

# Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

## 2024 RESOLUTIONS

### PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 7, 2024 resolutions deadline, and 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.

#### LAND USE

#### **R1) Bamberton Quarry Expansion Project Adjacent To The Saanich Inlet District of North Saanich**

Whereas the BC Provincial Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy decided in late June 2023 that there would be no complete environmental review of this project under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, but rather an “enhanced review” pursuant to the *Mines Act*;

And whereas that given the major industrial nature of the quarry expansion, including the proposal to store soil material; and the highly sensitive nature of the Saanich Inlet with its unique topographical and marine peculiarities, marine and fish life, (including the Goldstream salmon run), this decision will adversely affect the Inlet and its marine life;

And whereas that in Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy of BC, Honourable George Heyman’s response to District of North Saanich Mayor and Council on September 11, 2023, he states in paragraph 3, “I acknowledge that the project as proposed may have potential effects on the environment...”:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC requests that:

1. the BC Provincial Government should not proceed further with this extensive expansion of the Bamberton Quarry, and storage of soil material, unless and until the necessary, full environmental review and oversight is put into motion and accomplished pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*;
2. this resolution be forwarded to the attention of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Federal Department of Environment and Climate Change to review and address without delay this critical environment and urgent marine issue; and
3. the BC Provincial Government inform interested parties, such as First Nations, local governments, and the Saanich Inlet Protection Society of the progress/results of the enhanced permit review process for the project.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

#### **R2) Conservation of Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas the UNESCO-designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) includes five watershed regions and the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic subzone, which is the smallest and most at-risk zone in BC and is of conservation concern;

And whereas habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity within the MABR:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC urge the Province to conserve through purchase thirty percent of lands within the MABR to meet the thirty percent of BC's land by 2030 provincial conservation target;

And be it further resolved that AVICC urge the Province, in accordance with the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation signed between Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to include land conservation policies within the MABR.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

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

*There were no Regional Resolutions submitted by the deadline that support existing policy and are recommend Endorse.*

## **PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received by the February 7, 2024 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, Not Endorse, or No Action Required

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R3) Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) Vaccine**

**District of Port Hardy**

Whereas in 2024, the availability of Arexvy, a vaccine approved by Health Canada in August for adults aged 60 and over, marks a significant milestone in protecting older adults against the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Arexvy has demonstrated nearly 83 per cent efficacy in preventing lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV and a 94 per cent efficacy in preventing severe RSV-associated illness, according to the FDA's analysis of data;

And whereas the authorization of Arexvy for use in Canada addresses the critical need for preventing RSV in older adults, who may face greater risks of severe outcomes, including hospitalization. The potential overwhelming of the hospital system, as experienced during the pandemic, underscores the importance of safeguarding the health of older adults by preventing RSV infections:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia to treat the RSV vaccine as an essential preventative measure, similar to other critical vaccines, and work towards subsidizing its cost to eliminate the burden of a \$300 per full dose on individuals seeking protection against RSV.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

#### **R4) Pre-Hospital Care - Demands on Local Governments**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

#### **R5) Grants to Named Health Facilities**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas regional hospital districts are empowered to direct capital funding grants only to hospitals and hospitals facilities named by the Ministry of Health;

And whereas rural, remote and Indigenous communities often rely upon community health clinics for medical care in the absence of any nearby health-authority owned and operated facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC review the *Hospital District Act* to provide enhanced authority to regional hospital districts to direct capital and operational grants to non-profit community health clinics and centres in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

#### **R6) Addressing the Impact of Provincial Policy on Local Governments, Taxation Equity, and Interim Policing Cost Support**

**City of Langford**

Whereas the City of Langford acknowledges the vital role of health care, mental health care, and social services in building a resilient and safe community;

And whereas the Province's failure to meet its commitments in these areas has unfairly burdened local governments, straining local resources and compromising public safety, thus exacerbating social inequity through heightened property taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM strongly urge increased provincial funding and support for health care, mental health care, and comprehensive housing initiatives to alleviate the strain on local government resources and enhance public safety;

And be it further resolved that the AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to demonstrate good faith by covering the heightened share of policing costs, recognizing the

provincial responsibility in shifting these public safety costs to local governments due to inadequate provision of social services and health care.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R7) Urging Legal Action for Constitutional Accountability: Addressing Provincial Failures in Healthcare, Criminal Rehabilitation, and Public Safety Responsibilities**

**City of Langford**

Whereas the Province, as outlined in the *Constitution Act, 1867*, bears constitutional responsibilities for essential services, including healthcare, including mental healthcare, and the administration of justice, including the administration of criminal rehabilitation through prisons;

And whereas it is observed that the Province has failed to adequately fulfill these constitutional responsibilities, resulting in an ineffectual and inequitable downshift of the associated responsibilities and costs to municipalities, particularly impacting their ability to address social issues related to healthcare, mental health care, and public safety:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM direct its members to explore the viability of initiating a legal proceeding against the Province to address the failure of the Province to meet its constitutional responsibilities, specifically in the areas of healthcare, mental healthcare, and the administration of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities, leading to an undue burden on municipalities and compromising public safety.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

**HOUSING**

**R8) Provincial Housing Coordinator**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas the number of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability across the Province has been increasing at an unprecedented rate;

And whereas the Province has invested considerable funds in supportive housing, the majority of which operate as low barrier facilities making it challenging for individuals in recovery to secure housing options that support an addiction-free lifestyle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to establish a Provincial Housing Coordinator to work directly with those persons who are experiencing homelessness and who are not in need of supports, to find suitable housing.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R9) Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code and BC Fire Code**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas many communities are experiencing a crisis-level influx of homeless individuals and the existence of emergency shelters is critical to addressing the safety of people experiencing homelessness;

And whereas due to the urgent nature of the need and the lack of suitable building stock in many communities, emergency shelters are frequently operating from buildings that do not meet the major occupancy classification requirements of the BC Building Code, nor the requirements of the BC Fire Code, placing local governments at risk of incurring liability if they do not enforce the codes and risking shutting down emergency shelters if they do enforce the codes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province work with the Building Safety Standards Branch to establish some reasonable variances to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code to enable emergency shelters to remain open.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R10) Housing Authority Feasibility Study Work**

**Comox Valley RD  
City of Courtenay  
Village of Cumberland  
City of Powell River**

Whereas non-market housing is in critical need throughout the province, and the provision of such housing is currently severely challenged by supply conditions, lack of adequate funding, and lack of capacity by local governments to support the provision and management of such housing;

And whereas some municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia have created entities, such as housing authorities, which successfully increase the supply of non-market housing by providing and managing such housing, the process of planning and then creating these entities involves significant staff time and other costs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of BC to provide grant funding for municipalities and regional districts to plan and create entities that provide and manage non-market housing in their communities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R11) Development Cost Charges for Affordable Housing**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas municipalities and regional districts are able to levy development cost charges (DCC) on new development to help pay for the capital costs of growth-related infrastructure;

And whereas local governments are challenged with both adequately funding infrastructure and providing waivers or exemptions to development cost charges for certain types of supportive and rental housing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to further increase funding levels to BC Housing and mandate the inclusion of funding to pay for development costs charges as part of all capital grants for affordable housing projects.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **R12) BC Secondary Suite Incentive Program**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas the BC government aims to create more housing in all of BC through the introduction of the pilot Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP);

And whereas eligibility for the Secondary Suite Incentive Program does not include properties within many regional district electoral areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the BC government to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include all electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

### **R13) Equitable Funding of Police Services**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other local governments in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

And whereas systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R14) Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas**

**Town of View Royal**

Whereas inflation, officer burnout, rising equipment costs, and rapidly increasing officer salaries have made the existing cost sharing formulas and RCMP policing costs unsustainable for local governments;

And whereas the Province's housing legislation, including Bill 44 and Bill 47, could potentially lead to increased policing costs, while Bill 46 will allow for police facilities to be funded through development cost charges, but will not help address the issue of police capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments to develop a new RCMP funding framework that gradually increases the cost-share rate for local governments at the 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 40,000 population thresholds.

And be it further resolved that the above amendments be implemented immediately, prior to the 2026 federal census.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R15) Fail to Appear Charges**

**City of Duncan**

Whereas 100% of Fail to Appear charges at provincial courthouses are assigned to the policing statistics of the local government in which the courthouse is located, having a disproportionate impact on the policing costs assigned to small municipalities with courthouses that serve a much broader area outside their jurisdiction;

And whereas this inflates the Criminal Code case load for all local governments with courthouses within their jurisdiction and results in an unfair burden to the taxpayers of those local governments, especially considering that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to direct that ~~Fail to Appear charges~~ **Criminal Code Section 145(2)- (5) and 732.1(2b) and 3(a)** be excluded from the policing statistics of local governments with courthouses.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

**R16) Automated Licence Plate Recognition Funding**

**City of Langford**

Whereas the City of Langford recognizes the importance of safety and compliance to the *Motor Vehicle Act* for all road users;

And whereas the discontinuation of vehicle licence plate validation decals in British Columbia has negatively impacted law enforcement officers in their ability to detect and enforce uninsured motor vehicle violations:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM petition to the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funds to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## ENVIRONMENT

### **R17) Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice**

**Islands Trust**

Whereas there have been barriers to uptake of alternatives to plumbed sewage disposal systems despite their allowance under the Sewerage System Regulation and the 2016 Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice;

And whereas these barriers to uptake may include overly conservative requirements (and their application) for onsite application criteria for residuals in the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners' professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R18) Ban on Rodent Glue Traps**

**Town of View Royal  
District of Saanich**

Whereas glue traps are an ineffective method for controlling rodents as they fail to address the root causes of an infestation, including access to food and shelter, and they cause fear, pain and distress for captured animals, including rodents and non-target animals like birds, bats, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and household pets;

And whereas most users are not capable of humanely killing trapped animals, leaving them to suffer for hours, and even days, before dying of suffocation, dehydration, starvation, exhaustion, or exposure:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## LAND USE

### **R19) Amendments to the *Land Title Act***

**City of Courtenay**

Whereas the BC Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16% below 2007 levels by 2025, 40% by 2030, and 80% by 2050;



And whereas the *Land Title Act*, RSBC 1996, c 250, permits the registration of a building scheme that imposes restrictions consistent with a general scheme of development;

And whereas these building schemes have been used to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels;

And whereas such prohibitions or restrictions are a barrier to the generation of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General to consider amendments to the *Land Title Act* ~~similar to its existing section 222~~ that would prohibit and render void any **portion of** building schemes that purport to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels, or any other renewable energy systems.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **R20) Ports Prioritization**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the federal government divested government wharves, and the responsibility for maintenance and management of public ports has fallen entirely on local taxpayers and nonprofit groups, and the provincial government does not have a ministry responsible for dealing with for the complex issues involving public ports, especially in unincorporated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments, review BC's marine network as a whole and identify ports that are vulnerable to long-term funding concerns as well as extreme weather events for more sustained public support to maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline to meet the long term economic, social, and emergency needs of coastal residents;

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R21) Ports Maintenance**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for maintaining the roads leading to public ports and continues to approve subdivision applications for water-only access residential developments;

And whereas evolving transportation technology and climate change requires a complete reconsideration of the design of small ports to meet future needs:

Therefore, be it resolved that the provincial government fund the creation of engineering best practices for building ports to meet future transportation needs and climate resilience and provide financial support for the primary access ports.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R22) Derelict Vehicles in Remote Communities**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas remote communities in BC are struggling with the accumulation of numerous derelict vehicles;

And whereas disposal facilities in remote communities have limited capacity and a lack of infrastructure to internally manage derelict vehicles or ship to end-markets:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Province of BC for grant funding to be made available for remote communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**R23) Halt Reductions to the Annual Allowable Cut**

**City of Campbell River**

Whereas forestry is, and continues to be, a critical industry across British Columbia, providing not only well-paying jobs to both urban and rural remote communities, including approximately 1200 direct jobs in Campbell River, but significant tax contributions to fund key municipal infrastructure and provincial services;

And whereas value added manufacturing will be unable to thrive unless primary forestry partners can have predictable, sustainable levels of harvesting land base:

Therefore be it resolved that that AVICC and UBCM Executive call on the Ministry of Forests to immediately halt any further reductions to the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) and meet with industry to better understand the impacts of a reduced AAC to the entire forest industry.

***ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED***

## SELECTED ISSUES

### **R24) Provincial Employee Support**

**Village of Zeballos**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province provide subject specific provincial employees on a regional level to support local governments with the increased legislative changes.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R25) Wellbeing of Future Generations Act**

**District of Saanich**

Whereas there currently is no provincial legislation to address the need for strategic foresight by requiring public bodies to plan and take action in pursuit of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in their areas and for interconnected objectives;

And whereas short-term thinking, fragmented decision-making, siloed approaches, and a lack of emphasis on the long-term consequences of these decisions have led to the persistence of social, environmental, and economic issues and inequities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a “Wellbeing of Future Generations Act” that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R26) UBCM First Nation Membership**

**Village of Zeballos**

Whereas First Nation representation within the Union of BC Municipalities membership are underrepresented;

And whereas the Province of BC has adopted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM provide an outreach program to British Columbia's First Nations on becoming full UBCM members.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**Part 2 - Section "B"** – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

## **HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **R27) First Responder Calls by Fire Rescue Departments**

**District of Tofino**

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls in support of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do not receive remuneration or funding for their critical support within the BCEHS system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a remuneration system for BC fire rescue service departments providing medical care in conjunction with the BCEHS system, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, and replacement of consumed supplies.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R28) Provincial Cost Recovery for Emergency Medical Services Provided by Fire Departments**

**RD of Nanaimo**

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls while there is inadequate funding for the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do so on a community-by-community basis creating an inconsistent provincial approach to emergency medical assistance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a cohesive financial emergency medical assistant framework, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, province-wide consistency, and the replacement of consumed supplies for fire rescue service departments, as part of advocacy for a modernized financial framework for local governments in BC.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R29) Pre-Hospital Care – Cover Costs of Local Governments**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R30) Mental Health Liaison Officers**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas RCMP members continue to respond to a significant number of calls for service for individuals dealing with mental health challenges and Mental Health Liaison Officers have proven to be an effective resource for assisting vulnerable citizens requiring support;

And whereas local governments are not provided funding to pay for healthcare and social services and there has been no increase in the Provincial funding model to support these officers responding to chronic/crisis mental health calls:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund RCMP Mental Health Liaison Officers within local detachments.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R31) Investment in Complex Care Beds**

**City of Nanaimo**

Whereas in 2022, the BC Emergency Health Services reported a 75% total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events since the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in 2016 and the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort reports that brain injury is 15 times more likely among people who had experienced drug poisoning than those who had not;

And whereas the number of supports available for individuals requiring complex care due to health challenges related to substance use disorder has proven grossly inadequate for the ever-increasing demand in communities all across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to increase investment in complex care beds to address the growing demand from those who have suffered serious health impacts from substance use disorder.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R32) Seniors' Support Assisted Living**

**District of Saanich**

Whereas Statistics Canada reports confirm that both the number and percentage of seniors will grow significantly during the next two decades, both in numbers and overall proportion of the population;

And whereas most serious illnesses requiring either assisted living options and/or hospital care occur later in life and there is a significant shortage of supportive assisted living spaces for seniors, affecting both hospital availability/accessibility and housing options for vulnerable seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the number of supportive assisted living units across British Columbia in a manner aligned with the demographic data to ensure that all seniors can be housed in dignity as they age and to reduce the pressures of the hospital system by so doing.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R33) Implementing *Accessibility BC Act* Recommendations**

**City of Parksville**

Whereas the *Accessible British Columbia Act* passed by the provincial government in 2021 requires local governments to develop accessibility plans to identify, remove and prevent barriers;

And whereas local governments have limited financial abilities and staff resources to implement accessibility recommendations on an ongoing basis:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province create an annual funding model (accessibility fund) designed to assist local governments to implement accessibility recommendations.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**HOUSING**

**R34) Funding for Seniors Housing in Rural Areas**

**Village of Gold River**

Whereas seniors, in the increasing demographic of those over 65, in rural BC have limited range of options for housing;

And whereas rural BC local municipalities have limited financial resources to support seniors housing options that allow seniors to age in place in their home community due to financial, social, health and housing vulnerabilities experienced by this increasing demographic:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to provide BC Housing with additional funding and support to facilitate new affordable seniors' housing in rural areas.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R35) Extreme Weather Response Shelter System**

**City of Courtenay  
Comox Valley RD  
Village of Cumberland**

Whereas the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter system was developed more than a decade ago to support community organizations in providing life-saving warm, safe places for unhoused community members to sleep in cold and wet weather, the EWR model does not provide any funding for facility rental costs, security, equipment or resource purchases, nor does it provide any funds for these community organizations to plan for, develop, and deliver EWR shelters in their communities;

And whereas since the EWR program was developed the number of community members experiencing homelessness has grown substantially, and the needs of those community members have, often due to addiction and mental health challenges, become increasingly complex, community organizations in many communities have been unable to provide life-saving EWR shelters with the limited resources available:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to recognize that the EWR program is insufficient to address current social challenges and community capacity to meet those challenges; and that a provincially driven solution be determined in collaboration with community leaders to ensure that:

1. service delivery by existing provincial agencies that are tasked with providing social service supports, including shelter spaces and wrap-around services, is strengthened; and
2. funds are available to rent facilities, provide security and necessary equipment such that the community organizations that are tasked to deliver this program are appropriately resourced.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R36) BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas the BC government implemented a BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax to turn vacant homes into housing for BC residents;

And whereas the BC government continues to expand the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program to include new communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government that all BC communities, including electoral areas, be given the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R37) Development Cost Charges for Fire Protection Facilities**

**District of Lantzville**

Whereas the provincial government has passed Bill 46 *Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act, 2023* amending Section 559, subsection (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act* to include "fire protection facilities" in the collection of Development Cost Charges (DCCs), but does not specifically define "fire protection facilities";

And whereas many smaller local governments have a limited number of brick-and-mortar fire protection buildings, but a large number of other capital expenses related to fire protection, such as vehicles and equipment:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that "fire protection facilities" be specifically defined in the relevant documentation and/or legislation to include the purchase and maintenance of all capital items related to fire protection including, but not limited to, fire trucks, duty vehicles, hoses, breathing apparatuses, communications equipment and all other capital expenditures that may be required to equip and maintain fire protection services.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **R38) Heavy Duty Vehicle Climate Emissions**

**District of Central Saanich**

Whereas many local governments in BC have set Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas like other local governments, the District of Central Saanich has made progress in reducing emissions, yet has findings to indicate that heavy-duty truck emissions have increased, while there are few available local government legislative or financial powers to change this trajectory:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province to use its financial and legislative powers to take further action to reduce the emissions from the heavy-duty trucks, which may include requiring a higher mixture of biodiesel, electrification, or further incentives to decarbonize heavy-duty vehicle fleets.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **FINANCE**

### **R39) Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries**

**City of Nanaimo  
District of Oak Bay  
City of Powell River  
qathet RD**

Whereas core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

And whereas the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, and



increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;

And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R40) Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

And whereas public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

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

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R41) Increased Funding for Local Government Infrastructure**

**Town of Comox**

Whereas local governments across BC are facing infrastructure funding shortfalls to maintain current infrastructure and as a result are implementing significant municipal tax increases;

And whereas continued population growth and housing demand is resulting in the need for local governments to expand their recreation, fire, police, parks, and administration services at a level greater than can be accomplished through the use of the newly introduced Amenity Cost Contribution authority:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to provide increased funding to support capital expansions of local government service infrastructure.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R42) Rethinking Local Government Taxation for Equitable and Effective Crisis Response**

**City of Langford**

Whereas local governments, often on the front lines, bear the brunt of addressing shared crises such as climate issues, housing affordability, inequality, public health, and infrastructure challenges;

And whereas the burden on local governments has intensified due to provincial shortcomings in fulfilling their responsibilities, leaving many local governments grappling with insufficient revenue sources, resulting in an over reliance on regressive property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to promptly fulfill its responsibilities in providing health care, including mental health care, as well as social services and the management of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities;

And be it further resolved that in the absence of immediate provincial action, the AVICC and UBCM advocate for a comprehensive and immediate review of local government taxation and revenue sources recognizing the pivotal role of local governments, which, despite these being provincial responsibilities, are left to deal with the repercussions without adequate support from the Province.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**LAND USE**

**R43) Addressing Shoreline Erosion Concerns in Coastal Communities**

**North Coast RD**

Whereas coastal communities in BC are experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, adverse weather events, and eroding shorelines:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the BC government to dedicate more resources toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and shoreline erosion in coastal communities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R44) Drought**

**Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas climate change is causing increasingly unpredictable and extended summer droughts throughout Vancouver Island and the Coastal Region;

And whereas water is a shared resource required by all residents, industry sectors, agriculture and the environment to both sustain life and conduct business:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship conduct a current inventory of surface and groundwater availability, as well as projected future needs, in order to facilitate planning of freshwater storage requirements to supply all

residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, emergency and environmental needs to a minimum 50-year threshold.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R45) Groundwater Protection in the Province of British Columbia**

**District of Metchosin**

Whereas over one million British Columbians rely on groundwater for daily use and that groundwater presents significant challenges in terms of monitoring, defining (classifying/characterizing), and demonstrating water viability, including water-use budgets/allocations;

And whereas the impacts of climate change, population growth and industrial activity are intensifying, and all three factors can negatively impact groundwater sustainability and sources:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the provincial government prioritize the following:

1. Renew the work to identify aquifers at risk in terms of productivity and vulnerability to contamination, climate change, population growth and other criteria;
2. Continue to build in the province's groundwater monitoring capacity, including installation of additional observation wells for high risk aquifers;
3. Develop a regular reporting process on the health and viability of high-risk aquifers; and
4. Develop a funding program for local governments to support local monitoring of groundwater resources.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R46) Rainwater Management in Road Rights of Way**

**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas residential development in portions of unincorporated areas designated as suitable for increased dwelling density through regional growth strategies and official community plans will enhance the supply of housing in British Columbia;

And whereas a key constraint in increasing dwelling density in these areas is locating adequately sized green infrastructure such as rain gardens and infiltration swales that protect stream systems and overall watershed health, and reduce risk to downstream property:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC investigate options to permit green infrastructure and low impact development rainwater management measures for private property and public roads within provincial public highway rights of way in alignment with policy direction set out in the March 2023 Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## TRANSPORTATION

### **R47) Highway Active Transportation**

**District of Central Saanich**

Whereas the Province has jurisdiction over provincial highways, many of which are critical active transportation corridors and provide connections to services, workplaces, ferries, parks and recreation areas, and neighbouring communities;

And whereas many provincial highways require new or upgraded active transportation infrastructure to enable local governments to realize comprehensive, interconnected, safe, active transportation networks for residents:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province to assess all provincial highways with active transportation corridors in accordance with the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, and in consultation with municipalities, regional districts, and Indigenous Nations, develop a provincially-funded plan or program to address gaps and shortfalls, and local active transportation priorities on provincial highways.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R48) Active Transportation Within Provincial Highway Rights of Way**

**City of Langford**

Whereas according to CleanBC's Roadmap to 2030, transportation is our largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) which accounts for approximately 40% of our annual total, and to address this the Province has committed to doubling the proportion of trips using active transportation by 2030;

And whereas given the urgency of the climate crises, the fast-approaching 2030 deadline and the fact that safe active transportation infrastructure provides economically accessible transportation for more individuals of all ages and abilities, there is a pressing need for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide stronger leadership, accountability, and equitable investment in infrastructure for all modes of transportation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to take on the responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of all active transportation infrastructure within provincial highway rights of way to align with active transportation planning of Indigenous and local governments, thus ensuring equitable commitment to active transportation infrastructure commensurate with infrastructure focused on motor vehicles.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

### **R49) Improved Road Design for Vulnerable Road Users**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road design standards prioritize the efficient movement of motor vehicles over the safety of vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists;

And whereas narrow road rights-of-way and topographic challenges in rural areas often make it impossible for active transportation infrastructure to be built to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Active Transportation Design Guide of separated paths along road corridors;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will not approve, fund, or maintain any road improvements that don't meet their Active Transportation Design Guide:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province instruct the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users in their road design standards;

And be it further resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognize the practical challenges of active transportation in rural areas and approve, fund and maintain minor road improvements that increase safety for vulnerable road users, such as paved shoulders and crosswalks.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R50) Funding for Rural Road Maintenance**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas secondary roads in unincorporated areas of BC are typically maintained on a break/fix basis despite deteriorating conditions and increasing traffic;

And whereas there is no publicly available plan for the upgrade and replacement of rural roads, culverts, and bridges:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to establish a capital asset management plan for secondary road networks across the province.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R51) Emergency Routes**

**Alberni-Clayoquot RD**

Whereas on June 6, 2023, Highway 4 was closed at Cameron Lake Bluff, near Koen Road, due to a wildfire, and that a detour route from Port Alberni through Lake Cowichan via Bamfield, using forest-service and privately owned industrial roads was established by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) on Wednesday, July 7, 2023, and was actively maintained until August 31, 2023;

And whereas the highway closure that occurred between June 6, 2023, and August 31, 2023, resulted in significant negative impacts on our residents' health, safety, and well-being, and it had devastating economic impacts resulting in the loss of jobs and permanent closure of local businesses, and that similar communities having only one access road in and out of their community experienced similar negative impacts during emergency activations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness work with communities, that have only one access road in and out of their community, to ensure the permanent

establishment and maintenance of alternative or emergency transportation routes for use in the event of an emergency;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and appropriate local governments to conduct an inventory of active forestry roads that could be maintained for emergency evacuation purposes, and that the roads meeting the criteria for emergency evacuation purposes be maintained for these purposes by the Province in perpetuity.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R52) Engagement with Local Governments with Respect to  
Road Network Planning**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure lacks the funding, staffing and mandate to plan overall road networks in unincorporated areas and to proactively deal with transportation and development planning issues in the "fringe" interface areas of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas problems with runoff from roads and development are increasingly severe across the province, and are significantly impacted by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure decisions around subdivision approvals and road infrastructure;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not proactively engage with local governments on future planning and maintenance of numbered routes that run through local governments and often through downtown cores:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to engage with local governments on overall road network planning and subdivision planning in order to improve decision-making to reduce cumulative negative impacts on communities.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**R53) Free Transit for Students**

**Sunshine Coast RD**

Whereas the BC Government's fare-free transit program for youth aged 12 and under grade 6 saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the province and municipalities reach carbon neutrality targets;

And whereas expanding eligibility to those in grade 12 and under would promote equitable access to transit despite economic disparity amongst youth and families in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to expand the fare-free transit program for youth in grade 12 and under.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## LEGISLATIVE

### **R54) Legislative Changes Consultation Process**

**Village of Zeballos**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province provide a more fulsome consultation process with local governments of all sizes prior to making sweeping legislative changes.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## ASSESSMENT

### **R55) New Assessment Classification for Vacant Residential Lands**

**Village of Gold River**

Whereas there is a housing crisis in British Columbia that affects all local governments in varying degrees;

And whereas there are limited tools to discourage speculation and encourage development of undeveloped property:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create a new assessment classification for undeveloped residential properties to allow local governments to establish a different tax rate for vacant residential land.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **R56) Enhancing Communications for Municipal Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and that both EMCR and the local government have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders;

And whereas one of the significant challenges faced by local fire departments is the lack of adequate [or any] communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other

agencies and hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as ~~Starlink~~ **low-earth orbit satellite internet**, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the Province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

***ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

## **SELECTED ISSUES**

### **R57) Increased Funding for Rural Colleges**

**City of Port Alberni**

Whereas colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province, including a closer to home education for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

And whereas rural colleges face increasing demands and challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs;

And whereas adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries, while being challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services and develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

## **LATE RESOLUTIONS**

The following are the resolutions received after the February 7, 2024 resolutions deadline, and before the April 10th deadline for Late Resolutions. Late resolutions are appropriate to be admitted for discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since or was not known prior to the February 7th resolutions deadline.



**LR1) Advocacy for Brain Injury Awareness****City of Victoria**

Whereas Acquired Brain Injury (traumatic and non-traumatic) casts a profound impact on the cognition, personality, and overall well-being of British Columbians, there are over 1.5 million Canadians grappling with this condition. In British Columbia alone, more than 180,000 individuals are affected, with brain injuries often serving as a catalyst for mental health challenges, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, violence, and suicide and a staggering sixty people in British Columbia will acquire a brain injury today:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC endorses the content of, and supports, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act; and

That AVICC forward consideration of this resolution to UBCM, urging them to endorse the content of, and support, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act, and encourage other municipalities to endorse the same resolution.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**LR2) Addressing the Needs of Rural Seniors in British Columbia****City of Port Alberni**

Whereas rural B.C. has a proportionately larger and faster growing seniors' population than urban B.C., yet has less infrastructure and resources to support its aging population;

And whereas a greater and more focused provincial response to ongoing concerns about inequities in services and supports for seniors in rural B.C. is required to address the inadequacies of current approaches to such issues:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC & UBCM endorse the recommendations of the Office of the Seniors Advocate's report titled "Challenges Facing B.C.'s Rural Seniors" and dated February 2024, and calls on the Provincial Government to implement said recommendations beginning with establishing a ministry or minister of state for rural B.C. in recognition of the geographic imbalance of regional representation in the Legislative Assembly;

And be it further resolved that the AVICC request the creation of a rural seniors caucus within the UBCM membership.

***ON MOTION, was ENDORSED***

**OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS**

Off-the-floor resolutions are submitted after the April 12<sup>th</sup> Late Resolution deadline. To bring a resolution off the floor, a delegate must put forward a motion on the convention floor. A 60% majority is required before the motion can be put forward for debate.

## **OF1) Addressing the Risk to Wild Salmon**

## **Village of Tahsis**

Whereas the AVICC, First Nations and our regional sport fishing resorts depend on fishing tourism as a mainstay of our economy;

And whereas fish farms continue to occupy sites along main migration routes in Nootka Sound and other areas, which are recharged by natural salmon spawning in our rivers and supplemented by both federally-supported and volunteer-run fish hatcheries;

And whereas monitoring has shown that local fish farms are often non-compliant in regard to sea-lice infestations;

And whereas research has shown that wild and hatchery smolts are attracted to the feed in net pens, which leads to infestation by sea lice and high mortality:

Therefore be it resolved, that UBCM ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans ~~to do what is in the best interest of local salmon health and the economy of the region,~~ that open-net fish farms either be decommissioned or moved towards closed containment methods that completely eliminate outbreaks of sea lice and other fish pathogens within the natural environment

***ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO THE AVICC EXECUTIVE  
ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED***

## **PART SR - SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

### **SR 1 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

**AVICC Executive**

*There were no Special Resolutions as defined under the Societies Act submitted for the 2024 AGM & Convention*

## **PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

### **ER 1 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

**AVICC Executive**

There were no resolutions submitted by the AVICC Executive for the 2024 AGM & Convention