

## **2020 AVICC RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TO UBCM**

The following resolutions were submitted to AVICC by members prior to the February 6, 2020 deadline. Normally these resolutions would be reviewed by the AVICC Executive Committee acting as the AVICC Resolutions Committee, and recommendations would be provided to the membership to endorse, not endorse or no recommendation.

Since the AGM and Convention did not go ahead in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these resolutions were submitted directly to UBCM for inclusion in UBCM's 2020 Convention according to UBCM policies.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **1) Review Fines for Significant Speeding**

**District of Central Saanich**

Whereas the provincial government has not reviewed and updated traffic fines since 1997, with the exception of excessive speed in 2010;

And whereas the current traffic fines for speeding are not deterring drivers from exceeding speed limits on municipal and provincial roads:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to increase traffic fines significantly for speeding in an effort to make driving above the speed limit 'less attractive' for drivers in BC.

#### **2) Restorative Justice Funding**

**City of Colwood**

Whereas between the years of 1999 and 2018, there have been 15 resolutions to UBCM from 11 local governments throughout BC, with 12 resolutions having been endorsed;

And whereas Public Safety and Solicitor General's community consultation process in 2018-2019 identified core and stable funding as the primary requirement for the success of restorative justice:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM requests core, stable provincial government funding in the form of an annual lump sum to accredited organizations, in an amount that exceeds \$50,000, to allow for at least one staff member for the provision of restorative justice services that results in reduced court costs, reduced recidivism, and improved victim satisfaction in the aftermath of crime.

### **3) Funding Model for Incarceration of Prisoners**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas the current funding model for incarceration of prisoners places an undue financial burden on local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Premier of BC, Minister of Finance and Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to implement an alternative funding model for equitable regional cost sharing for the incarceration of prisoners.

### **4) Medical Cannabis Safety Concerns**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the federal *Cannabis Act* controls the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada, including the application and licensing of medical cannabis production facilities which should be compliant with local bylaws according to criteria set out for applicants in the process administered by Health Canada as the agency responsible for approval of cannabis production facilities;

And whereas local governments have responsibility for the enforcement of local bylaws and ensuring life-safety compliance with fire and building code regulations, but Health Canada has no process in place to share licensing information with local authorities about the location of medical cannabis production facilities in BC communities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for an expanded legislative framework that provides options for local authorities to oversee building and fire safety requirements for cannabis production facilities from the outset of the licence application process and prior to the commencement of construction of cannabis production facilities in local communities;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for federal and provincial collaboration with local governments to develop information sharing agreements, so local governments are informed of the locations and licensing particulars of small and large-scale medical cannabis production facilities in their communities and can thereby ensure enforcement of local bylaws to mitigate safety risks within BC communities.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **5) Partnerships for Fare-Free Public Transit**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas equitable access to mobility is fundamental to full and meaningful participation in local communities, including access to education, employment, services, recreation, culture and community life, and noting that emissions from transportation generate a majority of community-based emissions in many communities, meaning that changes in transportation options have the potential to have a substantial impact in reducing green-house gas emissions;

And whereas forward-looking jurisdictions around the world from Kingston, Ontario to Kansas City, Missouri, to Luxembourg and Estonia are eliminating user-fee barriers to public transit ridership, with residents paying for transit services through the tax system rather than at the fare box:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to work with local governments to introduce fare-free public transit services where communities support the elimination of user-fee barriers to public transit ridership.

## **FINANCE**

### **6) Local Government Price Index**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas local government and household spending are often compared by taxpayers through the lens of the Consumer Price Index which measures changes in the prices paid by household consumers for goods and services;

And whereas local government purchases do not fall into the same category as household purchases with respect to the types of goods each purchases:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to create a Local Government Price Index that more accurately reflects the projected costs of the types of goods that local government purchase.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **7) Funding for Clean Renewable Energy Projects**

**Village of Cumberland**

Whereas the BC Hydro Standing Offer Program encouraging the development of new small and clean renewable energy projects was indefinitely suspended in 2019 after the Province's comprehensive review of BC Hydro;

And whereas renewable energy projects are a feasible revenue source for local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reinstate the BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments.

### **8) Recovering Costs for the Illegal Disposal of Wildlife Carcasses**

**District of Highlands**

Whereas BC's small and rural governments are incurring waste disposal fees due to the illegal disposal of wildlife carcasses or parts on local government lands, including lands where people may be present, which is an offence under the *Wildlife Act*;

And whereas discarded wildlife carcasses or parts is defined in the *Wildlife Act* as an attractant to potentially dangerous wildlife; therefore a potential danger to people and domestic animals when illegally disposed of on land where there are likely to be people. This illegal disposal on local government land then becomes a cost (disposal fee) to a local government:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC be requested by AVICC and UBCM to cost share revenue generated from hunting activities (via a program or other means) with affected local governments to recover the costs associated with this illegal disposal on local government lands;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of BC to investigate ways of preventing this illegal activity with improved language and clear direction within the *Wildlife Act* and/or Regulations.

### **9) Odometer Readings for Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Tracking      City of Powell River**

Whereas transportation is the single largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emission source for most BC communities, and accurately tracking these emissions is critical for all local governments as well as for the Province of British Columbia to be able to implement effective climate change mitigation initiatives and achieve GHG emission reduction targets;

And whereas the provincial government does not currently provide accurate transportation emissions data to BC communities to enable them to work strategically and measurably in the reduction of community transportation emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Province to require the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) to collect odometer readings from all customers at the time of vehicle insurance purchase and renewal and provide aggregates of this information to local governments in order to enable effective and targeted local government action on transportation GHG emissions reduction.

### **10) Standards and Labelling of “Flushable” Wipes      RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas some items labelled as “flushable”, such as disposable wipes, cause significant problems in sewer systems, damaging infrastructure and risking environmental pollution;

And whereas public awareness and education campaigns sponsored by local governments can only partially mitigate the problem in the absence of consistent standards and proper labelling and advertising:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with FCM to advocate at the federal level for the development of clear standards for products labelled “flushable” and to increase regulatory oversight of labelling and advertising of such products.

## **11) Creating One Planet Communities**

**District of Saanich**

Whereas we live on one planet, and in Canada we use 3-4 planets resources per resident which is an unsustainable share of the Earth's bio capacity and resources, thus threatening the well-being of current and future generations;

And whereas Saanich has declared a Climate Change Emergency, and has successfully used the One Planet Saanich model for resident engagement to help reduce our communities ecological footprint to one planet's worth of bio capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM encourage local governments to take steps to engage their citizens in reducing their ecological footprint by utilizing a "One Planet" or similar model for a sustainable future.

## **12) Marine Debris**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas a large volume of marine debris including plastics, styrofoam, components of boats, docks, and fishing gear is increasingly washing up on local shores which is environmentally damaging to marine environments, poses risks to fish and wildlife, creates a safety hazard for marine traffic, and places added pressure on communities to collect and haul shoreline marine debris to disposal facilities which is costly and logistically complex;

And whereas local governments have no jurisdiction on shorelines, as that is under the authority of the Province, and provincial efforts to increase producer responsibility for product stewardship have not been sufficient at reducing pollution caused by marine debris due to the diversity of materials and their often unknown source of origin:

Therefore be it resolved that that AVICC and UBCM urge the provincial government to adequately resource and develop a provincial program to assist with marine debris shoreline clean-up efforts that focusses on increasing regulation and enforcement for sectors responsible for the majority of marine debris, expanding recycling options for commonly found materials such as styrofoam, and funding communities that are struggling to address significant marine debris pollution on their shorelines so that regular community-led shoreline clean-up events are supported and collected marine debris can be safely transported to disposal facilities.

## **13) Home Heating Oil Spill Prevention**

**Town of View Royal**

Whereas home heating oil is very toxic, killing fish and other marine life in waterbodies;

And whereas prevention is the most effective means to safeguard our environment and avoid the unnecessary provincial and municipal expenditure of both time and money for clean up:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to implement legislation to:

1. Require home heating oil tanks be registered and tagged as being in good condition and prohibit companies from filling tanks without a proper tag;
2. Create a mandatory inspection system including authorized inspector access for this purpose;
3. Legislate absolute liability for home heating fuel companies for any spills from tanks they fill and require those companies to carry insurance for that liability;
4. Legislate a public insurance fund paid for by a surcharge on heating oil fuel sales to pay for spills from properties where the property owner has self-identified as having a heating oil tank; and
5. Require proper decommissioning of tanks that no longer meet certification or that are unused for a prescribed period of time.

#### **14) Circular Economy**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) has created a Special Committee for Solid Waste Management;

And whereas developing a circular economy is a vital component of sustainable solid waste management:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC expand the terms of reference for their Special Committee on Solid Waste Management to include circular economy.

### **HOUSING**

#### **15) Streamline Building Officials Certification Process**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas the Building Officials Association of British Columbia, under an administrative agreement with the Province, is responsible for education and examinations for persons applying for membership, and certification of members as registered building officials;

And whereas the current lengthy process for certifying a Level One Building Official affects local governments' ability to hire and retain qualified staff and provide building inspection services in a timely manner:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province and the Building Officials Association of British Columbia to streamline the examination and certification process by reducing the two year local government experience requirement to one year and review reasons for the high failure rate in the Level 1 examination.

#### **16) Amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to Strengthen Maintenance Standards**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas property maintenance standards are vital for protecting existing housing stock and tenants as they help to ensure that living environments are safe, secure, and appropriate;

And whereas many jurisdictions currently lack regional and municipal standards or regulations, including municipal bylaws or health standards:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to strengthen standards of property maintenance that set out a breadth of health, safety, and security standards, and establishes enforcement mechanisms that ensure adherence to these standards.

### **17) Amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to Reduce “No Pet” Clauses**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas companion animals have significant quality of life and health benefits for pet owners, and there are also significant benefits to landlords of pet-friendly housing, such as higher rents and longer-term and more reliable tenants;

And whereas no pet clauses in lease agreements greatly reduce the availability and adequacy of rental suites for renters who own pets, further exacerbating extremely challenging rental market conditions for renters:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act* to reduce “no pet” clauses in lease agreements in British Columbia as long as responsible ownership and animal welfare issues are also considered.

## **REGIONAL DISTRICTS**

### **18) Business Licensing Authority for Regional Districts**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the *Community Charter* provides municipalities the authority to regulate businesses through a business licensing structure, while regional districts have not been granted business licensing authority and must undertake a lengthy legislative application process in order to be granted that authority through provincial regulation;

And whereas municipalities may utilize business licensing as a tool to assist with the enforcement and compliance of local bylaws such as the regulation of cannabis and short-term rentals, while regional districts with similar bylaw enforcement challenges do not have that option readily available to them:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to explore options to amend the *Local Government Act* to provide regional districts legislative authority for business licensing similar to the authority provided to municipalities in order to ensure fair and equal access for all local governments wishing to utilize business licensing as a tool to support compliance with local bylaws.

## SELECTED ISSUES

### 19) Whistleblower Legislation

City of Nanaimo

Whereas whistleblower legislation has become statute for provincial government employees;

And whereas local government does not have an independent third party to receive whistleblower complaints or concerns:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM create an independent third party to handle complaints and concerns of local government employees and officials or lobby the provincial government to expand their program to include local government.

### 20) Community to Community Forum Grants

District of Port Hardy

Whereas the importance of open and continuing conversation between local governments and first nations governments is critical to further reconciliation;

And whereas the UBCM Regional Community to Community Forum (C2C) program is an important resource to assist with these dialogues, it is also important that governments be allowed the flexibility to access this funding when it is most beneficial to the communities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request UBCM to allow the Regional Community to Community Forum grants to not be subject to specific deadlines, but be made available throughout the year, and that those granted funds be available for a full calendar year.

### 21) Voting Rights for Alternate Directors

RD of Nanaimo

Whereas the *Local Government Act* provides that an Electoral Area Director must appoint an Alternate Electoral Area Director who may take the place of, vote and generally act in all matters for the absent Electoral Area Director;

And whereas the bylaws of UBCM disqualify Alternate Electoral Area Directors from participating in debate and voting at the Annual and Special Conventions;

And whereas this provision of the UBCM bylaws:

- prevents an Electoral Area from having a voice at UBCM Conventions when the Electoral Area Director is absent; and
- could be improved by permitting an Alternate Electoral Area Director to participate in debate and vote at the Annual and Special Conventions of the UBCM:



Therefore be it resolved that UBCM change its bylaws to enable an Alternate Electoral Area Director, in the absence of the Electoral Area Director, to participate in debate and vote at Annual and Special Conventions of the UBCM.

## **Part 2 - Section "B"**

This section contains resolutions that support establish UBCM policy. These resolutions are grouped for consideration as a block.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

#### **22) Regulation of Soft Plastics and Other Packaging Materials**

**District of North Cowichan**

Whereas the Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear the appeal of a BC Court of Appeal decision in *Canadian Plastic Bag Association v. Victoria (City)*, a decision which effectively limits the ability of local governments to regulate the use of soft plastics and other plastic packaging within their geographic jurisdictions;

And whereas some local governments see the need for such regulation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia amend Section 9 of the *Community Charter* to expressly allow local government regulation of plastics and other packaging substances that may be considered environmentally deleterious.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **23) Police Services Model of Funding**

**District of Lantzville**

Whereas for local governments under the 5,000 population threshold, approximately 33% of local government policing costs are recovered by the Province via police taxes, and as soon as the population hits 5,000, the local government is required to fund 70% of the total cost for policing as described in the policing agreements;

And whereas this can create sudden, large increases in the amount of funding required to address policing costs which can be an incredible, sudden and immediate financial shock for small local governments that are already struggling:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to review the current model of funding police services for local governments reaching 5,000 population with consideration to establishing a graduated annual increase, once the 5,000 population has been reached, in policing costs from the 33% Police Tax to 70% of policing costs over a five-year period.

## **24) Costs of Keeping Prisoners**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas Corrections BC has a fixed quarterly budget to reimburse RCMP detachments for all provincial prisoners kept in local government owned RCMP buildings;

And whereas this funding allocation per prisoner fluctuates in accordance with the number of prisoners kept each quarter, but does not reflect the true operating cost to the local government for keeping these prisoners:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of BC to fully fund the costs to keep prisoners in locally owned RCMP buildings.

## **25) Provincial Support for Victims' Services**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas Victim Services Programs provide support and assistance to victims of crime;

And whereas the Ministry of Public Safety has the ultimate responsibility for the Victim Services Programs and yet does not fully fund these programs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to fully fund all Victim Services Programs.

## **26) Abandoned Vehicles**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the RCMP and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure have authority for enforcing parking regulations outside of municipal boundaries, including the removal of abandoned or unlicensed vehicles that may be illegally parked on rural roads, which is time consuming, costly, and takes away resources from other important community priorities;

And whereas regional districts have no authority for parking enforcement or removal of abandoned vehicles from rural roads but, as the representative local government with a direct connection to the community, must address resident concerns about abandoned vehicles that may be illegally parked or impacting the safe movement of pedestrians, traffic, or emergency vehicles in areas such as accesses to docks, boat launches, roads near waterfront parks, or areas where parking is limited:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the provincial government to provide additional funding resources to support rural RCMP detachments or the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in responding to time consuming and costly removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles from rural roads, and to ensure that community safety concerns are prioritized and adequately attended to.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **27) Secondary Rural Road Maintenance**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas there is growing concern about the state of secondary roads in rural communities that are in need of safety improvements such as more frequent refreshment of pavement lane markings which are essential to ensuring the safe flow of vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic, especially in more remote areas where street lighting may be minimal or non-existent;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as the responsible authority for the public road network in rural areas, oversees rural road maintenance through highway maintenance service contracts according to terms set out by the Province that define levels for maintenance standards and a budget for each specific service area:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the provincial government to review service level standards and increase funding for the upkeep of secondary roads in the provincial road network to ensure safe and accessible transportation options for rural communities who depend on them for day-to-day personal and business transportation needs.

## **FINANCE**

### **28) Gas Tax Funds**

**Capital RD**

Whereas the federal government distributes gas tax funds to municipalities and electoral areas throughout Canada based on population;

And whereas the provincial government allows gas tax funds to be used as a municipal or electoral area contribution towards some provincial grant applications:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate with the provincial and federal governments that gas tax funds should not be considered stacking under all federal and provincial grant programs.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **29) Tax Land and Improvements Separately**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas unaffordable housing generally reflects high land values that are driven up by speculation, which makes ownership very expensive to buy, but profitable for sellers and developers, and puts rental housing at a disadvantage when competing for buildable sites;

And whereas a lower property tax rate on improvements and a higher rate on land value could be made to keep taxes the same or lower for most properties, but would reduce the speculative gain from ownership and make rental housing developments more competitive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Community Charter* to grant municipalities the option of setting different property tax rates for land and improvements.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **30) Private Managed Forest Land Program Environment Values**

**Village of Cumberland**

Whereas the Province reviewed the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program in 2019 to inform the government's consideration of future policy options;

And whereas local governments strongly indicated that key public environmental values in the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* are insufficient:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia proceed with amendments to the management objectives and regulatory framework for Private Managed Forest Lands to better protect drinking water quality and riparian areas, and to require alternatives to slash pile burning where feasible to protect air quality.

### **31) Amend Recycling Regulation to Include Mattresses and Bulky Furniture**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas the inclusion of mattresses and bulky furniture in an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program ensures the costs associated with recycling and disposal are borne by manufacturers;

And whereas an EPR program for mattresses would create jobs, divert materials that are difficult to manage at disposal facilities, save landfill space, reduce GHG emissions and save energy through recycling:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to include mattresses and bulky furniture in an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program to shift the cost and responsibility of recycling and disposing of these materials from local governments to manufacturers.

### **32) Expand Extended Producer Responsibility Programs**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas eighteen Regional Districts met with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy at the 2019 UBCM Convention to petition the Ministry to amend the Recycling Regulation to include packaging and printed paper from the ICI sector;

And whereas Minister Heyman issued a letter December 18, 2019 responding to the request and noting that the Province recently undertook research and focused engagement concerning additional products that might prove suitable to manage under the Recycling Regulation, and that any work to explore regulatory amendments involving ICI materials would be accompanied by further consultation:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request that the Province commit to further consultation on the issue of amending the Recycling Regulation to include packaging and printed paper from the ICI sector.

### **33) Harmonize BC Plastics Action Plan & Strategy on Zero-Plastic Waste**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Plastics Action Plan Policy Consultation Paper requested feedback regarding bans on single-use packaging, reducing and recycling more plastics, and higher returns of plastic bottles;

And whereas harmonization of the BC Plastics Action Plan and Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic waste regulations regarding reduction of single-use plastics shifts the costs and responsibility of restricting single-use plastics from local governments to producers:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to collaborate with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment to ensure consistent regulations across Canada to reduce single-use products and increase producers' responsibility for end-of-life management of single-use products.

## **LAND USE**

### **34) De-Centralizing Forest Management**

**District of North Cowichan**

Whereas the forest sector in British Columbia is in crisis with thousands out of work and facing hardship; forestry companies closing mills, curtailing operations and redirecting investment outside of the province; and once thriving rural communities experiencing severe economic decline;

And whereas many communities across British Columbia and globally have demonstrated that when local people are empowered to manage public forests and other resources through community forest licences, regional trusts and other community-based governance models, they can enhance environmental sustainability, provide stable and fulfilling employment, and improve equity and fairness:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the Province of British Columbia to move to establish a de-centralized forest management model for the region of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast ("Vancouver Island and the Coast"), and, as a first step, appoint a Forester General for the region who will undertake the following actions:

- Consult with local communities, workers, businesses, First Nations and the broader public on current challenges with the forest sector;
- Carry out an analysis of the opportunities to increase employment and value-add, restrict raw log exports, improve environmental sustainability, and advance reconciliation with First Nations;

- Develop a regional land use plan for Vancouver Island and the Coast based on citizen input; and
- Recommend next steps for empowering Vancouver Island and the Coast in the management of forestry and related resources, including potentially establishing a Regional Standing Committee of the BC Legislature composed of the MLAs for Vancouver Island and the Coast.

### **35) Stormwater Management**

### **Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas stormwater run-off and drainage related problems such as flooding, erosion, and slope instability are becoming increasingly prevalent in rural areas due to development pressures and are being exacerbated by the effects of climate change which results in more variable, intense, and frequent storm events;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, as the subdivision approving authority, is primarily responsible for the design and maintenance of drainage works related to public roads in rural areas, and does not enforce or regulate stormwater and drainage related problems from one property to the next once development has been approved:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate for increased collaboration between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, regional districts, and municipalities to develop and implement management strategies that:

- recognize the need for an integrated stormwater management approach that plans at the watershed level as well as at the individual development level;
- are responsive to ongoing development pressures and challenges associated with climate change;
- increase provincial oversight of the implementation of stormwater related components of subdivision approvals on an ongoing basis;
- increase the Province's ability to address concerns from residents on an ongoing basis about property damage and safety issues that arise from stormwater and drainage related problems; and
- incorporate the impacts of planned upstream forestry activities in their drainage assessments.

## **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **36) Working Forest Reserve**

### **City of Port Alberni**

Whereas many BC communities are considered 'forest dependent' and rely on the stability and growth of the forest industry for continued employment and economic growth;

And whereas the majority of employment provided by the forest industry is in the manufacturing sector, and therefore, requiring security in the allocation of fibre to continue its operations and positive contributions to the communities in which they operate:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM membership urge our federal and provincial governments to implement measures to prevent the mass export of timber from private managed forest land, considering the detrimental social and economic impacts to those BC communities which are considered 'forest dependent' should mass export of timber continue;

And be it further resolved that the provincial government designate land reserves that enable forestry entities to commit to long-term investments in forestry, working forest management methods and manufacturing in an effort to achieve the maximum value from our forests.

## **HEALTH**

### **37) Provide Universal No-Cost Coverage of Prescription Contraception**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas cost is a significant barrier to people accessing contraception, particularly to people with low incomes, youth, and people from marginalized communities;

And whereas providing free prescription contraception has been shown to improve health outcomes for parents and infants by reducing the risks associated with unintended pregnancy, and is likely to reduce direct medical costs on the provincial health system:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to make all prescription contraception in BC available at no cost under the Medical Services Plan.

## **HOUSING**

### **38) Provincial Government Funding Increase for BC Housing**

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas adult supportive housing funded by BC Housing provides accommodation for people with a history of severe trauma, often resulting in difficult behaviours that can have significant impact on surrounding neighbourhoods and requiring skilled caregivers to manage;

And whereas government funding for BC Housing does not include adequate levels to either provide neighbourhood outreach services or assure skilled staff and minimal turnover:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to increase funding levels to BC Housing in order to mandate and assure that community outreach services and the stability of an adequately skilled staff are components of supportive housing developments that are vital in local communities.

### **39) Coordinated Strategy to Address Liveaboards**

**Islands Trust**

Whereas affordable housing pressures are leading to a growing population of liveaboards along the British Columbia coastline;

And whereas there are cumulative impacts on the marine environment and inadequate access to public services for liveaboard communities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to work with First Nations, and federal, provincial, and local government stakeholders, to develop a coordinated strategy to study and address the environmental and social impacts associated with liveaboards on the British Columbia coastline.