

2023 RESOLUTIONS

PART SR – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

We do not anticipate any Special Resolutions as defined under the Societies Act

PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

We do not anticipate resolutions from the AVICC Executive at this time

PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

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

Part 1 - Section “A”

This section contains regional resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse

HOUSING

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

ENVIRONMENT

R2 Provision of Energy for Commercial Agriculture City of Parksville

Part 1 - Section “B”

This section contains regional resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse.

ENVIRONMENT

R3 Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Village of Cumberland

LAND USE

R4 E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration Regional District of Nanaimo

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R5 Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust Capital Regional District

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS

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

Part 2 - Section “A”

This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse, and resolutions that offer the recommendation of Endorse with Proposed Amendment

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R6 BC Emergency Health Services/Demands on Local Governments City of Port Alberni

R7 BC Health Attraction and Retention Village of Zeballos

HOUSING

R8 Annual Adjustment of Provincial Home Owner Grant City of Parksville

R9 Review of the Homeowner Protection Act District of Port Hardy

R10 Extreme Weather Response City of Nanaimo

R11 Planning Tools for Habitat Protection City of Parksville

ENVIRONMENT

- R12 New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments in the Climate Transition
Comox Valley Regional District
- R13 Managed Forest Council Representation
Village of Cumberland
- R14 Control of Scotch Broom
Town of Qualicum Beach
- R15 Protection of Old-Growth Forests
District of Metchosin
- R16 Call for Improvements for Provincial Water Licencing Approvals
District of Sechelt

LAND USE

- R17 Flexibility for Agriculture Land Reserve Housing Rules
City of Nanaimo

TAXATION

- R18 Deferment Program for Local Government Parcel Taxes and Utility Fees
District of Sechelt

LEGISLATIVE

- R19 Long-Term Vacant Buildings
District of Port Hardy

SELECTED ISSUES

- R20 Fossil Fuel Corporate Sponsorship of UBCM and AVICC
City of Courtenay
- R21 Enable Electronic Attendance at Conventions
Town of View Royal

Part 2 - Section "B"

This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- R22 Safe Drug Supply
City of Victoria
- R23 Rural, Remote Paramedic Sustainability
Village of Zeballos

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- R24 Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras
District of Saanich

ENVIRONMENT

- R25 Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs
Comox Valley Regional District
- R26 Expansion of the Recycling Regulation to Include Industrial, Commercial,
and Institutional Packaging and Printed Paper Recyclables
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- R27 Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward
City of Courtenay
- R28 New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Species at Risk
Islands Trust
- R29 Regional Water Supply Strategies
Regional District of Nanaimo
- R30 Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver
District of Metchosin

TRANSPORTATION

- R31 Parking on Ministry of Transportation Rights-of-Way
Regional District of Nanaimo
- R32 Public Safety and Speed Limits
Cowichan Valley Regional District
- R33 Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure
Cowichan Valley Regional District

FINANCE

- R34 Downtown Revitalization Grant Program
District of Port Hardy
- R35 Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries
City of Powell River and qathet Regional District
- R36 Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments
District of Sechelt

LAND USE

- R37 Removal of Racist and Discriminatory Clauses from BC Land Titles
City of Courtenay
- R38 Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archeological Requirements
District of Sechelt

LEGISLATIVE

- R39 Modernization of the Local Government Act
Sunshine Coast Regional District

PART SR – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

We do not anticipate any Special Resolutions as defined under the Societies Act

PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

We do not anticipate resolutions from the Executive at this time.

PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

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

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

HOUSING

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM 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 (2022-EB27, 2022-NR64, 2021-EB71, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 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).

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of addressing homelessness across the province. The Committee would suggest that this resolution is regional in nature, focusing only on Vancouver Island communities, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association.

The Committee notes that the enactment clause does not make reference to Regional District Chairs. It should be noted that if the resolution be endorsed as written, AVICC cannot direct UBCM

to take action. In addition, the UBCM Housing Summit has been scheduled to take place prior to the AVICC convention, and the outcome of this conference is unknown at this time.

ENVIRONMENT

R2) Provision of Energy for Commercial Agriculture

City of Parksville

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

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

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

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

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking the production of green energy (or clean energy) research, development and implementation (2013-B42, 2008-B41, 2007-B129).

More generally, the UBCM membership has also endorsed resolutions calling for greenhouse gas reductions (2022-NR42, 2020-NR38, 2014-B26).

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of addressing cleaner energy sources for agricultural production. The Committee would suggest that this resolution is regional in nature, focusing only on AVICC members and on Vancouver Island and coastal communities, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association.

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

ENVIRONMENT

R3) Watershed Security Strategy and Fund

Village of Cumberland

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of addressing watershed security across the province. The Committee would suggest that this resolution is regional in nature, focusing only on eastern Vancouver Island, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association.

LAND USE

R4) E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration

Nanaimo Regional District

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the provincial and federal governments to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for their 2030 targets, and engage with impacted First Nations, local governments and land owners in a process to protect and restore the biodiversity of the southeast region of Vancouver Island with a focus on community watershed catchment areas, riparian areas along fish-bearing rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and habitats, and culturally significant areas.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking protection and restoration of biodiversity, in watershed areas, riparian areas and sensitive ecosystems and habitats, including:

- local governments to protect and manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122);
- protection of riparian areas throughout the province (2016-B110, 2010-B26, 2007-B42, 2004-B78, 2001-B82; and
- protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health (2022-NR38, 2010-B35, 2008-B87).

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of addressing biodiversity and watershed security across the province. The Committee would suggest that this resolution is regional in nature, focusing only on southeast Vancouver Island, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R5) Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust

Capital Regional District

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2022-RR38 which asked the provincial government to make a generational investment in the renewal and transformation of Island Coastal Economic Trust into a permanent, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) focused, First Nations- and local government-led, fund focused on building sustainable, resilient communities for generations to come.

However, the Committee advises that an earlier resolution, 2015-C37, which asked the Province to provide further funding for the Island Coastal Economic Trust, was deemed too regional in nature and therefore not admitted for debate. Resolution 2022-RR38 was originally categorized as being too regional in nature, but the membership agreed to consider the resolution and endorsed it.

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association.

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS

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

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

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R6) BC Emergency Health Services/Demands on Local Governments

City of Port Alberni

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two similar resolutions which asked for better coordination between BCEHS and local governments, whose fire departments may be called upon to provide pre-hospital emergency care (2022-EB3, 2019-SR3).

Resolution 2022-EB3 asked the Province to require BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to report regularly to local government prior to the initiation of a policy where that policy may have an impact on local government resources or the safety of our mutual constituents.

Resolution 2019-SR3 asks the Province, BCEHS and BC local governments to work together to implement a co-ordinated approach to pre-hospital care, including outlining the roles and

responsibilities of fire departments based on local need; and confirming that first responders are being notified of events where they can best contribute to patient care.

R7) BC Health Attraction and Retention

Village of Zeballos

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).

Resolution 2022-SR1 in particular proposed, in part, that the provincial government increase funding and training opportunities for health care professionals so that all residents of British Columbia can access an appropriate and necessary level of care.

As well, resolution 2016-B44 proposed that the provincial government should “allocate long-term fixed funding to Divisions of Family Practice to support ... ongoing recruitment and retention of family physicians,” as well as collaborate with the regional health authorities towards the goal of “attaching every citizen to patient-centered and community base primary care homes.”

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of attracting and retaining medical professionals across the province.

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature as written, focusing only on the Vancouver Island Health region, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association. The Committee has updated the title and proposed amendments to the enactment clause to make the resolution non-regional in nature.

HOUSING

R8) Annual Adjustment of Provincial Home Owner Grant

City of Parksville

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution that asked the Province to adjusted the Home Owners Grant (HOG) on an annual basis to account for inflation.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported other resolutions seeking amendments to the HOG including:

- 2022-NR20 which asked for an increase to the additional home owner grant to reflect the actual school tax charged on the property where the school tax is higher than the home owner grant;
- 2008-B98 which asked to amend the *Home Owner Grant Act* to allow all senior property owners to claim the full additional Home Owner Grant;
- 2008-B99 which asked to amend the HOG program to include criteria for the next two years (up from one year) following a fire or natural disaster; and
- 2007-B111 and 2004-A9 which asked to adjust or remove the upper limit assessed value ceiling for HOG.

The Resolutions Committee also notes that the Home Owner Grant has been subject of some critique as being regressive, because it benefits homeowners while excluding renters. As such, both the Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability, and the MSP Task Force recommended its elimination.

R9) Review of the *Homeowner Protection Act*

District of Port Hardy

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

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

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

*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 review the residential *Homeowner Protection Act* regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.

The Committee would note that such an approach, while potentially increasing housing supply, could increase regulatory risk for local governments responsible for building inspections.

R10) Extreme Weather Response

City of Nanaimo

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions that asked the Province to provide funding for, and work with local governments, to open extreme weather response shelters and warming and cooling centers (2022-EB11, 2021-EB73, 2012-B94).

R11) Planning Tools for Habitat Protection

City of Parksville

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions, including:

- 2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public;
- 2010-B35 which asked the Province to develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC; and
- 2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact a strong Species and Ecosystem Protection Act to safeguard British Columbia's exceptional biological richness - in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change - recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.

The comments provided above reflect the broader issue of addressing habitat protection across the province. The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature as written, focusing only on AVICC member communities and Vancouver Island, and that advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association. As such, the Committee has proposed an amendment to the enactment clause to make the resolution non-regional in nature. If the resolution is endorsed as originally written, the requested meeting facilitation is beyond the scope of AVICC's advocacy objectives, and AVICC staff's capacity, other than making a written request to the Province. If the resolution is endorsed as amended, the resolution would be forwarded to UBCM for consideration by UBCM membership.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Comox Valley Regional District

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

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

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

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 establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed numerous resolutions proposing policies and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local governments to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions include: 2022-EB45, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101 and 2010-B140.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action called for a wide range of local government funding and capacity supports in the areas of land-use planning, resiliency, transportation, buildings, solid waste, governance and social mobilization. UBCM has been advocating for the implementation of those recommendations.

R13) Managed Forest Council Representation

Village of Cumberland

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for the amendment of the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems.

However, the Committee notes that the 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 (2021-EB29, 2020-EB48, 2020-EB65, 2019-B38, 2019-B46, 2019-B48, 2019-B49, 2018-B42, 2011-B50, 2010-B26, 2008-B34, 2006-B102, 2005-B27).

In particular, 2021-EB29 titled Drinking Water Protection and Private Managed Forest Land, submitted by the same sponsor, asked the Province to 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.

R14) Control of Scotch Broom

Town of Qualicum Beach

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

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

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

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

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 control the spread of Scotch Broom as a fire safety measure, nor has the membership considered the use of bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom.

However, the Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2013-B31 which asked the Province to designate Scotch Broom as a noxious weed under the *BC Weed Control Act*.

Additionally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions addressing invasive species, including other types of plants:

- Plants (2014-B22, 2013-B108, 2013-B66, 2011-B44, 2011-B135, 2010-B29, 2008-B71, 2007-B30, 2007-B31, 2005-B25, 2004-B72, 2003-B81);
- Quagga and zebra mussels (2020-EB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2);
- Asian clams (2021-EB27);
- Soils free of invasive pests (2106-B113);
- Ban on sale of invasive species (2017-B28);
- Rat reduction strategy (2017-B108);
- Request for an Invasive Species Act which was endorsed by the UBCM Executive (2020-NR57); and
- Request for Province to budget for long-term, stable funding for invasive species management (2020-EB49); and
- Protection of waterways from invasive aquatic species (2021-EB26).

R15) Protection of Old-Growth Forests

District of Metchosin

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking protection of old growth forest areas in BC (2021-SR2, 2019-B36, 2017-B66, 2016-C27).

However, recognizing the significant economic impact that this shift in how old growth and other land, water and resources are to be managed; UBCM has asked that the Province engage and consult with local governments as it implements the Old Growth recommendations specifically noting recommendations 13 and 14 speak to orderly transition planning at the provincial and local level; as well as transition support for communities. An amendment is being proposed that requests that this consultation and support be provided to local governments as part of this process.

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

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

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

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

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

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2021-NR30 which asked the Province to provide clarity on what is causing delays in the issuance of water licenses.

LAND USE

R17) Flexibility for Agriculture Land Reserve Housing Rules

City of Nanaimo

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions in support of farm family residences on ALR land, including:

- 2020-EB64 which asked the Agricultural Land Commission that the January 28, 2020 signed amendment to section 32 (3) (c) and (d) of the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation, BC Reg. 30/2019 remain permanently in effect and not expire on December 31, 2020, which would have limited land parameters and inhibit construction of additional residences does not fit the agricultural need of most BC rural communities;

- 2019-B168 which asked the Province to reinstate the previous provisions of the legislation which facilitated the construction of additional dwellings for farm help, manufactured homes for immediate family members, accommodation above an existing farm building, or a second single family dwelling;
- 2017-B139 which asked, in part, that the ALC allow the siting of other moveable dwellings on ALR land; and
- 2014-B115 which asked the ALC to allow permanent secondary residences to be built on ALR land.

The Committee notes that in July 2021, options for a small secondary home were added to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation. The changes allow ALR landowners to have both a principal residence and small secondary residence on their property with a streamlined approval process. Only permissions from local government or First Nations government will be required, and there will be no application to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The change came into effect on December 31, 2021.

In addition, the Commission may approve an application for an additional residence if necessary for farm use: ALCA, s. 25(1.1) and/or land owners can submit an application to the ALC for non-adhering residential use for other residential uses.

The Committee is offering no recommendation as it is not clear if the 2021 regulatory changes address the request of the sponsor which appears to be seeking permission for more than three housing units on ALR land subject to that housing being used by farmers working on the land.

TAXATION

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

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

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

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

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 expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

The Committee also advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse three resolutions (2000-LR1, 1996-B50, 1997-B45) that called for the deferment of water and sewer utility charges to be deferred. However, in 1990, resolution LR2 was endorsed and it called for the deferral of garbage, water and sewer charges.

The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.

LEGISLATIVE

R19) Long-Term Vacant Buildings

District of Port Hardy

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee has advised that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to grant local government broader authority to incentivize or compel long-term vacant buildings to be functionally utilized in accordance with the zoning.

However, Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2020-EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR64 which asked the Province to develop and fund an incentive for more readily and rapidly repurposing vacant land as temporary Class 3 Supportive Housing, to support the creation of emergency or ad-hoc housing or shelter with on-site supports as a short-term use, and including tiny homes, navigation centres, portables, and/or modular housing.

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 (2022-EB27, 2022-NR64, 2021-EB71, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 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).

The Committee notes that the sponsor's request is seeking to "incentivize or compel" an owner to functionally utilize their building. However, depending on what that authority entails, it is not known what the potential impacts might be of that change and if there would be any other unintended consequences to properties and businesses.

SELECTED ISSUES

R20) Fossil Fuel Corporate Sponsorship of UBCM and AVICC

City of Courtenay

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to not solicit/accept support or corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel producers in acknowledgment of the inherent contradiction between fossil fuel sponsorship of local government associations and the role local governments play responding to and combating climate change.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive referred resolution 2019-LR3 which asked UBCM to end its practice of accepting financial sponsorship and facilitating receptions from foreign governments, to a special Review Panel on Finance & Sponsorship. That Panel recommended that UBCM stop accepting sponsorship from foreign governments.

The matter of corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel companies is currently being reviewed by the UBCM Executive. At the February 2023 Executive meeting, board members reviewed the current Convention Finance and Sponsorship policy, received information on current sponsorships noting that fossil fuel companies currently represent 13% or \$41,500 of the overall sponsorship funds in 2022. It was noted that sponsorships contribute approximately 20% towards convention revenue and offsets the fees charged for registration, meals, etc. Deliberations on this matter are continuing, with a further report to the April UBCM Executive meeting.

Corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel companies at the AVICC convention amounted to 12% of total sponsorship funds (or \$9,500) in 2022 and 8% of total sponsorship funds (or \$6000) in 2023. The Committee also notes that revisions to the AVICC Sponsorship Policy were made in October 2022, removing speaking opportunities from all sponsoring non-government organizations, which impacted total sponsorship funds by \$7500 from 2022 to 2023.

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse resolution 2022-NEB3 entitled Hybrid UBCM Conventions which asked UBCM to provide the option of electronic attendance at Convention.

Following two virtual Conventions in 2020 and 2021, UBCM explored the potential of a hybrid Convention, but determined that over and above the usual \$1.5 million in expenses for an in-person Convention, costs to hold a hybrid event would be at least an additional \$350,000. UBCM would need to increase registration fees to cover these additional costs. Besides the costs, the Committee would also note the logistical challenges of a hybrid event. How would Executive elections be conducted both on line and virtually? If so, how would we do a call for nominations from the floor for virtual participants? Would UBCM need to conduct both in person and virtual elections? What happens if a delegate attending in person does not have access to a device to vote on line? There is the potential to inadvertently disenfranchise an elected official.

On June 24, 2022, the AVICC Executive received a report and high-level quote to consider moving the 2023 AVICC AGM & Convention to a hybrid format. The total additional audio-visual cost quoted was at least \$75,000 (or \$300 per paid delegate) to offer a similar inclusive experience to all delegates, whether they attended virtually or in-person. Additional implications may include a loss of registration revenue as a result of potentially shared virtual registrations, the inability to commit to hotel room blocks due to unpredictable in-person attendance, a potential loss of sponsorship and tradeshow revenue, loss of economic benefit to the host-communities resulting in higher venue rental rates, and connectivity issues, as experienced during the 2020 and 2021 virtual conventions for delegates in remote communities. The Committee would also like to note that AVICC only has one employee, and that additional staff resources would be required to successfully execute a hybrid convention.

The Committee would flag the challenges with conducting a resolutions session both virtually and in person. It is not clear how votes in person and virtually could be synced and tallied during a resolutions session to provide definitive results. We know from our virtual convention experiences, there are time lags in internet service for some members so a resolutions session could potentially take twice as long if conducted both virtually and in person simultaneously. Currently, UBCM struggles to get through all the resolutions within the allocated timeframe, so under a more time-consuming process, fewer resolutions would likely be considered under a hybrid model.

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

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R22) Safe Drug Supply

City of Victoria

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two recent resolutions that sought a safe drug supply, 2021-EB56 and 2021-NR44. In particular, 2021-NR44 asked that the safe drug supply be free.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed other resolutions seeking harm reduction measures to address the on-going toxic drug crisis, including:

- 2022-SR2, which called for funding and staff for security, clean-up, and social services at harm reduction locations and surrounding neighbourhoods in BC communities, as well as a share of the \$150 million settlement from Purdue Pharma Canada to local governments to help cover the costs associated with the opioid and overdose crisis, such as police, fire and bylaw departments;
- 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
- 2020-SR8, which called for ongoing, sustained funding to address the overdose public health emergency.

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking to improve and increase ambulance staffing and service in BC, including in small, rural communities, most recently:

- review rural BC Ambulance resourcing models to ensure that adequate resources are available to properly service rural communities (2022-EB5);
- undertake a review of the BC Ambulance Service, specifically in the rural areas, to find a solution and systematic way of managing recruitment and retention of paramedics and delivery of service in rural communities 2022-EB6);
- provide funding for increased wages and training opportunities to assist with recruiting and retention of workers in the BCEHS (2022-EB7);
- establish a staffing model that ensures adequate staffing levels are in place and remain within rural community boundary (2021-EB61);
- undertake a review to find solutions and a systematic way of managing recruitment and retention of paramedics and delivery of service in rural communities (2021-EB62);
- more resources and a commitment to find a long-term solution for staff shortages for small rural community ambulance services (2020-EB74);
- better coordination for pre-hospital health care (2019-SR3);
- more solutions to ensure medical specialists and services are available in rural BC (2019-B63);
- more advanced care and critical care paramedics in rural ambulance stations (2017-B133); and
- better and more equitable standby pay for paramedics (2017-B134, 2006-B48).

However, the membership has not specifically considered a resolution requesting full time paid paramedic positions for small, rural and remote communities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

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

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

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

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed two resolutions with very similarly worded enactment clauses, 2019-B8 and 2017-B90, that requested the authority for local governments to implement photo radar at their own expense.

Resolution 2019-B8 specifically asked for "the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement photo radar, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense." In response, the Province did not directly respond to the request, only noting that the Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program is not available to local governments, and that the provincial focus is on implementing ISC speed activation cameras at 35 high priority sites.

The Resolutions Committee also notes that the membership endorsed other related resolutions, including:

- 2013-B91, which asked the Province to amend legislation to permit the use of speed cameras in school and playground traffic zones, with fine revenue to be shared on a negotiated basis between local governments; and
- 2011-B84, which asked the Province to allow for intersection safety cameras to be installed at crash-prone locations where marked crosswalks are absent.

ENVIRONMENT

R25) Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

Comox Valley Regional District

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

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

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

*Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed other resolutions requesting financial support and recycling services for smaller and rural communities (2022-EB55, 2019-B43, 2018-B69, 2017-B109, 2014-A6).

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

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

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

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

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

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to include the ICI sectors in the Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility programs (2021-EB33, 2020-EB54, 2020-NR57, 2019-B146, 2018-B68).

UBCM received this resolution after the June 30 submission deadline and included it in the Report on Resolutions Received After the Deadline. Upon consideration of the report at our Convention, UBCM members did not deem LR2 to be emergency in nature and therefore it was not admitted for debate. In accordance with UBCM procedures for handling resolutions, with permission of the sponsor, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, UBCM referred this resolution to AVICC for consideration as a part of the 2023 resolutions cycle.

R27) Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward

City of Courtenay

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions in support of PACE, including:

- 2022-EB48 which asked the Province to prioritize the PACE initiative enabling legislation and include consideration for participation by electoral area residents of regional districts;
- 2021-EB36 which asked the Province to support BC legislation enabling PACE by third-party administration; and
- 2019-B140 which asked the Province to develop PACE enabling legislation for BC municipalities.

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed similar resolutions, including:

- 2022-NR38 which asked the Province to develop new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health, in a manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and with the involvement of local governments, civil society groups, Indigenous Knowledge Holders, scientists, and members of the public;
- 2010-B35 which asked the Province to develop a Species and Ecosystems Protection Act for BC; and
- 2008-B87 which asked the Province to enact a strong Species and Ecosystem Protection Act to safeguard British Columbia's exceptional biological richness - in particular, against the threats posed by habitat loss and climate change - recognizing the critical importance of conserving biodiversity to maintaining ecosystem integrity and human well-being.

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

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

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

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 provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the federal government and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to take all available actions to immediately reduce the use of freighter anchorages along southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. Nor has the membership considered a request that Transport Canada expand monitoring and inspection of freighters anchored outside the limits of the Port of Vancouver.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions expressing concerns about potential negative impacts of increased marine traffic in the Salish Sea and other BC coastal waters—especially increased tanker traffic (2016-B21, 2012-A8, 2011-LR6, 2010-B139, 2008-B143, 2003-B23).

The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-NR45 which sought a Coastal Protection Strategy and law to leverage and coordinate the work of provincial ministries, First Nations, local communities, and stakeholder groups to preserve coastal and ocean health, halt coastal habitat loss, accelerate the completion of a network of marine protected areas to benefit fisheries, biodiversity and the economy, set marine environmental quality objectives from upland activities, and help communities adopt ecosystem-based approaches to manage risks from flooding due to extreme weather events, sea level rise, climate change, and ocean acidification.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Regional District of Nanaimo

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a nearly identical resolution, 2019-B56, that sought authority for regional districts to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and right-of-ways.

The Provincial response to 2019-B56 indicated that the government was supportive of exploring the current parking and enforcement regulations on provincial roads within regional districts.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2014-B102, which called for regional districts to be granted the authority to enforce parking regulations within their boundaries.

FINANCE

R32) Downtown Revitalization Grant Program

District of Port Hardy

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program (2009-B22, 2006-B36), and to fund a revitalization program for resource communities (2007-B114).

The Committee also notes that membership more recently endorsed B37 in 2016 asking the Province to re-implement the Business Façade Improvement Grant Programme that will provide each local government an annual intake to a maximum of \$20,000 so local businesses may participate in a programme that would see the rejuvenation of business areas with the end goal of enhancing community appearance and pride which are integral to economic activity and growth. The resolution being considered for 2023 does not specify a dollar amount or indicate what would be considered adequate financial resources.

The Province's response to previous resolutions has noted that section 226 of the *Community Charter* provides a revitalization tax exemption tool that allows councils to encourage economic, social or environmental revitalization within a community. However, this tool does not provide any provincial funding to the community, and reduces the municipality's tax revenue for the duration of the exemption.

R33) Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2022-EB59, 2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

R34) Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments

District of Sechelt

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership previously endorsed a resolution asking the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax revenue with local governments for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure. 2012-B18 requested the provincial government to grant an equitable share of BC Property Transfer Tax revenues to local governments, both to diversify their revenue sources and support the increasing levels of community-based services, aging infrastructure maintenance and replacement they are required to provide. 2005-B87 also requests the provincial government to share the proceeds from the property transfer tax with local governments.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions that call on the Province to share a portion of the Property Transfer Tax with local governments to address affordable housing and homelessness (2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2004-A8).

In 2013 the UBCM membership endorsed expansion of local government revenue tools as a foundational concept of the Strong Fiscal Futures report on strengthening the BC local government finance system. Sharing a portion of the property transfer tax with local government was specifically identified as a way to expand revenue tools for local government.

In 2021 the UBCM membership endorsed the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that included a working partnership between the Province and UBCM to strengthen the local government finance system. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Finance Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing opportunities for sharing taxation/revenues.

LAND USE

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

City of Courtenay

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2022-NR51 which made a similar request of the Province to instruct the Land Titles Survey Authority to search for and identify discriminatory language contained in registered covenants; and for them to have the ability to delete and/or redact any occurrences of discriminatory language identified.

R36) Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archeological Requirements

District of Sechelt

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the Province to 1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and 2. Provide local

governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions addressing archaeological costs, including:

- 2019-B52 which asked the BC Government to fund additional expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act;
- 2007-B139 which asked the Province to consider providing funding equal to 100% of the total expenditures borne by local governments to record and document archaeological findings in accordance with the provincial Heritage Conservation Act; and
- 2013-LR1 which sought funding from the Province for individual property owners are impacted by unregistered and undiscovered archaeological sites on their property.

TRANSPORTATION

R37) Public Safety and Speed Limits

Cowichan Valley Regional District

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

And whereas rural areas are experiencing traffic management issues including increasing speeding as development and populations increase in areas shared by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; this requires a greater attention to community public safety concerns and necessary safety improvements:

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

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 review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to improve safety on provincial roads in rural and remote areas, including:

- basing safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70);
- traffic calming measures in areas designated for growth in electoral areas (2019-B115);
- increased resources for regulation and enforcement of traffic regulations on rural roads (2019-B116); and

- a process for regional district boards to work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to lower the speed limit on highways that pass through rural communities and neighbourhoods (2015-B12).

R38) Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure

Cowichan Valley Regional District

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to improve safety on provincial roads in rural and remote areas that are experiencing economic growth, including:

- base safety and speed mitigation measures on the primary use(s) of provincial roads rather than a blanket criteria (2022-EB70);
- implement traffic calming measures in areas designated for growth in electoral areas (2019-B115); and
- increase resources for regulation and enforcement of traffic regulations on rural roads (2019-B116).

More generally, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to improve service level standards and increase funding for maintenance of secondary roads in the provincial road network (2020-EB18, 2017-B10, 2015-B74, 2014-B54, 2010-B19, 2009-B16, 2008-B17, 2003-B7).

The membership has also endorsed resolutions supportive of highway improvements throughout BC, or on routes that have a significant impact on the provincial economy (2022-EB69, 2020-EB25, 2017-B12, 2014-B54, 2013-B13, 2008-B110).

LEGISLATIVE

R39) Modernization of the *Local Government Act*

Sunshine Coast Regional District

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for the review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* (2022-EB80, 2018-B4, 2015-B1).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to clarify the authorities assigned to, and improve the relationship between, regional districts and municipalities as well as First Nations (2021-EB53, 2014-B68, 2007-A4, 2007-LR9, 2006-B47).