

Minutes of the 2019 Business Sessions

North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention

Williams Lake BC, May 7-10, 2019

Business Session Number One

1. Call to Order

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) was called to order at 9:00 am on May 9, 2019.

2. President's Report

President Gord Klassen welcomed the delegates, sponsors and speakers to the 64th Annual General Meeting of the North Central Local Government Association, acknowledged that the meeting is being held on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc Nation, and thanked the host communities, sponsors, and delegates. President Klassen then provided his report.

Moved/Seconded that President Klassen's report be received as presented. **CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved/Seconded that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 7-10, 2018, be adopted. **CARRIED**

4. Financial Statements

First Vice-President Lara Beckett presented the Financial Statements.

Moved/Seconded that the Financial Statements of March 31, 2019 be adopted, as presented. **CARRIED**

Appointment of Accountant

Moved/Seconded that KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants be appointed, as the North Central Local Government Association's Accountants for 2019-2020. **CARRIED**

Present Budget

Moved/Seconded that the preliminary 2019-2020 budget be approved. **CARRIED**

5. Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur presented the Nomination Report, explained the process whereby the new executive would be elected, and provided an explanation of the voting process.

6. Nominations for NCLGA President from the Floor

Lara Beckett, from the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, was nominated for the position of President. Nomination Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Lara Beckett, from the Regional District of Fraser Fort George, was declared President by acclamation.

7. Nominations for First Vice-President from the Floor

Sarrah Storey, from the Village of Fraser Lake, was nominated for the position of First Vice-President. Nominations Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur called three times for nominations from the floor; no further nominations were received.

Sarrah Storey, from the Village of Fraser Lake, was declared First Vice-President by acclamation.

8. Nominations for Second Vice-President from the Floor

Nominations Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur called once for nominations from the floor for the position of Second Vice-President.

Cori Ramsay, from the City of Prince George, was nominated for the position of Second Vice-President.

Nominations Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur called a second time for nominations from the floor for the position of Second Vice-President.

Steve Forseth, from the Cariboo Regional District, was nominated for the position of Second Vice-President.

Nominations Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur called a third time for nominations from the floor for the position of Second Vice-President.

The nominees for Second Vice-President, Steve Forseth and Cori Ramsay, were called to the podium to speak for 2 minutes.

Nominations Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur closed the nominations for Second Vice-President.

9. Resolutions Debate

The Resolutions Debate was opened by Resolutions Committee Chair, Brad Sperling. Brad Sperling extended thanks to all the communities for drafting and submitting resolutions and also provided a brief overview of the debate process prior to commencing the discussion for resolutions.

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

HEALTH

ER1 Equitable Access to Health Services in Rural BC

NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the matters of sustained, accessible health services reflective of the needs of rural and remote communities have been raised through numerous resolutions over the past thirty years and where the Provincial responses highlight unsuccessful and inadequate Provincial Programs;

AND WHEREAS existing services in rural and remote communities continue to decline, while communities remain removed from the planning and administration of health services in their areas;

AND WHEREAS regionalization of health service delivery is in an ongoing pursuit of both the Regional Health Authorities and the Province of BC moving the planning and delivery of services further away from rural and remote communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC acknowledge that the challenges related to rural and remote health services persist and for many have continued to deteriorate over the past thirty years;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC immediately recognize the highest priority of keeping residents in their communities with equitable access to health services and with adequate funding to support that model;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when medical travel is absolutely necessary for services not available at home, the Province of BC provide rural and remote residents with financial relief.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

RR1 Attracting and Retaining Medical Specialists In North Central BC (Referred By UBCM)

Burns Lake

WHEREAS there is limited access to timely specialized medical care in rural British Columbia, creating extended patient wait times, which results in prolonged and worsening medical conditions that are often more quickly resolved in large urban centres:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be lobbied to more effectively retain medical specialists and services in rural British Columbia.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

MEMBER RESOLUTIONS

LEGISLATIVE

R1 Local Authority in Provincial Planning

Northern Rockies RM

WHEREAS the Province, across all Ministries and agencies, must have a fundamental regard for the authority and responsibilities that local governments have over their jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS plans, reviews or initiatives may have the potential to impact communities in economic, social, environmental or other ways, local governments must have a seat at the table and a voice in collaboration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province establish a protocol for local governments to be assigned a role in the function of any planning, reviews or initiatives affecting their areas of responsibility. To fulfill this expectation, resources must be available to ensure that local governments can meaningfully participate and be party to the solutions from the very outset.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R2 Cannabis Revenue Sharing With Local Governments

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS only the federal and provincial governments are receiving tax revenue from the recently legalized sale of recreational cannabis, despite local governments encountering increased costs of the associated implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed a resolution (2018-SR1) calling for a principled approach to guide the negotiation of a cannabis excise tax revenue sharing agreement with the Government of British Columbia, and recommending that BC local governments receive 40% of the projected excise tax revenue in the short term, which has not received any response from the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government to expedite a fair provincial-local government excise tax revenue sharing agreement regarding the sale of recreational cannabis.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R3 Provincial Responsibility for Fire Services Act & Regulations

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS UBCM endorsed resolution 2015-A3 calling for the provincial government to provide the resources necessary to inspect and enforce provincial safety regulations, including the Fire Services Act and its regulations, through either the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than downloading the responsibility for local governments to enforce Provincial rules;

AND WHEREAS no decision has been made by the Province despite significant opposition, particularly by regional districts, regarding the proposed changes to the Fire Safety Act that would require enforcement by local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to expedite the enactment of legislation requiring provincial safety regulations to be enforced by the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than pursuing options to download the responsibility for inspections and enforcement of provincial regulations on local governments.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R4 Search and Rescue Funding

Peace River RD

WHEREAS Search and Rescue volunteers are key partners of the RCMP, BC Ambulance, Emergency Management BC, Fire Departments, and local governments during emergencies;

AND WHEREAS Search and Rescue organizations are spending an increasing percentage of their time fundraising to cover training and equipment costs to comply with training requirements and record keeping responsibilities they must meet under Emergency Management BC;

AND WHEREAS in February 2018, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General approved in principle the development of a government administered framework model that provides for equitable allocation of a secure funding stream for BC Search and Rescue:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request that the framework for a government administered fund for BC Search and Rescue be finalized by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to provide secure funding and equitable allocation of funding to BC Search and Rescue so that they can continue to thrive and provide vital support in times of emergency using trained, skilled volunteers to protect the safety of the public.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

R5 Shipment of Dangerous Goods by Rail

Kitimat-Stikine RD

WHEREAS the increase in rail shipment of petroleum products and other dangerous goods pose an increased chance for spills and greater environmental risk:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to improve Environmental Emergency Program regulations around rail transport of petroleum products and dangerous goods to strengthen and include improvements to spill preparedness, response and recovery.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

FINANCE

R6 Provincial Download

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS Section 2 of the Community Charter states that the Provincial government must not assign responsibilities to municipalities unless there is provision for resources required to fulfill the responsibilities;

AND WHEREAS legislated changes have shifted responsibility for managing a wide range of complex issues, including but not limited to the significant impact of emergency response services onto local governments placing notable strain on local government resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the provincial government to ensure that adequate resources and funding are provided to local governments to fulfill the responsibilities that have been assigned to local governments.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R7 Rural Broadband

Prince George

WHEREAS nearly 40% of rural residents in North-Central BC do not have access to broadband internet services;

AND WHEREAS broadband service would enhance public safety, economic development, access to information, and social inclusion for rural residents and allow them to fully participate in the knowledge-based economy and society at a level enjoyed by other Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has recognized the disparity and established a Ministry of Rural Economic Development that includes rural broadband as a top priority:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its advocacy work for a specific timetable regarding the implementation of broadband service in rural Canada, and in particular, the rural parts of North-Central British Columbia.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to add the word “affordable”, before “broadband service” in the last paragraph. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS nearly 40% of rural residents in North-Central BC do not have access to broadband internet services;

AND WHEREAS broadband service would enhance public safety, economic development, access to information, and social inclusion for rural residents and allow them to fully participate in the knowledge-based economy and society at a level enjoyed by other Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has recognized the disparity and established a Ministry of Rural Economic Development that includes rural broadband as a top priority:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA support the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in its advocacy work for a specific timetable regarding the implementation of affordable broadband service in rural Canada, and in particular, the rural parts of North-Central British Columbia

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

SELECTED ISSUES

R8 Importance of 911 in Remote & Rural Areas

Northern Rockies RM

WHEREAS more than 500,000 motorists use the rural and remote corridors throughout the Northern regions of the province annually, without access to consistent emergency 911 service;

AND WHEREAS the absence of 911 as a core emergency service has a financial and human cost, related to the health and safety of residents, visitors and commercial travellers, and with a negative impact on timely and appropriate emergency response:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province prioritize the establishment of 911 services across the Province in its entirety including adequate policy, administrative and financial support.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R9 Province to Consult With Local Governments

Fort St. John

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has a responsibility to consult with local governments as a stakeholder prior to implementing new programs that may affect local governments and their constituents and this consultation has been decreasing;

AND WHEREAS local-governments can provide vital insight when new programs are being considered due to the vast local knowledge of their area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM remind the Province of British Columbia that open and transparent consultation with local governments and local stakeholders at the preliminary stages of a proposed program is vital.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R10 Consistency in Access to Emergency Social Service Resources

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS during the 2017 wildfires, evacuees ended up in several different locations;

AND WHEREAS evacuees unfairly received varying degrees of Emergency Social Services supports depending on the location/provider/day, which caused confusion, additional stress and resentment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government to take over management of Emergency Social Services during all Level III Provincial State of Emergencies to ensure consistency in the allocation of resources to evacuees and modernization of the ESS registration process.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

**R11 Community Resilience Investment Program –
FireSmart Community Funding**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS the Community Resilience Investment Program’s funding model for FireSmart related activities on private property is capped at \$100,000 per local government regardless of population or geographic area;

AND WHEREAS the funding model and funding eligibility requirements put geographically large regional districts at a notable disadvantage compared to local governments with significantly less wildfire interface areas:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province develop eligibility requirements for Community Resilience Investment Program funding, and a funding model, that are equitable and based on local government need.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R12 **Crime Statistics**

Williams Lake

WHEREAS the collection of crime statistics for many municipalities does not take into consideration the population it services outside its boundaries, resulting in artificially inflated crime statistics;

AND WHEREAS by more accurately applying crime statistics to the population across a regional boundary, many municipalities' crime ranking would be significantly lower and more accurate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request the Province to direct the RCMP to amend its reporting statistics to accurately reflect crime statistics based on the regional service area the RCMP responds to, and that the recommendation be sent to Statistics Canada.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R13 **Stay and Defend Policy**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS wildfire events are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration, and local governments and the BC Wildfire Service are increasingly required to deal with the issues created by residents who stay within an evacuation order area to defend their property and farmers who stay to look after livestock sheltering in place;

AND WHEREAS the *Emergency Program Act* and the British Columbia Emergency Management System do not address, recognize, or provide direction regarding the management of issues created by persons choosing to stay and defend their property from wildfire:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province work with local governments to develop policy and best practices regarding stay and defend issues with consideration given to formally recognizing a person's right to stay and defend their property from wildfire.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R14 **Permitting Entry into an Evacuation Order Area**

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS wildfire events are increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration, and local governments and the BC Wildfire Service are required to implement an efficient, effective, and coordinated approach to address the demand for persons, equipment, and supplies requiring entry into an evacuation order area;

AND WHEREAS the BC Wildfire Service does not have a comprehensive permitting process to facilitate the entry of support personnel, equipment, and supplies into an evacuation order area, and the Emergency Program Act and British Columbia Emergency Management System do not address, recognize, or provide any direction regarding the permitting of residents, farmers, or persons working in coordination with the BC Wildfire Service to enter into an evacuation order area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province work with local governments to develop a permitting system and associated policy, procedures, and best practices that facilitate the necessary entry of persons, equipment, and supplies into an evacuation order area;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province consider the need for legislation that addresses the risk management issues associated with allowing entry into an evacuation order area.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

R15 More Small Aircraft Pilot Training Needed

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS small aircraft flights serve rural and northern airports in areas that depend on the economic and socio-economic benefits that air travel provides;

AND WHEREAS a significant percentage of trained pilots are retiring, and many small aircraft pilots are now being hired to fly bigger aircraft serving large urban areas;

AND WHEREAS flights into small rural and northern airports are at risk of being discontinued due to a lack of trained small aircraft pilots:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Province to lobby for more small aircraft training opportunities in rural and northern post-secondary institutions, as well as urge the federal government to take the small aircraft pilot shortage into consideration when establishing mandatory pilot hours.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R16 Fire Mitigation on Transportation Corridors

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS safe access/egress are vital to human safety during the ever-increasing wildfire events British Columbians are experiencing;

AND WHEREAS transportation corridors have been left with dry, combustible brush after clearing the side of roadways, increasing the risk of wildfires:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to establish a multi-agency approach to fire-smarting transportation corridors in the Province in partnership with BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R17 ICBC Regional Premiums and Settlements

Houston

WHEREAS publicly available data indicates that rural BC residents are paying substantially more in ICBC insurance premiums than they are receiving in claims settlements and payouts;

AND WHEREAS ICBC has not released specific data showing, by postal code, the amount of money rural BC residents have collectively paid for ICBC insurance premiums and received in claims settlements and payouts over the past 5 years;

AND WHEREAS ICBC holds a vehicle insurance monopoly in BC and has made a strong public commitment to fairness in pricing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ICBC release the data for the total value of premiums paid for insurance, and the total value of claims settlements and payouts, by postal code, for the years 2014 to 2018, and each year going forward;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ICBC either create a new, separate insurance pool for rural BC, excluding all urban areas over 100,000 population, or ensure there is balance in the value of insurance premiums paid and claims settlements paid out in each BC postal code.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to remove the last paragraph. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS publicly available data indicates that rural BC residents are paying substantially more in ICBC insurance premiums than they are receiving in claims settlements and payouts;

AND WHEREAS ICBC has not released specific data showing, by postal code, the amount of money rural BC residents have collectively paid for ICBC insurance premiums and received in claims settlements and payouts over the past 5 years;

AND WHEREAS ICBC holds a vehicle insurance monopoly in BC and has made a strong public commitment to fairness in pricing:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ICBC release the data for the total value of premiums paid for insurance, and the total value of claims settlements and payouts, by postal code, for the years 2014 to 2018, and each year going forward.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

R18 ORV Management Framework Improvements to Facilitate Tourism Tumbler Ridge

WHEREAS the Off Road Vehicle Act (ORV) was intended to create safe and more convenient incidental access to public roads and highways to better connect BC's rural communities and support a first-rate ORV trail network and to allow local governments to expand their trail networks to take advantage of economic development opportunities by way of tourism;

AND WHEREAS the current administrative process to obtain Operation Permits as permitted under the ORV Act is onerous and not conducive to convenient incidental access to trail networks connecting multiple communities as a separate operation permit must be obtained from each jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following changes to legislation are made:

- Only one (1) Operation Permit required for approved access to multiple jurisdictions and/or communities, along a connecting designated ORV route and trail network, which can be issued in any of the jurisdictions or communities along the route.
- Operation Permits can be issued by local RCMP or local government.
- Operation Permit term extended from 2 years to 5 years to align with driver's licence term.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R19 Safety of First Responders Attending a Roadside Accident Fraser-Fort George RD

WHEREAS many of the highway accident scenes in unincorporated areas in BC are supported by volunteer first responders who may have limited resources to attend to the accident scene including caring for accident victims while also having to control traffic passing through the accident scene;

AND WHEREAS these first responders and accident victims are regularly put at unnecessary risk by careless drivers who do not focus on their driving and/or do not lower their vehicle speed to a reasonable rate while moving through an accident scene:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province consider amending the motor vehicle legislation so that the maximum speed limit for motor vehicles driving through a highway accident scene on a highway is 30 kph.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

FINANCE

R20 Fire Centre Funding

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS the provincial government provides funding for support staff at fire centres throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Cariboo Fire Centre experienced record-breaking wildfires in 2017, and more wildfires are predicted in this area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase funding to those fire centres that are experiencing substantial increased wildfire activity in their areas.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

R21 Climate Change

Fort St. John

WHEREAS 187 local governments in British Columbia - 98% of the total - are signatories to the Climate Action Charter that commits them to work towards carbon neutral operations, measure community-wide emissions and create complete compact, energy-efficient communities;

AND WHEREAS engaging in symbolic actions such as writing letters, passing resolutions and filing class-action lawsuits in the name of "climate liability" against major innovation drivers and employers is not an appropriate direction for BC municipalities because it will hinder rather than help the ability of municipalities and local communities to continue their work to implement the Climate Action Charter and enable healthy, thriving local economies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM recognize their role to represent and serve the common needs of all local governments in BC in our diverse, resource-based province and to affirm that decarbonisation and reduction of GHG emissions should continue to be an important focus for civic policy-makers, industry, British Columbians and other stakeholders, recognizing the value of BC's resource sector and its contribution to British Columbian's quality of life and that British Columbians support the resource sector to continue its work to serve the needs of society while transitioning to a low carbon economy.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R22 Municipal Solid Waste

Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS local governments in the Northwest of British Columbia spend over \$20 million annually on municipal solid waste;

AND WHEREAS there are opportunities for collaboration and to share best practices but rarely a chance to discuss these opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA sponsor a forum for elected officials to discuss solid waste management issues in the 2019 calendar year;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA also ensures that there be a minimum of one municipal solid waste session at all future conventions.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to delete "in the 2019 calendar year".

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be further amended to add "until needed" at the end of the third paragraph. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS local governments in the Northwest of British Columbia spend over \$20 million annually on municipal solid waste;

AND WHEREAS there are opportunities for collaboration and to share best practices but rarely a chance to discuss these opportunities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA sponsor a forum for elected officials to discuss solid waste management issues, until needed;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA also ensures that there be a minimum of one municipal solid waste session at all future conventions.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

R23 Southern Mountain Caribou

Prince George

WHEREAS the population of the Southern Mountain Caribou herds in British Columbia has been declining;

AND WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments are reviewing whether the Southern Mountain Caribou should be protected by the *Species at Risk Act*;

AND WHEREAS application of the Act will directly affect both the recreational pursuits of local residents as well as the regional tourism and natural resource sectors;

AND WHEREAS municipal and regional district governments have not been given the opportunity to participate in public consultation discussions to date about the Southern Mountain Caribou and the potential implications of the application of the *Species at Risk Act* despite the significant impacts on local recreation, tourism, and resource sectors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocate for the participation of municipal and regional district governments that are likely to be affected and that the provincial and federal governments begin a process of public consultation in regards to the potential application of the *Species at Risk Act* pertaining to the Southern Mountain Caribou.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be further amended to add “Boreal Caribou” to the end of the motion. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS the population of the Southern Mountain Caribou herds in British Columbia has been declining;

AND WHEREAS the provincial and federal governments are reviewing whether the Southern Mountain Caribou should be protected by the *Species at Risk Act*;

AND WHEREAS application of the Act will directly affect both the recreational pursuits of local residents as well as the regional tourism and natural resource sectors;

AND WHEREAS municipal and regional district governments have not been given the opportunity to participate in public consultation discussions to date about the Southern Mountain Caribou and the potential implications of the application of the *Species at Risk Act* despite the significant impacts on local recreation, tourism, and resource sectors:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocate for the participation of municipal and regional district governments that are likely to be affected and that the provincial and federal governments begin a process of public consultation in regards to the potential application of the *Species at Risk Act* pertaining to the Southern Mountain Caribou and Boreal Caribou.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

HEALTH

R24 EHS Services

Fraser Lake

WHEREAS the residents of rural communities require access to timely and professional emergency health care services to ensure their health and safety;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities lack after hour access to medical clinics or hospitals in their communities;

AND WHEREAS BC Emergency Health Services teams are relied upon to provide consistent and timely response to emergency health events, yet many rural BC Emergency Health Services teams are understaffed:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia and BC Emergency Health Services to increase budgets, develop policies and evaluate hiring practices to ensure residents of rural communities have timely and reliable emergency health care services.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R25 EHS Services - Adequate Staffing in Community

Fraser Lake

WHEREAS the residents of Province of British Columbia deserve timely and professional emergency health care services when health emergencies occur;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities lack after hour and weekend access to medical clinics or hospitals in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the BC Emergency Health Services prioritization model often takes EHS crews from smaller rural communities to provide service to larger communities; based on population. This often leaves rural communities with limited or no Emergency Health Care resources in community; significantly increasing EHS response times;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia and BC Emergency Health Services to establish a staffing model that ensures adequate staffing levels are in place and remain within the rural community boundary before the BCEHS prioritization model can be enacted

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R26 EHS Services – Utilizing First Responders

Fraser Lake

WHEREAS the residents of Province of British Columbia deserve timely and professional emergency health care services when health emergencies occur;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities lack after hour and weekend access to medical clinics or hospitals in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the BC Emergency Health Services prioritization model often and regularly deploys Emergency Health Care resources from smaller rural communities to larger communities, often leaving rural communities with limited or no Emergency Health Care resources in community. Residents of rural communities are subjected to extended delays in their access to emergency health care;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities possess Volunteer Fire Departments with personnel who are qualified as First Responders and possess a valid Class 4 BC driver's licence:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia and BC Emergency Health Services to authorize Volunteer Fire Department personnel with valid Class 4 driver's licence to drive ambulances when full staffing levels require the assistance of an ambulance driver.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R27 First Responders to Medical Calls
Lake

Fraser

WHEREAS the residents of Province of British Columbia deserve timely and professional emergency health care services when health emergencies occur;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities lack after hour and weekend access to medical clinics or hospitals in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the BC Emergency Health Services prioritization model often and regularly deploys Emergency Health Care resources to larger communities; leaving rural communities with reduced or no EHS resources. Residents of rural communities are subjected to extended delays in access to emergency health care;

AND WHEREAS many rural communities possess Volunteer Fire Departments with personnel who are qualified as First Responders and licensed through Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board of the Province of British Columbia to provide basic life-saving care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia and BC Emergency Health Services to increase budgets and develop policies to fund the response of qualified First Responders to medical emergencies to provide basic life-saving care when EHS response is delayed or EHS crews require support or assistance.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

TAXATION

R28 Liquor Tax

Terrace

WHEREAS alcohol consumption contributes to increased demand for policing services;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government receives substantial revenues from the sales of liquor:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the provincial government to direct a portion of liquor sales revenues to local governments to offset the additional policing that results from alcohol sales.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

SELECTED ISSUES

R29 Effects of New Ammonia Regulations

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS new regulations introduced for ammonia safety have resulted in significant operating cost increases, and increased staff certifications required for operating arenas;

AND WHEREAS communities in the Central and Northern regions of the province have limited financial and human resources, and difficulty accessing the costly training required to meet these new staffing regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province of BC work with post-secondary institutions and other providers to increase the availability of technical

certificates and programs to address this critical trade shortage, and that additional funding for, or creation of new programs, such as apprenticeship programs in affected communities, be funded to allow arena staff to access training that is currently cost prohibitive and mostly only available in the Lower Mainland.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R30 Province of British Columbia/UBCM Memorandum of Understanding Fort St. John

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia and UBCM entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) titled 'Local Government's Participation in the New Relationship with First Nations';

AND WHEREAS this MOU establishes local government's role as primarily being a 'respected advisor' to the Province on First Nation issues, however local governments' responsibilities to their constituents place them as a stakeholder which goes beyond simply advising the Province on these issues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the parties to this MOU recognize this MOU is considered non-binding on local governments unless local governments become signatories to this MOU.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R31 UBCM Convention

Peace River RD

WHEREAS holding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual conference in Whistler and Victoria is cost prohibitive for many small local governments;

AND WHEREAS the additional travel required increases the carbon footprint for those who attend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and UBCM request that future UBCM conventions be held exclusively in Vancouver, BC to reduce the carbon footprint and shorten travel times, and minimize travel costs for local government officials from across the province.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to change “Vancouver” to “cities with an international airport”. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS holding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual conference in Whistler and Victoria is cost prohibitive for many small local governments;

AND WHEREAS the additional travel required increases the carbon footprint for those who attend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and UBCM request that future UBCM conventions be held exclusively in cities with an international airport to reduce the carbon footprint and shorten travel times, and minimize travel costs for local government officials from across the province.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP
FAILED**

MOTION TO AMEND

MOVED/SECONDED that the original motion be amended to change “Vancouver” to “Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, or Prince George”. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS holding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual conference in Whistler and Victoria is cost prohibitive for many small local governments;

AND WHEREAS the additional travel required increases the carbon footprint for those who attend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and UBCM request that future UBCM conventions be held exclusively in Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, or Prince George to reduce the carbon footprint and shorten travel times, and minimize travel costs for local government officials from across the province.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP
FAILED**

MOTION TO AMEND

WHEREAS holding the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) annual conference in Whistler and Victoria is cost prohibitive for many small local governments;

AND WHEREAS the additional travel required increases the carbon footprint for those who attend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and UBCM request that future UBCM conventions be held exclusively in Vancouver, BC to reduce the carbon footprint and shorten travel times, and minimize travel costs for local government officials from across the province.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

MOTION FAILED

First Business Session Adjourned at 10:45 a.m. May 9, 2019

Second Business Session Commenced at 11:10 a.m. May 9, 2019

9. Resolutions Debate (Continued)

R32 FCM Travel Fund

Dawson Creek

WHEREAS FCM elected and appointed officials representing their Provinces or Territories attend Meetings of the Board and Standing Committee meetings each year, with their local governments covering travel expenses incurred;

AND WHEREAS some local governments do not have the funding available to cover the travel expenses for an elected official to participate as a Board or Standing Committee member and therefore may not nominate a capable individual as their local representative:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM request FCM to include a fee for reimbursement of travel expenses in their annual dues paid by all member municipalities to support Local Government Elected and appointed directors who attend FCM Board and Standing Committee meetings to ensure an equal representation on Meetings of the Board and Standing Committees from communities big and small.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

R33 Community Childcare

Terrace

WHEREAS affordable, quality childcare provides the foundation for life-long success, and benefits to society overall, and childcare is important for the economy and quality of life for British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS childcare is a responsibility of the provincial and federal levels of government, not local government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA lobby the provincial government to establish a universal plan for childcare facilities without depending on local governments to create and run childcare facilities.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

ASSESSMENT

R34 Consent for Property Classification

Pouce Coupe

WHEREAS local governments are unaware of when BC Assessment is making property classification changes, without regard to zoning for that particular piece of property;

AND WHEREAS local governments have the authority to determine land use zoning within their boundary, and should be consulted on changes to the assessment classification:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM request the Province of BC require that BC Assessment Authority obtain consent from a local government prior to making any property classification changes.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

HEALTH

R35 Hospital Helipad Construction

North Coast RD

WHEREAS none of the new or existing level 3 trauma hospital construction plan in rural British Columbia (B.C.) include plans or designs for onsite helipads;

AND WHEREAS due to an absence of onsite hospital helipads, rural B.C. trauma patients experience delayed access to level 3 trauma hospitals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Province of B.C. to legislate that all current and future level 3 and above trauma hospitals being constructed in rural B.C. receive capital funding to construct and operate an onsite helipad.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

LEGISLATIVE

R36 BC Hydro Pricing Structure

Village of McBride

WHEREAS BC Hydro is utilizing a two-tier monthly pricing structure on their electrical utilities being consumed by their customers;

AND WHEREAS smaller Northern communities have limited affordable options for their heating needs, therefore relying heavily on electricity for heating;

AND WHEREAS this dependency results in Northern citizens reaching the second-tier pricing significantly sooner each month than other geographical locations creating inequitable heating costs for those who live in rural Northern communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM supports lobbying the provincial government to make the necessary changes to BC Hydro to restructure their two-tier pricing model for Northern regions of the Province of BC and create an equitable pricing structure for all BC citizens.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R37 Diminishing Access to Provincial Government In-Person Services Village of McBride

WHEREAS access to In-person Provincial Government Services is gradually being removed from Small Rural Communities in British Columbia with these services being centralized to larger Urban Centres;

AND WHEREAS rural citizens and business owners are forced to travel long distances at great expense as there is limited and inconsistent public transportation available to access these services;

AND WHEREAS the lack of access to in-person Provincial Government services impacts economic growth and the ability to attract and retain rural citizens and business development;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Government of British Columbia provide equitable local access to In-person Provincial Government Services for all small rural communities in British Columbia.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

R38 Subsidized Recycling Options for Small Municipalities

Village of McBride

WHEREAS few recycling opportunities are available in remote and smaller municipalities due to poor economies of scale for populations under 5,000, greater distances to recycling facilities and cost prohibitive infrastructure investment, resulting in inequities for recycling opportunities in different regions of the Province;

AND WHEREAS recycling organizations continue to lack the viability to offer Extended Producer Responsibility Programs for remote and smaller municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide aid to small municipalities for the increase of recycling options including plastics, glass and bottles at recycling and transfer stations regardless of the size and location of each municipality in the Province of BC.

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be amended to delete the word “small”. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS few recycling opportunities are available in remote and smaller municipalities due to poor economies of scale for populations under 5,000, greater distances to recycling facilities and cost prohibitive infrastructure investment, resulting in inequities for recycling opportunities in different regions of the Province;

AND WHEREAS recycling organizations continue to lack the viability to offer Extended Producer Responsibility Programs for remote and smaller municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide aid to municipalities for the increase of recycling options including plastics, glass and bottles at recycling and transfer stations regardless of the size and location of each municipality in the Province of BC.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

MOVED/SECONDED that the above noted motion be further amended to add the word “financial” before “aid”. Amended motion reads as follows:

WHEREAS few recycling opportunities are available in remote and smaller municipalities due to poor economies of scale for populations under 5,000, greater distances to recycling facilities and cost prohibitive infrastructure investment, resulting in inequities for recycling opportunities in different regions of the Province;

AND WHEREAS recycling organizations continue to lack the viability to offer Extended Producer Responsibility Programs for remote and smaller municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide financial aid to municipalities for the increase of recycling options including plastics, glass and bottles at recycling and transfer stations regardless of the size and location of each municipality in the Province of BC.

**NCLGA MEMBERSHIP:
CARRIED**

MOTION TO AMEND

AMENDED MOTION CARRIED

SELECTED ISSUES

R39 BC Hydro – Streetlight Inefficiency

Smithers

WHEREAS BC Hydro owns a significant percentage of streetlights in BC municipalities, especially in smaller communities, and many of these streetlights still use inefficient incandescent technology despite demonstrated energy and cost savings of 50-70 percent with conversion to LED technology;

AND WHEREAS local governments are responsible for paying for the ongoing operating cost of BC Hydro-owned street lighting using property tax revenue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the provincial government to require BC Hydro to expeditiously replace all streetlights within BC municipalities with LED technology, or provide municipalities with the financial resources necessary to continue paying for the operation of its inefficient streetlights.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

**L1 Resourcing a Collaborative System of Data Sharing
 In the Province of BC**

Cariboo RD

WHEREAS natural disasters pose an increasing risk to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is taking action to improve resilience by strengthening disaster preparedness and disaster risk governance in the context of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the sharing of integrated asset data, information, and knowledge across all sectors is key to improving emergency management and resiliency planning in BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be urged to take a strong leadership role and provide long-term sufficient funding and resources to increase the coordination, assembly, and access of asset data, information, and knowledge across multiple levels and sectors of government and stakeholders (including First Nations, local governments, provincial and federal government agencies, qualified professionals, and industry sectors).

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

L2 Increase Investment in BC Parks Boat Launches

Peace River RD

WHEREAS outdoor recreation on rivers and lakes is important to the lifestyles of residents in the North;

AND WHEREAS boat launches operated by BC Parks are vitally important outdoor recreation amenities;

AND WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia spends roughly \$2.80 per hectare on BC Parks, while the Province of Alberta spends approximately \$36 per hectare, making it difficult to adequately repair and maintain BC Parks boat launches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia increase their investment into the repair and maintenance of BC Parks' boat launches in the province.

NCLGA MEMBERSHIP

CARRIED

Second Business Adjourned at 11:33 a.m. May 9, 2019

Third Business Session Commenced at 1:00 p.m. May 9, 2019

9. Election Results

Nominations Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur announced Cori Ramsay as the winner of the NCLGA 2019-2020 Second Vice-President vote. Steve Forseth agreed to let his name stand for the position of Director at Large.

10. Motion to Destroy Ballots

Moved/Seconded that the Second Vice-President ballots be destroyed.

CARRIED

11. Nominations for Director at Large from the Floor:

Lynne Christiansen and Judy Greenaway have been nominated for the position of Director at Large.

Nominations Committee Chair Shaely Wilbur called once for nominations from the floor for the position of Director at Large.

Allan Frederick, was nominated for the position of Director at Large.

Nominations Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur called a second time for nominations from the floor for the position of Director at Large.

Nominations Committee Chair, Shaely Wilbur called a third time for nominations from the floor for the position of Director at Large.

The nominations for Director at Large were closed. Lynne Christiansen, Steve Forseth, and Judy Greenaway were declared Directors at Large for 2019-2020.

The Final Business Session adjourned at 1:19 p.m. on May 9, 2019