

# Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

## 2023 RESOLUTIONS

### **PART SR – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

There were no special resolutions submitted for the 2023 AGM & Convention.

### **PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

There were no resolutions submitted by the AVICC Executive for the 2023 AGM & Convention

### **PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 9, 2023 resolutions deadline, but are resolutions that are considered regional in nature. Should any of these regionally focused resolutions be endorsed, they will not be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention. Rather these resolutions will remain with AVICC where they may be actioned.

**Part 1 - Section "A"** – This section contains regionally focused resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse.

### **HOUSING**

#### **R1) Vancouver Island Housing Plan - Responding to the Homelessness Crisis      City of Courtenay**

Whereas the historical gap between the supply and demand for social and supportive housing in Vancouver Island communities has been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in a homelessness crisis;

And whereas in the absence of an overall provincial housing strategy, clear funding guidelines, accessible application processes, and adequate funding, the homelessness crisis continues to increase illness and death amongst our vulnerable homeless population and social disorder throughout Vancouver Island Communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM executive facilitate a meeting between Vancouver Island Mayors, **Chairs, and Chiefs**, and the Premier, the Minister of Housing, and BC Housing officials to demand an immediate action plan to address the homelessness crisis and its impacts on Vancouver Island communities.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **R2) Provision of Energy for Commercial Agriculture**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas many communities are currently using and/or reliant on environmentally harmful forms of energy production such as diesel, propane or coal which produce comparatively high greenhouse gas levels;

And whereas commercial food agriculture and other industries such as aquaculture would benefit significantly from the availability of natural gas and other sustainable energy sources as an economical and more environmentally friendly source of energy for local food production:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request the Province of BC partner with FortisBC, other natural gas and alternative energy providers to create a coordinated infrastructure plan and dedicated subsidies for AVICC members to establish a sufficient supply of alternative cleaner energy sources for increased commercial agricultural opportunities dedicated to growing food on Vancouver Island and in coastal communities.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

**Part 1 - Section “B”** – This section contains regionally focused resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R3) Watershed Security Strategy and Fund**

### **Village of Cumberland**

Whereas achieving watershed security on eastern Vancouver Island is made even more complex by the historic land ownership context resulting from the 1884 *Settlement Act* which saw over 2 million acres of unceded land on south eastern Vancouver Island granted by the crown to private owners;

And whereas the legacy of this historic land grant means that rapidly growing communities on eastern Vancouver Island are responsible for providing safe, sustainable drinking water for our communities from privately owned lands, where active forestry is taking place, and over which we have no authority:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request that the Province of BC and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Management acknowledge this unique context and fund the critical work required to achieve watershed security on eastern Vancouver Island.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **LAND USE**

### **R4) E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration**

### **Nanaimo Regional District**

Whereas in 1883, 8,000 sq kilometers of south-east Vancouver Island representing 20% of the island land base was granted to Robert Dunsmuir in exchange for the construction of the E&N Railway, and the E&N Land Grant has impacted Indigenous rights and title, community drinking watersheds, and the ability to protect and conserve biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems;

And whereas the federal and provincial governments have committed to the protection of 30% of the land base by 2030 as part of the provincial, national and international commitments to protect biodiversity:

Therefore be it resolved that on this 140th anniversary of the E&N Land Grant, the AVICC call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for their 2030 targets, and engage with impacted First Nations, local governments and land owners in a process to protect and restore the biodiversity of the southeast region of Vancouver Island with a focus on community watershed

catchment areas, riparian areas along fish-bearing rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and habitats, and culturally significant areas.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **R5) Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust**

**Capital Regional District**

Whereas at the January 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was passed to urge the province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million;

And whereas ICET has been a vital partner in our efforts to promote economic development and diversification in the rural, electoral areas of the CRD and its contributions have been instrumental in creating jobs, boosting local businesses, and improving the quality of life for our residents:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 9, 2023 resolutions deadline. Should any of these resolutions be endorsed, they will be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention.

**Part 2 - Section "A"** – This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse and resolutions that offer the recommendation of Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R6) BC Emergency Health Services/Demands on Local Governments**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas medical first responder call volume data taken locally and provincially reflects an upward trajectory year over year;

And whereas this increased trajectory of medical first responder call volume is disproportionately higher for municipal emergency responders than those reported by British Columbia Emergency Health Services [BCEHS];

And whereas BCEHS is responsible for the delivery, co-ordination and governance of emergency health services and can and does consent to other organizations, primarily fire departments, providing these services as part of a co-ordinated response;

And whereas a number of challenges are present in achieving a coordinated approach to the access and provision of emergency health services including that of increased service demands congruent to the varied capacity for fire departments to provide first responder services across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC **and UBCM** urge the Ministry of Health to work with local governments and BCEHS to ~~ensure that BCEHS can implement an improved~~ **improve the** coordinated approach to emergency health services that results in adequate funding and staffing levels so as to not overburden local governments [fire departments].

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

**R7) BC Health Attraction and Retention**

**Village of Zeballos**

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas rural, remote communities are subject to a loss of services due to position vacancies:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC continue to support ~~Vancouver Island Health~~ **Regional Health Authorities** by increasing the health budget for nursing, ~~and physicians,~~ **and health care professionals** attraction and retention, as well as including opportunities for all other emerging health care providers, such as physician assistants.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

**HOUSING**

**R8) Annual Adjustment of Provincial Home Owner Grant**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas municipal taxes on home owners are expected to increase across the province due to inflation and increased need for services;

And whereas the *BC Home Owner Grant Act* offsets a modest amount of these increasing property taxes for BC residents using provincial revenue sources, some of which increase with inflation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to establish a method by which eligible homeowner grant amounts are adjusted on an annual basis to account for inflation.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

**R9) Review of the *Homeowner Protection Act***

**District of Port Hardy**

Whereas the *Homeowner Protection Act* requires that testing requirements be met as part of the application process for building contractors to obtain continuing education units annually to maintain their license, and communities are seeing a reduction in capacity to provide for housing development in rural and remote communities;

And whereas many rural BC communities provide construction oversight through building inspection services to ensure that Owner Builders and Building Contractors are meeting the minimum BC Building Code Part 9 requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to review the residential *Homeowner Protection Act* regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R10) Extreme Weather Response**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas the Province, through BC Housing and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), supports year round emergency shelters and temporary winter shelters (operational from November 1st to March 31st);

And whereas since 2022 extreme weather response warming/cooling centres to support vulnerable populations which often tend to be for those with acute mental health and substance use disorders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Housing, EMCR and ~~Island Health~~ **health authorities** ~~enter into an agreement with UBCM to~~ ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long-term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

### **R11) Planning Tools for Habitat Protection**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas Vancouver Island communities are facing loss of irreplaceable natural habitat that is crucial to the survival of delicate coastal and land ecosystems, including wildlife and plant life;

And whereas in December 2022, the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that ~~AVICC~~ **UBCM** request the provincial government establish a working committee, with local government representation to establish a comprehensive set of urban planning and development guidelines that align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s goals and targets, and recommendations to implement this framework to regulate development at the local level in ~~AVICC~~ **UBCM** member communities and combat the loss of natural habitat ~~on Vancouver Island~~ **in BC**, with a goal of protecting 30% of natural environment and coastline.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R12) New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments in the Climate Transition**

**Comox Valley Regional District**

Whereas significant costs for climate mitigation and adaptation are and increasingly will be shouldered by local governments;

And whereas local governments are severely limited to property taxes and grants to fund climate-related costs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and BC Cabinet to establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R13) Managed Forest Council Representation**

**Village of Cumberland**

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services to their communities;

And whereas many community watersheds are included in or affected by forest management activities occurring on private managed forests:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* be amended such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R14) Control of Scotch Broom**

**Town of Qualicum Beach**

Whereas climate change brings us longer periods of drought and hotter temperatures in which Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*), a highly flammable invasive species with high oil content and dry branches, will thrive and act as a volatile flash fuel, increasing the risk of wildfires and specifically Urban Interface Fires;

And whereas Scotch Broom spreads densely and rapidly, inhibiting forests regrowth, and negatively impacting agricultural production and native species, with a 2021 study for the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) designating Scotch broom as the Top Worse Offender - the invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM work with the Province to establish and implement actionable steps to control the aggressive spread of Scotch Broom all across BC, including implementing Broom-free fire breaks along long stretches of broom;

And be it further resolved that local governments are encouraged to use bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom near and within urban boundaries.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **R15) Protection of Old-Growth Forests**

**District of Metchosin**

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors." (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Government of BC protect from logging all remaining old growth forest areas in the province.

**And be it further resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.**

***ON MOTIONS, duly moved and seconded:***

- 1. To amend the resolution to add the second enactment clause as recommended by the Resolutions Committee;***
- 2. To amend the resolution to add "and First Nations" as proposed by membership; and***
- 3. To amend the resolution by splitting it into two separate resolutions, each with one of the two enactment clauses;***

***were ENDORSED***

## **R15a) Protection of Old-Growth Forests**

**District of Metchosin**

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors." (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Government of BC protect from logging all remaining old growth forest areas in the province.

~~And be it further resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.~~

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

**R15b) Protection of Old-Growth Forests****District of Metchosin**

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors." (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

~~Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Government of BC protect from logging all remaining old-growth forest areas in the province.~~

~~And~~ Therefore be it ~~further~~ resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R16) Call for Improvements for Provincial Water Licencing Approvals****District of Sechelt**

Whereas the changing climate conditions are creating prolonged water restrictions that impact businesses, limit or stop food production and create other issues for many communities;

And whereas licencing for community drinking water systems may take the Province of British Columbia over two years to approve, even when a state of local emergency is in effect for the applicant:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Substantially increase the resources allocated for the processing of water licence applications; and
2. Prioritize water licence applications to give urgency based on health and safety, particularly in light of the current climate conditions.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**LAND USE****R17) Flexibility for Agriculture Land Reserve Housing Rules****City of Nanaimo**

Whereas the current Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) housing rules limit permitted housing to three residential dwelling units on a farm;

And whereas increased flexibility in the Agriculture Land Reserve's rules would permit increased food production and training for future farmers:



Therefore be it resolved that the Agricultural Land Commission be requested to seek ways to permit more housing on Agriculture Land Reserve land linked to increased farm activity and food production, subject to control by regulations to guarantee that any new housing could only be occupied by farmers working on the land.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

## **TAXATION**

### **R18) Deferment Program for Local Government Parcel Taxes and Utility Fees      District of Sechelt**

Whereas parcel taxes and utility fees have risen substantially in recent years, adding to the increased cost of living for British Columbians;

And whereas eligible property owners can defer their property taxes under a provincial deferment program:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **LEGISLATIVE**

### **R19) Long-Term Vacant Buildings**

**District of Port Hardy**

Whereas long-term vacant buildings generate negative impacts on the vibrancy and safety of businesses and residents, which discourages investment in the municipality, results in decreased property values, negatively affects livability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties, a strain on the capacity of the local governments to manage, and reduced local government property tax revenues;

And whereas current municipal statutory authorities regarding vacant buildings are limited to matters of health, safety, and protection of persons and property, unsightly conditions, and tax incentives, and do not provide specific authority to require the re-use of long-term vacant buildings when other statutory authorities prove ineffective:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to grant local government broader authority to incentivize or compel long-term vacant buildings to be functionally utilized in accordance with the zoning.

***RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN***

## SELECTED ISSUES

### **R20) Fossil Fuel Corporate Sponsorship of UBCM and AVICC**

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas the operations of fossil fuel producers have a direct impact on, and significantly contribute to the ongoing climate crisis;

And whereas climate change is creating local effects that are having negative impacts on our infrastructure, buildings, crops, health, and ecosystems increasingly effecting our communities' stability:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM not solicit/accept support or corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel producers in acknowledgment of the inherent contradiction between fossil fuel sponsorship of local government associations and the role local governments play responding to and combating climate change.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

### **R21) Enable Electronic Attendance at Conventions**

**Town of View Royal**

Whereas attendance is critical for participation yet it is increasingly difficult for municipalities and regional districts to meet the in-person requirements at the AVICC and UBCM Conventions due to funding, time, and/or accessibility limitations;

And whereas electronic participation is now commonplace for AVICC, UBCM, and council/regional district meetings, yet electronic participation at AVICC and UBCM conventions is not available but would facilitate remote communities, persons with accessibility issues, and support the collective credibility of attendance, particularly during resolutions debate:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM amend the Convention attendance requirements to enable both in-person and electronic access.

***ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO THE AVICC EXECUTIVE***

**Part 2 - Section "B"** – This section contains resolutions "B" that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### **R22) Safe Drug Supply**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas the British Columbia Provincial Government declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016, in response to rapidly escalating fatalities caused by the unregulated and toxic drug supply;

And whereas despite some action by the Provincial Government to mitigate harm linked to the unregulated drug supply, interventions to-date have not been proportionate to the scale and scope of the crisis, with over 11,390 preventable deaths of British Columbians due to accidental overdose linked back to the toxic drug supply between April 2016 and December 31, 2022;

And whereas offering a safe, predictable, and regulated supply of drugs (“safe supply”) is widely recognized by health officials, policy makers, academic researchers, and advocates as a key intervention for addressing the drug poisoning crisis, and structural, policy and legal impediments to a “safe supply” are yet to be resolved:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for increased access to accessible, culturally safe, and reliable safe supply in collaboration with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders to create an educational resource for engaging civic actors on the benefits of safe supply services as part of a continuum of critical health interventions including harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery, enforcement, and housing with the objective of reducing unregulated drug poisoning deaths.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R23) Rural, Remote Paramedic Sustainability**

**Village of Zeballos**

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with budgetary means to sustain full-time paramedic positions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Health invest in full-time paid paramedic positions for small, rural, remote communities across British Columbia to enhance these communities' ability to sustain permanent employment for their skilled residents.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**R24) Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras**

**District of Saanich**

Whereas local governments, with limited and competing resources, must address traffic safety challenges to ensure the well-being of our residents;

And whereas the enforcement of traffic regulations, such as speed regulations in residential areas, playgrounds, and school zones, is labour intensive and the ability to use traffic enforcement cameras as a deterrent has proven to be effective and efficient in the management of speed and other traffic regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R25) Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs**

**Comox Valley Regional District**

Whereas reasonable and free consumer access to recycling collection facilities or collection services is the cornerstone of British Columbia's recycling framework;

And whereas the 2021 Accessibility Framework within the Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia's Guidance on Accessibility of Stewardship Programs will not provide for the service levels expected within many remote communities in British Columbia, as Extended Producer Responsibility programs are only provided "where practical";

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government for improved access to recycling for rural and remote communities with tiered and funded solutions based on the remoteness index and developed in collaboration with local governments.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R26) Expansion of the Recycling Regulation to Include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging and Printed Paper Recyclables**

**Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District**

Whereas the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (BCMOECCS) Recycling Regulation regulates the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for residential packaging and printed paper (PPP), which is managed by Recycle BC;

And whereas PPP recyclables from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sources, is not currently part of the Recycling Regulation, which is allowing the financial burden of diverting this recycling stream from landfilling onto the ICI sector and local governments;

And whereas the Provincial Government has instituted a phased study of ICI PPP recyclables as part of the EPR 5-year Action Plan which will not be completed until 2025:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province expedite the inclusion of ICI PPP recyclables into the Recycling Regulations much sooner than 2025.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R27) Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward**

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas in 2021, 37 local governments from across BC, as well as UBCM, passed resolutions supporting Help Cities Lead, a campaign advocating for the implementation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residential and commercial buildings;

And whereas the Province has not met its commitment to move forward with next steps on a PACE program in the RoadMap to 2030 climate strategy, which is a form of financing for energy retrofits designed to help building owners save on energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has yet to advance the program:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation to support a province-wide PACE program for residential and commercial buildings.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R28) New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Species at Risk** **Islands Trust**

Whereas in 2022 UBCM endorsed resolutions calling on the Province of BC to work in cooperation with First Nations to enact species at risk legislation and to work towards new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;

And whereas in November 2022 the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada Report which documents an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years;

And whereas in December 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to urgently proceed with legislation, informed by new agreements and reports, co-developed with First Nations, that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R29) Regional Water Supply Strategies** **Regional District of Nanaimo**

Whereas in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing population; fresh water for human consumption, agriculture, industry, and ecological needs has become a precious commodity on Vancouver Island and across British Columbia;

And whereas there are many different purveyors involved in the supply of drinking water including governments and private companies, as well as many agencies responsible for development planning for the growing population;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R30) Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver**

**District of Metchosin**

Whereas the Salish Sea is a sensitive marine ecosystem and critical habitat for many species including endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales, and the use of freighter anchorages outside the Port of Vancouver for ships waiting to be loaded in the Port of Vancouver is extremely detrimental to the marine ecosystem;

And whereas ports in other parts of the world have reduced or eliminated the need for freighter anchorages by upgrading infrastructure, increasing efficiencies, and implementing port call optimization systems:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the federal government and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority take all available actions to immediately reduce the use of freighter anchorages along southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands;

And be it further resolved that Transport Canada expand monitoring and inspection of freighters anchored outside the limits of the Port of Vancouver.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**TRANSPORTATION**

**R31) Parking on Ministry of Transportation Rights-of-Way**

**Regional District of Nanaimo**

Whereas regional districts have not been granted the authority to regulate vehicle parking on roadways in rural areas;

And whereas the Province and the RCMP have limited resources to regulate and enforce the increased volume of vehicles parked illegally on roads and rights-of-way that cause congestion and unsafe conditions for other vehicles, pedestrians and emergency first responders:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia grant regional districts the authority under the *BC Motor Vehicle Act* to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and rights of-way with the same authority as municipalities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**FINANCE**

**R32) Downtown Revitalization Grant Program**

**District of Port Hardy**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has historically administered a downtown revitalization program that generated incredible long-term benefits and returns to those communities who participated in the program and to the Province through increased commerce, tourism, and tax revenues;

And whereas forestry, fishing, and mining-oriented rural communities have been significantly economically impacted in relation to the economic vitality of these industry sectors:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request the UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program and to provide adequate financial resources to enable rural resource communities to improve their downtowns for the benefit of residents, businesses, and tourism.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R33) Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries**

**City of Powell River,  
qathet Regional District**

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources including Internet, computers, digital tools and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R34) Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments**

**District of Sechelt**

Whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased community growth in many areas;

And whereas the revenue from property transfer tax is due in large part to the attractiveness of the local community to homebuyers which is in part the result of local government efforts, as such local governments should benefit from this tax:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share property transfer tax revenue with local governments in British Columbia for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **LAND USE**

### **R35) Removal of Racist and Discriminatory Clauses from BC Land Titles**

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas there are documents and covenants attached to parcels of land throughout the province that are rooted in racism and discrimination;

And whereas the cost to remove racist documents and covenants from land titles is born by the property owners:

Therefore be it resolved be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request that the Province instruct the Land Titles Office to eliminate any charges to landowners wishing to remove these offensive clauses and restrictions from their titles, and further request the Land Titles Office conduct an audit of land titles and systematically remove racist and discriminatory covenants and documents.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R36) Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archeological Requirements**

**District of Sechelt**

Whereas local governments acknowledge the critical importance of archaeology to reclaim the history and heritage of the Indigenous Peoples particularly while undertaking critical local government infrastructure renewal;

And whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased archaeological costs, including the cost of project delays:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and
2. Provide local governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R37) Public Safety and Speed Limits**

**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards, including the setting and adjustment of speed limits;

And whereas rural areas are experiencing traffic management issues including increasing speeding as development and populations increase in areas shared by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; this



requires a greater attention to community public safety concerns and necessary safety improvements:

Therefore it be resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R38) Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure**

**Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards and there is continued concern regarding the state of roads in rural communities including poor road surfaces and drainage;

And whereas the provincial government periodically makes economic investment announcements and it is understood that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure may require assessment of impacts to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development, and which may direct improvements to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development:

Therefore it be resolved that, AVICC and UBCM request that the Province direct enhanced investment into rural road network improvements in areas where provincial economic investments are made.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**LEGISLATIVE**

**R39) Modernization of the *Local Government Act***

**Sunshine Coast Regional District**

Whereas a comprehensive review of the legislation governing regional districts has not been done; however, the social, political and economic environments in which local governments operate has dramatically evolved in areas including increased populations living in unincorporated areas, response to climate change, and First Nations' participation in regional governance;

And whereas the accountabilities of regional districts continue to increase, most recently with updates to emergency management legislation, but regional districts lack the tools and authority needed to meet these expanded responsibilities;

And whereas UBCM has endorsed multiple resolutions asking for a review of the *Local Government Act* as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts; most recently in 2015, 2018, and 2022, and the province has been promising these urgently needed legislative updates for over twenty years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional districts to ensure that a comprehensive review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* is prioritized during the current municipal term of office.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **LATE RESOLUTIONS**

Late resolutions could be submitted after the February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline, up until April 12<sup>th</sup>. Late resolutions are appropriate to be admitted for discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since or was not known prior to the February 9<sup>th</sup> resolutions deadline. There were no resolutions received after February 9<sup>th</sup>, before the April 12<sup>th</sup> Late Resolution Deadline.

### **OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS**

Off-the-floor resolutions are submitted after the April 12<sup>th</sup> Late Resolution deadline. To bring a resolution off the floor, a delegate must put forward a motion on the convention floor. A 60% majority is required before the motion can be put forward for debate. There was one resolution submitted off-the-floor that was admitted for debate.

### **FL1) Homes for People Action Plan**

### **Regional District of Nanaimo**

Whereas on April 3, 2023, Premier Eby announced that the Province of B.C. is taking action to address the housing shortage by proposing to implement the Homes for People Action Plan that includes provisions to allow up to four homes on a parcel where currently only one home is permitted;

And whereas when the Homes for People Action Plan is implemented through legislation, such legislation, while very appropriate in many urban settings, could, in numerous situations, be in conflict with the ability to service an influx of residents, direct density away from floodplains and other hazards, or protect areas of ecological importance;

Therefore be it resolved that Premier Eby be requested to ensure that legislation to implement the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***