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## RESOLUTION SUBMISSION

**To: AVICC**

**From: Board of Directors, Central Coast Regional District**

**Date: February 26, 2021**

**Subject: AVICC/UBCM Resolution Submission: Sponsorship for Small Local Government Attendance at Area and UBCM Conventions**

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### Issue/Background Summary:

The Central Coast Regional District has the smallest tax base of any regional district in the province, and like many small municipal governments, elected official attendance at their area and UBCM conventions presents an inequitable strain on local tax payers, in comparison to local governments who have larger property tax bases to draw from to support civic governance.

Rural and remote communities continuously struggle to influence political decisions that affect their lives and well-being. Area and UBCM annual general meeting conventions provide important networking and advocacy opportunities for elected local government officials to advance their communities, both through the formal association resolution processes and through access to contemporaneous opportunities to access provincial ministers and staff during convention. Some local governments have greater flexibility than others in ensuring representation and participation at these events, given larger tax bases to absorb the travel, accommodation and convention costs. For some small local governments, the cost is simply too prohibitive to send representation to these events. The smaller the tax-base of the local government, the greater the relative burden is on property tax payers to send representation and ensure effective participation. This inequity disproportionately impacts rural and remote communities most in need of member association support and access to provincial ministers and staffers to ensure their community's views and needs are heard on matters impacting their lives and well-being.

Funding and a sponsorship framework are needed to address the issue of equitable local government participation at area and UBCM annual general conventions.

The CCRD Board of Directors has opted to submit a resolution to the AVICC 2021 Convention for endorsement in the hopes of further consideration for member support at UBCM 2021. The Board resolution supporting the resolution submission will be available to AVICC upon the adoption of the CCRD's February 11, 2021 Special Board Meeting minutes.