

# Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities

## 2026 Report on Late Resolutions

The following are the resolutions received after the February 12, 2026 resolutions deadline, and before the April 22, 2026 deadline for Late Resolutions. Late Resolutions are deemed to be appropriate for discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since or was not known prior to the regular deadline date for submission of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee evaluated the Late Resolutions submitted and has made recommendations according to the *Convention Rules* included in the Annual Report

### **LR1) Changes to Provincial Property Tax Deferral Program**

**Esquimalt**

WHEREAS the provincial property tax deferral program was established to help seniors and other eligible homeowners with limited incomes remain in their homes by allowing payment of annual property taxes to be deferred until the property is sold or transferred;

AND WHEREAS the 2026 provincial budget changes to the program, including increased interest rates and changes to the compounding formula, are making it significantly more expensive and risk reducing its effectiveness for lower-income seniors, while concerns about higher-income participants could be more appropriately addressed through targeted eligibility criteria;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to review the recent changes to the Property Tax Deferral Program with consideration for the needs of low-income seniors on fixed incomes, including the introduction of an income threshold, so that the program continues to support low-income seniors as originally intended.

**Resolutions Committee recommendation: *admit for debate***

**Resolutions Committee comments:** *The Resolutions Committee notes that the Provincial Budget announcement took place on February 17<sup>th</sup>, which is after the February 12<sup>th</sup> deadline for resolutions. The Committee notes that AVICC Resolution 2023-R18 / UBCM Resolution 2023-NR72 was endorsed at both AVICC and UBCM, calling for an expansion of the Property Tax Deferral Program.*

**Production Services Tax Credit Certification Fee Increased and Major Production Tax Credit Certification Fee Introduced**

Effective March 1, 2026, the accreditation certificate fee for the production services tax credit is increased to \$19,000 for corporations that began principal photography after December 31, 2024 and apply for certification on or after March 1, 2026. The major production tax credit certificate fee is set at \$5,000.

**B.C. Manufacturing and Processing Investment Tax Credit Introduced**

Effective April 1, 2026, a new temporary refundable investment tax credit is introduced for investments made by Canadian-controlled private corporations in buildings and machinery and equipment used for manufacturing and processing, subject to exclusions in the legislation.

The new investment tax credit is calculated as 15 per cent of eligible investments up to \$2 million, for a maximum credit of \$300,000.

The new investment tax credit is available at a rate of 15 per cent for investments made on or after April 1, 2026 until March 31, 2031. Starting April 1, 2031, the tax credit rate will be reduced by 2.5 percentage points per year until it is fully phased out for investments made after March 31, 2036.

**Book Publishing Tax Credit Made Permanent**

Effective March 31, 2026, the book publishing tax credit is made permanent by removing its sunset date.

The refundable credit, worth 90 per cent of the base amount of federal contributions received under the Canada Book Fund, supports B.C.-based book publishers.

**Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Industry Tax Credit Extended**

Effective on royal assent, the shipbuilding and ship repair industry tax credit is extended for one year to the end of 2027.

***Land Tax Deferment Act*****Property Tax Deferment Program Interest Rate Terms Amended**

Effective for the 2026 and subsequent taxation years, the property tax deferment program interest rate terms are amended. The interest rates for the regular and families with children programs are harmonized, increased to rate of prime plus two per cent compounded monthly.

The new interest rate will apply to property taxes deferred under both programs in respect of 2026 and subsequent taxation years. Any amounts deferred in respect of taxation years prior to 2026 will continue to be subject to the interest rate terms set under their applicable deferment agreements.

The Province's borrowing costs have been higher than the program's lending terms, at a cost to other taxpayers. With this change the lending terms for new loans will more closely align with commercial lending terms.

WHEREAS communities in British Columbia are experiencing increasing drought, flooding, wildfire impacts, and water supply uncertainty that are contributing to infrastructure damage, rising emergency response costs, and economic disruption;

AND WHEREAS local governments are responsible for protecting drinking water and supporting housing, economic development, and climate preparedness, but lack the authority, coordinated watershed governance structures and stable resources to manage growing water security risks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities call on the Province of British Columbia to establish a provincial framework and provide stable, long-term funding for locally based watershed boards, co-developed with First Nations and local governments, to support watershed-scale planning, source water protection, and coordinated drought and flood preparedness across British Columbia.

**Resolutions Committee recommendation: not admit for debate**

**Resolutions Committee comments:** *The Resolutions Committee notes that this resolution does not meet the criteria for consideration of Late Resolutions, as the is topic of the issue is not emergent, and did not arise since the February 12<sup>th</sup> deadline date for submission of resolutions. In 2021, the Lower Mainland Local Government Association sponsored a resolution that was endorsed by UBCM members (2021-EB45) that called for ‘a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for the Watershed Security Fund’. The Committee advises that the sponsor is encouraged to submit this resolution to UBCM directly by their June 15, 2026 deadline.*



## SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

### AVICC BACKGROUNDER FOR ESTABLISHING LOCAL WATERSHED BOARDS ACROSS BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### I. BACKGROUND:

At the Sunshine Coast Regional District Regular Board meeting of March 26, 2026, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS communities in British Columbia are experiencing increasing drought, flooding, wildfire impacts, and water supply uncertainty that are contributing to infrastructure damage, rising emergency response costs, and economic disruption;

AND WHEREAS local governments are responsible for protecting drinking water and supporting housing, economic development, and climate preparedness, but lack the authority, coordinated watershed governance structures and stable resources to manage growing water security risks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities call on the Province of British Columbia to establish a provincial framework and provide stable, long-term funding for locally based watershed boards, co-developed with First Nations and local governments, to support watershed-scale planning, source water protection, and coordinated drought and flood preparedness across British Columbia.

#### II. Discussion:

Communities across British Columbia are facing increasing water insecurity due to prolonged drought, flooding, wildfires, and growing competition for limited water supplies. These pressures contribute to infrastructure damage, rising emergency response costs, public safety risks, and economic disruption.

Local governments and First Nations are on the front lines, responsible for protecting drinking water, enabling housing and economic development, and preparing for climate impacts. They are already leading critical work to manage these challenges, but are often limited by fragmented governance, insufficient tools, and inconsistent resources.

When decisions about land and water use are made upstream, downstream communities bear the long-term consequences. Watershed-scale coordination is limited, leaving communities reliant on reactive, costly responses. Existing provincial legislation, including the *Water Sustainability Act*, provides important authorities and tools, but effective implementation requires alignment, coordination, resourcing and shared planning at the watershed scale.

British Columbia remains one of the few provinces without a coordinated framework of local watershed boards. Other provinces have established watershed-based governance systems to support planning, monitoring, and proactive response at the watershed level. While successful examples exist in B.C., such as the Cowichan Watershed Board, they are not supported by consistent provincial funding or framework.

A provincial system of local Watershed Boards would enable, coordinate, and strengthen the work communities are already doing, rather than replace local leadership. These boards would provide a collaborative space for First Nations, local governments, and provincial partners to plan, share data, and align actions across jurisdictions.

Watershed Boards would:

- Strengthen collaborative governance between First Nations, local governments, and the Province.
- Advance source water protection and long-term drinking water security.
- Improve coordination and preparedness for drought, flood, and wildfire.
- Support for long-term, consistent water monitoring and data assessment at a watershed-wide level.
- Reduce long-term emergency response and infrastructure costs through proactive, place-based planning, natural asset identification and restoration priorities.
- Provide greater economic certainty for communities and key industries that depend on reliable water.

Watershed Boards also provide a structured forum to make better use of existing provincial authorities and legislation, ensuring tools like Water Sustainability Plans, drought measures, and environmental flow protections are implemented effectively and proactively.

Public support is strong: 74% of British Columbians support the creation of local Watershed Boards.

The Province's role is to enable and support local leadership by providing:

- Stable, long-term funding;
- Clear coordination structures and provincial oversight;
- Tools, data, and guidance to support local decision-making; and
- Legislative and policy frameworks that align actions across watersheds.

This approach ensures communities have the resources, capacity, and collaborative space to address water security risks effectively, while preserving local government authority and First Nations leadership.

Strengthening watershed governance is a shared responsibility. Establishing and funding a provincial system of locally based Watershed Boards would create a framework for collaboration, capacity, and alignment, empowering communities to manage risks, protect drinking water, and build long-term economic and climate resilience across British Columbia.