

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Resolutions Received After the Deadline

Respect for Local Government

City of Victoria

Whereas the BC Supreme Court upheld local government land use authority with respect to the disposal of contaminated soils in the case of Cowichan Valley (Regional District) v. Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd., 2016 BCSC 489;

And whereas the risk remains that local government land use regulations relating to disposal of contaminated soils may be overridden by provincial Order-in-Council:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the Province of British Columbia to respect local government land use authority and provide for thorough and appropriate consideration of local government input and land use regulations in the contaminated soils permitting process.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would acknowledge that, as referenced by the sponsor, the Honourable Mr. Justice B.C. MacKenzie rendered his decision regarding Cowichan Valley (Regional District) v. Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd., 2016 BCSC 489 after the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions had already passed.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B120, which called on the Province to enact legislation and develop enforcement tools around the deposit of contaminated soils, to provide a formal mechanism for local government comment, and prevent the deposit of contaminated soils in locations that would negatively impact aquifers or water courses.

In response to the 2012 resolution, the provincial government acknowledged that it holds concurrent authority with local government regarding contaminated soils. The Province indicated that it was undertaking a review of existing provisions for movement and deposit of contaminated soils, and would be consulting with local governments as part of the review process.

Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles

Township of Esquimalt

Whereas electric vehicles significantly reduce greenhouse gases emitted to the atmosphere and the adoption of electric vehicles is heavily dependent upon the availability of electric vehicle infrastructure;

And whereas there are currently no provisions in BC code or zoning bylaws for electrical supply points for electric vehicles and it will be more costly in the future to retrofit electrical supply points for electric vehicles in buildings or on properties that have already been constructed or developed:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of British Columbia consider regulations to:

- a) require powered electric vehicle outlets for parking stalls serving residential occupancies; and
- b) provide bylaw authority for municipalities to require electric vehicle charging facilities for non-residential properties.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would suggest that the issue raised in the resolution is not emergent and was known prior to the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions, therefore the resolution does not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2015-B100, which called on the provincial government to add opt-in provisions to the BC Building Code and amend the Local Government Act, to provide for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

“Safe Soils” to Control the Spread of Invasive Species

District of Highlands

Whereas the spread and proliferation of invasive species through many regions of the province comes from the re-distribution of invasive species laden soils and lends to increasingly costly mitigation and control strategies borne by regional governments and municipalities;

And whereas there is no certification or regulation program in place to allow industries to participate and denote their soils as invasive-free otherwise referred to as a “Safe Soil”, via a set protocol and processing criteria, and thus no opportunity for purchasers to differentiate between invasive free and invasive laden materials:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial Ministry of Agriculture develop a “Safe Soil” certification program, that incorporates a processing standard and labeling regime, that soil sellers (wholesale/retail) can choose to participate, offering the purchasers seeking to manage risk clear choice of purchasing soils that are free of invasive pests.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would suggest that the issue raised in the resolution is not emergent and was known prior to the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions, therefore the resolution does not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to develop a “Safe Soil” certification program.

Basic Income Guarantee

City of Victoria

Whereas the National Household Survey (2011) confirmed that 14.9% of the population live in low-income circumstances and that income insecurity and inequality continue to increase as a result of precarious employment, having direct links to the social determinants of health (lower literacy rates, reduced levels of education, chronic stress, social alienation, and other factors that undermine the social fabric);

And whereas a basic income guarantee could reduce income insufficiency, insecurity, and inequality, and ensure everyone an income sufficient to meet basic needs and live in dignity regardless of work status; and could support entrepreneurship and job transition for those trying to establish a new productive role for themselves in response to a persistently changing economy; and could generate substantial savings for federal and provincial authorities in administrative costs, by eliminating duplication in service delivery and stream-lining the provision of income support through the tax system, reducing the need for separate income security programs and services:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC through UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to endorse a national conversation on a Basic Income Guarantee for all Canadians.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would suggest that the issue raised in the resolution is not emergent and was known prior to the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions, therefore the resolution does not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to engage in a national conversation on a Basic Income Guarantee for Canadians.

Due to time constraints, members were not able to consider resolution 2013-B130 "Support for Raise the Rates Coalition" during the 2013 Annual Convention, so the resolution was referred automatically to the UBCM Executive. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive endorsed resolution 2013-B130, which in part requested that the provincial government "increase provincial income assistance rates to the Market Basket Measure, the minimum monthly cost required for food, shelter and transportation."

In response to resolution 2013-B130, the provincial government indicated that it was "not in a financial position to consider a rate increase," but stated that it would continue "exploring innovative, low-cost ways to improve services to people receiving assistance."

Eligibility Criteria for Community Gaming Grants

Town of Ladysmith

Whereas not-for-profit organizations make invaluable contributions to communities throughout British Columbia in the form of community and social services and community recreational infrastructure, and such organizations are not eligible to apply for gaming grants to support capital projects;

And whereas British Columbia communities which do not host casinos and community gaming centres are unable to benefit from the sharing of revenues from such facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM strongly urge the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch through the Minister of Finance to reinstate Community Gaming Grant funding for major capital projects initiated by not-for-profit organizations.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would suggest that the issue raised in the resolution is not emergent and was known prior to the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions, therefore the resolution does not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government change the eligibility criteria for Community Gaming Grant funding, to enable not-for-profit organizations to apply for funding to support major capital projects.

While the question of major capital projects is a new issue, in general UBCM members have supported the restoration and continuation of the Community Gaming Grant program, since the provincial government placed limits on the program following the 2008 economic downturn (2011-B70, 2010-B115).

Commercial Herring Fishery – West Coast Herring Recovery Plan

City of Powell River

WHEREAS Fisheries and Oceans Canada has initiated a 2016 commercial herring fishery and roe herring harvest in the Salish Sea; and

WHEREAS a previous moratorium on the commercial fishing of herring in the late 1960s resulted in significant recovery of herring populations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities call upon Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to direct the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to initiate a process to develop a West Coast Herring Recovery Plan, with local communities, First Nations, independent scientists and naturalists.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that a moratorium on all commercial fishing of herring be instituted immediately until populations recover to the level decided upon by the Herring Recovery Plan.

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Admit for Debate

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee would suggest that the issue raised in the resolution is not emergent and was known prior to the AVICC submission deadline for resolutions, therefore the resolution does not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate.

Parental Rights for Elected Officials

District of Oak Bay

Whereas the BC Employment Standards Act guarantees the rights of parents to maternity and parental leave;

And whereas the Local Government Act and Community Charter fail to protect parental rights of local government elected officials, requiring council or regional district board approval of leave for elected officials who become parents;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act and the Community Charter to guarantee maternity and parental leave for elected officials to be consistent with the Employment Standards Act provisions following the birth or adoption of a child;

And be it further resolved that the legislation be amended to permit the elected official to return to work on the same terms that were in place at the start of their leave, and that any changes in the elected official's appointments to committees, boards or commissions will not be made as a result of the maternity or parental leave.