



Executive Meeting

Meeting Summary | August 14, 2026 | via Zoom

Your AVICC Executive met via Zoom on August 14th. Below is a summary of the items discussed. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

President's Activities

I provided an update to the Executive on my activities since our last meeting. A couple of the more major highlights:

- We have been addressing **resolutions endorsed during our AVICC convention**. While all have been forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their convention, some have been identified as meeting one or more of four criteria that will exclude them from consideration at UBCM but will be included in the 2026 UBCM resolutions book appendix. The excluded resolutions endorsed at AVICC remain with AVICC for action (see the information below under AVICC advocacy for additional information). I had an interview with CBC on AVICC's letter to Minister Dix, following up resolutions in 2026 (2026-R1) and 2025 (2025-R3) on energy security in northern Vancouver Island.

UBCM Executive Meeting July 15-17

- As your AVICC representative on the UBCM Executive, I attended the UBCM Executive meetings held July 15-17. Mayor Vickey Brown also attended in her role as Director at Large.
- Mayor Brown and I had the opportunity to meet the candidates being considered to become the **new Executive Director of UBCM** and provide input to the hiring committee. I was impressed with the process and the level of engagement that occurred outside of the hiring committee. Kim Grout has been confirmed as the new Executive Director of UBCM and she will be stepping fully into her position after the upcoming convention. Gary MacIsaac will be retiring after 19 years as Executive Director of UBCM – if you see him, say thanks for his work! I've had the opportunity to see him in action both through my role on AVICC and now on the UBCM Executive and have always found him thoughtful and helpful.
- During the Executive meeting **Ministers Christine Boyle and Brittny Anderson** attended in person. The Executive reiterated concern with the **Heritage Conservation Act** and also raised concerns with the decision to not hold in-person meetings with staff during convention. We asked for updates on the **mandatory code of conduct** and the **parental leave legislation**, neither of which were passed during the most recent session. The Minister indicated she felt that the items weren't held back due to lack of support, rather there were many other issues that needed addressing. Both items are planned to come back to the fall sitting for consideration.
- The Executive discussed the final report on the **UBCM Governance Review**, which is available as part of the [2026 Resolutions Book](#). The UBCM Executive is putting forward an

Extraordinary Resolution to amend the UBCM Bylaws to address some of the findings from the review, which will be debated at the upcoming convention. I was disappointed that the Executive didn't move to address the issue of geographic representation, which to my mind was one of the main reasons behind the governance review with 80% of survey respondents saying it was important. However, the issue has been earmarked for consideration in future; I will ensure to follow it up because I think it's an important issue. As I noted, AVICC currently only has 2 representatives on the 21-member UBCM Executive; last year it was 1.

- UBCM is developing a **mental health toolkit for elected officials** which will include training, opportunities, and resources for peer-to-peer support. This work will be highlighted in a clinic on Tuesday morning of the convention (7:30-8:30 am).
- On the issue of **regional district legislation and modernization**, UBCM is working with the province to identify priority areas on which to collaborate. This is a work in progress. We have added a request for an update when we meet with Minister Boyle at UBCM.

AVICC Advocacy

- The Executive considered a **workplan for 2026-2027** including advocacy, activity around the upcoming local government election (e.g., participating in the LGLA session, reaching out to elected officials after the election etc.), and continued work on establishing internal policies.
- The Executive discussed how the change in how UBCM addresses resolutions affects advocacy at the AVICC level. The **new UBCM resolutions process** means that fewer resolutions will be accepted for debate at UBCM. We are working with other local government area association colleagues as we examine our advocacy priorities and approach.
- We discussed **two resolutions** that were endorsed at AVICC but are not going to be discussed at UBCM because they are considered **contrary to UBCM policy**. R35 (Framework for Intergovernmental Relations with First Nations) and R36 (Short-term rentals on ALR land) were both submitted directly to UBCM in 2025. Due to time constraints they were referred to the UBCM Executive for consideration which assigned a decision of Not Endorse to both. The local governments then submitted them to AVICC in 2026, where they were endorsed.

The AVICC Executive recognized the complications around advocacy on issues that are contrary to UBCM policy and determined that resolutions will need to be considered on an individual basis by the AVICC Executive. After significant discussion, which was informed by information from UBCM about why the UBCM Executive declined to endorse the resolutions, the AVICC Executive decided to action R35 by writing a letter to Minister Spencer Chandra Herbert and by requesting a Minister meeting. This decision was based on the high importance of Indigenous relations to local governments in the AVICC region which has been expressed both through endorsement of this and similar resolutions and through the member advocacy survey where this was identified as one of the top advocacy priorities. For R36 we are following up with the sponsor to better understand its intent and will discuss it again at the next Executive meeting.

- One 2026 resolution was considered **regional** by UBCM (ie. a topic they consider only relevant to AVICC). We wrote a letter to Minister Dix on **energy security in the North Island** (2026-R1 and 2025-R3) and requested a Minister meeting at UBCM.
- For the **4 resolutions** that were considered **out-of-scope** by UBCM, AVICC sent letters to Minister Parmar and Greene (and cc'd to federal Ministers Olszewski and McGuinty) calling for the retrofit of the Hercules Fleet to increase fire-fighting capacity (2026-R39); and letters to Ministers Malcolmson, Sunner, and Farnworth on student-related resolutions (R37 – student food security grant; R38 – post-secondary affordability; and R40 – student ferry fares).
- Correspondence sent and received by AVICC can be found on our website [here](#). Also see our new [AVICC Resolutions Database](#) which tracks how resolutions are actioned (the database will be updated with 2026 resolutions after the UBCM convention).
- Based on AVICC resolutions and member feedback on advocacy priorities, the Executive requested three meetings with UBCM Ministers and one meeting with Ministry staff. We will be in touch with local governments which put forward resolutions on these topics to coordinate our meetings:
 - **[Minister meeting confirmed]** Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs: public libraries, supportive housing residential tenancy act amendments, and regional district legislative reform
 - **[Minister meeting confirmed]** Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: establish a framework for intergovernmental relations between local governments and First Nations, funding Indigenous governments' engagement in local government planning activities
 - **[Minister meeting declined]** Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions: energy certainty to support long-term economic development in northern Vancouver Island, power supply investment in the north Island
 - **[Ministry staff meeting confirmed]** Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Forests, and Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness: private managed forest land (PMFL) background; lack of enforcement clarity and reliance on existing legislation; and working group on data sharing, access, and coordinating response to watershed risk in PMFL

AVICC Bookkeeper Update

We have benefited from having Kathleen Spalek CPA, CMA support our development of financial policies, bookkeeping, and financial decisions since AVICC became fully autonomous from UBCM in 2023. Ms. Spalek is retiring and the Executive reviewed several options for replacement bookkeepers. The Executive decided to retain [Profit Trails Bookkeeping](#) as our new bookkeeper.

AVICC Auditor

The Executive approves the appointment of an auditor each year. Although as a society we are not required to have an audit, we do so to provide assurance to our members that our financials are in proper order. The Executive appointed KPMG as our auditor for the 2026 fiscal year.

Preliminary Planning for the 2027 AVICC Convention

- Planning continues for the 2027 convention in [Nanaimo from April 16-18, 2027](#).
- We are still open to receiving ideas for keynote speakers/topics and workshop topics. **If you have ideas please reach out to Theresa!**
- One change we're planning for 2027 is to provide an **optional pre-convention working lunch for everyone for day 1 of the convention**. In addition to the Chiefs, Mayors, & Chairs luncheon, and the Electoral Area Directors & Friends luncheon, we will provide another option. Planning is underway – do you have suggestions for things you might find fun/interesting at a luncheon? Let us know!
- The Executive confirmed that we will continue with our new format for the **Saturday evening gathering** – instead of the traditional sit-down banquet, we will be holding an event at the **Nanaimo Museum** that will include food stations and entertainment that is sure to be fun. Hope to see you there!
- The Executive confirmed that **elections** for Executive positions will again be open to all AVICC member representatives, not just those attending the convention. We recognize that not everyone is able to attend the convention but we still want you to have the ability to vote for your representatives.

AVICC Activities at UBCM

- Each year AVICC hosts a **luncheon at UBCM** which includes wonderful food and networking, a provincial address, a presentation from next year's AVICC host community, and candidate speeches for those AVICC members running for a UBCM Executive position. I am pleased that this year we will be joined by **Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship**. Minister Neill will provide a brief address and then sit down for a short Q&A with me.
- During our lunch we will hear from candidates for the UBCM Executive. So far Zac de Vries is running for 3rd VP, and Vickey Brown and Will Cole-Hamilton are running for Director-at-Large. **If you are planning on running from the floor during convention, please let Theresa know** prior to the convention so we can ensure you have the opportunity to address the assembly.
- You might have seen the campaign by Gord Johns, MP for Courtenay-Alberni on **fair federal funding for BC Ferries**. Mr. Johns is holding a non-partisan rally during UBCM and is inviting MLAs and all local government electeds to gather for a photo op/rally at **1:30 pm in the plaza outside Canada Place on September 16th**. To facilitate this, the Executive supported aiming to wrap up our luncheon by about 1:20, giving time for those interested to join the rally prior to the address by Minister Brittny Anderson at 2 pm. The North Coast Local Government Association (NCLGA) will also be wrapping their luncheon up around the same time so their members can attend.

AVICC Financials

- The Executive reviewed the financial statements to June 30, 2026.
- The Executive chose to budget for a deficit for 2026, keeping dues stable (no increase) for 2026 and convention costs low while also expanding advocacy initiatives on behalf of our members.
- The 2026 AVICC convention is forecast to return a profit of approximately \$32K which is close to budget and is slightly improved from the previous report. The overall projected deficit for 2026 is now \$45,000 which is lower than budgeted.
- AVICC maintains a strong financial position, with accumulated surplus funds exceeding \$350,000 allowing us to budget for a deficit while recognizing that we need to retain sufficient funds to support AVICC work in years where an unexpected event leads to a significant reduction in income. We saw this happen the year we had to cancel our conference due to the COVID pandemic.