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## EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

### A1: AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

#### NCLGA EXECUTIVE

**WHEREAS** the current model for delivery of air ambulance services for people in the north of BC is inadequate for providing timely access to specialized emergency medical services as required;

**AND WHEREAS** reliable air ambulance transportation in rural and remote communities in the far north of BC is key to the life-sustaining treatment and recovery of British Columbians:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to further support the development of a reliable air ambulance service that fully meets the emergency health care needs of all British Columbians.

**Background Information:** Prince George Citizen Newspaper article:  
[www.nclga.ca/Files/HelicopterDebate\\_Medical.pdf](http://www.nclga.ca/Files/HelicopterDebate_Medical.pdf)

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** The UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions that have asked for a higher quality of medical services in small communities (2012-B93), additional medical transportation services for rural communities (2012-B38), more funding and staffing for BC Ambulance Service to ensure timely responses throughout the province (2007-B50, 2007-B156), and smaller aircraft for BC air ambulances that can consistently access rural locations (1998-B98).

### A2: SHADOW POPULATIONS

#### NCLGA EXECUTIVE

**WHEREAS** local governments in rural British Columbia are experiencing a growing number of people living adjacent to their borders which is placing additional service provision pressures on these communities;

**AND WHEREAS** the local governments are not presently allowed to include this “shadow” population in their overall population count even though municipal services are utilized by them:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to amend the *Community Charter* to allow local governments the ability to conduct municipal census similar to Alberta’s *Municipal Government Act’s* Determination of Population Regulation 63/2001 and Amendment 10/2013.

***NCLGA Membership:***

***Background Information:***

***Province of Alberta, Municipal Government Act, Determination of Population Regulation Alberta Regulation 63/2001***  
[http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/msb/Determination\\_of\\_Population\\_Regulation.pdf](http://municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/documents/msb/Determination_of_Population_Regulation.pdf)

**Shadow population**

**2.1(1)** A municipal authority may apply to the Minister to have the shadow population included as part of the municipal census if the shadow population in a municipality is

- (a) greater than 1000 persons, or
- (b) less than 1000 persons but greater in number than 10% of the permanent population.

**(2)** An application under subsection (1) must be made prior to the municipal authority conducting the municipal census.

**(3)** The shadow population for a municipal authority must be verified every 3 years by a count held in the period starting on April 1 and ending on June 30 of the same year.

**(4)** The Minister shall determine whether the shadow population may be included as part of the municipal authority's municipal census.

**(5)** If the Minister permits a municipal authority to use the shadow population as part of the municipal census, the municipal authority must submit the results of the count of the shadow population, in the form set out in Schedule 3, to the Minister before September 1 of the year in which the municipal census is conducted.

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government amend the formula for funding health services in remote communities to reflect populations living outside the boundaries of a particular local government that access health services located within the boundaries of that local government.*

*However, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions that would improve health care in small, rural and remote communities of BC. These resolutions have called for:*

- *sufficient medical services in small communities (2012- B93)*
- *universities and communities to encourage medical program graduates to practice and stay in rural areas of BC (2011-B60);*
- *changes to the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Program which prohibits Canadians trained as doctors in other Commonwealth countries or the US from returning to Canada to practice (2009-B148);*
- *increased funding for universities and other medical training facilities so they can supply a larger number of graduates (2008-B49);*
- *medical education programs to identify and develop appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112);*
- *the expansion of services and funding for people with mental illness and addictions, especially in small and midsize communities (2010-B42)*
- *standby ambulance attendants in rural and remote communities receive the same pay as those in other areas of the Province, and that all areas of BC be entitled to equal service (2006- B48);*
- *UBCM advise the provincial government that it considers the removal of qualified ambulance personnel from rural areas, without provision of an alternative service for those rural residents, is totally unacceptable (1996-B5);*
- *the availability of smaller aircraft that can consistently access rural locations. (1998- B98); and*
- *the Province improve affordable public transportation service between small rural municipalities and hospitals in larger urban centres in British Columbia (2009-B15).*

**A3: CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**NCLGA EXECUTIVE**

**WHEREAS** on January 11, 2013 the Court of Appeal overturned the BC Supreme Court decision in *Schlenker v. Torgrimson*, which was a decision alleging that members of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee were in conflict because of their participation on the boards of directors of not-for-profit organizations.

**AND WHEREAS** as a result of the Court of Appeal's decision local governments across the Province and particularly small rural local governments are suffering hardship and inconvenience, as often the pool of volunteers who participate in non-profit boards is small and elected officials fill these volunteer director positions:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA requests that UBCM urge the Province to provide a regulatory response to the precedent setting conflict of interest *Schlenker v. Torgrimson* decision that would create an exemption of a disqualifying pecuniary conflict of interest arising only because of the role of an elected official as a director of a society or a local government corporation.

***NCLGA Membership:***

**A4: SENIORS' HOUSING**

**NCLGA EXECUTIVE**

**WHEREAS** the lack of appropriate affordable housing, particularly in small rural BC communities makes it difficult for seniors and those with special needs to age in place:

**AND WHEREAS** access to safe, affordable and appropriate housing helps to create vibrant, sustainable communities:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to work with community partners to develop solutions to the lack of seniors' housing and to provide the necessary long-term funding to support the construction of a full range of affordable seniors' housing choices across British Columbia.

***NCLGA Membership:***

## MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

### COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

#### B1: MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

##### PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

**WHEREAS** Northeast BC has a significant natural gas resource expected to yield far in excess of 100 years' needs, with the resource providing an opportunity to fuel and fund the Province in a debt-free and sustainable manner that will provide for enhanced physical infrastructure, health, education and social progress for several generations;

**AND WHEREAS** Norway, having a population and resources similar to the Province of BC, has managed their resources to the extent that it is the second wealthiest country in the world:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province of BC continue an examination of the factors that Norway employs in managing its resources for the betterment of its citizens with the goal of adopting a similar approach in BC.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to continue an examination of the factors that Norway employs in managing its resources for the betterment of its citizens with the goal of adopting a similar approach in BC.

## ENVIRONMENT

#### B2: BROWNFIELDS

##### DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

**WHEREAS** vacant sites or orphan properties known as "brownfields" are often on properties located along transportation corridors and in downtown core areas, are eyesores to the community and have caused real or suspected environmental contamination and negatively impact economic development of that specific site and in the general area of that specific site;

**AND WHEREAS** the owners of these "brownfield" sites have already reaped the benefits and should have an obligation to clean-up their own mess;

**AND WHEREAS** the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B33, which strongly urged the provincial government to take immediate steps to implement the previously adopted resolutions 2007-B29 and 2007-B70 that were passed at the 2007 Convention and no concrete action has taken place;

**AND WHEREAS** there has been no real progress to support rural communities continuing to face the challenge of economic loss and unsightly premises in their downtown core due to real or suspected environmental contamination on vacant lots;

**AND WHEREAS** provincial policies and regulations for remediation of brownfield sites are vague and not strictly enforced:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM request that the Ministry of Environment be authorized to legislate that owners of all contaminated brownfield sites, regardless of their hazard rating, be remediated upon request from the local government and provide timely communication with the local government regarding remediation progress.

**Background: UBCM News Release - March 27, 2013**

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources is now accepting applications for funding available under the Brownfield Renewal Funding Program. The program funds studies to determine if a site is contaminated and to develop options for site restoration and redevelopment. It is available to private property owners, including local governments, First Nations, non-profit agencies, and businesses.

[Application forms are available online](#). The deadline for applications is May 17, 2013.

A brownfield is an industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or underused. Brownfield sites are often contaminated and have redevelopment potential. Brownfield redevelopment helps to increase commercial space, creating employment, improving community safety, retaining green space and reducing pressures on undeveloped land.

For more information about this program, please contact Jeff Thom at jeff.thom@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-2244.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership endorsed a resolution in 2012 with the same wording, submitted by the same sponsor (2012-B26).*

*In response to resolution 2012-B26, the Province noted that they have implemented policy that imposes a time limit of one year for completion of site investigation of decommissioned sites. The time limit is meant to help expedite the remediation process and determine the degree of risk of contamination at these sites sooner. Provincial policy also includes the release of local government demolition permits so that structures that become unsightly if left in place may be removed in a timely manner.*

*In addition, the Province recently announced a new \$1.5 million brownfield renewal funding program, which funds studies to determine whether a site is contaminated and to develop options for site restoration and redevelopment. The program is available to private property owners, including local governments, First Nations, non-profit agencies, and businesses.*

**B3: NOXIOUS WEEDS AND RANGE LANDS****CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** noxious weeds pose a grave threat to the health of the range lands in BC and consequently to their capacity to maintain the native flora and wildlife as well as their capacity to offer grazing to domestic animals;

**AND WHEREAS** neither the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, nor the regional districts have the funding or the personnel necessary to adequately control these weeds; however, ranchers are familiar with their ranges and monitor them continuously:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Government of BC to do everything possible to assist the ranching community in controlling noxious weeds, including but not limited to simplifying provincial requirements, assisting with the cost of obtaining the pesticide applicator's certificate, and tailoring the course material and timing to agriculture.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** The UBCM membership considered a similar resolution submitted by the same sponsor in 2012. Resolution 2012-B127 asked the provincial government to enlist the aid of the ranching community to control noxious weeds. The resolution was not endorsed.

*For the 2013 resolution, the sponsor has amended the enactment clause to ask that the provincial government do as much as possible to assist the ranching community in controlling noxious weeds through a variety of measures.*

*UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial funding and assistance to combat invasive plant species. In particular, the UBCM membership has requested that the provincial government fully implement and fund the "Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia" developed by the Fraser Basin Council (2004-B72; 2003-B81), as well as commit resources for combating invasive plant species (2005-B25; 2007-B30; 2007-B31).*

**FINANCE****B4: PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****DISTRICT OF TAYLOR**

**WHEREAS** the Public Sector Accounting Board is proposing changes to the financial statements that incorporates inter-period equity, an accounting framework which would address challenges faced by "non-government" public organizations but provides no useful value to local governments;

**AND WHEREAS** the proposed changes run contrary to providing clear and transparent government in a form that can be readily understood by the public we serve, would be confusing for users and elected municipal officials, and would result in an enormous administrative burden for local governments and First Nations communities:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA support the UBCM working with the Public Sector Accounting Board to ensure the framework for municipal financial reporting addresses the concerns of local governments and is meaningful to the public interest we represent.

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation****Background Information:**

The Public Sector Accounting Board is suggesting changes to the financial statement framework which would present the “financials” in the same format for each and every public body regardless of the type of business they conduct.

Financial statements are often difficult enough for people to understand, so it is important to include information in a format that is easily understood by the interested parties. When looking at the statements for a municipality, the reader should be able to understand the finances in relation to the function (business).

As an example, one change being considered is the “deferral of revenue”. If a municipality receives a grant for roadwork, PSAB is suggesting that even though we may do the work in the same year we receive the money, we will need to “book” it as though we are receiving the money over the lifetime of the road (ie, 50 years). This change would make it appear as though we are receiving funds each year for the next 50 years when in fact we are not. It would also falsely appear that we have money available to spend (ie. reserves). The financial statements are not the place for this “guess work” and could be seen as a manipulation tactic.

The deferral of revenue is only one of the many changes. This “one size fits all” reporting would require municipalities to change the format of their financial statements, track the revenue received over the life of the asset, create a multitude of reconciling reports, and create an enormous burden for the staff of small municipalities and First Nations communities. Furthermore, a schedule or other report would need to be created in order to explain to our audience what the true picture actually is.

It is our desire to be an open and transparent government. Providing confusing financial statements, which provide no useful information to the public we serve, is simply not an effective use of tax payer’s money. We suggest that PSAB let those who would benefit from these changes do so as a recommended practice and not make it mandatory for local governments.

**For more background information visit:**

[http://www.nclga.ca/Files/Taylor\\_PublicSectorAccounting.pdf](http://www.nclga.ca/Files/Taylor_PublicSectorAccounting.pdf)

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution on the topic of financial statements that incorporate inter-period equity, although it has previously considered resolutions relating to proposed Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) accounting standards including:*

- *2012-B136 which called for a postponement of a PSAB standard relating to liability for contaminated sites, which was endorsed by the membership; and*
- *2005-B108 which sought exemption for local governments from PSAB accounting standards relating to local government accounting for tangible capital assets, which was not endorsed by the membership.*

*UBCM notes that the resolution appears to be referring to Consultation Paper 2 developed by PSAB’s Conceptual Framework Task Force, for which comments were requested by January 31, 2013. According to the Consultation Paper:*

- *concerns were raised by the senior government finance community, about the existing conceptual framework, since “the application of standards based on concepts in the framework were seen to be creating volatility in, and affecting the understandability of,*

- reported results and making it difficult to provide actual-to-budget comparisons.”;*
- *the consultation paper is the second document produced by the Task Force, and it has not been approved by PSAB; and*
  - *the input received from the two Task Force Consultation Papers will be considered in drafting a statement of principles for public comment, planned for the final quarter of 2013.*

## **B5: TAX REVENUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS**

### **CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** animal abuse complaints and the protection of animals is handled by various non-profit organizations throughout BC;

**AND WHEREAS** these societies are in constant need of financial support as they receive no provincial government funding and are only able to operate due to the sustained efforts of volunteers and support through independent donations:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA request Provincial legislation be implemented to levy an additional tax of up to one half of one percent on all commercially produced animal food sales in British Columbia to help cover the operational costs of non-profit animal protection organizations.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *In 2009 due to time constraints, the UBCM membership referred a similar resolution, B180, to the UBCM Executive. Resolution 2009-B180 called on the provincial government to levy an additional tax on animal food sales, with the revenue from this tax to assist with the operational costs of the BC SPCA. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse resolution 2009-B180.*

*In its comments on resolution 2009-B180, the UBCM Resolutions Committee observed that sales tax on a specific product, such as gasoline, had theretofore been levied only in cases where the revenue raised was directed to agencies that were accountable to the public. The Committee wondered whether it was appropriate to levy a specific sales tax solely for the purpose of funding the programs of a non-government organization, and whether such additional taxes on products would be acceptable to the public.*

*The UBCM membership has endorsed related resolutions requesting provincial funding for the BC SPCA (2011-B144, 2011-B145). In response to resolutions 2011-B144 and 2011-B145, the provincial government suggested that its 2011 amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act would ensure a greater level of protection for animals. The Province indicated that it would not provide further financial support to the BC SPCA, instead encouraging local governments to work with the BC SPCA to “find workable solutions within the current resource envelope.”*

**B6: EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING****DISTRICT OF STEWART**

**WHEREAS** the need for planning grants are essential for small communities to determine deficiencies in their infrastructure systems;

**AND WHEREAS** the costs of repairs to the infrastructure is significant and usually greater than most remote rural communities can afford:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to give preferential treatment to implementation grant applications for projects identified as critical in a report funded by a previous planning grant.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation******NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically requesting that preference be given to implementation grants for projects identified as critical in reports funded by planning grants.*

*UBCM notes, however, that the preamble to the resolution clearly articulates the particular needs of BC's small and rural communities, and that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop infrastructure funding programs which recognize these needs (e.g. 2011-B31).*

*UBCM members have endorsed a range of resolutions proposing grant program reforms to support small and rural local governments, including:*

- *establishing separate funding programs available only to small/rural communities (2007-B7);*
- *reducing or eliminating the local contribution requirements for small/rural or fiscally challenged local governments (2012-B13); and*
- *streamlining application and/or reporting requirements (2007-A6).*
- 

*In preparation for local-provincial-federal government discussions to develop a permanent Gas Tax program and infrastructure funding programs to replace those under the Building Canada Plan, UBCM surveyed its membership about specific proposals for reform. In that survey, 34% of respondents favoured a lower percentage for the required local government contribution; 28% favoured segregating a portion of funding, to be accessed only by small or rural local governments; 22% favoured eligibility for a broader range of local government infrastructure for small or rural communities; and 16% made other suggestions, such as eliminating application processes, or spreading completion requirements over a longer timeframe.*

*Taking its direction from the survey responses, UBCM in its submission to Infrastructure Canada on a proposed Long-Term Infrastructure Plan (LTIP) recommended:*

- *broadening the scope of eligible projects to include all local government infrastructure;*
- *streamlining program requirements to accommodate the broad range of local government capacity; and*
- *provision of a mix of allocated and application based funding under all programs.*

*Further, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its LTIP submission to Infrastructure Canada recommended reducing the population cut-off of the Building Canada Fund Small Communities Component, and streamlining the program to ensure that small, rural and remote communities can access the funds efficiently and fairly.*

**HEALTH****B7: HEALTH SERVICE CONSULTATION****DISTRICT OF STEWART**

**WHEREAS** health service is a vital part of remote rural communities and local health providers know the health needs and service requirements of their community better than outside sources;

**AND WHEREAS** all residents throughout BC deserve essential health service;

**AND WHEREAS** reductions in the current health services in their own community results in added costs and stress to residents, especially the elderly and low income residents, particularly in winter conditions when they must travel to seek health services that are often located a considerable distance away:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to ensure that any change in levels of health services to small remote communities are only considered by health authorities in consultation with the local health providers, residents of the community and the local government.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the provincial government to provide opportunities for meaningful consultation with local governments on health care issues and changes to health care services (2012-B93, 2007-B53, 2004-B29, 2003-A10, 2003-B101, 2002-B61).*

*In response to resolution 2012-B93 the provincial government highlighted several initiatives already underway to improve access to medical services in all health regions. Examples of these initiatives include:*

- *increased enrolment in medical school, and regional distribution of medical education to northern BC, the Okanagan, and Vancouver Island;*
- *the \$10 million Rural Enhancement Emergency Fund; and*
- *provincial government participation on the Committee on Rural Issues - a collaborative initiative with the BC Medical Association*

*UBCM would suggest an amendment to the resolution in order to frame the need for consultation as a province-wide issue, one that is not limited to small, remote communities.*

**B8: MENINGITIS VACCINATIONS IN BC****DISTRICT OF KITIMAT**

**WHEREAS** Meningitis is a bacterial infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord that can lead to severe complications, including brain damage and death. The risk of spreading meningitis increases during adolescence and the disease progresses quickly; with serious risks occurring even when there is early detection and treatment;

**AND WHEREAS** eight provinces and territories in Canada have implemented public meningococcal conjugate immunization programs (MCV4) offering protection against four serotypes (A, C, W-135, and Y); however, British Columbia does not have an MCV4 program:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA urge the provincial Ministry of Health to implement a province-wide MCV4 immunization program in all secondary schools by April 24, 2014, World Meningitis Day.

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation**

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Ministry of Health implement a province wide meningitis vaccination program in all secondary schools by April 2014.*

## **JUSTICE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

### **B9: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR DAMS IN BC**

#### **PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** British Columbia has many man-made dams on its rivers and streams throughout the Province and these infrastructures create man-made hazards that the general public needs to be informed of as well as of the potential risks and impacts they create;

**AND WHEREAS** while the current Dam Safety Regulation (BC Reg 163/2011) requires dam permit holders to prepare and maintain emergency plans, there are no provisions to require dam permit holders to inform and educate the general public on the hazards, risks and impacts associated with their infrastructures before or during an emergency event:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact changes to legislation/regulation that would require dam permit holders to prepare all-encompassing emergency management plans that include requirements for dam permit holders to conduct public education, develop comprehensive public notification procedures and assist in the coordination of emergency response and recovery efforts to ensure the safety of the public.

#### **Background:**

In BC the statutory obligations for dam owners for emergency planning are fairly low; the owner of a dam that has a classification of significant, high, very high or extreme (based on dam failure consequences) must prepare an emergency preparedness plan that describes the action to be taken in the event of an emergency at the dam. The emergency plan is quite basic in that it only includes the names of contact persons, access routes and who should be notified downstream of the dam. In the event of an emergency, the dam owner must notify those who are in immediate danger and undertake any other hazard response activity required by a dam safety officer or engineer, or the comptroller or regional water manager.

For example, in the case of an emergency at the Peace Canyon or WAC Bennett Dam on the Peace River, BC Hydro as the dam owner only notifies the potentially affected local government of the emergency and does not notify the residents or businesses that could be impacted. As a matter of preparedness these residents and businesses are not made aware by the dam owner of the hazard, risk or potential impact that these man-made structures hold. Dam owners have the expertise to provide proper public education on the hazard they have created, develop comprehensive public

notification procedures and assist in the coordination of emergency response and recovery efforts to ensure the safety of the public.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse with the following Amendment***

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact changes to legislation/regulation that would require dam permit holders to prepare all-encompassing emergency management plans to ensure the safety of the public.

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to require dam permit holders to prepare all-encompassing emergency plans, and require the permit holders to conduct public education, develop comprehensive public notification procedures and assist in the coordination of emergency response and recovery efforts as part of the permit holders' emergency management plans.*

**B10: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION**

**SKEENA QUEEN CHARLOTTE RD**

**WHEREAS** the system of mass emergency & hazard notification in the Province of BC is slow and ineffective, as demonstrated by Emergency Management BC's slow notification response times for two recent Tsunami Warnings;

**AND WHEREAS** fast and wide reaching emergency & hazard notification systems are proven to save lives, while slow and ineffective ones inevitably cost lives;

**AND WHEREAS** some communities have access to effective hazard & emergency mass notification systems, while others don't;

**AND WHEREAS** the technology & financial capacity needed to establish a world class system of emergency & hazard notification province-wide are available:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NCLGA, UBCM and FCM urge the Provincial and Federal Governments to establish a world class emergency and hazard mass notification system, including the following:

1. The establishment of a province-wide, all-hazard radio system by expanding Weatheradio Canada coverage, with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) protocols, to 100% of the populated areas in British Columbia by the end of 2014.
2. The establishment of a federal/provincial/local government cost-shared funding program with the purpose of ensuring that all of the communities in BC are able to establish mass notification systems that meet local needs.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal and provincial governments upgrade emergency response technology so that they are able to notify local governments about earthquakes and tsunami in a more timely fashion. Nor have UBCM members considered a resolution calling on the federal and provincial governments to provide funding to assist local government in developing an emergency and hazard mass notification system to notify local residents.*

**B11: PROLIFIC OFFENDERS**

**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE**

**WHEREAS** Williams Lake experiences a high number of prolific offenders that are responsible for the majority of crime and for the high rates of crime in our community;

**AND WHEREAS** the criminal justice system does not allow judges to consider previous convictions in making judgments for an individual charge which results in multiple incidents of crime perpetrated by the same offender being treated as separate cases:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Justice to make changes to allow consideration of the prolific nature of offenders during prosecution.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Not Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting changes to the court system to allow consideration of the prolific nature of offenders during prosecution.*

**LEGISLATIVE**

**B12: COMMUNITY CHARTER / LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT**

**CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT**

**WHEREAS** municipalities become the owners of properties arising through the mandatory provisions of *Community Charter/Local Government Act* legislation that regulates Municipal Property Tax Sales;

**AND WHEREAS** the municipal title to the property can then be disputed in a court of law or other tribunal;

**AND WHEREAS** the property title disputes prevent municipalities from transferring title to another purchaser and thereby hinders the sale of the property;

**AND WHEREAS** the holding costs, the legal costs, as well as opportunity costs while title is resolved can be extremely expensive and burdensome to a municipality:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM respectively request that the Province amend the *Community Charter and Local Government Act* so that a municipality's clear title to a property as a result of the operation of the Municipal Tax Sale Process cannot be disputed in a court of law or other tribunal.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting legislative amendments to eliminate the right of a former owner of a tax sale property to dispute the sale in court.*

*However, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for reform to the tax sale process, including eliminating the tax sale auction (2005-B17), providing authority for a municipality*

*to set aside a tax sale for reasons of manifest error (2005-B86), shortening the redemption period (2000-B2) and increasing penalties and interest during the redemption period (1984-A8).*

*UBCM would observe that while all of these resolutions are aimed at finding efficiencies in the tax sale process, none appear to limit the ability of the former owner of the property to dispute the process in court. Further, UBCM would question whether denying access to the courts is appropriate in the circumstances, given the potential significance of the loss of the property to the former owner.*

**B13: HERITAGE WEEK**

**CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** BC Heritage Week is held during the third week of February when weather conditions are generally poor;

**AND WHEREAS** a later date would provide weather conditions more conducive to the showcasing of heritage sites, and to the tourism opportunities associated with heritage:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA requests that the Province of BC move the date of BC Heritage Week to later in the year.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government change the dates of BC Heritage Week so that it takes place later in the year.*

**B14: COMPULSORY LABELING OF GMO FOOD**

**CITY OF QUESNEL**  
**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE**

**WHEREAS** the long term health effects of consuming genetically modified organisms in food products is uncertain and the requirements of Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection agency limit labeling to known health and safety risks which would be mitigated by labeling;

**AND WHEREAS** the safety and security of food is critical to a healthy community and public polls indicate that Canadians want to see labels identifying genetically modified organisms in food products;

**AND WHEREAS** consumers have a fundamental right to know how their food is produced:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to enact legislation which would require consumer labeling of products sold in British Columbia where there are genetically modified organisms in those food products.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

**Background Information:** [http://www.nclga.ca/Files/GMO\\_Background1.pdf](http://www.nclga.ca/Files/GMO_Background1.pdf)

***NCLGA Membership:***

*UBCM Comments: The UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2009-B151, which asked that the provincial government require labelling of all food products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in British Columbia.*

*The membership did, however, endorse resolution 2012-B126 which asked that the provincial government legislate the prohibition of importing, exporting, and the domestic production of fruit and plant material containing genetically engineered (GE) DNA constructs and to declare through legislation that BC is a GE Free province in respect to all tree fruit products.*

**B15: RESTRICTIONS ON BEAR SPRAY AND MACHETES**

**CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE**

**WHEREAS** bear spray and machetes are used as the weapons of choice by youth in our community to commit violent crimes;

**AND WHEREAS** these items are widely available for purchase in retail outlets in our community:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to enact legislation which restricts sale of and access to bear spray and machetes.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Not Endorse***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments: UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution that requested provincial legislation to restrict the sale of and access to bear spray and machetes.***

**SOCIAL ISSUES**

**B16: INCREASE IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES**

**CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT**

**WHEREAS** the amount of support given to individuals on disability, welfare, and/or old age security is inadequate to support people's basic human needs in terms of adequate shelter, clothing, food, and other basic necessities, based on today's cost of living;

**AND WHEREAS** this forces individuals, who are obliged by circumstance to utilize these programs, to live in a manner that violates basic human rights and dignity:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the basic support allowance given to these individuals to a level that reflects the true cost of living in our country.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments: The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2011-B175 calling on the provincial government to increase current assistance rates and implement a program to adjust those rates annually based on the BC Average Annual Consumer Price Index.***

*In response to this resolution, the Province indicated that it would not consider increases to income assistance and disability assistance. However, the provincial government did advise that it would be working with UBCM on local poverty reduction strategies in seven BC communities.*

**B17: STANDARDIZATION OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE RATES****CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT**

**WHEREAS** married couples receive less support on disability, welfare, and/or old age security than they would if they were single individuals, thereby decreasing their ability to live with security and dignity, as protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

**AND WHEREAS** this practice is discriminatory, and therefore violates the guarantee of equality set out in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial and Federal Governments to award equal financial support to individuals on disability, welfare and/or old age security regardless of their marital status.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to award equal financial support to individuals on disability, welfare and/or old age security regardless of their marital status.*

*However, members have endorsed resolutions that requested an increase in assistance rates for adults with disabilities to match the level of assistance provided to seniors (2011-B75; 2006-B171).*

**TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION****B18: ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE OPERATION ON PUBLIC ROADS****DISTRICT OF WELLS**

**WHEREAS** small rural communities could benefit economically as service centres for the growing recreational sport of All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) touring;

**AND WHEREAS** legislation in British Columbia currently prohibits the operation of All Terrain Vehicles on highways, roads and streets for recreational purposes:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to amend current legislation to permit Local Governments to regulate the operation of ATV's on municipal roads and streets within their boundaries.

**Background:**

Provincial legislation currently provides local governments with the power to regulate the use of snowmobiles on municipal streets. Some municipalities such as the District of Wells take advantage of this empowerment to promote our community as a winter tourism destination by providing snowmobile enthusiasts not only with an excellent winter trail system, but also with the ability to directly access services in our town such as accommodation, restaurants and fuel.

The resolution being proposed is to encourage the Provincial Government to extend this same successful municipal empowerment to include the regulation of recreational All-Terrain Vehicles on municipal streets. Just as with snowmobiles, each Local Government could have the authority, by bylaw, to determine how, where and when ATV on-street use could be permitted within their boundaries.

Obviously this may not be suitable for many urban areas and in such situations local governments need not enact such bylaws. However for rural communities with a strong economic dependence on recreational tourism such legislation could provide an additional tool with which to promote their communities and sustain their businesses. For this reason we ask your support for this resolution.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: No Recommendation***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting that the Province enact legislation and regulations with respect to off-road vehicles (ORVs) and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) (2011-B10, 2009-A6, 2007-B20, 2005-B10, 2002-B9, 1999-LR4, 1996-B16, 1993-B36). Since ORV riders often cross boundaries from one local government to another, UBCM members have sought a province-wide approach for regulating and licensing their use to ensure consistency.*

*In November 2009, the Province announced its intent to develop a new framework for managing ORVs and ATVs. UBCM is presently represented on a Joint Advisory Group and a local government working group has also been established to provide feedback and comment to the provincial government on specific local government interests as the new framework is developed. The framework is being implemented in phases and the advisory groups continue to provide feedback on aspects including highway crossings, compliance and enforcement, safety, as well as licensing and registration.*

**B19: HIGHWAY 16 UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD**  
**DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF**

**WHEREAS** the Trans Canada Highway 16 is the only east-west highway connecting communities in Northern BC and is a critical link for the economic development of the region and province, especially providing access to the Asia-Pacific;

**AND WHEREAS** there is a need to facilitate the safe and efficient traffic flow on the highway through areas that are in dire need of improvements, such as Car Wash Rock, reducing “bottle-necks”, more “three laning”, and safer level rail crossings, etc:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NCLGA and UBCM call upon the Federal and Provincial Governments to allocate the necessary funds and implement a comprehensive program to make improvements on the Trans Canada Hwy 16 within BC.

**Background:**

An article published in the Prince Rupert Northern View newspaper on January 30, 2013 headline reads: “Prince Rupert’s Hearing Clinic Recalled to Terrace” with a subheading of “Connect Hearing cites highway safety for technician’s absence”.

Prince Rupert seniors are fighting to have services restored for their hearing aid maintenance. Last winter Connect Hearing Clinics decided its regular visits to Prince Rupert from Terrace would be terminated in the interest of their technician’s safety. A letter sent out to customers put the blame on “treacherous” winter driving conditions between the two cities.

\*The remainder of the article is posted on the NCLGA website:  
[http://www.nclga.ca/Files/PortEdward\\_Hwy16\\_BackGround.pdf](http://www.nclga.ca/Files/PortEdward_Hwy16_BackGround.pdf)

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse**

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** *The UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2011-B162, which called on the provincial and federal governments to “three-lane” Highway 16 within BC. Similarly, members considered but did not endorse resolution 2011-B161, which requested that the provincial government “four-lane” Highway 97 North.*

*However, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed more general resolutions in support of highway upgrades and improved highway safety throughout BC (2009-B16, 2008-B110, 2007-B168, 2006-B139, 2004-B54, 2003-B11, 2001-B20, 2000-B63, 1999-B46, 1999-B47, 1998-A1, 1998-B54, 1997-B8, 1996-B89, 1996-B93, 1993-B45, 1992-B107).*

*UBCM would suggest that as written, the resolution focuses on a specific area of the province, and it would therefore be more appropriate for NCLGA, rather than UBCM, to undertake advocacy regarding this issue.*

**B20: REVIEW OF BC ROAD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS**

**KITIMAT-STIKINE REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** northern BC residents consistently declare road maintenance fails to meet travellers’ requirements and that standards have deteriorated since privatization of road maintenance;

**AND WHEREAS** road maintenance contractors consistently meet their contractual obligations and provide service according to provincial maintenance standards:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the North Central Local Government Association call upon the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure to revise the provincial standards for road maintenance for future road maintenance contracts, to meet public safety needs.

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation:**

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** *The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to review and improve highway maintenance standards (2009-B161, 2008-B113, 2007-B97, 2005-B80, 2003-A9, 2001-B14, 2000-B11).*

*See also resolution B21.*

**B21: HIGHWAY 16 WINTER MAINTENANCE CLASSIFICATION**

**KITIMAT-STIKINE REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** the provincial government employs a roads classification system to determine the level of winter maintenance;

**AND WHEREAS** Highway 16 is critically important to the economy of the region, province and nation, and requires the highest standards of maintenance:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the North Central Local Government Association write the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure insisting on reclassification of Highway 16 from Class “B” to Class “A”.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation:***

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government re-classify Highway 16 as Class “A” rather than Class “B” for the purpose of winter maintenance.*

*However, UBCM members have endorsed more general resolutions calling on the provincial government, in consultation with local government, to review the road maintenance classification system as well as the standards for winter maintenance of highways (2005-B80, 2001-B14).*

*UBCM would suggest that as written, the resolution focuses on a specific area of the province, and it would therefore be more appropriate for NCLGA, rather than UBCM, to undertake advocacy regarding this issue.*

*See also resolution B20.*

## **B22: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

## **DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF**

**WHEREAS** many rural communities in Northern British Columbia do not have any public transit or adequate taxi service;

**AND WHEREAS** the absence of public transportation and suitable taxi service in these rural communities places them at a distinct disadvantage as their citizens have no opportunity to use public transportation within or between communities:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province of BC implement a public transportation strategy and establish solutions leading to the sustainability of both public transit and taxis in all rural communities.

***NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse with the following Amendment***

**Suggested Amendment:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province of BC implement a public transportation strategy and establish sustainable solutions.

***NCLGA Membership:***

***UBCM Comments:*** *The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2012-B115, which called on the provincial government to develop a transportation strategy for sustainable public transit and taxis in rural communities.*

*In response to resolution 2012-B115 the provincial government suggested that local issues relating to public transit and taxis in rural communities would be better addressed by local governments and service providers. The Province cited existing agreements between BC Transit and 58 local*

government partners for the delivery of transit services, cost shared between BC Transit and local government.

The provincial government indicated that communities wishing to establish transit service could discuss preliminary options with BC Transit, or request a formal feasibility study; and that in communities with a demand for taxi or other commercial passenger transportation services, a service provider could apply to the Registrar of Passenger Transportation for a license to deliver those services: <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/rpt/index.htm>

## **B23: TELEPHONE & INTERNET SERVICE DURING AN EMERGENCY**

### **DISTRICT OF STEWART**

**WHEREAS** during a catastrophic event such as a tsunami, earthquake, or police emergency, communication with emergency response organizations are critically important to public safety;

**AND WHEREAS** disruptions in land line telephone and internet services will cut many remote rural and coastal communities off from Emergency Response Management Systems:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to ensure the necessary cell phone infrastructure is in place in order to provide timely emergency response.

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse**

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to ensure the availability and function of cellular telephone infrastructure to support emergency response communications.

However, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2012-B45, 2011-B72, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2006-B54, 2005-B5, 2004-B9, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).

## **B24: EXPANSION OF BROADBAND SERVICES**

### **KITIMAT-STIKINE REGIONAL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS** the delivery of health and education services in northern remote communities is impaired by the lack of connectivity;

**AND WHEREAS** specifically, services such as “tele-health” and distance education are vital, cost-efficient services significantly contributing to northern development:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the North Central Local Government Association write the federal Minister of Industry and BC Minister of Citizens’ Services and Open Government seeking a renewed and highest priority commitment to the expansion of broadband technology in northern British Columbia.

**NCLGA Executive Recommendation: Endorse**

**NCLGA Membership:**

**UBCM Comments:** *The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of broadband internet service for all communities in BC (2011-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).*

*In response to resolution 2011-B72, the provincial government highlighted a July 2011 agreement between the Province and TELUS, which in part aimed to improve internet connections to designated rural and remote communities by increasing bandwidth up to ten times the current speed. The Province also indicated that it was working with the private sector and other orders of government to provide every BC community with high-speed internet service within the next 10 years.*