

See also resolution R38 from Saanich on this topic.

R34 Home Renovation Tax Credits

District of Saanich

Whereas the Quebec government has recently announced a new tax credit to encourage home renovations, and the Official Community Plan of Saanich and of municipalities across British Columbia and Canada recognize the importance of home renovations, housing variety, affordability and adaptability in their communities’ quality of life, health, sustainability and economy;

And whereas housing renovations are recognized to help seniors stay at home, help the special needs of a family member or convert a house to an intergenerational home, and create skilled employment for young people, and the use of refundable tax credits for renovations is known to boost energy efficiency, local economies and reduce off-permit renovations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the governments of the Province of British Columbia and Canada to create new tax credit programs for consumers to help encourage home renovations that focus on energy efficiency, improved mobility and aging in place projects, that are over \$1,000.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

In 2015 the sponsor brought forward a similar resolution, 2015-B119, calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish tax credit programs for general home renovations. Due to time constraints, the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. After further study by the UBCM Community Economic Development Committee, the UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution with an amendment to specify that home renovation tax credit programs should include criteria for minimum project cost, and should focus on projects intended to improve energy efficiency, mobility and access, or the ability to age in place. The amendment reflects previous policy direction on this topic, endorsed by UBCM members.

R35 Review of “Down-loaded” Building Codes

District of Saanich

Whereas after much debate about the accuracy and effectiveness of the code revision process, under recent changes to the BC Building Code, national building regulations now apply to smaller two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, while previously these regulations applied only to larger buildings;

And whereas the Victoria Residential Builders Association has expressed concern to local governments that applying additional new regulations to two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet will drive construction costs upwards, thereby triggering extinction of affordable housing for the average BC family;

And whereas the affordability of new housing, particularly work-force housing such as smaller two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, is a key component to local government economic vibrancy and sustainability:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC urge the Governments of British Columbia and Canada to engage a qualified, independent third party to undertake a cost-benefit review of the impacts on affordability, as well as on safety and energy efficiency, of applying future new national building regulations to two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM comments:

The UBCM membership considered but did not endorse a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2015-B121, which requested the provincial and federal governments to “undertake a review, by independent third parties, of the appropriateness of provisions of the National Building Code on two-storey homes under 2,000 square feet, and the imposition of this on housing affordability.”

In its comments on the 2015 resolution, the Resolutions Committee expressed concern that the proposal to relax code requirements for a particular type of building did not address the potential impacts on health, safety and energy efficiency of the buildings. The Committee observed that the request seemed contrary to past member direction, which has been to pursue greater stringency in building regulation.

UBCM would acknowledge that the sponsor has responded to concerns regarding resolution 2015-B121, and that the 2016 resolution proposes review of the impact of building code amendments on a range of factors including affordability, safety and energy efficiency.

Part 2 - Section “C” – Resolutions in this section are referred to other, similar resolutions that will be considered for debate. The resolutions in this section are provided for reference, and are not intended for debate.

R36 Management of Woody Debris on Private Managed Forest Land

Village of Cumberland

Whereas many communities on Vancouver Island are surrounded by private managed forest land whose owners continue to burn wood waste piles in open fires;

And whereas local air quality is compromised due to slash burning:

Therefore be it resolved that the province restrict the burning of wood slash piles by private forest companies and encourage them to chip it for biofuel or sell it for heating homes in energy efficient wood stoves.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM comments:

Refer to resolution R27 from Port Alberni on this topic.

R37 Derelict and Abandoned Vessels

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Whereas the UBCM membership previously endorsed resolutions in 2005, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014 encouraging the provincial and federal governments to take action on the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels, and the current approach for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels from the waters of coastal British Columbia is still not effectively serving communities with the timely removal of such vessels;

And whereas the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels continues to pose serious risks with respect to our marine environment, environmental contamination, property damage, public safety and aesthetic values important to tourism:

Therefore be it resolved that support be re-affirmed for strongly encouraging the provincial and federal government to take action in implementing a solution that provides a timely response for the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels from the waters of coastal British Columbia.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM comments:

Refer to resolution R30 from Saanich on this topic.

R38 British Columbians With Disabilities Act

District of Saanich

Whereas growing older is the greatest cause of disabilities and the number of British Columbians with disabilities is expected to grow in the next 15 years as our society ages;

And whereas at least 750,000 British Columbians with disabilities face unfair accessibility barriers in areas that the provincial government in BC can regulate;

And whereas a British Columbians with Disabilities Act would build on, and not replace or weaken any existing disability or human rights protections:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the provincial government to enact a strong and effective British Columbians with Disabilities Act that incorporates the principles advocated for by Barrier-Free BC.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Refer to Similar Resolution

UBCM comments:

Refer to resolution R33 from Victoria on this topic.