



2019 RESOLUTIONS

As of March 7, 2019

RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

Abbreviation Key:

SR = Special Resolution – resolution that will alter the Constitution and/or Bylaws of NCLGA

ER = Executive Resolution – resolution proposed by the NCLGA Executive

RR = Referred Resolution – resolution referred back from UBCM from the previous year

R = Resolution – resolution received from the membership by the deadline

LR = Late Resolution – resolution received from the membership after the deadline

PART 1 – NCLGA SPECIAL RESOLUTION

A Special Resolution is one that will alter the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Association.

There are no Special Resolutions

PART 2 – NCLGA EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

The NCLGA Executive has proposed one resolution for consideration by the membership.

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.

PART 3 – REFERRED RESOLUTIONS

UBCM has referred a late resolution from the 2018 UBCM Convention to the 2019 resolutions cycle for consideration by NCLGA members.

HEALTH

RR1 Attracting and Retaining Medical Specialists in North Central BC

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.

Comments:

This was submitted to UBCM in 2018 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 was forwarded to the Area Association for consideration as part of the 2019 resolutions cycle.

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that have called on the provincial government to provide increased funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

PART 4 – RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE

Members of the NCLGA submitted the following resolutions by the deadline for consideration by the membership.

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request to the Province to assign local governments a role in the function of any planning, reviews or initiatives affecting their areas of responsibility.

However in 2001, members endorsed resolution A9 which asked UBCM to call upon the Provincial government and its Crown Corporations, Boards and Commissions to ensure through the Community Charter that adequate consultation takes place and encourage development of MOUs on specific referrals with affected local governments prior to their making land use, development and environmental decisions.

Members have also consistently asked the Province to be consulted prior to making decisions in specific policy areas that will have an economic, social or environmental impact on a community or impact other land uses in the area such as forestry (2017-B31, 2015-B67, 2010-B94, 2007-B45), mining (2009-B138), aquaculture (2003-B88), and independent power projects (2003-B95).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking an equitable share of cannabis taxation revenue to address costs and responsibilities resulting from the legalization of non-medical cannabis (2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3).

In response to 2018-SR1, the Ministry of Finance indicated that "cannabis taxation is not expected to generate significant provincial revenues," and that discussions would commence once all orders of government were able to quantify their costs during the post-legalization period.

UBCM's short-term strategy calls on the Province to provide 40% of its projected excise tax revenue to BC local governments for 2-years, with money distributed on a per capita basis. The long-term strategy seeks an agreement beyond year 2 that either continues with the same excise tax distribution framework or explores a new agreement to increase the provincial sales tax from 7% to not more than 10%, with a commitment of this portion to local governments (in place of excise tax revenue sharing). UBCM also commits to the development of a reporting template for cannabis related incremental costs, as part of the Local Government Division's annual financial reporting process.

UBCM continues to place a high priority on cannabis excise tax revenue sharing with local governments. Advancing UBCM's short- and long-term strategies was a top priority during UBCM's annual advocacy meetings with provincial MLAs in February 2019.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that as the sponsor noted, the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2015-A3, requesting additional provincial resources to inspect and enforce the Fire Services Act through the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority. A subsequent resolution, 2018-SR3, was endorsed in support of the established policy position outlined in 2015-A3.

2018-SR3 was brought forward by the UBCM Executive in response to the Province's decision to reverse an earlier policy change that would have made fire inspection optional for regional districts (as opposed to a mandatory requirement). In response to this decision, UBCM established a Fire Safety Act Working Group that continues to meet with the Office of the Fire Commissioner and express opposition to the downloading of inspection responsibilities onto regional districts.

In response to 2018-B3, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General indicated that the Province would work with UBCM through the Fire Safety Act Working Group to understand "how to mitigate the added administrative and operational costs" associated with the establishment of this program.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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 & 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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions seeking consistent, adequate and predictable funding for search and rescue services (2018-B6, 2015-B2, 2013-B5, 2009-B11, 2009-B69, 2008-B10, 2006-B17). Endorsed resolution 2018-B6 called on the provincial government to implement a consistent and sustainable funding model to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of search and rescue operations.

Over the past three years, the Province has provided \$15 million in grants to the BC Search and Rescue Association in support of search and rescue teams. With funding set to expire on March 31, 2019, the provincial government recently announced that it was providing \$18.6 million to ground search and rescue groups throughout BC to be used over the next three years. A long term funding model/arrangement has not been developed.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed many resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to improve regulations and safety around the shipment of dangerous goods by rail (2018-B13, 2015-B13, 2014-B55).

The Committee also notes that membership has endorsed a resolution calling for local governments to have a manifest of the dangerous contents of trains passing through their boundaries (2017-B7). The membership has also endorsed a resolution asking the federal government to phase out the use of sub-standard liquid commodity rail cars and until they are entirely phased out, restrict these sub-standard cars from carrying dangerous goods (2014-B126).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to cease downloading or offloading of services to local government (2009-B26, 2006-B80, 2004-B75, 2003-B9, 2002-SR1, 2002-B62, 2000-B19), and requesting that any downloaded services be accompanied by sufficient, sustainable revenues to be controlled by local governments (2006-B21, 2006-B98, 2004-B5, 2004-B133, 2003-A4, 2003-B82, 2001-B4, 2001-B25, 2001-B82).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to ensure the availability of high speed internet and cellular telephone coverage to all communities (2018-B48, 2013-B61, 2011-B72, 2011-B78, 2010-B50, 2009-B57, 2008-B54, 2006-B54, 2005-B5, 2004-B9, 2003-B35).

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions in favour of a 911 call answer levy (2012-LR1, 2011-B13, 2009-B10, 2004-SR1), which if implemented would help address a number of concerns, including gaps in service provision throughout BC. Other challenges include:

- *A changing landscape that sees more users using cellular devices than landline telephones;*
- *The introduction of Next Generation 911 technology, and costs associated with introducing these changes to the current system; and*
- *Providing a fully functioning service that can be resilient, especially during a catastrophic event.*

In 2013, a UBCM working group was tasked with examining issues and options surrounding the introduction of a province-wide call answer levy. After considerable work and consultation, the initiative was deemed to lack the local government support necessary to proceed. Several years later, the Province released a discussion paper examining the same issues. The UBCM Executive endorsed the provincial discussion paper and proposed call answer levy subject to an agreement with the Province on the establishment of an independent body to distribute revenue associated with this initiative.

The Province has recently re-started work on this initiative, and as of March 2019 is still considering UBCM's position.

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions which call on the Province to consult with local governments. Resolution 2001-A9 requested that the Province and its related commissions and boards ensure “adequate consultation takes place and encourage development of MOUs on specific referrals with affected local governments prior to their making land use, development and environmental decisions.”

Members have also sought consultation prior to provincial action on a number of specific issues, including:

- *2018-B116 - consult on steps to save Southern Mountain Caribou*
- *2017-B32 - consult on placement of wind turbines*
- *2017-B100 - consult on placement of microcell transmitters*
- *2017-B114 - consult on steps to save Woodland Caribou*
- *2016-B33 - consult on industrial projects*
- *2016-B35 - consult on the establishment of group homes*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

COMMUNITY SAFETY

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request for the Province to take over management of Emergency Social Services (ESS) during a Level III Provincial State of Emergency, in order to ensure consistency in allocation of resources to evacuees.

However, the Committee notes that the membership previously endorsed resolution 2013-B90, requesting that the provincial ESS and Disaster Financial Assistance programs be expanded to cover secondary home owners and temporary residents.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request for the Province to develop eligibility requirements for Community Resilience Investment Program funding based on local government need.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-

B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

Funding under the Community Resiliency Investment program, totaling \$60 million, was announced in September 2018 and allows local governments and First Nations to apply for grants to undertake FireSmart and fuel management activities.

Funding is scaled to allow eligible applicants with lower risk of wildfire to apply for up to \$25,000 and applicants with a demonstrated higher risk of wildfire to apply for up to \$100,000 per year. In addition, applications that include fuel management on Provincial Crown land primarily within administrative boundaries may exceed the funding maximum for fuel management activities only. For the 2019 program, there was no funding cap to the additional dollars that eligible communities could apply for fuel management on Provincial Crown land primarily within administrative boundaries.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to direct the RCMP to amend its reporting of crime statistics, to consider the entire regional service area under RCMP jurisdiction.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to work with local governments to develop a policy and best practices related to people who choose to remain in evacuated areas for the purpose of defending their properties from natural disasters.

In 2016, as part of its work to amend the Emergency Program Act, the provincial government released "Prepared and Resilient: A Discussion Paper on the Legislative Framework for Emergency Management in British Columbia." The discussion paper contained a number of policy proposals, including one which sought to clarify policy around those who choose not to comply with evacuation orders, by providing police the authority to apprehend these individuals. None of the policy proposals contained within the discussion paper were implemented. The Province has recently indicated that it would like to restart its work to amend and modernize the Act. However, as of March 2019, the Province has yet to introduce any amendments to the Act.

See also resolution R14

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously asked the Province to work with local governments to develop a permitting system to facilitate the necessary entry of persons, equipment and supplies into an evacuation order area.

However, the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting provincial assistance with the provision of emergency services, including 2018-B95, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-B44.

In 2016, as part of its work to amend the Emergency Program Act, the provincial government released "Prepared and Resilient: A Discussion Paper on the Legislative Framework for Emergency Management in British Columbia." The discussion paper contained a number of policy proposals, although none were related to the development of a process for authorizing re-entry into evacuated areas during emergencies. Evacuation orders were addressed through a proposal that would provide police the authority to apprehend individuals who refused to comply with evacuation orders issued under a declared state of emergency. The Province has recently indicated that it would like to restart its work to amend and modernize the Act. However, as of March 2019, the Province has yet to introduce any amendments to the Act.

See also resolution R13

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to lobby for more small aircraft pilot training opportunities, particularly for rural and northern areas of the province.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking multi-agency collaboration in order to facilitate fire mitigation work specifically along transportation corridors.

However, the Committee notes that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2018-B100, 2018-B97, 2018-B22, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

Funding under the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program, totaling \$60 million, was announced in September 2018 and allows local governments and First Nations to apply for grants to undertake FireSmart and fuel management activities.

As part of the CRI, Emergency Management BC and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development are in the process of developing procedures (as of March 2019) to identify critical infrastructure assets that are essential to the health, safety, security or economic well-being of British Columbians and visitors. These procedures will include a risk-based prioritization process intended to advance wildfire risk reduction activities for identified critical infrastructure.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for ICBC to establish a new, separate insurance pool for rural BC or for ICBC to ensure there is balance in the premiums paid and claim settlements paid in each Postal Code.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2006-B79 asking ICBC to review the insurance zones and boundaries to ensure fairness in the premiums paid in each zone.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not specifically addressed the issue of ORV operating permits.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has more broadly endorsed resolutions looking to license and regulate ORVs (2016-B67, 2013-B97, 2011-B20, 2009-A6, 2007-B20, 2005-B10, 2002-B9).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request that the Province amend the motor vehicle legislation so the maximum speed limit be reduced to 30kph when passing a highway accident scene.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution seeking increased provincial funding for support staff at fire centre areas that are experiencing increased wildfire activity.

However, the Committee notes that members have endorsed multiple resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable funding for the purpose of wildfire prevention and recovery (including 2018-B22, 2017-LR4, 2015-B5, 2014-A1, 2012-B114, 2012-B113, 2011-B139, 2010-B91, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

Endorsed resolution 2018-B22 requested interface wildfire funding for emergency training, equipment and response capacity. In response, the Province indicated that it is currently reviewing options to increase firefighting capacity as part of its response to the recent independent review conducted by George Abbott and Maureen Chapman.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on UBCM to: recognize UBCM's role in representing and serving the needs of all communities; affirming the need for decarbonization and GHG reduction to continue while recognizing the value of the resource sector; and for British Columbians to support the resource sector while transitioning to a low carbon economy.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that this resolution is making a request specific to the NCLGA, not UBCM or any other organization or level of government.

Recommendation: Refer Back to Sponsor

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2018-B116 which called on the provincial and federal governments to consult with local governments on the impact of caribou recovery plans. The membership has also endorsed resolution 2017-B114 that called for the Province to investigate and consider the socio-economic impacts of implementation plans for the conservation and regeneration of woodland caribou in BC.

The Resolution Committee notes that on March 27, 2019, the Province announced four community consultations in the Peace Region of BC, and advised that additional consultations will be announced shortly.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that have called on the

provincial government to provide increased funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (2017-B43, 2017-B135, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013- B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006- B156, 2005-B146).

Specifically, resolution 2016-B17 asked the provincial government to provide budget funds that provide for a sustainable, continued source of funding to first responder agencies throughout the Province.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that while the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions asking BCEHS to provide adequate staff in rural communities, the membership not previously considered a request that BCEHS to ensure adequate staffing levels remain in rural communities, before the BCEHS prioritization model can be enacted.

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that have called on the provincial government to provide increased funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (2017-B43, 2017-B135, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013- B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006- B156, 2005-B146).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request asking for volunteer fire department personnel with Class 4 driver's licenses to drive ambulances when full staffing levels require assistance of an ambulance driver.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

R27 First Responders to Medical Calls

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 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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that members have consistently endorsed resolutions seeking adequate funding for province wide ambulance services (2017-B133, 2014-B73, 2013-B44, 2013-B142, 2010-B45, 2007-B50, 2007-B156, 2006-B48, 2003-B33, 2000-B14, 2000-B93, 1999-B91, 1996-B5, 1992-B79, 1988-A29).

In 2018, BCEHS introduced their Clinical Response Model to match resources to the needs of the patient. In this model, first responders are requested to all time-critical calls; moderately urgent calls when ambulance response is likely to take more than 10 minutes to arrive at scene; and any call involving burns, hazmat, drowning, or a motor vehicle accident.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

TAXATION

R28 Liquor Tax

NCLGA Executive

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a similar resolution in 2004-B49 which asked the Province to provide a portion of the liquor tax to local governments to defray the cost of policing.

Members have also endorsed related resolutions that call for the Province to share liquor tax revenue with local governments for:

- *resourcing liquor license inspectors, alcohol addiction treatment services, policing of liquor licensed establishments and of liquor related offences and late night transit to reduce drinking and driving (2014-B60);*
- *drug and alcohol awareness and prevention programs (2011-B26); and*
- *detox facilities and to fund homeless and homeless-at-risk shelters (2004-B111).*

Recommendation: Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered this type of specific request for more funding and training spaces, in particular in areas outside of the Lower Mainland, for those needing to work as ice arena staff to safely work with ammonia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking additional funding and opportunities for training, education and apprenticeships for those wanting to work in the trades (2014-B31, 2013-B41, 2004-B142).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking that the MOU titled “Local Government’s Participation in the New Relationship with First Nations” between the Province and UBCM is non-binding on local governments, unless those local governments become signatories to the MOU.

The Committee would note that UBCM does not enter into MOUs and Protocols lightly. There is a defined process within Executive Policies that guides the Executive on how to deal with MOU requests and renewals. The MOU in question was approved by the membership and has been renewed four times over the course of 15 years. Most recently renewed at the 2018 Convention, the current iteration titled “Engagement with UBCM and Local Governments on Treaty Agreements, Non-Treaty Agreements and Indigenous Initiatives”, was amended recognizing that there was a need for the Province to broaden its scope for engagement with UBCM and local governments due to the fact that Indigenous peoples are seeking agreements and initiatives, not just treaty, on matters “that will impact local government jurisdiction” and “have the potential to broadly impact local governments.”

The Committee would also note that the MOU does not bind local governments to specific processes, but sets out principles for communication between the parties towards “sincere and honest engagement”, to enable dialogue with local governments, not constrain it. In addition, UBCM monitors the implementation of the MOU, and has the opportunity to communicate to the province any concerns that may arise.

By putting this resolution forward is the sponsor asking that local governments not be engaged or consulted on treaty agreements, non-treaty agreements and Indigenous Initiatives that will impact their jurisdiction or have the potential to impact them as local governments? If so, this direction is not supportable as it is contrary to member direction.

Recommendation: Not Endorse

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to only hold its annual convention in the City of Vancouver.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on 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.

Presently the UBCM-FCM Small Communities Travel Fund, administered by UBCM, is funded by BC members of FCM that voluntarily pay a separate fee to support the FCM travel fund that covers the travel costs of elected officials who have been elected or appointed to the FCM Board or its associated Standing Committees. Only communities under 55,000 population are eligible to access the fund recognizing that smaller communities may not otherwise have the financial resources to support their elected officials to attend FCM Board or committee meetings. As well a community must also contribute to the Fund in order to access it. The Fund covers airfare, hotel accommodation and mileage, parking and ground transportation.

It is not clear from the enactment clause what the sponsor wishes to change about the existing travel fund; and based on the enactment clause only "member municipalities" are being asked to pay a fee as part of their annual dues, would regional districts be exempt?

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

R33 Community Childcare

NCLGA Executive

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.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed resolution 2016-B49 which asked the provincial government to address child care needs in BC, and invite interested local governments to collaborate and participate in developing child care solutions, but with the understanding that child care is not a core mandate or service for local government. The resolution also noted that local government interest in participation in solutions should not be an invitation for further downloading of responsibility or funding for childcare from the Province.

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to develop and invest in an affordable child care program (2017-B50, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156, 2001-B98).

The Committee notes that the provincial government has invested \$1 billion over three years towards the creation of quality, affordable and accessible child care. As part of this commitment, UBCM administers two grant programs (total of \$13.7 million) to local governments who are interested in child care planning and assessment, or creating child care spaces in their communities. The Committee notes that participation in the grant programs is optional.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: _____

PART 5 – LATE RESOLUTIONS

No late resolutions have been received following the March 7, 2019 deadline and prior to the April 29, 2019 Annual Report distribution date.