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EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

A1: POWERLINE IMPROVEMENTS

NCLGA EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS many regions of British Columbia are in need of power line improvements, substation upgrades and distribution system expansions/enhancements that will provide adequate, stable, reliable power;

AND WHEREAS all regions of BC are reliant on the power and distribution system for community stability, jobs and economic growth:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government and BC Hydro to make the power line and distribution system improvements a high priority for all regions of British Columbia.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

MEMBER SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES

B1: FENCING ADJACENT TO HIGHWAYS

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has established the Highways Fencing Program for ranchers to apply for funding to erect fencing along primary highways to reduce the risk of their livestock being on the highway; however, funding is not available for fencing of secondary highways or for maintenance of existing fencing;

AND WHEREAS many ranchers suffer economically and motorists are injured or killed when livestock enter onto highways, including secondary highways:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to broaden the criteria for the Highways Fencing Program eligibility to include secondary highways and to provide funding for maintenance of existing fencing, which will increase the safety of the motoring public and will address the economic hardship that ranchers face when their cattle are killed on highways including secondary highways.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government broaden the criteria of the Highways Fencing Program to include secondary highways and to provide funding for the maintenance of existing fencing.

B2: FENCING OF AGRICULTURAL INTERFACE

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS in British Columbia, there are residential developments that are currently in existence that abut livestock range areas, resulting in livestock entering onto residential properties;

AND WHEREAS the Crown collects fees for grazing leases, but does not provide fenced, defined range boundaries to contain the livestock:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to assume the responsibility of fencing the existing agricultural/residential interface to protect ranchers from economic hardship through loss of livestock, and residents from damage caused by livestock entering onto their property.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the Province assume the responsibility of fencing agricultural/residential interface areas.

ENERGY

B3: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

CITY OF TERRACE

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has provided funding and programs to homeowners for energy efficiency improvements;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the Climate Action Charter:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to continue and to expand programs that will encourage the retrofitting of existing housing stock to improve energy efficiency.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for the continuation, or expansion, of programs that encourage the retrofitting of houses. Resolution 2010-B86 called for increased provincial incentives for residential retrofits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while resolution 2007-B177 called for reinstatement of the federal EnerGuide program that funded energy efficient retrofits.

In response to the 2010 resolution, the provincial government highlighted its work, some still in progress, updating standards and regulations in the building sector, including standards for ultra low-flow toilets; a solar ready rough-in regulation; and a new BC Building Code, containing new energy requirements for buildings, green concrete standards, and increased opportunities for grey water reuse.

B4: FIVE YEAR STRATEGY FOR BC NATURAL GAS USE

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS natural resources have the potential to be the foundation of British Columbia's economic health and long-term revenue predictability;

AND WHEREAS meaningful jobs for present and future BC citizens are multiplied by secondary and tertiary employment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM strongly encourage the Province to develop strategies that will address the long term domestic supply, satisfy existing commitments, and provide incentives to build infrastructure for ancillary enterprises..

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED AS AMENDED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously requested the Province to develop strategies that will address the long term domestic supply of natural gas, including incentives to build related infrastructure.

B5: INNOVATE BC'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has expressed an interest in a "Made in BC Approach" to utilizing the natural gas reserves in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia has expressed a desire to create a diversified natural gas industry with its attendant jobs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to effect a plan within one year to create a comprehensive infrastructure to supply natural gas to commercial transport for British Columbia, with a target date for implementation within five years.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to effect a plan within one year to create a comprehensive infrastructure to supply natural gas to commercial transport for BC, with a target date for implementation within 5 years.

B6: ROBSON VALLEY POWERLINE IMPROVEMENT

VILLAGE OF MCBRIDE

WHEREAS the Robson Valley is in dire need of power line improvements that will provide stable, reliable power and create economic opportunities for the entire Robson Valley;

AND WHEREAS the Village of McBride has been working with Independent Power Producers and BC Hydro and has developed a business case for Transmission line installation, additional substations and distribution line upgrades that would provide stable, reliable power and economic growth along the Robson Valley Corridor:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government and BC Hydro to make the power line improvements along the Robson Valley Corridor a high priority.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that BC Hydro make power line improvements along the Robson Valley Corridor a high priority.

However, UBCM members did endorse resolution B25 in 2004, which requested that the Province commit to the writing of a comprehensive plan for extension of the electrical grid into the Northwest region that considers long term economic and resource development needs.

B7: THREE PHASE POWER

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS according to BC Hydro's Transmission Interconnection Process Guidelines, connection times for a business to connect to an adequate power supply can vary from 17 months to 4.5 years;

AND WHEREAS an inadequate power supply prohibits industrial growth;

AND WHEREAS the cost of the transmission connection can vary greatly from community to community thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA requests that the Provincial Government encourage BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission to institute policy changes designed to reduce connection times and to establish fair and equitable connection costs for all transmission customers.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution encouraging BC Hydro and the BCUC to make policy changes to reduce the connection times and establish fair connection costs for customers.

ENVIRONMENT

B8: BROWNFIELDS

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF
DISTRICT OF MACKENZIE
VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

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 UBCM Resolution 2008-B33 was passed at the 2008 UBCM Convention to strongly urge 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.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for legislative amendments that would require the remediation of contaminated sites upon the request of a local government.

In particular, the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B29, which called for an amendment to Part 4 of the Environmental Management Act to require that, upon application by a local government, the Ministry of Environment order remediation of contaminated sites. The membership also endorsed resolution 2007-B70, which called on the Province to amend the current legislation in order to require the owners of vacant properties that have been contaminated to remediate these properties within five years of their becoming vacant. In addition, the membership endorsed resolution 2008-B33, which called on the Province to take immediate steps to implement 2007 resolutions B29 and B70. Finally, Resolution 2001-B76 requested that “sections 26.5, 26, 27, and 27.1 of the Waste Management Act be amended to require that, upon application by a local government, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air will order remediation of contaminated sites”.

In response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial government cited the BC Brownfield Renewal Strategy that it had introduced that same year.

B9: LEVY FOR “ONE TIME USE” PLASTIC BAGS**CITY OF QUESNEL**

WHEREAS it is estimated 55 million “one time use” plastic bags are used weekly by Canadians, with all but a small percentage being sent to landfills using valuable space;

AND WHEREAS it takes up to 1000 years to biodegrade, as well as taking taxpayer’s resources to attend to the issues that arise from plastic bag litter like clean up and blockages in gutters or drains:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province to institute a per-bag levy to consumers who choose to use “one time use” bags, with the funds generated devoted to recycling programs that help keep plastic bags out of our landfills.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

Due to time constraints, resolution 2009-B124 was referred to the UBCM Executive. The resolution called for the provincial government to implement a fee for plastic shopping bags, with the revenue to be distributed to local governments responsible for solid waste, to be allocated towards a plastic bag recycling initiative, awareness program or other incentives to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags. Upon consideration, the UBCM Executive did not endorse the resolution.

The UBCM membership has considered the issue of plastic bags several times over the years. In 2006, members referred resolution B144 to the UBCM Executive. The resolution called on the provincial and federal governments to impose a “PlasTax” on single use, thin film shopping bags, similar to a tax imposed by the Government of Ireland. The UBCM Executive referred 2006-B144 to the UBCM Environment Committee, and upon consideration, the Environment Committee did not endorse the resolution.

As part of its consideration of resolution 2006-B144, the Environment Committee conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Plastax initiative other options for addressing the plastic bag issue. The Committee suggested that the “Plastax” proposal might not be the best model for BC at the time, and instead proposed that UBCM should encourage the plastics industry to harmonize plastic bag products to increase their recyclability; and also work with local governments on options for enhancing plastic bag reuse, reduction, and recycling.

In addition, at the 2008 Convention, the membership endorsed Resolution B88, which called on UBCM to request a provincial government ban on thin film plastic grocery bags. In September 2008 leading retail organizations in BC voluntarily committed to reduce the use of disposable shopping bags by half over the coming five years as well as to develop reuse and recycling options to address immediate concerns regarding disposable shopping bags. Given the commitment of the retail industry to take voluntary action, the Ministry of Environment acknowledged that it was “not considering a provincial ban on disposable shopping bags at [the] time, but instead [would] monitor the success of this industry initiative.”

B10: 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 enlist the aid of the ranching community to control noxious weeds, including but not limited to supplying necessary herbicide and offering a restricted and abbreviated pesticide applicator's license which would allow ranchers to control weeds on their own range.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not considered a resolution calling on the Province to do everything possible to enlist the aid of the ranching community to control noxious weeds.

However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial funding and assistance in combating 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).

B11: PROTECTION OF POTABLE WATER**CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS sources of potable water are increasingly being lost due to contamination and overuse;

AND WHEREAS water is vital to human life and must be protected:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby both the Provincial and Federal Governments to protect water aquifers and all bodies of potable water through the enactment of a national strategy that will ensure that Canadian water sources are protected and conserved so that all Canadians have access to clean water sources now and in the future.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the creation of a national strategy for the protection and conservation of Canadian water sources. However, members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the enactment of measures that would protect potable water sources.

In particular, the membership endorsed resolution 2007-B27, which called on UBCM to work with all levels of government to develop water policies that protect and conserve natural sources of water, and ensure that the delivery, management and regulation of water and services is a public

responsibility, affordable and accountable to BC citizens. Similarly, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for groundwater regulation (2011-B43), a ban on the export of bulk water (2003-B31), opposition to the privatization of water services (2006-B147), and greater control over watersheds (2011-B129).

B12: WATER STEWARDSHIP

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN

WHEREAS water is our most important resource and should be managed prudently;

AND WHEREAS there is increased activity in the oil and gas activity in northeastern BC that is utilizing this vital resource for its hydraulic fracturing operations where alternative solutions need to be explored and implemented such as the use of effluent water:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA be requested to petition the Province of BC to encourage oil and gas industries to enter into partnership agreements with either local or regional governments to construct effluent water facilities rather than utilizing aquifers for hydraulic fracturing purposes.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to encourage oil and gas industries to enter into partnership agreements with either local or regional governments to construct effluent water facilities rather than utilizing aquifers for hydraulic fracturing purposes.

FINANCE

B13: 2020 CARBON NEUTRAL GOALS

VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

WHEREAS numerous BC local governments have committed to be Carbon Neutral by 2020 by signing the Climate Action Charter;

WHEREAS there are limited provincial financial assistance programs and loan arrangements to help local governments, especially small BC communities, to reach their carbon neutrality goals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to develop more financial assistance programs and loan arrangements to assist local governments, especially small BC communities, in achieving 2020 Climate Action Charter commitments.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the Province to develop additional financial assistance programs and loan arrangements to assist local governments, especially smaller communities, in achieving their Climate Action Charter commitments.

However, members endorsed resolution 2007-B34, which requested funding from the provincial and federal governments for the development and implementation of local government climate change strategies. In 2009, the Province introduced the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)

to assist local governments in achieving their Climate Action Charter commitments. CARIP is a conditional grant program that provides funding to Climate Action Charter signatories equivalent to 100 percent of the carbon taxes they pay directly. As part of their work supporting local government signatories to the Charter, the UBCM-provincial Green Communities Committee has also provided a rebate to those local governments that sign on to the use the carbon emissions inventory and reporting tool, SMARTTool.

B14: ALTERNATIVES TO FEDERAL FUNDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD

WHEREAS the Federal Government has indicated it wishes to enter into discussions on a new national infrastructure program;

AND WHEREAS there is no Federal infrastructure funding available to Local Government other than through public private partnerships (P3s);

AND WHEREAS Local Government should have a choice as to the structure of the development of infrastructure projects and not be limited to public private partnerships, which do not work for small communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM appeal to the Federal Government not to limit its infrastructure funding for Local Governments to public private partnerships. Local Governments should be given a choice of funding arrangements that best suits their needs.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution raising an issue with federal infrastructure funding that is restricted only to projects that are public private partnerships (P3s); and requesting that the federal government amend infrastructure funding requirements so that non-P3 projects may become eligible for infrastructure funding.

Members did endorse resolution 1998-A4, which called for structuring of federal and provincial government investment programs that would encourage private investment to aid in the development of local infrastructure.

While there is currently a specific federal infrastructure program targeted towards P3 projects, this is not a feature of most recent federal infrastructure programs (i.e., P3 is not required under any of the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program, the Building Canada Fund or the Gas Tax Fund).

B15: FIRST NATIONS SERVICE AGREEMENT FUNDING

VILLAGE OF BURNS LAKE

WHEREAS BC Assessment reports that 45 of approximately 1,600 First Nations reserves are located within Local Government boundaries;

WHEREAS First Nations Reserves may be situated within local government boundaries and have full service agreements with the Local Government;

WHEREAS Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada funds only select services through a Municipal

Type Service Agreement with the First Nation, not including important services such as snow removal and animal control:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada and the Federal and Provincial governments to provide adequate funding to First Nations to provide full services to their members through agreements with local government.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province and the federal government to provide adequate funding to First Nations to provide full services to their members through service agreements with local government.

B16: FUNDING FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

DISTRICT OF HOUSTON

WHEREAS small communities struggle with funding costly water infrastructure projects such as, but not limited to, the development and construction of a water treatment plant to address complaints of dirty and unsafe drinking water;

AND WHEREAS turbidity is not so much a health concern as an indicator of health risk particularly for at-risk populations such as newborns, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems (e.g. those with HIV/Aids, undergoing chemotherapy, or taking anti-rejection drugs) and can interfere with chlorination:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Federal and Provincial Governments to enhance funding programs to assist Local Governments to address issues of providing clean and safe drinking water to its community.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide funding to local governments so that they can ensure clean and safe drinking water for their communities (2011-B107, 2009-B51, 2008-B21, 2006-B95, 2000-B12, 1999-A8, 1997-A2, 1995-B25, 1992-B20, 1992-B21, 1991-B53, 1989-B30).

B17: INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING CRITERIA

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT
CITY OF WILLIAMS LAKE

WHEREAS Canada and British Columbia have reduced the number of infrastructure funding programs available to local governments and those that are available are limited to specific types of infrastructure or specific government objectives;

WHEREAS small rural and urban local governments are struggling to deal with huge infrastructure deficits, while revenues from business, the resource sector, industry and other avenues continue to decline;

AND WHEREAS yearly property tax increases to cover operational costs are not sustainable, and

hurt the ability of those local governments to attract and retain business and industry investment to their communities;

AND WHEREAS small rural and urban local governments do not have the necessary funds to acquire federal/provincial grants which require them to produce matching funds, and are therefore unable to take advantage of these infrastructure grants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial and Federal governments to revise their grant formula so that they do not require matching funding, or come up with a new system that allows cash strapped local governments to address their critical infrastructure needs without having to borrow money to do so.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolutions 2009-B29, 2004-A7 and 2000-B12, all of which advocated for increased funding percentages for infrastructure grants, particularly for smaller communities, or where paying a 1/3 share of the project costs would place an undue financial burden on local tax payers.

B18: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

WHEREAS small rural and urban Local Governments are struggling to maintain basic operational services of water, sewer, and roads, while trying to deal with hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure deficit, as well as the various other services they provide;

WHEREAS Local Governments are unable to fund operations, in any way other than yearly property tax increases, which is not sustainable, and hurts the ability of those Local Governments to attract and retain business and industry investment to their communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA, UBCM and FCM petition the Provincial and Federal Governments to establish a committee to discuss, establish, and implement a funding formula that ensures a percentage of taxes already collected from citizens, business and industry, at the Provincial and Federal level be given back to Local Governments to deal with the infrastructure deficit in their communities.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide funding towards the cost of local government infrastructure (2011-B34, 2011-B31, 2010-B74, 2009-A1, 2009-B83, 2008-B21, 2008-B117 and 2005-SR1).

Members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide a share of various provincial and federal taxes, fees or resource revenues with local governments (2011-B30, 2011-B28, 2010-B77, 2010-B76, 2010-B75, 2009-B30, 2007-B1 and 2007-B23, as well as the 2008 Fiscal Balance Policy Paper and the 2004 Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper).

B19: SKILLED PROFESSIONALS**DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF**

WHEREAS there is a growing need to attract and retain qualified, skilled professionals to meet the increased demands of the resource industry in northern British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Federal Government to provide a tax credit of \$3,000.00 for a period of five years for graduating skilled professionals who choose to be educated in and live in rural British Columbia.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not considered a resolution that would seek a federal government tax credit for graduating skilled professionals who choose to be educated and live in rural BC.

However, members endorsed resolution 2008-B46, which requested that the Province make increased investments (capital and operating funding) in educational institutions and facilities, in order that they will be able to provide the retraining programs and services needed to enable individuals to make labour force transitions.

In response to the 2008 resolution, the provincial government highlighted its investment of “more than \$1.5 billion since 2001 in new and better campuses all around BC”.

HEALTH**B20: MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION IN RURAL BC *Gold Star Winner****DISTRICT OF STEWART**

WHEREAS the current lack of adequate medical transportation for people who need access to regular specialized medical services located in hub communities throughout the NCLGA Region;

AND WHEREAS accessible transportation is key to the effective treatment and recovery of British Columbians in small rural and remote communities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to further support the development of medical transportation services that meet the needs of all rural British Columbians.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

UBCM members have endorsed resolutions concerning the provision of assistance for health care related travel costs including requests that the Province:

- *subsidize the ferry fares of immediate family members when travelling back and forth on BC Ferries during the extended period of a child’s treatment (2010-B110);*
- *improve affordable public transportation service between small rural municipalities and hospitals in larger urban centres (2009-B15);*
- *extend the Health Connections Program to subsidize travel for medical care for any rural residents outside their home community, regardless of distance (2006-B156); and*
- *establish local mechanisms within communities to disburse funding to citizens for medical*

travel expenses (2005-B146).

In response to resolution 2009-B15, the provincial government highlighted the Health Connections program for patients accessing non-emergency specialist medical services outside their home communities; and the Travel Assistance Program (TAP), through which several airlines offer up to 30% off regular air fare on selected routes. The Province also clarified that “neither the Health Connections Program nor TAP can be used to subsidize emergency ground or air transportation provided by BC Ambulance Services (BCAS)”.

B21: PALLIATIVE CARE IN RURAL BC *Gold Star – Honourable Mention

DISTRICT OF STEWART

WHEREAS the current model of palliative care services does not address the critical needs of small rural and remote Communities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS lack of palliative care does not allow for residents to end their life with dignity in their home community near family and friends:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM members endorse and support the development of palliative care services in rural British Columbia.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to improve palliative and community-based seniors’ care options in BC, including requests for:

- *significant enhancement of BC’s system of community-based seniors’ care, in order to ensure timely access to the full range of public services that support seniors to age and die with dignity (2011-B63);*
- *cost parity for palliative care, across all types of facilities (2010-B13);*
- *development of a model of collaboration between regional cancer clinics and hospice palliative care programs, facilities and societies, to ensure a new standard of excellence in end of life care (2009-B154);*
- *adequate funding for residential care beds and facilities (2009-B52; 2004-B127; 2005-B45; 2000-B98; 1988-B5); and*
- *restoration of long-term care facilities throughout the province, sufficient to meet the needs of citizens in their communities (2006-B159).*

The enactment clause of this resolution supports in general the development of palliative care services in rural BC. However, local governments do not provide palliative care services, so UBCM would propose an amendment to identify the responsibility for funding palliative care services across the province.

Proposed amendment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request that the provincial government provide additional palliative care services available throughout British Columbia.

B22: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING IN RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES**CITY OF TERRACE**

WHEREAS ample and varied housing stock is an essential part of a healthy and prosperous community;

AND WHEREAS housing for the hard-to-house and transitional housing is scarce in many rural and remote communities in British Columbia:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial Government to provide ongoing operational funding for support services for the hard-to-house and transitional housing in British Columbia.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting the creation of supportive housing units and funding for such housing (2011-B67, 2009-C28, 2007-B153, 2005-B48, 2005-B49, 2005-B47, 2004-B129, 2002-B64, 1998-A31).

JUSTICE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES**B23: EMERGENCY SERVICES FUNDING****CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT**

WHEREAS small rural and urban Local Governments are struggling to provide adequate emergency services, such as fire protection, water treatment, and policing, due to escalating costs and insufficient federal and provincial funding, which compromises the safety and well-being of their citizens:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA, UBCM and FCM call on the federal government to abandon plans to end the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program in 2013, as planned, and provide long term ongoing funding for the program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial and Federal Governments to establish a committee to discuss and implement a program providing assistance to local governments that adequately addresses the emergency service needs of people in these areas and the ability to pay for those services, to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens in our province and our country.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED AS AMENDED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to provide funding towards the cost of local government infrastructure including that

related emergency services, such as water treatment, fire protection and policing (2011-B34, 2011-B31, 2010-B74, 2009-A1, 2009-B83, 2008-B21, 2008-B117 and 2005-SR1).

Members have also endorsed many resolutions requesting adequate funding for emergency management and planning, warning systems, flood protection, and cost of recovery after an event (2006-B65; 2006-B66; 2006-B67; 2005-A4; 2002-B16; 1997-A7).

UBCM recognizes that an emergency could occur in any area of the province, and would therefore propose an amendment so that the resolution includes all areas of the province.

Proposed amendment:

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to establish a committee to discuss and implement a program providing assistance to local governments that adequately addresses the emergency service needs of **local governments** and their ability to pay for those services, to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens in our province and our country.*

B24: NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD

WHEREAS in the wake of the disappearance of three-year-old Kiesan Hebert, of Sparwood, BC and the horrific stories we read about of children nationwide who vanish, are sexually assaulted and murdered, Port Edward Council strongly supports the City of Greenwood, in the protection of innocent children;

AND WHEREAS offenders have rights too, but once they repeat their offences, they should forfeit their right and their name be displayed in a public registry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Federal Government to make the necessary changes to the Criminal Code of Canada in order that the repeat sexual offenders' registry be made public.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically requesting that the sexual offenders registry be made public.

However, UBCM members have endorsed several resolutions related to the need for a sexual offenders registry and the need for treatment:

- *1996-B24 requested that society be better protected from sexual predators;*
- *1995-A10 requested that sexual predators not be released until they have served their full sentence;*
- *1992-B64 requested implementation of a central registry to identify convicted sexual offenders (which the federal and provincial government have since developed) and mandatory rehabilitation as a part of sentencing; and*
- *2006-B137 requested that there be consultation with local government and police; provision of treatment programs in provincial prisons; and that offenders not be released until they have undergone treatment and shown progress.*

B25: RELEASE OF DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the criminal justice system in Canada does not prohibit dangerous offenders from being released into small rural communities, although there may be other conditions enforced upon them;

AND WHEREAS most small rural communities across Canada have neither the resources to rehabilitate the offender, nor an RCMP detachment to protect their citizens from these criminals who may be at risk to reoffend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Federal Government to enact laws that would prohibit the conditional release of dangerous offenders into small communities that do not have an RCMP detachment to protect their citizens nor other resources to rehabilitate the dangerous offender.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government enact legislation to prohibit the conditional release of dangerous offenders into communities without an RCMP detachment or municipal police force, and resources to rehabilitate the dangerous offender.

As noted by the sponsor, in many cases small communities lack the police presence and the other resources needed in the community to provide proper monitoring or treatment of violent or sexual offenders.

LEGISLATIVE

B26: BILL 20 – AUDITOR FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS - Defeated

B27: CANADA EUROPEAN UNION TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

**CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT
DISTRICT OF PORT EDWARD**

WHEREAS the Canadian government is close to concluding negotiations with the European Union (EU) on a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), with participation from the provinces and territories;

AND WHEREAS the EU is insisting on full access to procurement by Local Governments which could significantly reduce the ability of Local Governments to hire or source locally or use public spending as a tool for economic development, environmental protection and support for local farmers and small businesses;

AND WHEREAS government procurement rules combined with investment protections related to transit, water, electricity and other public services delivered locally may lock in privatization and make it prohibitively expensive to apply new regulations, to re-municipalize services, or create new municipal programs;

AND WHEREAS Local Governments in British Columbia already have open and fair procurement policies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA:

- Request the BC Government to issue a clear, permanent exemption for BC Local Governments from the Canada-EU CETA agreement, and that it otherwise protect the powers of local governments; and
- Request the BC Government to disclose what it is putting on the table regarding procurement, services and investment as part of CETA discussions, explain the impacts CETA would have on municipal governance, and gave Local Governments the freedom to decide whether or not they will be bound by the agreement.
- Send this resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and to local Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly with a request that this policy be adopted.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2010-B108, which requested:

- *a briefing from the Province of BC on the scope and content of trade negotiations with the European Union;*
- *the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to provide sector-by-sector analysis of the potential impacts on local government functions and powers of the procurement regime that the European Union is seeking;*
- *the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the government of Canada not to provide the European Union with access to sub national government procurement; and*
- *that the provincial government negotiate a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from the CETA.*

With respect to the 2010 resolution, UBCM received a briefing from the Province on CETA in April 2011; has conveyed our position to FCM; has been monitoring the discussions between FCM and the federal government; received informal briefings from the Province on the status of negotiations; and continued to express the membership's request for a clear and permanent exemption.

UBCM issued a memo to members on February 22, 2012 conveying correspondence from the federal government that had been provided to FCM related to local government procurement and CETA. Members are encouraged to review this document, as the Q & A portion addresses some of the issues raised in the sponsors' resolution—public vs. private service provision; environmental considerations; local supply and sourcing; support for local farmers and small business.

B28: SHIPPING OF DANGEROUS GOODS LIABILITIES

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

WHEREAS the amount of ocean traffic is increasing along the West Coast of British Columbia due to increased economic activity, which increases the risk of accidents and spills, particularly from ships carrying dangerous and/or toxic products;

AND WHEREAS current environmental measures are not able to adequately clean up damages caused by these types of large scale spills or disasters, and continual cuts are being made that undermine the ability of our Coast Guard to address such disasters in a timely and adequate manner:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial and Federal Government to create legislation that requires that liability for cargo on a ship be the responsibility of both the carrier and the one who sold the cargo until such time as the cargo reaches its final destination, and/or is outside of Canadian waters.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Provincial/Federal Governments to create legislation that requires shippers of dangerous goods and cargo, as well as the manufacturers, be required to pay into an emergency fund designed for two purposes. One, to clean up, and compensate for any and all damages, including capital devaluation, social, cultural, and ecological damage, caused by an accident involving said goods and cargo, and two, to fund research into improving clean-up methods to deal with the eventuality of such spills.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM petition the Federal Government to restore the Coast Guard complement and safety measures along our coast to a standard that protects our coastline from the dangers of such accidents, and mitigates the amount of damage that would occur from the result of any such incidents.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for: the enactment of legislation that requires the liability for cargo on a ship to be the responsibility of both the carrier and the shipper; the creation of legislation that requires the shippers and manufacturers of dangerous goods and cargo to pay into an emergency clean-up fund; and to restore the Coast Guard compliment and safety measures along the coast.

However, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for industry to assume greater responsibility in covering costs associated with hazardous materials spills that occur outside of municipal boundaries (2003-B48). In particular, resolution 2008-B32 called for the enactment of legislation that would require responsible parties to pay for the costs of wildlife rescue and ecosystem recovery caused by spills, as well as an exploration of the feasibility of creating a Liability Trust Fund to provide funding for spill event remediation when responsible parties cannot be identified or held accountable. In addition, the membership has endorsed resolutions calling for “a modern, suitably equipped and staffed Coast Guard service” as well as an expansion of funding for the Coast Guard Auxiliary (2002-LR3, 2004-B50).

SOCIAL ISSUES - EDUCATION

B29: FUNDING FOR NORTHERN COLLEGES

DISTRICT OF HOUSTON

WHEREAS colleges in northern and rural British Columbia provide “closer to home education” for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

AND WHEREAS colleges in northern and rural British Columbia are challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas;

AND WHEREAS a large percentage of students looking to these Northern and Rural Colleges have not completed high school:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the Government of British Columbia to develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the scattered population of rural and northern British Columbia.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution specifically requesting that the Province develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing training and education in rural and northern BC.

However, members endorsed resolution 2004-B141, calling for the development of alternative or additional funding models that would assist in enhancing existing programs and allow development of new, relevant, and innovative training opportunities that could be accessed within each region (2004-B141).

As well in 2008, members endorsed resolution B46, calling on the Province to “make increased investments (capital and operating funding) in educational institutions and facilities, in order that they will be able to provide the retraining programs and services needed to enable individuals to make labour force transitions, as well as provide access to the skilled workers employers will need to work in new and emerging sectors;” and “to establish a new funding framework to ensure the ongoing long-term sustainability of the community college system in B.C.”

TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION

B30: ALASKA HIGHWAY 97 BRIDGE UPGRADES

CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN

WHEREAS the Provincial Government announced the long term plan of 4-laning Highways 2 and 97 from the Alberta border to Fort St. John to improve safety and build capacity;

AND WHEREAS 4-laning the highway will create bottlenecks at both the Kiskatinaw and Peace River bridges since there are currently no plans to widen these bridges to accommodate the extra lanes of traffic which may result in increased safety issues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA be requested to petition the Government of BC to reconsider this decision by including the necessary upgrades to the Kiskatinaw and Peace River bridges as part of the Alaska Highway 4-laning.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government include upgrades to the Kiskatinaw and Peace River bridges as part of the four-laning of the Alaska Highway, Highway 97.

Members considered two resolutions in 2011 regarding highway expansion - resolution 2001-B161, calling for four-laning of the Alaska Highway, Highway 97; and resolution 2001-B162, calling for “three-laning” the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway 16 within BC. Neither resolution was endorsed.

This resolution is specific to the Peace River region and therefore it is best dealt with by the North Central Local Government Association through their own advocacy efforts.

B31: ALASKA HIGHWAY 97 TWINNING - Defeated

B32: COASTAL FERRY ACT REVIEW

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT
SKEENA QUEEN CHARLOTTE REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS BC Ferries is an essential part of the Provincial Marine Highway system that is their financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS there is a proposal to make local and regional governments pay for enhanced ferry services that are part of that responsibility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government fully fund the Marine Highway as part of our Provincial Highway system, in order to provide reasonable access to all areas serviced by BC Ferries.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has endorsed a number of resolutions related to ferry fares, service levels and requesting that ferry systems throughout the province be deemed to be an extension of the highways systems and should be funded, administered and managed as such. Most recently in 2011 resolution A3 was endorsed which called on the Province to:

- recognize our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and provide the independent BC Ferry Commission with a mandate to provide comprehensive recommendations aimed at creating equity between our terrestrial and marine highways and keeping jobs in coastal BC; and*
- ensure that the BC Ferry fares are reduced and current service levels are maintained at current levels until such time as the provincial government implements legislation that recognizes our coastal ferry services as essential extensions of our provincial public highway system and creates equity between BC's terrestrial and marine highway systems.*

In response to the resolution the Province has indicated that it is reviewing the recommendations in the Ferry Commissioner's report, "and will be making decisions without undue delay."

B33: HIGHWAY 27 UPGRADE

DISTRICT OF VANDERHOOF

WHEREAS current Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure policy does not take into account expected increases in traffic and therefore by nature is late to react to significant changes in traffic;

AND WHEREAS the Highway 27 corridor between Vanderhoof and Fort St James currently does not meet the Ministry prescribed traffic flow to be upgraded, but this highway has and will continue to

experience significant increases in traffic flow due to the migration of logging operations to the Fort St James area and from the construction of Mount Milligan Mine:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the Provincial Government to commit to prioritize the upgrading of Highway 27 to meet the significant increase in traffic flow.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government prioritize the upgrading of Highway 27.

Members considered two resolutions in 2011 regarding highway expansion—resolution 2001-B161, calling for four-laning of the Alaska Highway, Highway 97; and resolution 2001-B162, calling for “three-laning” the Trans-Canada Yellowhead Highway 16 within BC. Neither resolution was endorsed.

This resolution is specific to the Vanderhoof area and therefore it is best dealt with by the North Central Local Government Association through their own advocacy efforts.

B34: WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET * Gold Star – Honourable Mention

DISTRICT OF HUDSON’S HOPE

WHEREAS the lack of access to high-speed internet adversely affects the economic well being of communities;

AND WHEREAS the unused spectrum formerly needed by stations transmitting analog television signals could be used to transmit internet service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the federal government (Industry Canada) to approve a portion of the unlicensed spectrum for use as wireless regional area networks at the earliest possible date.

NCLGA Membership: CARRIED

UBCM Comments:

This was submitted to UBCM in 2011 as a late resolution, but did not meet the criteria to be admitted for debate as an emergency resolution. In keeping with UBCM policy, the resolution has been forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2012 resolutions cycle.

The Resolutions Committee notes that resolution B78 in the 2011 Resolutions Book calls on the federal government to recognize the importance of the 700 MHz spectrum and set aside and dedicate this portion of the broadband spectrum for public safety uses.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed related resolution B78 in 2011, which called on the federal government to “recognize the importance of the 700 MHz spectrum and set aside dedicated public safety broadband”, and requested that the federal and provincial governments “commit the necessary resources to provide vision and leadership as required to build a robust system that meets public safety’s mission critical requirements to accomplish communications interoperability between public safety agencies across Canada and across borders”.

The resolution was conveyed to the provincial and federal governments and to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). In response, FCM indicated that the resolution was in accordance with current FCM policy, as the FCM Board adopted a similar resolution at their meeting in September 2011. UBCM awaits responses from the provincial and federal governments.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for improved and high-speed internet service (2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).

B35: HIGHWAY 37 CELLULAR SERVICE

DISTRICT OF STEWART

WHEREAS Highway 37 and 37A is the major corridor in Northwest British Columbia, and sees large volumes of commercial, general and tourist traffic travelling through remote areas that are without cellular coverage;

AND WHEREAS many small rural and remote communities in British Columbia are still without cellular coverage, and the absence of these services poses a hazard to all who travel through remote areas and effect the economic development in of such regions:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA, through the UBCM, lobby the Provincial Government to continue with its commitment and ensure that cell phone coverage is available to the travelling public and industrial traffic throughout the NCLGA area by the end of 2012.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED AS AMENDED*

UBCM Comments:

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

In response to resolution 2011-B72 the provincial government indicated that in July 2011 it “signed a new agreement with TELUS that will provide over 1,700 kilometers of new cellular coverage along unconnected highway segments within the next five years”.

SELECTED ISSUES

B36: TRANSIENT WORKER DATA COLLECTION

DISTRICT OF TUMBLER RIDGE

WHEREAS transient workers utilize health and recreation services in our communities which has a substantial impact on our resources;

AND WHEREAS transient worker data collection is not captured in Statistics Canada Census as part of population growth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the federal government and recommend data collection that will accurately capture the number of transient workers and seasonal residents that work in one community but reside in another to accurately determine funding levels by provincial and federal governments.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED AS AMENDED*

UBCM Comments:

The UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the federal government collect data, for the purposes of more accurately determining funding levels, on the number of transient workers that work in one community but reside in another.

However, members endorsed resolution 1995-B26, which sought the development of a formula that would recognize the issue of shadow populations for the purposes of transfer payments. This resolution was in response to the increase in populations that occur during high tourist season for some communities.

B37: TIME ALLOTTED FOR RESOLUTION DEBATE AT UBCM

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT

WHEREAS the debate of resolutions at the UBCM Convention is the most critical aspect of the convention to the delegates;

AND WHEREAS ample time should be given on the convention agenda for discussion, debate and decision on each and every resolution submitted:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA strongly encourage the UBCM Executive and staff to undertake policy amendments to ensure that sufficient time is provided to hear and decide upon all resolutions submitted for consideration at the annual UBCM convention.

NCLGA Membership: *CARRIED*