

# 2021 RESOLUTIONS

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R17 Climate Leadership City of Victoria

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R20 BC Circular Economy Strategy City of Nanaimo, City of Victoria

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R43 Community to Community Forum Grants District of Port Hardy

### REFERRED RESOLUTION – Provided for reference, no vote, refer to similar Resolution 27

### ENVIRONMENT

RR1 De-Centralizing Forest Management Municipality of North Cowichan

## RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

The following are the resolutions received by the February 26, 2021 resolutions deadline. For 2021, the AVICC Executive has determined there will not be a block of “Endorse” resolutions, and all resolutions are listed for individual consideration. Each local government that submitted a resolution was offered the opportunity to speak to their resolution through a recorded 3-minute speech as they would at an in-person convention.

The recordings will be available on the AVICC website to view at:

[Recorded Resolution Speeches](#)

The on-line ballots for the resolutions will be split into three parts. Elected officials who are delegates will see three ballots for resolutions when signing in to Simply Voting. There will also be a separate resolution for the election of members of the AVICC Executive Committee.

Once the voter begins voting on each ballot, they continue to vote on each resolution within that ballot. When they have voted on each resolution within that ballot grouping, they hit submit at the end of the last ballot. After hitting submit, their vote on all the resolutions within that ballot grouping is recorded.

Voters will not be able to come back to the ballot to change their vote after it is submitted. Also, once voters begin voting on each of the ballots, they will need to complete their voting on all the resolutions within that grouping, and hit submit. They cannot keep the ballot open to return to later. They cannot vote on some of the resolutions and save their votes without hitting submit.

The reason resolutions have been grouped into the three separate ballots is to give voters flexibility, and means they won't have to vote on all 43 resolutions in one sitting. Members can treat the ballots as three separate voting periods, again similar to what happens at the in-person conventions.

There will be contact information in the on-line voting to assist members with any technical questions.

### Resolutions Ballot #1

#### ELECTIONS

##### 1) Reinstate Three-Year Local Government Terms of Office

City of Nanaimo

Whereas three-year terms allow greater accountability to voters, who are able to show, through elections, their regard for the directions their local governments are taking;

And whereas four-year terms are an onerous commitment for many, and more likely to make potential candidates willing to stand for election hesitant to do so:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to reinstate three-year local government terms of office.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Not Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that Resolution 2018-R5 titled *Rescind Four-Year Local Government Term* was not endorsed by AVICC membership in 2018, and did not go forward to UBCM. The UBCM membership has considered a number of resolutions on this topic seeking to increase the interval from a three-year to a four-year term, with some being endorsed and others not. They include:

- 2013-B94 - Endorsed
- 2010-A2 - Not Endorsed
- 2007-B95 - Endorsed
- 2006-A9 - Not Endorsed

The Committee notes that the current policy of UBCM supports the four-year term that is currently in place so the recommendation to not endorse has been put forward.

## LEGISLATIVE

### 2) Electronic Permit and Public Hearing Notification

Islands Trust

Whereas the *Local Government Act*, Part 14, Divisions 3 and 8, requires that local governments give notice of public hearings in two consecutive issues of a gazette newspaper, and temporary use permits in one issue of a gazette newspaper;

And whereas many small communities no longer have local newspapers, or a newspaper that meets the definition of gazette in the *Interpretation Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call upon the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to update the *Local Government Act* to allow temporary use permit and public hearing notifications to be provided electronically, via an application or website if the local government can demonstrate equal or greater ability to reach relevant constituents than a regular printed local newspaper.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that call for a review and amendments to the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* to address the statutory advertising provisions that require newspaper advertising for public notices (2019-B1, 2018-B1, 2017-B1, 2016-B1, 2015-B88).

In its response to 2019-B1 the Province indicated: “Research and policy work will continue to focus on balancing key local government system principles –such as transparency and accountability -with local government’s requests for additional flexibility in statutory notice requirements. Once the work

is completed, outcomes and findings will be shared with the UBCM Executive for discussion and consultation on possible next steps.”

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **3) Extending the Life of Fire Apparatus**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas the Fire Underwriters Survey requires that in order to receive credit for fire insurance grading purposes, all first line fire apparatus in small and rural communities should be replaced after 20 years of service and may only be extended up to 25 years when fire apparatus is tested and proven to be in excellent mechanical condition;

And whereas small and rural local governments often are financially challenged to replace high cost and minimally used fire apparatus on a 20-25-year rotational basis:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province to advocate to the Insurance Bureau of Canada for the recognition and acceptance of an annual professional engineer certification of the mechanical condition of fire fighting apparatuses to extend service life beyond 20 years.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services (2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).

Following the endorsement of resolution 2016-B5, UBCM delivered correspondence to the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS), requesting a meeting to discuss equipment requirements for local fire departments. FUS did not respond to the letter; and, has previously shown reluctance to engage in substantive discussion with UBCM regarding equipment standards.

### **4) Medical Cannabis Production Sites**

**Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas Canada has exclusive jurisdiction over medical cannabis production sites, and such sites may be located irrespective of local government regulations and operated in a manner which causes deleterious impacts to communities;

And whereas a fundamental purpose of local governments is to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities, and by sharing information and coordinating services with Canada in relation to medical cannabis production sites, local governments will be better able to satisfy this purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that Canada work with local governments to establish a framework for sharing information and coordinating services in relation to medical cannabis production sites to foster the economic, social and environmental well-being of communities.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions, which in part, sought more local government involvement over medical cannabis production (either personal or commercial), to ensure respect for local bylaws and zoning and ensure community safety. These include:

- 2020-EB16 - called for expanded legislative framework for local authorities to oversee building and fire safety requirements for cannabis production facilities, and for local governments to be notified of locations to ensure enforcement of local bylaws to mitigate safety risks.
- 2018-B7 - called for local governments to be notified of locations with medical cannabis personal production licenses to ensure the safety of first responders who may attend these locations.
- 2018-B93 - called for mandatory ventilation systems in all commercial and personal production sites, and the ability for Health Canada inspectors to enter these sites to ensure compliance.
- 2012-B111 - called for medical cannabis producers (personal and commercial) to be required to obtain a municipal license or permit to ensure compliance with local bylaws and all electrical, fire, health, building and safety regulations.

The federal government has not responded to any of the resolutions listed above.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **5) Consultation by Ministry Prior to Undertaking Works on Highways**

**Town of Gibsons**

Whereas the BC government has ownership of and jurisdiction over arterial provincial highways that are located in municipalities;

And whereas municipalities have authority under the *Community Charter* to manage and regulate highways such as streets, roads, lanes, bridges, viaducts, sidewalks and other ways open to public use;

And whereas municipalities require the approval of the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure before regulating or prohibiting traffic on arterial provincial highways;

And whereas municipalities experience economic, ecological and logistical impacts whenever the Ministry of Transportation undertakes works on any arterial provincial highway that intersects with any municipal ways open to the public:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require the Ministry of Transportation, when working on arterial provincial highways, conduct meaningful consultation with local governments and

residents of all municipalities located within the highway corridor throughout the planning stages of the project and before the work has commenced.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2000-B65, which asked the provincial government to consult with local governments during the planning and implementation of improvements to provincial highways, in order to ease and minimize the impact of the improvements on surrounding local governments and residents.

More generally, the Committee would reference member-endorsed resolution 2019-SR1, calling on the Province to ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation as outlined in s. 2 of the *Community Charter* are adhered to and implemented as it moves forward with future initiatives.

## **TAXATION**

### **6) Regional District Requisitions to Municipalities**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas section 386 of the *Local Government Act* requires a municipality to charge out the regional district requisition on an assessment base or as a parcel tax;

And whereas when the service is billed to the municipality based on something other than assessment base, the municipality should have the option to bill said charge out based on volume flow or based on assessment and not mandated to use only the assessment base:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting a change be made to the *Local Government Act* section 386 (1) (c) notwithstanding section 386 (1) (a), in the case of an amount to be recovered where the charge to be recovered is itself based on a volume flow charge, the option is available to impose a fee based on the flows used or consumed by the tax base.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* section 386 (1) (c) notwithstanding section 386 (1) (a), in the case of an amount to be recovered where the charge to be recovered is itself based on a volume flow charge, the option is available to impose a fee based on the flows used or consumed by the tax base.

The sponsor has noted that due to the requirement to charge out on an assessment or parcel tax basis, it unfairly charges those with larger assessments versus those that have high volumes of usage

and low assessments. The sponsor used sewage as an example where the city pays for the service based on volume to the treatment facility.

## **7) Provincial Tax Sharing and Local Fuel Tax**

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas costs, regulations, and responsibilities for municipalities are increasing at an unsustainable rate;

And whereas some traditionally provincial or federal funded responsibilities have shifted to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Province to work with municipalities towards sharing:

- Sales Tax
- Liquor Tax
- Property Transfer Tax

And be it further resolved that the Province support and simplify the creation of local fuel taxes for municipalities as an additional revenue stream.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions asking the Province to share with local governments a portion of:

- Sales Tax (2020-EB34, 2012-B11).
- Liquor Tax (2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2004-B111)
- Property Transfer Tax (2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).

However, the Committee advises that the membership has not considered a resolution asking the Province to create a local fuel tax for local governments as an additional revenue stream.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to share a portion of the Provincial fuel tax to support:

- active transportation infrastructure (2013-B99);
- road rehabilitation (2012-B19);
- fund the growing needs of communities, but cannot continue to increase property taxes (2010-B24);
- transportation initiatives and road infrastructure and rehabilitation (2007-B21);
- road maintenance and transit services (2005-B20, 2003-B65); and
- transportation infrastructure (2003-B60).



## **FINANCE**

### **8) Audited Financial Statements for Municipally-Owned Corporations**

**City of Powell River**

Whereas the Inspector of Municipalities requires that new business corporations mandate the preparation of audited financial statements in their corporate articles;

And whereas municipally-owned corporations may consider business ventures or partnerships with other business corporations for which the articles of incorporation may not include the requirement for audited financial statements:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to legislate changes to mandate the preparation of audited financial statements in the articles of incorporation for municipally-owned corporations and the entities for which the municipally-owned corporations hold significant influence or control.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to legislate changes to mandate the preparation of audited financial statements in the articles of incorporation for municipally-owned corporations and the entities for which the municipally-owned corporations hold significant influence or control.

The Committee notes that upon review of the background information, the Province has advised the sponsor that "(L)ocal governments have the authority to set internal policies around their partnership agreements and if a municipality is concerned with some aspect of the partnership, it could hire an independent auditor to examine the process." The question is whether local governments wish to seek legislative measures as the sponsor is requesting, or implement their own internal policies to address this situation.

### **9) COVID Safe Restart Grant Inequity for Electoral Areas**

**Capital RD**

Whereas the Capital Regional District, received a funding allocation of \$1.421M under the safe restart grant based on two per capita amounts formulae: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations, and a flat funding amount;

And whereas the safe restart program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, there is a significant disparity between the per capita allocation for Electoral Areas versus local municipalities with a similar population:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide more equitable safe restart grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas in comparison to the funding provided to local municipalities.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide more equitable Safe Restart Grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas in comparison to the funding provided to local municipalities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2020-SR7 that asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort.

## **10) Income Tax Credit/Deduction for Workers in Isolated Areas**

**District of Port Hardy**

Whereas it is challenging to attract and retain employees in isolated communities due to a lack of services and the extra cost to obtain these services elsewhere;

And whereas the provincial government has recognized the need to compensate provincial employees through an isolation allowance, which includes additional pay and vacation allowances for employees who work in posted isolated location points:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide a tax credit/deduction to workers living in communities **that** are included in **the Province's list of** posted isolated location points.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2019-B22 Isolation Allowance which asked the provincial and federal governments to provide a tax credit/deduction to all employees living in and around the same communities that those governments recognize with Isolation Allowance.

The membership also endorsed a similar resolution in 2018-B152 asking the federal government to establish an application process for a Rural Living Allowance to residents of rural communities meeting the criteria of a lack of medical services, government services or basic consumer supplies such as groceries, travel barriers and significant economic downturn as determined by the Treasury Board of Canada.

Members have endorsed resolutions related to the increased travel costs facing rural communities to access medical and other services not readily available in smaller more remote communities.

Members specifically endorsed 2003-B140 requesting that the Travel Assistance Program funding be extended to include travel costs for rural or remote residents requiring access to physiotherapy services. A similar resolution was endorsed in 2005-B16.

## 11) Development Cost Charges for Local Government Facilities

District of Lantzville

Whereas the *Local Government Act*, Section 559, authorizes a local government to impose, by bylaw, development cost charges on every person who obtains approval for development, for the purpose of providing funds to assist the local government to pay the capital cost of providing, constructing, altering or expanding sewage, water, drainage and highway facilities, and providing and improving parkland to service, directly or indirectly, the development for which the charge is being imposed;

And whereas in the same manner that development results in a capital cost burden on a local government for sewage, water, drainage, highway facilities, and parkland, the burden of providing, constructing, altering or expanding local government facilities is also incurred by a local government as a result of development:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM be requested to contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to propose that the *Local Government Act*, Part 14, Division 19 [Development Costs Recovery] be amended to authorize a local government to impose a development cost charge for local government facilities.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed SR2 in 2019 that specifically sought the modernization of development financing that would identify approaches to:

- Capture growth related capital costs, including, but not limited to infrastructure needed to support: emergency services, solid waste, cultural services, transit, recreation, affordable housing and the expansion of sport-related park services;
- Provide local government with the flexibility to ensure that financing growth-related infrastructure services better reflects community circumstances and community objectives; and
- Creates a consistent approach to land value capture and amenity charges that reduces the uncertainty associated with negotiated agreements.

In addition to 2019-SR2, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that call for the expanded application of Development Cost Charges (DCC) beyond their current allowable usages to a variety of specific usages including solid waste infrastructure, fire halls and fire suppression equipment and sport related park infrastructure (2020-NR23, 2018-B21, 2016-SR1, 2015-B21, 2012-B9, 2012-B54, 2011-B35, 2010-B23, 2007-B37, 2005-B95).

## Resolutions Ballot #2

### ENVIRONMENT

#### 12) Contaminants Released from Wastewater Treatment Plants

City of Powell River

Whereas contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are found in the sewage sludge of wastewater treatment plants and are then dispersed to the environment and food chain through aerosolization, marine discharge, and land application of biosolids;

And whereas CECs have been found to have negative effects on human and wildlife health:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to establish sampling protocols and introduce specific measures for monitoring and reducing levels of contaminants of emerging concern from wastewater treatment plants in order to prevent adverse impacts to human and wildlife health in three receiving environments: air, water and land.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to establish sampling protocols and introduce specific measures for monitoring and reducing levels of contaminants of emerging concern from wastewater treatment plants in order to prevent adverse impacts to human and wildlife health in three receiving environments: air, water and land.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse 2019-B150 from the same sponsor, that called for the creation of standards for microplastics that can pass through wastewater treatment plants that can enter the waterways and be distributed on to land.

#### 13) Reform of the BC Utilities Commission

City of Powell River

Whereas the Province of British Columbia and municipalities share common goals of:

- a) reducing carbon emissions through electrification of buildings and transportation
- b) improving energy affordability and reducing the incidence of poverty, and
- c) enhancing local energy resilience and self-sufficiency in municipalities and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the British Columbia Utilities Commission is currently governed by outdated legislation that limits its ability to guide the transformation of BC's energy system and its ability to direct utilities to realign their activities in line with the objectives stated above:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend and modernize the *Utilities Commission Act*, expanding the scope of the BCUC's mandate and giving it

clear direction to consider environmental, equity, resilience, and reconciliation objectives in its decision-making.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend and modernize the *Utilities Commission Act*, expanding the scope of the BCUC's mandate and giving it clear direction to consider environmental, equity, resilience, and reconciliation objectives in its decision-making.

#### **14) Right to Repair**

**City of Nanaimo, City of Victoria**

Whereas the longevity of items is decreasing because manufacturers are deliberately designing products to be disposable;

And whereas citizens and businesses are deterred from repairing their belongings by companies that claim ownership over the intellectual property in their products, fail to provide parts or other aspects that make it hard to repair items:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

The Committee would recommend that the sponsor provide additional detail in the enactment clause to identify what elements should be included in the new legislation. Without this clarity it is difficult to understand what would be required, how it would be implemented and the implications of the new legislation. As a result of this lack of clarity the Committee has offered no recommendation.

#### **15) Moratorium on Recreational Wolf Hunting**

**District of Oak Bay**

Whereas the public and wildlife conservation organizations are concerned about provincial regulations for recreational wolf hunting practices and believe that these practices should be re-examined for scientific and ethical reasons;

And whereas very little scientific evidence exists about the size of the wolf population or the sustainability of impacts of unrestricted harvesting levels on bio-diversity related to habitats and wildlife ecology, especially at the regional level:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to implement a moratorium on recreational wolf hunting pending the completion of a scientific, data-driven and evidence-based study that includes consultation with Indigenous communities, to re-examine the efficacy of unrestricted wolf harvesting practices and their impacts on bio-diversity, wildlife ecology and sustainability of the wolf population.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to implement a moratorium on recreational wolf hunting pending the completion of a scientific, data-driven and evidence-based study that includes consultation with Indigenous communities, to re-examine the efficacy of unrestricted wolf harvesting practices and their impacts on bio-diversity, wildlife ecology and sustainability of the wolf population. The Committee also notes that the membership has not endorsed any previous hunting moratoriums.

## **16) Clean and Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework**

## **Village of Cumberland**

Whereas local governments are required to set greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition towards becoming more compact, complete and energy-efficient communities;

And whereas communities may have opportunities to create clean and renewable energy projects, such as micro-hydro, geothermal, tidal and solar power;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia explore changes to the regulatory framework to support communities in partnering with BC Hydro to provide safe reliable clean energy and to generate revenue sources to support local economies.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to explore changes to the regulatory framework to support communities in partnering with BC Hydro to provide safe reliable clean energy and to generate revenue sources to support local economies.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions over the years supporting the research, development and implementation of clean energy alternatives such as wind, solar, tidal and geothermal (2014-B32, 2008-B41, 2007-B129, 2001 Energy Forum recommendations).

Members have also requested that BC Hydro be directed to:

- reinstate funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local government (2020-N49);

- pursue improvements in energy efficiency and low impact renewable energy sources (2006-B26); and
- ensure BC Hydro’s mandate be restored to develop sustainable alternative energy options (2009-B45).

## 17) Climate Leadership

City of Victoria

Whereas coming out of a workshop at AVICC in 2019, the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP) steering committee was formed with representatives nominated from each Regional District in the AVICC region to develop a 2030 Climate Action Plan for the AVICC Region;

And whereas on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020, the VICC-CLP steering committee along with faculty and students from the University of Victoria with whom VICC-CLP has been working held a day-long workshop for elected officials and staff in the AVICC region to develop preliminary 2030 Climate Action Goals, noting that in March 2021 the VICC-CLP steering committee will hold two further workshops, one with youth and one with First Nations to ensure that the 2030 Climate Action plan is also grounded in youth experience and Indigenous cultural knowledge:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC membership endorses in principle the directions laid out in the [“Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Action Goals Working Draft”](#) and requests that the VICC-CLP also grounds the plan in the cultural and land-based knowledge of Indigenous peoples and the experiences of youth, and that the AVICC membership requests that the VICC-CLP steering committee present a final plan for the membership’s consideration at AVICC 2022.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the AVICC membership has not previously considered a resolution to endorse the “Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Action Goals Working Draft”.

The AVICC Executive notes that one of the goals in the draft is: “*create an advocacy, education and action plan for all local governments through AVICC, including hazard mapping to support appropriate land use and resilience planning*”. There is not sufficient information provided on what is being asked of AVICC to provide a recommendation. The sponsor will be asked to clarify the following questions during their 3-minute address on the resolution:

- What is the specific ask of AVICC?
- What is the anticipated cost?
- What are the implications to AVICC?

Whereas building retrofits help drive deep building-sector emissions reductions, respiratory illness reductions, building operating cost reductions, and job creation, yet local governments are currently constrained with existing legislation;

And whereas Integral Group modelling has shown that when implemented together, these five actions complement each other:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM prevail upon the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLCI), and Attorney-General and Ministry responsible for Housing to move as quickly as possible and in close consultation with local governments to develop and implement the first three measures:

- Regulating GHG emissions for new buildings;
- Home energy labelling; and
- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation;

And be it further resolved that the Province enable local governments to choose, when ready, to opt into the remaining two measures:

- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings;
- Building energy benchmarking and reporting.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions to address most of the requests found in this resolution, including:

- Home energy labelling (2020-NR52, 2014-B93);
- Property assessed clean energy (PACE) enabling legislation (2019-B140);
- Regulating GHG emissions for existing buildings (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25); and
- Building energy benchmarking and reporting (2020-EB58, 2019-B142, 2018-B31, 2018-B32, 2017-B62, 2014-B94).

In 2020, UBCM also released the recommendations of the Special Committee on Climate Action which called for funding and capacity building resources to support a low carbon future. The recommendations outline concrete actions that can be taken for buildings, transportation, solid waste, resilience, land use-planning, social mobilization and governance. In particular, the recommendations called for retrofit incentive programs, a low carbon building step retrofit code, and the addition of carbon metrics to the Energy Step Code.

However, the Committee advises that the membership has rejected resolutions that sought to regulate GHG emissions for new buildings, including 2020-NEB8 and 2019-B152.



## 19) Developing a Vision to End Energy Poverty

City of Powell River

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has a legislated target of reducing poverty in British Columbia by 25% by 2024 as part of the TogetherBC plan;

And whereas there are over 270,000 households in British Columbia that experience energy poverty, struggling to afford basic energy services like heating, lighting and cooking, and experiencing negative health, social and economic impacts as a result:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to set a clear vision and targets to end energy poverty in BC within the next ten years, taking action on the three key drivers of energy poverty: low incomes, high energy costs, and poor energy efficiency in homes.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to set a clear vision and targets to end energy poverty in BC within the next ten years, taking action on the three key drivers of energy poverty: low incomes, high energy costs, and poor energy efficiency in homes.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that separately address:

- Low incomes (Poverty reduction strategy: 2016-B47, 2015-B44) and (Income supports for food security: 2019-B69, 2013-B55, 2013-B56).
- High energy costs (2019-B73, 2018-B76, 2016-B48, 2015-B40).
- Poor energy efficiency in homes (2018-B31, 2018-B32, 2014-B28).

## 20) BC Circular Economy Strategy

City of Nanaimo, City of Victoria

Whereas the provisioning and management of goods and food consumed by BC communities produces excessive and unnecessary quantities of waste, pollution and carbon emissions that threatens environmental health;

And whereas the concept of a Circular Economy provides a vision and framework to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems to help BC communities move towards Zero Waste;

And whereas the Province has yet to develop a comprehensive strategy to transition BC's economy to a circular one:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the province of BC develop a provincial Circular Economy strategy.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions that support the creation of a circular economy. In particular, resolution 2017-B63 which called on the Province to develop a provincial zero waste strategy.

## **21) Province-Wide Strategy to Manage Construction and Demolition Waste**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas construction and demolition waste comprises approximately 2.8 million metric tonnes of materials annually in British Columbia, and about one-third of municipal solid waste disposed in the province;

And whereas the materials disposed could have been resold, reused or recycled, they represent sources of embodied carbon, and deconstruction provides six times more job opportunities;

And whereas recent research in just Metro Vancouver suggests the value of salvageable wood at \$343 million annually, and the addition of other materials and other regions would radically increase this number of value:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy develop a plan, including changes to regulations, provincial procurement policy, and economic and industrial policy, to significantly reduce construction and demolition waste.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop a plan, including changes to regulations, provincial procurement policy, and economic and industrial policy, to significantly reduce construction and demolition waste.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported a number of resolutions addressing the safe handling and disposal of drywall and gypsum, and the asbestos that can be found in those products (2017-B25, 2017-B45, 2017-B97, 2016-B143, 2012-B81).

The membership has also endorsed a similar resolution calling for the creation of an extended producer responsibility program for construction waste, which would address several elements of the enactment clause (2010-B90).

## 22) Illegal Dumping in Electoral Areas

RD of Nanaimo

Whereas illegal dumping of waste on Crown land and provincial rights-of-way continues to be a growing problem, particularly in rural locations, resulting in unsightly and dangerous refuse deposits in natural areas;

And whereas local governments contribute significant resources to mitigate illegal dumping, and the Province has the mandate for illegal dumping enforcement on Crown land:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to report out on the action of the provincial working group, review resources and strategies for addressing illegal dumping and optimize partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this problem.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to report out on the action of the provincial working group, review resources and strategies for addressing illegal dumping and optimize partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this problem.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that address illegal dumping (2020-EB56, 2018-B36, 2017-B25, 2017-B64, 2017-B97, 2012-B29, 2011-B89). In particular, Resolution 2017-B64 called for the Province to create a single ministry to be responsible for the regulation of illegal dumping, including enforcement.

The Committee would note that the whereas clauses do not reference any illegal dumping working group while the enactment clause does.

## 23) Drinking Water Protection and Private Managed Forest Land

Village of Cumberland

Whereas the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* identifies the protection of drinking water, both during and after harvesting, as a management objective;

And whereas private managed forest land located within and adjacent to community drinking water systems limit the ability of local governments to protect and control drinking water supply areas;

And whereas the Province of BC enacted the *Drinking Water Protection Act* to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, and local governments have improved treatment of community drinking water with significant financial support of senior government:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia establish programs for local governments to work with private managed forest landowners to assess risks to

drinking water systems and priority land acquisition for lands where harvesting is identified as a significant risk to the provision of safe drinking water.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to regulate private land logging in the same manner as crown land and to ensure that local governments are consulted in advance of harvesting to prevent damage to watersheds and other infrastructure (2020-EB48, 2020-EB65, 2019-B38, 2019-B46, 2019-B48, 2019-B49, 2018-B42, 2011-B50, 2010-B26, 2008-B34, 2006-B102, 2005-B27).

## **24) Community Climate Action Plans**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas 493 local governments across Canada, including dozens in BC, have adopted climate emergency declarations;

And whereas there is an urgent need for local governments to develop community climate action plans with clearly articulated targets, but local governments lack the financial resources to effectively implement such plans to mitigate the impacts of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide sustained financial support for local community climate action planning and implementation that serves to meet the goals of CleanBC.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to commit to meeting reduction targets for greenhouse gas emission, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects (2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2014-B26, 2012-B25, 2011-B98, 2010-B40, 2010-B71, 2010-B76, 2010-B84, 2010-B86, 2009-B113, 2009-B134, 2008-B72, 2008-B74, 2008-B76, 2008-B79, 2008-B91, 2008-B148, 2007-B33, 2007-B35, 2007-B177, 2007-LR4, 2006-B27, 2006-B109, 2006-B145, 2005-B28, 2004-B79, 2001-SR3, 2001-Energy Forum Recommendations).

In 2020, UBCM also released the recommendations of the Special Committee on Climate Action which called for funding and capacity building resources to support a low carbon future. The recommendations outline concrete actions that can be taken for buildings, transportation, solid waste, resilience, land use-planning, social mobilization and governance.

Whereas provincial legislation governing solid waste management in British Columbia has increasingly tightened over the past several years to address important environmental concerns and thereby downloaded new costs onto local governments who must operate or retire their landfills in compliance with new provincial priorities;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has not developed an equitable or effective fiscal strategy to resource local governments to meet these new landfill operation and closure costs, thereby forcing some local governments to operate, and consider retiring their landfills, under “grandfathered”, outdated, and environmentally unsound legislative criteria in order to cope with the substantial and unforeseen costs of compliance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide the necessary resources to local governments for landfill compliance related projects so that landfills may be operated and retired in an environmentally sound manner and obligations to First Nations may be better met in acknowledgment of Indigenous rights and title to impacted lands and water.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to provide the necessary resources to local governments for landfill compliance related projects so that landfills may be operated and retired in an environmentally sound manner and obligations to First Nations may be better met in acknowledgment of Indigenous rights and title to impacted lands and water.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2016-B27 that addresses the Landfill Operational Certificates and their resulting higher standards and increasing costs to local governments to operate landfills. The resolution called for provincial funding to assist local governments in their waste management initiatives that address the new standards.

## Resolutions Ballot #3

### LAND USE

#### 26) Risk Assessments of Potential Threats to Natural Assets

Town of Gibsons

Whereas local governments are working to prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change including increased severity of rain events, floods, fires, landslides and droughts, by working to develop co-governance and management plans and investing in the assessment, monitoring and, where appropriate, restoration of natural assets such as forests and creeks that provide vital ecosystems services;

And whereas the provincial government issues forestry and mining operating licenses and permits for the industrial activity taking place on Crown Lands and where these projects could have a potentially-negative impact on the downstream communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to, in their consideration of these projects, include a referral to affected local governments and undertake risk assessments to identify and assess any potential threats to the natural assets that communities rely on to provide essential services such as drinking water and flood mitigation.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has supported resolutions that seek better land use planning that ensures decision making takes into account the cumulative effects on the environment, such as watersheds (2020-EB61, 2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B33, 2018-B37, 2018-B94, 2018-B123, 2016-B56, 2015-B6, 2015-B7, 2015-B97, 2014-B75, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2012-B62, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8).

In particular, 2020-NR16, that was endorsed by the UBCM Executive, requested that the federal and provincial governments:

- implement requirements for incorporating green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in flood management to ensure effective flood mitigation; and,
- promote natural assets as a viable emergency planning solution and provide appropriate funding through specific grants and programs.

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### 27) De-Centralizing Forest Management on Vancouver Island & Coastal BC

Municipality of North Cowichan

Whereas the forest sector in British Columbia has been on a steady decline in recent decades, with dozens of mill closures, thousands of middle-class jobs lost, 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 licenses, regional trusts and other community-based governance models, they can enhance environmental sustainability and climate change resilience, provide stable and fulfilling employment, improve equity and fairness, and advance meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;

And whereas the region of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast (“Vancouver Island and the Coast”) would be well-suited for a pilot for a de-centralized forestry management model because of its strong record of success in community-based forestry management, exceptional local interest in forest practices, and history in land use planning at a macro-regional level:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the Province of British Columbia move to establish a de-centralized forest management model for Vancouver Island and the Coast that will empower local people in decision-making, and, as a first step, appoint a Forester General for the region who will undertake the following actions:

- Consult with First Nations, local communities, labour unions, industry, small business, and the broader public on current challenges with the Vancouver Island and Coast forest sector;
- Carry out region-specific analyses of the opportunities to increase employment and value-added manufacturing, restrict raw log exports, improve environmental sustainability, enhance climate change resilience, expand recreation and tourism, and advance meaningful reconciliation with First Nations;
- Develop a regional land use plan for Vancouver Island and the Coast based on broad consultations; and
- Recommend next steps for empowering Vancouver Island and the Coast in the management of forestry and related resources.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that this resolution is very regional in nature, focusing on communities in the geography covered by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities.

The Committee notes that the same sponsor submitted a similar resolution, UBCM 2020-C16, which was placed in UBCM’s Part C, and referred back to AVICC as it was deemed too regional in nature. The referred resolution is included at the end of the Resolutions as RR1.

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a similar resolution, 2019-B156, also from the same sponsor, but it took a more province-wide focus. It called for the establishment of a Forest Charter; adopting a region-based forest management model that empowers communities, and the appointment of a Forester General to serve as a new independent officer who will report annually to the Legislature and work with the diverse regions of our province on local land planning processes,

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to work with local governments and First Nations to improve the community benefits of forest resources (2018-B44, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2015-B37, 2015-B38, 2015-B63, 2013-B79, 2013-B105, 2012-B33, 2012-B109, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B104, 2011-B105, 2011-B167, 2010-B40, 2010-B104, 2010-B105, 2009-B47, 2009-B128, 2009-B131, 2008-B36, 2008-B37, 2007-B43, 2007-B44).

## **28) Reconsideration of Process to Phase Out Discovery Islands Fish Farms      City of Campbell River**

Whereas aquaculture is an important economic driver for the Province of British Columbia, particularly on Vancouver Island;

And whereas the federal government's decision to phase out existing salmon farming facilities in the Discovery Islands by June 30, 2022, creates financial, economic and social damages to workers, families, businesses and communities on Vancouver Island, across British Columbia and beyond:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to lobby the federal government to reconsider the process of phasing out salmon farms in the Discovery Islands area of BC and meet with industry and local government representatives immediately to begin a meaningful dialogue to minimize the damage of the Discovery Islands decision and chart a course for the future of the BC salmon farming industry.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to lobby the federal government to reconsider the process of phasing out salmon farms in the Discovery Islands area of BC and meet with industry and local government representatives immediately to begin a meaningful dialogue to minimize the damage of the Discovery Islands decision and chart a course for the future of the BC salmon farming industry. The Discovery Islands decision was made by the federal government in December 2020. Prior to this decision the federal government had committed to transitioning BC's open net pen operations by 2025.

Following the Discovery Islands decision, the UBCM President wrote to the federal DFO Minister on March 3, 2021 expressing concerns about the 2022 decision in light of the earlier 2025 date; but also UBCM policy that supports a transition to closed containment, not shut down fish farm operations.



The following extracts are from UBCM President Frenkel's letter to DFO Minister Bernadette Jordan, copied to the provincial government:

"We wish to note that UBCM members have supported, by resolution, the transition of open net pen operations to closed containment. Resolution 2018-A2 specifically asked that consultations occur with First Nations governments, local governments, conservation organizations and industry on a transition plan to closed-containment aquaculture, including a just transition for affected workers."

....

"Our concern is that these decisions [previous reference to Broughton Archipelago Agreement] are being made without any consultation with local government. We would question if either order of government has given consideration to the cumulative economic impacts and social costs that are being borne by these coastal communities. Will there be support to transition workers and communities that will be affected by these decisions? We would note that communities, businesses and residents are already struggling to manage within a challenging pandemic environment."

It is UBCM's understanding that there is presently a consultation process underway with affected communities around the 2025 transition plan.

## **29) Amendments to the Aquaculture Act**

**City of Campbell River**

Whereas aquaculture is an important economic driver for the Province of British Columbia, particularly on Vancouver Island;

And whereas the proposed Aquaculture Act must ensure decisions are based on scientific facts and technology, and take into consideration all stakeholder input:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to lobby the federal government to ensure that the proposed Aquaculture Act include language which ensures that all decisions on the management of aquaculture on the BC Coastline are based on science and evidence-based information with clear understanding of the advancement in technology and include all representatives of local or regional communities as stakeholders.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2018-B73, that asked the Province to ensure that all decisions with regards to the management of all fisheries, and protection of the natural environment, are made based on current data, technology, science and traditional knowledge.

The Committee also notes that the members have endorsed a number of resolutions in support of actions for the protection of fish and fish habitat (2013-B28, 2012-B80, 2009-B126, 2005-B38, 1997-B48, 1996-B68).

The Committee would also note that UBCM made a submission to the Aquaculture Policy Directorate in response to the federal government's request for comment on the development of an Aquaculture Act. In addition to providing UBCM member resolutions & policy, the following extracts from the cover letter speak to the role and interests of local government :

"UBCM recognizes the complex, multi-jurisdictional nature of aquaculture. We also recognize the local economic significance of this sector to many coastal communities; and the importance of protecting wild fish species as well. The attached resolutions speak to the membership's desire to be consulted and engaged in the management of all fisheries. " ...

"As the Aquaculture Policy Directorate moves forward to develop a new Aquaculture Act, we would request that any new legislation acknowledge the role of local governments. In BC, local governments are recognized as an order of government that needs to be consulted and engaged. "...

"In fact, local government interest in aquaculture is much broader than siting and licencing operations, communities are interested in how the industry will operate and be regulated as the federal government moves to transition BC's open net pen operations by 2025."

## **REGIONAL DISTRICTS**

### **30) Tree Management in Electoral Areas**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas regional districts have limited regulatory authority for tree management except in relation to protection from certain natural hazards;

And whereas electoral areas have similar concerns and objectives as municipalities in terms of other important aspects of tree management including maintaining tree cover and protecting heritage trees and watershed health;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the *Local Government Act* to provide broader tree management authority to regional districts equivalent to the authority granted by legislation to municipalities.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions calling on the Province to grant regional districts the authority to enact tree protection bylaws (2019-B58, 2015-B39, 2003-B41).

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 31) Internet Access in Health Care

qathet RD

Whereas reliable, accessible high speed internet access has been determined as essential for a basic quality of life in our society;

And whereas internet access can be unreliable or inaccessible for citizens confined to a health care facility which often leaves them disconnected from their loved ones and their community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM should advocate for the provincial government to ensure reasonable, reliable and accessible high speed internet access for patients confined to Health Care Facilities across the province.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to ensure reasonable, reliable and accessible high speed internet access for patients confined to Health Care Facilities across the province.

### 32) Increase Disability Benefits and Income Assistance Rates

City of Victoria

Whereas after many years of frozen income assistance rates and only minimal increases to disability benefits the current Provincial Government increased rates, for single people, by \$150 between 2017 and 2019 but most people who receive disability benefits or income assistance continue to live well below the poverty line;

And whereas the Provincial Government added a \$300/month COVID benefit for those receiving disability and income assistance, which temporarily reduced people's risk of losing their housing and increased their access to necessities including food and medical supplies, but as of January 2021 the benefit has been reduced to \$150/month and there is no commitment to provide additional support past March 2021:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM the Province of British Columbia to permanently reinstate the automatic, \$300/month benefit for people receiving disability benefits and income assistance and move to raise disability and income assistance to a livable rate that is above the market basket measure (MBM).

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting increases to income assistance and disability benefits (2018-B163, 2017-B53, 2016-B120, 2013-B55, 2011-B175), however there have been no prior requests for a specific dollar amount.

The Committee notes that the Province has committed to a permanent increase to income and disability assistance of \$175 per month, beginning in April 2021.

### **33) Paid Sick Leave for Workers**

**City of Victoria**

Whereas one year into a global pandemic that has killed thousands of British Columbians and millions of people worldwide, there is no legislation ensuring adequate, employer-paid sick days with the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit being temporary, sometimes inaccessible, and not of use for the crucial first few days of an illness;

And whereas if paid sick day legislation had been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced;

And whereas the lack of legislated paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour and women workers who are over-represented in frontline jobs, with low pay, few benefits, and without the ability to work from home:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to legislate a minimum of ten (10) accessible, universal, and permanent, paid sick days for all workers and additional days during public health outbreaks.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to legislate a minimum of ten (10) accessible, universal, and permanent, paid sick days for all workers and additional days during public health outbreaks.

### **34) Declaring the Overdose Crisis a National Public Health Emergency**

**District of Saanich**

Whereas it is understood that opioid addictions continue to cause an ever growing record number of heart breaking deaths and debilitations across the country;

And whereas while we understand the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have recognized these impacts, it remains critically important to advocate for a national public health emergency through the municipal voices provided by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop appropriate comprehensive, holistic Pan-Canadian overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, free and safe supply, suitable medical

treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in municipalities across Canada.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution that requests the declaration of a national public health emergency on the overdose crisis.

However, the membership has endorsed several resolutions on this issue, including 2019-B142 which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs; and resolution 2020-SR8 which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.

Declaring the Overdose Crisis a National Public Health Emergency make the same request as Resolution 35 from Capital RD titled: Opioid Crisis, except that Capital RD does not request that the safe drug supply be provided free of cost.

### **35) Opioid Crisis**

### **Capital RD**

Whereas it is understood that opioid addictions continue to cause an ever growing record number of heart breaking deaths and debilitations across the country;

And whereas while we understand the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have recognized these impacts, it remains critically important to advocate for a national public health emergency through the municipal voices provided by the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC), the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop appropriate comprehensive, holistic Pan-Canadian overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, safe supply, suitable medical treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in municipalities across Canada.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution that requests the declaration of a national public health emergency on the overdose crisis.

However, the membership has endorsed several resolutions on this issue, including 2019-B142 which called for a federally supported comprehensive and culturally safe public health approach to the

opioid crisis including policy frameworks governing illegal drugs; and resolution 2020-SR8 which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.

Opioid Crisis make the same request as Resolution 34 from Saanich titled: Declaring the Overdose Crisis a National Public Health Emergency, except that Saanich also requests that the safe drug supply be provided free of cost.

### **36) Farmers' Markets as Essential Services During Local Emergencies**

### **Village of Cumberland**

Whereas farmers' markets are a key resource in addressing food security during an emergency by providing access to food quickly and efficiently;

And whereas it has been demonstrated that farmers' markets can replace disruptions to food supply chains at the local community level and in times of emergency, for instance in the case of the Quesnel Farmers Market during the 2017 Cariboo Chilcotin wildfires and the closure of Highway 97 over multiple days:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province take the necessary steps to ensure farmers' markets are identified as an essential service during all provincial and local states of emergency.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that a similar resolution, 2020-NR66, was referred to the UBCM Executive due to a lack of time at the 2020 Convention. The Executive determined that no action was required for 2020-NR66 as farmers' markets were already listed as one of the COVID-19 Essential Services. In this current resolution, there is no reference to the COVID-19, instead it makes reference to other emergency situations.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the Province to ensure food security for British Columbians, including:

- Create programs and partnerships to increase community awareness of the benefits of nutritious and affordable food and support regional initiatives to enhance community food security (2019-B66)
- Create programs to promote and develop local food production on farmland and in greenhouses (2011-B100, 2011-B101, 2010-B47, 2008-A2)
- Protection of ALR land and help increase viability of farming and food production (2014-A3, 2011-B48)
- Limit production of cannabis on ALR lands so it is used for food production (2018-B132)
- Provide funding for community farm markets (2010-B96)
- Develop strategies and policies to ensure that BC is self-sufficient in food production by 2020 (2010-B119)

- Develop a 'Buy Local' program to promote the sale of local, sustainably produced foods (2010-B100, 2007-B175, 2002-B98)
- Allow local and/or mobile small-scale abattoir facilities to operate under less stringent facility regulations to allow meat processed in this manner to be sold locally to the public (2016-B39, 2013-B38, 2010-B49, 2008-A2)
- Change school curriculums to include local food production, food security and school gardens (2009-B144)
- Provide resources to enable all local governments to create and implement solutions for supporting local food resilience and supply through food systems planning (2009-B132)
- Increase funding and support for farmers and the agricultural sector (2009-B89, 2009-B50, 2008-B47, 2000-B101)
- Show support for continued existence of agricultural fairs and exhibitions in BC (2013-B82).

### 37) Improved Access to Detox and Treatment Centres

City of Port Alberni

Whereas there are extensive wait lists and limited access for individuals seeking entry to provincially funded residential detox and recovery treatment centres;

And whereas individuals struggling with addiction are often required to complete medical detox prior to accessing/obtaining rehabilitation treatment:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province to improve access to and reduce wait times for individuals seeking treatment for their addictions through medical detox and rehabilitation treatment centres.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions making similar requests, including those that:

- seek more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities (2019-B61);
- seek resources to establish sobering and assessment centres (2014-B70);
- seek, in part, more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC (2010-B145);
- seek more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province (2007-B51); and
- seek more regional detox centres (2006-B8).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

## HOUSING

### 38) Acquisition of Apartment Buildings for Affordable Housing

City of Victoria

Whereas communities face acute challenges around housing affordability and housing availability, undermining the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities;

And whereas purpose-built rental apartment buildings from previous decades are an essential component of the current rental housing supply, meaning that future renewal of these properties poses substantial opportunities and risks to current occupants as well as local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to work with local communities, the not-for-profit sector and other partners on a program of land banking purpose-built rental apartment buildings, to preserve and renew this essential component of the affordable rental housing supply.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to work with local communities, the not-for-profit sector and other partners on a program of land banking purpose-built rental apartment buildings, to preserve and renew this essential component of the affordable rental housing supply.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ways to encourage investment in older and new rental housing stock (2018-B56, 2017-B53, 2016-OF1, 2015-B14, 2015-B47, 2015-B48, 2015-B49, 2014-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B143, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-A7, 2007-B40, 2007-B108, 2007-B197, 2006-B118, 2005-B47, 2004-B30, 2000-B77).

### 39) Enhanced Communications to Address Homelessness Related Issues

City of Courtenay

Whereas there has been limited communication with local governments regarding Provincial COVID-19 response initiatives to ensure the health and safety of individuals experiencing homelessness and local governments play an integral ongoing role in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness through the support of non-profits, emergency response services, pursuing long-term affordable housing options, and formal communication between governments is vital to enhance homelessness response and support initiatives;

And whereas homelessness response actions undertaken by the provincial government have a direct impact on local government resources such as bylaw enforcement, policing, fire response, land use planning, and the maintenance of public space to ensure safe enjoyment:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the provincial government to consult with local governments when planning new housing and facilities to support homeless people.



*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the the Province to recognize local governments as a key stakeholder in homelessness response and support efforts and be included in related planning processes prior to implementation.

However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of communication and consultation with local government (2019-SR1, 2019-B3, 2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141, 2002-SR1, 2001-A9).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary provincial housing strategy including plans to address homelessness (2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2017-B98, 2016-B45).

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31).

#### **40) Unauthorized Camping Crisis**

#### **Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas unauthorized camping has affected in negative ways residents, businesses, the environment and, in many cases, those experiencing homelessness throughout the province;

And whereas the COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated the effects of, and very significantly increased the occurrences of, unauthorized camping:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to prioritize working with local governments in understanding the effects of unauthorized camping on all parties and actively participate in mitigating those that are deleterious to the health and welfare of people, to the environment and to business.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2019-B183, calling on the Province to work with local governments to develop policy to address rural homelessness, noting limitations in the province's response to Crown land encampments.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop a national housing strategy and complementary

provincial housing strategy including plans to address homelessness (2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2017-B52, 2017-B98, 2016-B45).

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, to in part, address homelessness (2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30, 2003-LR21, 2002-A21, 2002-B64, 2000-B31).

## SELECTED ISSUES

### 41) Funding for Small Communities to Attend AVICC

Central Coast RD

Whereas the costs for travel to and attendance at in-person AVICC conventions for very small and remote local governments constitutes a significantly higher percentage of their budgets compared to larger and more urban local governments;

And whereas the number of elected officials who can attend from small and remote communities is therefore significantly impacted and often reduced:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC consider creating a fund to support local governments who experience significant challenges allocating funds to send representatives to the AVICC annual convention.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

If this resolution passes, the AVICC Executive will develop a policy around eligibility (defining what is considered a small and remote community), coverage (what type of costs would be compensated), and funding options (increasing member dues or convention registration fees). The Executive would bring back a report on eligibility, coverage and options for financing the travel and attendance costs for the consideration of the membership at the 2022 Convention.

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered two similar resolutions:

- 2002-B70 was not endorsed; and
- 2019-B178 was referred back to the sponsor for clarification by the UBCM Executive.

The latter resolution's enactment was as follows:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM implement a travel cost equalization policy to ensure local government elected officials from low revenue and rural communities have an equal opportunity to attend and participate in annual UBCM conventions as local governments in relatively close proximity to Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler.

The Resolutions Committee noted that while the sponsor's concerns were valid, there are so many questions that would need to be considered before embarking on any further work; such as funding

model; what is definition of rural; how would the program be funded, etc. The Committee also noted that without any direction from the membership it is difficult to know if the membership would be supportive of this approach; or what criteria it would wish to apply; or how the fund would be established. As a result, the Executive asked that 2019-B178 be referred back to the sponsor for them to consider re-submitting in 2020 to allow the membership to debate the matter. The sponsor did not re-submit in 2020 so the matter was not considered.

#### **42) Funding for Small Communities to Attend UBCM**

**Central Coast RD**

Whereas the costs for travel to and attendance at in-person UBCM conventions for very small and remote local governments constitutes a significantly higher percentage of their budgets compared to larger and more urban local governments;

And whereas the number of elected officials who can attend from small and remote communities is therefore significantly impacted and often reduced:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM consider creating a fund to support local governments who experience significant challenges allocating funds to send representatives to the UBCM annual convention.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered two similar resolutions:

- 2002-B70 was not endorsed; and
- 2019-B178 was referred back to the sponsor for clarification by the UBCM Executive.

The latter resolution's enactment was as follows:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM implement a travel cost equalization policy to ensure local government elected officials from low revenue and rural communities have an equal opportunity to attend and participate in annual UBCM conventions as local governments in relatively close proximity to Vancouver, Victoria and Whistler.

The Resolutions Committee noted that while the sponsor's concerns were valid, there are so many questions that would need to be considered before embarking on any further work; such as funding model; what is definition of rural; how would the program be funded, etc. The Committee also noted that without any direction from the membership it is difficult to know if the membership would be supportive of this approach; or what criteria it would wish to apply; or how the fund would be established. As a result, the Executive asked that 2019-B178 be referred back to the sponsor for them to consider re-submitting in 2020 to allow the membership to debate the matter. The sponsor did not re-submit in 2020 so the matter was not considered.

### 43) 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 UBCM's 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 ask UBCM to allow the Regional Community to Community Forum grants not be subject to specific deadlines but be made available throughout the year;

And be it further resolved that those granted funds be available for a full calendar year.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Action Required**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the same sponsor submitted the same resolution last year: 2020-NR77. Due to a lack of time at Convention, it was referred to the UBCM Executive. The Executive confirmed the recommendation of: No Action Required. Consequently, it was returned to the sponsor.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B23 calling for stable, ongoing funding programs with systemic, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to assist with First Nations reconciliation and relationship building efforts, but the present resolution specifically addresses the administration of the C2C Program.

With regards to the C2C program, the Resolutions Committee notes that the program is required to meet the conditions of funding set by the federal government. This includes the restriction that all funded activities must be completed within the fiscal year for which the funding was provided. Consequently, UBCM does not have the ability to adjust program design elements such as those requested in the enactment clause.

However, the program design is also quite flexible, and includes:

- Applicants have the full fiscal year in which they apply to complete their event. For applicants that apply for the spring deadline, this generally means their event can take place at any time in the following 12 months.
- UBCM aims to respond to all applications within 30 days of the deadline.
- Applications can be submitted at any time and are generally reviewed by UBCM and the First Nations Summit after three deadlines each year (which is more than many programs that only offer an annual intake).

**REFERRED RESOLUTION – *Provided for information only, refer to similar Resolution 27.***

**RR1) De-Centralizing Forest Management**

**Municipality 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.

*Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Refer to Similar Resolution 27**

*Resolutions Committee comments:*

After being submitted to AVICC in 2020, this resolution was not admitted for debate at the 2020 UBCM Convention, and was referred back to AVICC. The resolution sponsor subsequently submitted a similar resolution which is included in this package as Resolution 27 and replaces the resolution put forward in 2020.