

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SECTION A, held on Tuesday May 14, 2024

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) President Sheila Boehm provided opening remarks and offered a Territorial Acknowledgement. She introduced herself as the Master of Ceremonies (M/C) and welcomed past NCLGA Presidents, sponsors, Co-hosts, and the President of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

President Boehm invited Director Stoney Stoltenberg, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), Electoral Area A, to the podium to address the delegates. Director Stoltenberg welcomed the delegates to the Regional District, acknowledged the 14 First Nations within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN), and reflected on the previous evening's keynote address by Mary French.

CALL TO ORDER:

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm called to order the 2024 NCLGA AGM & Convention at 9:04 am on May 14, 2024.

NCLGA President Boehm invited the Mayors of the co-host local governments, Town of Smithers and District of Houston, Mayors Atrill and Brienien to address delegates from the region. Mayor Brienien acknowledged the traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en and welcomed the delegates to the 2024 NCLGA Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Convention. Mayor Atrill invited Susie Naziel from Witset, of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation, to sing a welcome song. She then introduced Emma Widen to sing the National Anthem.

NCLGA President Boehm introduced the Moose Hide Campaign and invited the delegates to watch a virtual presentation by Raven Lacerte, Lake Babine First Nation, and Paul Lacerte, Nadleh Whuten Band, about the grassroots movement to end gender-based violence by creating safer communities across Canada and wearing a moose hide pin to spread awareness.

Following this, NCLGA President Boehm introduced the 2024 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) President, Trish Mandewo, and invited her to the podium to address the delegates. The NCLGA President took a moment to name and thank the members of the 2024 NCLGA AGM & Convention Organizing Committee for their hard work in preparing for the event and thanked all local and provincial government representatives for attending. She then referenced the 2024 NCLGA Annual Report and Program which were provided to all delegates prior to the event.

2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

AGENDA

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the Agenda of the North Central Local Government Association 2024 Annual General Meeting, held in Smithers, BC, from May 14-16, 2024, be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

MINUTES

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the minutes of the North Central Local Government Association 2023 Annual General Meeting, held in Dawson Creek, BC from May 10-12, 2023, be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

NCLGA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm provided the President's Report to delegates. NCLGA staff and Board were recognized and thanked for their service.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association President's Report be RECEIVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

FINANCIAL REPORT

NCLGA First Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, reviewed the 2023/24 Financial Report and presented the North Central Local Government Association financial budget/statements.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association 2023/24 Financial Statements, be RECEIVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

2023/2024 NOTICE TO READER

NCLGA First Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, reviewed the 2023/24 Notice to Reader.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's 2023-2024 Notice to Reader be RECEIVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

APPROVAL OF 2% MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's Membership Fee Increase of 2% be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

BUDGET

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's 2024/2025 Budget be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

MULTI-YEAR BUDGET

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the North Central Local Government Association's Multi-year Budget be RECEIVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

AUDITOR

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the appointment of KPMG as the North Central Local Government Association's 2024/25 Annual Auditor be APPROVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

BOARD NOMINATIONS REPORT

NCLGA President, Sheila Boehm, explained the nominations and election process contained in the Annual Report for the Board positions of Executive, Directors at Large and Regional Representatives for 2024/25.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the 2024/25 NCLGA Board Nominations Report be RECEIVED as presented.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED - President Boehm recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session A at 10:03 am on May 14, 2024, and reconvened at 10:25 am on May 14, 2024.

3. EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR AT LARGE NOMINATIONS

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm, read out the names of nominations received in advance for the First Ballot (Executive):

- **President:** Judy Greenaway, Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- **First Vice-President:** Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers
- **Second Vice-President:** Tony Zabinski, Councillor, City of Fort Saint John

NCLGA President Boehm then called for any additional nominations from the floor. No nominations were received and the following NCLGA Executive Members were announced as the successful nominees:

President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Judy Greenaway, Area Director, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, be ELECTED NCLGA President by acclamation.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

First Vice-President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers, be ELECTED NCLGA First Vice- President by acclamation.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Second Vice-President:

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Tony Zabinski, Councillor, City of Fort Saint John, be ELECTED NCLGA Second Vice-President by acclamation.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

NCLGA President Boehm read out names of nominations received in advance for the Second Ballot (Directors at Large):

- **Director at Large:** Jerilynn Kirk, Director, Fraser-Fort George Regional District
- **Director at Large:** Jesse Wright, Councillor, District of Mackenzie
- **Director at Large:** Kyle MacDonald, Councillor, City of Dawson Creek

NCLGA President Boehm then called for any additional nominations from the floor, and seeing there were none, called the vote.

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the three nominated Directors at Large on the Second Ballot be appointed by acclamation.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

NCLGA President Boehm announced the 2024-2025 Appointed Regional Representatives.

4. RESOLUTIONS SESSIONS – PART 1

NCLGA Directors at Large, Jerrilyn Kirk, and Tony Zabinski, Moderated Part 1 of the NCLGA Resolutions Session and described the resolution process.

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS:

E1. ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING FARMERS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS farmers across British Columbia face escalating challenges due to climate change, including increasingly frequent and severe droughts, highlighting the urgent need for regionally relevant agricultural research to address these issues effectively; and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has demonstrated commendable leadership by allocating substantial funding, including an additional \$80 million, to expand the Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program, aimed at enhancing water management practices and resilience in the agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS while investments in infrastructure are crucial, there is also a critical need for targeted funding for regionally relevant agricultural research to develop innovative solutions tailored to the specific challenges faced by farmers in different regions of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS regionally relevant research is essential for identifying sustainable agricultural practices, crop varieties, and water management strategies that are best suited to the unique climatic conditions and agricultural landscapes of each region;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Federal and Provincial Governments to prioritize funding for regionally tailored agricultural research to develop sustainable solutions for diverse farming challenges across British Columbia.

CARRIED

E2. ENHANCED ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR FORESTRY COMMUNITIES

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the economic landscape of forestry communities is constantly evolving, requiring proactive measures to ensure their continued growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS it is imperative to invest in the people and opportunities of the future to foster resilience and sustainability in these communities; and

WHEREAS discussions with provincial counterparts in Victoria have highlighted the importance of addressing the challenges faced by forestry communities, including the need for transitioning local economies towards sustainability; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Forests has recognized the potential of a decentralized model to revitalize forestry communities, leveraging their expertise and resources to become hubs of value-added products and services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial Government to provide additional economic assistance and support to forestry communities to facilitate the transition towards a diversified and sustainable economy.

CARRIED

E3. EQUITABLE STUMPAGE RATES TO SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIES

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS stumpage rates play a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the timber industry and local economies; and

WHEREAS while increases in stumpage rates may generate additional revenue for the Provincial Government, there is a risk of unintended consequences, including economic hardship and reduced revenue for local businesses and governments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM advocate for equitable stumpage rates that balance the need for Provincial Government revenue generation with the economic sustainability of forestry-dependent communities.

CARRIED

E4. TRANSPARENT COST ESTIMATES AND EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the Assembly calls for division of the Therefore, Be It Resolved clauses into two separate resolutions (E4A and E4B), keeping the Whereas Clauses the same for both, for Resolution E4.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

E4.A TRANSPARENT COST ESTIMATES FOR HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS local governments are crucial stakeholders in ensuring the provision of essential healthcare infrastructure within their communities; and

WHEREAS transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects are essential to enable effective budget planning and financial management by local governments; and

WHEREAS recent experiences with escalating costs for hospital projects highlight the importance of transparent cost estimates and equitable funding arrangements to mitigate potential financial strain on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS equitable funding arrangements are necessary to ensure that the financial burden of healthcare infrastructure projects is distributed fairly among communities, taking into account factors such as population density and tax base;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM advocate the Provincial Government for transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects, enabling accountability and effective financial planning by local governments.

CARRIED

E4.B EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS local governments are crucial stakeholders in ensuring the provision of essential healthcare infrastructure within their communities; and

WHEREAS transparent and accurate cost estimates for healthcare infrastructure projects are essential to enable effective budget planning and financial management by local governments; and

WHEREAS recent experiences with escalating costs for hospital projects highlight the importance of transparent cost estimates and equitable funding arrangements to mitigate potential financial strain on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS equitable funding arrangements are necessary to ensure that the financial burden of healthcare infrastructure projects is distributed fairly among communities, taking into account factors such as population density and tax base;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM call for equitable funding arrangements for healthcare infrastructure projects, ensuring that the financial burden is distributed fairly among communities based on their capacity to contribute.

CARRIED

E5. ENSURING SAFETY MEASURES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN RESPONSE TO DRUG DECRIMINALIZATION

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS reports indicate an increase in patients possessing or using drugs while in hospitals, posing risks to the safety and well-being of healthcare staff; and

WHEREAS the safety of nurses and other healthcare workers is paramount, and measures must be taken to protect them from exposure to illicit substances and potentially dangerous situations;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM call upon the Provincial Government to prioritize the safety of healthcare workers by providing clear guidelines and resources to address the risks associated with drug use in hospitals;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial Government to work collaboratively with healthcare organizations, including the BC Nurses' Union, to develop comprehensive safety protocols and training programs to safeguard healthcare workers and patients alike.

CARRIED

E6. STRENGTHENING PROVINCIAL-LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION FOR HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Executive Resolution E6, Strengthening Provincial-Local Government Collaboration for Homelessness Solutions, be amended by adding the wording, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province of BC pay for any costs incurred by Local Governments to address homelessness costs, (e.g. costs associated with cleaning up homeless camps, mental health issues, Fire Department call-outs to camps), as this is not the responsibility of the Local Government".

DEFEATED

POINT OF ORDER:

In response to a point of order, President Boehm advised the assembly that major amendments must be drafted in writing and submitted in to NCLGA staff to be considered.

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS Local Governments across British Columbia continue to collaborate with Provincial authorities in addressing homelessness and housing challenges, recognizing the Province's responsibility for housing, healthcare, and encampments; and

WHEREAS initiatives led by the Province through various programs aim to provide housing solutions and support services for unhoused individuals, requiring close coordination between Provincial and Local Government agencies; and

WHEREAS Local Governments acknowledge the complexities of responding to homelessness and the critical role of the Province in providing resources and expertise, with a commitment to supporting these efforts and advocating for effective collaboration between all stakeholders;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM emphasize the importance of expediting proposed transitional shelter facilities and supportive housing projects in partnership with relevant Provincial agencies to address immediate and long-term housing needs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM oppose legislative measures that may hinder local responses to homelessness and support efforts to ensure that any new legislation aligns with the needs and priorities of local communities.

CARRIED

E7. SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF CELL COVERAGE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS rural and remote areas across British Columbia continue to face challenges in accessing adequate cell coverage, hindering connectivity and safety for residents; and

WHEREAS initiatives to extend cell coverage, such as the proposed Telus tower near Puntzi Lake, present opportunities to address these challenges and improve connectivity in underserved communities; and

WHEREAS community engagement and environmental considerations are crucial in the development of such projects to ensure they meet the needs of local residents and mitigate potential impacts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM extend their full support to initiatives aimed at expanding cell coverage in rural and remote areas to enhance connectivity and safety for residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM encourage telecommunications providers, such as Telus, to engage in ongoing consultation with local communities and stakeholders throughout all stages of project development to ensure transparency, address concerns, and maximize benefits for residents.

CARRIED

E8. ADDRESSING CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL SENIORS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT Executive Resolution E8, Addressing Challenges Faced by Rural Seniors in British Columbia, be amended by adding the wording “and Community Care” after “assisted living plan” in bullet #2 and removing bullet #4. “Establish a ministry or minister devoted to addressing the unique needs of rural communities in BC” to be a separate Resolution.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032; and

WHEREAS the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM call upon the Provincial Government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendations put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

1. Develop and implement strategies on rural seniors housing, rural health, rural seniors home and community care, and rural transportation.
2. Create and implement a long-term care and assisted living plan and community care based on equity.
3. Improve upon and better promote the Travel Assistance Program and Hope Air to facilitate access to healthcare services for rural seniors.

CARRIED

E8.A ADDRESSING CHALLENGES FACED BY RURAL SENIORS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS a recent report by the Office of the Seniors Advocate highlights the significant challenges faced by seniors aged 65 or older living in rural regions of British Columbia (BC), including limited access to healthcare, lower incomes, and inadequate options for long-term care and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS rural seniors constitute a significant portion of BC's population, with projections indicating a further increase in their proportion by 2032; and

WHEREAS the resilience of rural seniors is admirable, but it is evident that they face substantial barriers due to the lack of resources and supports available in their communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM acknowledge the findings of the Seniors Advocate's report and recognize the urgent need to address the inequities faced by rural seniors in British Columbia;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM call upon the Provincial Government to take immediate action by implementing the following recommendation put forth by the Seniors Advocate:

1. Establish a ministry or minister devoted to addressing the unique needs of rural communities in BC.

CARRIED

E9. URGENT INVESTMENT IN HEALTHCARE FOR CENTRAL AND NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS healthcare facilities in Central and Northern British Columbia (BC) are confronting a myriad of pressing challenges, including but not limited to limited emergency room capacity, insufficient operating room hours, inadequate capital upgrades, and critical staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS the residents of Central and Northern BC endure significant hardships as they are compelled to undertake extensive journeys to access essential medical procedures, owing to the dearth of specialized healthcare facilities in the region, thereby leading to considerable delays in receiving vital healthcare services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM vehemently call upon the Provincial Government to undertake a comprehensive audit of healthcare services throughout Central and Northern BC, with the explicit aim of identifying areas for enhancement and utilizing the findings to inform future healthcare planning initiatives.

CARRIED

E10. STANDARD OF CARE DISCREPANCIES IN HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Submitted by: NCLGA Executive

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Executive Resolution E10, Standard of Care Discrepancies in Healthcare Services, be amended by adding the wording, “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM advocate for shared patient records between Health Authorities”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS there has been a noticeable increase in delays in treatment and testing for all British Columbians, with a particularly significant impact on residents in rural areas; and

WHEREAS there is an expectation of a standard of practice that every individual should be able to rely on, ensuring that test results are promptly reviewed; however, delays in testing and review processes are causing undue stress and potential health risks, especially in rural communities; and

WHEREAS the discrepancy in wait times for test result reviews, such as heart halter monitors, between urban and rural locations can lead to adverse health outcomes, including increased mortality rates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM jointly lobby the Provincial Government to compel the Health Authorities to review and address the discrepancies in the standard of care, particularly in wait times for test result reviews, across the province, with a specific focus on addressing the disparities between rural and urban areas;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM advocate for shared patient records between health authorities.

CARRIED

REGULAR RESOLUTIONS:

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R1. HEALTHCARE WORKER SHORTAGE – REDUCING BARRIERS TO TRAINING

Submitted by: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS there is a shortfall of qualified staff to provide healthcare services, particularly in rural and remote communities, across the province; and

WHEREAS some of the training requirements for healthcare workers pose significant barriers in terms of time, cost, and accessibility, thereby hindering the potential influx of qualified individuals into the healthcare workforce; and

WHEREAS reducing unnecessary barriers and streamlining training opportunities for healthcare workers would promote professional growth, enhance healthcare delivery, and ultimately benefit the residents of our communities:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and NCLGA advocate to the Province and relevant authorities to put in place the necessary framework, tools and incentives to address the shortfall of qualified healthcare workers and reduce the barriers for healthcare training opportunities.

CARRIED

R2. REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT CAPITAL COST-SHARING SPLIT

Submitted by: Peace River Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Regular Resolution R.2, Regional Hospital District Capital Cost-Sharing Split, be amended by removing the wording “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government to have one on one conversations with each Regional Hospital District and discuss how to make capital infrastructure projects more affordable for each Regional Hospital District.”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS capital infrastructure project costs for healthcare facilities in North and Central British Columbia have been shared between the provincial government and Regional Hospital Districts with 60 percent contributed by the Province and 40 percent contributed by Regional Hospital Districts; and

WHEREAS since 2004 local governments in British Columbia have raised concern that the 60:40 cost-sharing split is financially unsustainable because it necessitates continuous increases in local property taxation being the primary source of revenue available to local governments; this revenue already stretched to meet the diverse and growing demands facing local governments further impacted by escalating construction costs and inflation:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM continue to lobby the provincial government to consult with Regional Hospital Districts to reconsider the existing capital infrastructure project funding split as the 60:40 percentages are not legislated in the Hospital District Act.

CARRIED

R3. REDUCING NEURODEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT WAIT TIMES

Submitted by: District of Mackenzie

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions is unacceptable at 2 years; and

WHEREAS these extended wait times puts delays on youth getting the support they need and deserve and puts pressure on other institutions to fill the gaps while families wait:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to reduce the wait time for diagnostic assessment for children and youth who are suspected of having an Autism Spectrum Disorder or other neurodevelopment conditions.

CARRIED

R4. COMMUNITY SAFETY RESOURCES

Submitted by: City of Terrace

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS local governments are facing increased pressures to address immediate, emerging, and persistent social issues in their local communities that impact the safety, security, and well-being of residents; and

WHEREAS the provincial government does not respond as quickly as needs arise, forcing local governments to take increased action to address community mental health and substance misuse/toxicity challenges with limited and often inadequate resources:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and NCLGA lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to provide adequate, ongoing, and direct funding in order to support local government needs for community safety.

CARRIED

R5. PROVINCIAL VACCINE MANDATE

Submitted by: District of Kitimat

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS British Columbia is one of the last remaining provinces in Canada requiring a vaccine mandate for healthcare professionals; and

WHEREAS British Columbia's healthcare system is under severe stress:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM ask the Province for the provincial criteria that must be in place in order to remove the vaccine mandate for healthcare workers.

CARRIED

R6. VACCINE MANDATE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Submitted by: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS British Columbia continues to have a healthcare worker shortage from a growing and aging patient population, impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ongoing need to recruit, retain and train more healthcare workers at a rapidly growing pace to mitigate the healthcare crisis for the Province's population; and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has taken steps to expand the healthcare workforce and increase patient access through its BC's Health and Human Resources Strategy:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the provincial government to expand the healthcare workforce by lifting the COVID-19 vaccination requirement and allow for unvaccinated healthcare workers to return to work immediately lessening the strain on the healthcare system and providing better access and healthcare for everyone in the province.

DEFEATED

MEETING ADJOURNED

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm adjourned the Annual General Meeting - Business Session A at 12:22 pm on May 14, 2024, and the delegates continued to attend Plenary Session 5: Local Member of Parliament Address, Taylor Bachrach, Skeena-Bulkley Valley, and Plenary Session 8, and Concurrent Panel Sessions 6 to 7, which started at 1:35 pm and 2:50 pm on the following topics:

- a. First Nation Taxation and Assessment;
- b. Sustainable Growth: Navigating the Future of Forestry Communities; and
- c. Talent Traction: Strategies for Small Community Sustainability.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SECTION B, held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024

9. REFLECTIONS OF DAY ONE

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm reconvened the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 9:00 am on May 15, 2024, and introduced Sponsor, BC Lottery Corporation, to address the delegates. President Boehm introduced the 2024-2025 Board of Directors elected on the previous day and reflected on the resolutions and debate before outlining the Agenda for Day 2.

10. PLENARY SESSION: KEYNOTE SPEAKER: COLIN ANGUS

NCLGA Second Vice-President, Gladys Atrill, introduced guest speaker Colin Angus, who shared techniques to deal with changing environments including altering our perception, preparing for the unexpected, assessing risks, and improving communication.

11. MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

Second Vice-President, Gladys Atrill, recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 10:24 am on May 15, 2024, and President Boehm reconvened the meeting at 10:40 am on May 15, 2024.

12. PLENARY SESSION: MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF BC (MIABC)

Troy Reitsma, Councillor, District of Houston, introduced guest speaker Gord Klassen, MIABC Regional Area Association Representative, who provided an update on the Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

13. PLENARY SESSION: NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE TRUST (NDIT)

Jonathan Van Barneveld, Councillor, District of Houston, introduced guest speaker Joel McKay, CEO, who provided an update from the Northern Development Initiative Trust.

14. PLENARY SESSION: INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIFICATION

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm recognized Sponsor, Hy-tech Drilling, and introduced guest speaker Keith Anderson, Vice-President, Business Development and Energy Management, BC Hydro, who shared strategic approaches aimed at bolstering capacity building, enhancing infrastructure, optimizing the supply chain, and implanting crucial upgrades across the region, with a particular focus on capital projects. She then opened the floor to a Question & Answer period.

MEETING RECESSED / RECONVENED

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 12:00 pm on May 15, 2024, for the lunch break and reconvened at 12:40 pm on May 15, 2024.

15. PLENARY SESSION: MARC VON DER GONNA, DIRECTOR OF NORTHERN REGION FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

During the lunch break, NCLGA First Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, introduced Marc von der Gonna, Director, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation, who provided a regional update on economic operations.

16. RESOLUTIONS SESSIONS – PART 2

NCLGA Directors at Large, Jerrilyn Kirk, and Tony Zabinski, returned to moderate Part 2 of the NCLGA Resolutions Session.

REGULAR RESOLUTIONS:

HOUSING

R7. HOUSING SUPPORT IN NORTHERN AND SMALL COMMUNITIES

Submitted by: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Regular Resolution R.7, Housing Support in Northern and Small Communities, be amended by adding the wording “NCLGA and” before “UBCM”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS there is a housing crisis throughout BC requiring a range of solutions that address housing affordability issues in large and small communities; and

WHEREAS the Province's Homes for People's plan focuses on addressing housing supply issues in larger communities in high growth areas of the province:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM ask the Province to engage with small and northern communities to identify housing solutions outside of high growth areas.

CARRIED

R8. AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION AND BC BUILD

Submitted by: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the BC Building Code contains a definition for floor area, and floor area measures the total inside space of a building; and

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission has resolved on a definition of “total floor area for principal residences” and “total floor area of an additional 90m² or 186m² residence” that is not consistent with the BC Building Code:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Agricultural Land Commission to adopt the definition of floor area within the BC Building Code Regulations for buildings in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

CARRIED

R9. SPECULATION AND VACANCY TAX

Submitted by: City of Prince Rupert

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS housing availability and affordability challenges all municipalities in British Columbia; and

WHEREAS these housing challenges impact the health, social and economic well-being of all British Columbia communities:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM petition the Province to amend the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act to have all British Columbia municipalities included in the applicable areas where the tax applies.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R10. INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM EXPANSION

Submitted by: City of Dawson Creek

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Regular Resolution R.10, Intersection Safety Camera Program Expansion, be amended by removing the wording “particularly in North Central British Columbia”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS due to the high frequency of crashes at intersections in British Columbia, the province implemented an Intersection Safety Camera (ISC) program to save lives and reduce injuries; and

WHEREAS the ISC program consists of 140 red light and speed cameras at high-risk intersections in British Columbia, with only one of the locations being in North Central British Columbia thus limiting the opportunity for remote municipalities to use red-light or speed cameras as a traffic safety feature:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the provincial government to expand the Intersection Safety Camera program.

CARRIED

R11. EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT CAPACITY FUNDING

Submitted by: District of Hudson’s Hope

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has enacted legislation known as the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) that constitutes a significant download of responsibilities and addition of new legislative and regulatory requirements that will significantly and permanently add to the workload of municipalities and regional districts; and

WHEREAS the opportunities for local governments to raise funds required to support these legislative changes are limited, and where the provincial government has provided some proactive capacity funding in specific areas, such as First Nations consultation, but has not provided any guarantee of ongoing capacity funding to support the legacy of these legislative changes:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to commit to providing long-term sustainable capacity funding to municipalities and regional districts to fulfill their emergency management duties, including responsibilities under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

CARRIED

R12. SEARCH AND RESCUE – CAPABILITY APPROVAL PROCESS

Submitted by: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the current response capability approval process for individual ground search and rescue (SAR) teams is hindering the ability of teams to respond to known hazards and utilize local capabilities and innovative technology; and

WHEREAS while the Province is responsible for administration of the SAR Program, local SAR expertise, community needs, and local authorities and agencies input must be a greater part of the capability approval process; and

WHEREAS capability decisions must not include call volume, as saving one life makes the investment of time and money worthwhile, and strengthens the overall SAR capacity to assist our counterparts across the region and province when called upon:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to change the search and rescue capability approval process from the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Search and Rescue (EMCR SAR) Unit, to a collaborative process involving the ground search and rescue team, local authorities, and the EMCR SAR Unit.

CARRIED

R13. SEARCH AND RESCUE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE READINESS MORATORIUM

Submitted by: District of Fort St. James

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the current search and rescue director of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) imposed a moratorium on all of the Province's search and rescue teams, prohibiting those groups from expanding their capabilities until the Province has conducted a needs assessment study; and

WHEREAS Search and Rescue groups provide invaluable services crucial to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, tourist safety, and overall community well-being:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to promptly lift this moratorium and allow Search and Rescue groups to add to their list of capabilities.

CARRIED

R14. INITIAL FIRE ATTACK CREW RELOCATION

Submitted by: District of Chetwynd, District of Hudson's Hope, District of Mackenzie, and District of Tumbler Ridge

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the BC Wildfire Initial Attack Crews are a critical component of the wildfire response and rapid wildfire suppression in the Province of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS Initial Fire Attack Crew Base locations are key to providing timely wildfire suppression efforts; especially in remote and rural areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to maintain the Initial Fire Attack Crew Bases in their current locations, and not relocate them without significant local stakeholder consultation.

CARRIED

ENVIRONMENT

R15. SMALL SCALE COMMERCIAL CONTAMINATED SITES

Submitted by: District of Kitimat

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the contaminated site remediation process is required when an application is made for many types of redevelopment; and

WHEREAS the environmental remediation process is so onerous and costly for small scale commercial development that it can delay development:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM ask the Province to reassess the contaminated sites provincial legislation to alleviate the negative economic impacts for small scale commercial redevelopment and provide more options for economic development opportunities on these properties.

CARRIED

TAXATION

R16. TAXATION ON SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

Submitted by: City of Prince George

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS there does not readily appear to be a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property, a placement that is encouraged by provincial policy; and

WHEREAS local governments need every opportunity to collect the appropriate revenue for providing our wide range of services considering inflationary pressures and the challenges posed by asset management:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and NCLGA advocates to the Minister of Education and Child Care that a mechanism by which local governments can recover the equivalent of property tax for childcare centers operating on school property be established.

CARRIED

TRANSPORTATION

R17. JASPER NATIONAL PARK WEST GATE UPGRADES

Submitted by: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS all commercial truck traffic that passes through the East gate of Jasper National Park also uses the West gate of the park; and

WHEREAS Highways 16 and 5, the Yellowhead Highway, are the primary transportation corridors for critical supply chain transportation, tourism and local traffic and the designated over-size route for industrial movements for British Columbia:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge the Province to communicate with the Government of Canada and Parks Canada requesting that the Jasper National Park West gate be upgraded to a standard consistent with the East gate improvements that have been completed to improve the efficiency of moving goods and travelers through this critical corridor to the rest of British Columbia.

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R18. HIGHWAY CELLULAR INFRASTRUCTURE

Submitted by: Regional District of Fraser-Fort George

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the lack of cellular service along many highways throughout British Columbia poses significant safety concerns, impeding the ability of motorists to communicate in emergencies, access navigation services, or contact roadside assistance; and hampers economic development by limiting opportunities for businesses and travelers to stay connected and conduct transactions while on the move; and

WHEREAS advancements in cellular and satellite technology have made it increasingly feasible to extend coverage to previously underserved areas, including highways, through the deployment of new cell towers and signal booster infrastructure:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Province of BC to advance the installation of new cellular infrastructure along sections of Highway 16 East from Prince George to the Alberta border, and other British Columbia highways, without adequate cell service, prioritizing the safety, connectivity, and economic well-being of our citizens and travelers, and to work collaboratively with telecommunications companies, government agencies, rail transportation sectors and other stakeholders to identify optimal locations for new cellular infrastructure, ensuring efficient deployment and minimal disruption to surrounding communities.

CARRIED

R19. LOCAL CONSULTATION FOR PROVINCIAL IMPACTS TO RESOURCE SECTOR JOBS

Submitted by: Village of Pouce Coupe and District of Chetwynd

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the provincial government does not currently have the obligation to meaningfully consult with municipalities and/or regional districts regarding provincial policy changes or decisions that impact employment for people that live in those municipalities and/or regional districts; and

WHEREAS the recent provincial policy changes and decisions have and will continue to negatively impact resource sector-based employment that disproportionately impacts rural, northern, and remote communities; and

WHEREAS rural, remote and northern communities local tax bases are dependent on a strong resource sector in order to provide services to those that live there:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM lobby the provincial government to engage in meaningful consultation with the municipalities and/or regional districts whose people's employment in the resource sector may be negatively impacted by those provincial policy changes.

CARRIED

R20. REVIEW OF TIMBER ALLOCATION TO MITIGATE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Submitted by: District of Fort St. James

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the closure of all timber processing facilities that cause significant economic hardship within the affected community and its surrounding area; and

WHEREAS the sustainability and vitality of local economies are intricately linked to the health and prosperity of timber processing facilities:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and NCLGA request the Ministry of Forests to review the Timber Allocation quota upon the closing of a facility, prioritizing the mitigation of adverse impacts on the economics of the affected community.

CARRIED

R21. INDUSTRY SHUTDOWN - TIMBER RIGHTS

Submitted by: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the closure of sawmills in the region has caused significant economic distress within local communities that has led to a decline in local employment opportunities which negatively impacts the livelihoods of residents and local businesses; and

WHEREAS recent shutdowns provide a concern that wood harvested in one area will be transported to another for processing, thus jeopardizing the local economic value for communities most impacted:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA requests that the Province considers policy to ensure that timber rights that can reasonably be considered "attached" to a sawmill that is being closed, or that were originally provided to the company (or companies) that owned that sawmill, be transferred to local and/or Indigenous governments upon closure in order to foster economic diversification and community resilience.

CARRIED

SELECTED ISSUES

R22. MANDATORY HOLOCAUST EDUCATION IN BC'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Submitted by: City of Prince George

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Regular Resolution R.22, Mandatory Holocaust Education in BC's Elementary Schools, be amended by removing the wording "as of the 2024-25 academic year".

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS Statistics Canada reported that there were 750 police-reported hate crimes targeting religious minorities during 2022, of which 502 or 66.9% were aimed at Jews; and

WHEREAS Ontario recently became the first province to introduce mandatory Holocaust education into the elementary school curriculum:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and NCLGA recognizes the dangers of Holocaust denial and distortion, which so often targets our young people, and urges the Ministry of Education and Child Care to introduce mandatory Holocaust education to elementary schools.

CARRIED

R23. REMOVAL OF ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Submitted by: Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the Local Government Act provides that an Electoral Area Director must appoint an Alternate Electoral Area Director and the council of a municipality may appoint a council member as an alternate director who may take the place of, vote and generally act in all matters for the absent Director; and

WHEREAS the Alternate Electoral Area Director is appointed, not elected; therefore, they are accountable to the elected officials, not the constituents; and

WHEREAS Alternate Electoral Area Directors do not have full authority or rights in the stead of the Elected Official such as in the provision of the NCLGA and UBCM bylaws which prohibit Alternate Electoral Area Directors from participating and voting at the annual and special conventions as NCLGA and UBCM bylaws require voting delegates to be elected officials; and

WHEREAS Alternate Electoral Area Directors and Alternate Municipal Directors do not always have depth of knowledge or understanding of Regional District Board matters resulting in decisions and actions taken by a Board that may not be in the best interests of the Regional District Board as a whole, or its residents:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province to remove the legislative requirement in the Local Government Act to appoint an Alternate Electoral Area Director and an Alternate Municipal Director.

WITHDRAWN

R24. ALTERNATE DIRECTOR INCLUSION IN NCLGA AND UBCM

Submitted by: Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine

WHEREAS the Local Government Act provides that an Electoral Area Director must appoint an Alternate Electoral Area Director who may take the place of, vote and generally act in all matters for the absent Electoral Area Director; and

WHEREAS Alternate Electoral Area Directors do not have full authority or rights in the stead of the elected official such as in the provision of the NCLGA and UBCM bylaws which prohibit Alternate Electoral Area Directors from participating and voting at the annual and special conventions as NCLGA and UBCM bylaws require voting delegates to be elected officials:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM change its bylaws to enable an Alternate Electoral Area Director, in their elected officials stead, to participate in debate and vote at annual and special conventions of NCLGA and UBCM; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the Province to change the Local Government Act to give Alternate Directors full authority and rights as their elected officials in their stead.

WITHDRAWN

R25. HOST COMMUNITY RECEPTION CENTRE IN THE CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

Submitted by: City of Prince George

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the City of Prince George is proud, well positioned, and routinely provides host community support to the region as community's grapple with more frequent emergencies; and

WHEREAS no dedicated facilities have been constructed in the region to appropriately manage this response, leading to frequent reception center relocations which add unnecessary strain on all involved:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA requests the Province fund a permanent Host Community Reception Centre in the City of Prince George for the North Central Local Government Area.

CARRIED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

L1. CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Submitted by: City of Fort St. John

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS, effective communication, collaboration, and engagement between provincial ministries and local governments are essential to ensure that decisions made at the provincial level are well-informed and considerate of the unique needs and perspectives of local governments; and

WHEREAS, a lack of meaningful consultation and collaboration between provincial ministries and local governments may lead to unintended consequences, challenges, and dissatisfaction within local communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge all provincial ministries to seek input from local governments during the early stages of decision-making processes to identify potential impacts and explore collaborative solutions that benefit both provincial and local interests, and to provide timely and relevant information to local governments regarding proposed changes.

CARRIED

L2. ENACTING THE SAFETY AMENDMENT ACT

Submitted by: City of Fort St. John

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities is of utmost importance, and recent events in the Province highlight the urgent need for proactive measures to tackle emerging social and criminal challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Province of BC previously created and did not enact the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act, providing authorities with effective tools to respond to chronic and illegal behaviour from problematic properties,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM actively lobby the Provincial Government to bring into force the Community Safety Act and Community Safety Amendment Act to address challenges related to crime and illegal activity and associated threats to public safety.

CARRIED

L3. SALVAGE LOGGING OF WILDFIRE IMPACTED AREAS

Submitted by: City of Fort St. John

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the 2023 wildfire season was the most destructive in British Columbia's recorded history, with more than 2.84 million hectares of forest and land burned, and there is limited time to recover value from fire-impacted standing timber before the wood quality deteriorates, and the forest industry in British Columbia is facing significant timber shortage challenges leading to mill closures across the province; and

WHEREAS the fire-impacted standing timber poses a significant threat to public safety through the potential for future wildfires,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial Government to work with the forest industry and relevant agencies to enhance access and utilization of fire-impacted standing timber across the province.

CARRIED

L4. YEAR-ROUND FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Submitted by: City of Fort St. John

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Late Resolution L4, Year-Round Forest Fire Management Program, be amended by adding the word, "holdover" before "fires" in all three sections of the resolution.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS, current fire management practices do not adequately address the unique challenges posed by holdover fires, necessitating a comprehensive and year-round approach to forest fire management; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive and year-round forest fire management program can help reduce the risks associated with holdover fires, protect ecosystems, and enhance the safety and well-being of communities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial government to allocate the appropriate resources and adopt a comprehensive and sustainable year-round forest fire management program to address the threat of holdover fires.

CARRIED

L5. ALC NOTICE OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ANCILLARY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the ALC has unilaterally changed their interpretation of the ALC regulation, requiring a notice of intent for the import of soil or fill onto properties and its subsequent approval prior to construction of any detached ancillary residential structure; and

WHEREAS local governments are prohibited from issuing building permits prior to receipt of such approvals, creating an unnecessary regulatory burden on both land owners, local governments, and ALC staff for structures which are regulated through size restrictions in local government zoning bylaws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities call on the Agricultural Land Commission to cease requiring notices of intent to be made under section 20.3 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act for residential ancillary buildings and structures on lands in the Agricultural Land Reserve; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future requirements conform clearly with the Agricultural Land Commission Act and enabling Regulations, and changes to requirements be done through legislative and regulatory amendments, not interpretive judgement.

CARRIED

L6. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO PERMIT ALKALINE HYDROLYSIS FUNERALS

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District and City of Williams Lake

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS Alkaline Hydrolysis Process funeral services present an opportunity to reduce the environmental impact of preparing and interring human remains by significantly reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from burials and land use requirements for storing human remains; and

WHEREAS the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act does not permit Alkaline Hydrolysis as an acceptable process for preparing a deceased person's remains;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of B.C. Municipalities call on the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier to prepare and introduce a bill in the Legislative Assembly of B.C. to amend the Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act to allow the alkaline hydrolysis process as a permitted funeral service.

CARRIED

L7. ACTION TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES FACING B.C.'S RURAL SENIORS

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

WHEREAS rural B.C. has a proportionately larger and faster growing seniors' population than urban B.C., yet has less infrastructure and resources to support its aging population; and

WHEREAS a greater and more focused provincial response to ongoing concerns about inequities in services and supports for seniors in rural B.C. is required to address the inadequacies of current approaches to such issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of B.C. Municipalities endorse the recommendations of the Office of the Seniors Advocate's report titled "Challenges Facing B.C.'s Rural Seniors" and dated February 2024, and calls on the Provincial Government to implement said recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCLGA and UBCM call on the Province of B.C. to begin doing so first by establishing a Ministry or Minister of State for rural B.C. in recognition of the geographic imbalance of regional representation in the Legislative Assembly.

WITHDRAWN

L8. FEDERAL CONSULTATION PRIOR TO ISSUING MEDICAL CANNABIS PRODUCTION CERTIFICATES

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Late Resolution L8, Federal Consultation Prior to Issuing Medical Cannabis Production Certificates, be amended by adding the wording, “the Union of British Columbia Municipalities” before “and Federation of Canadian Municipalities”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS Health Canada issues certificates to persons permitting individuals to grow marijuana plants at designated locations for the purpose of producing cannabis for personal medical use; and

WHEREAS the number of plants which may be possessed under a medical certificate can permit a person to possess a number of plants similar to an industrial marijuana grow facility;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and Federation of Canadian Municipalities call on Health Canada to refer and consult with local governments prior to issuing medical certificates authorizing individuals to possess a number of marijuana plants at any location within a given local government’s jurisdictional boundaries which, by Health Canada’s calculation, could produce more than 150 grams per day of dried cannabis effectively running a marijuana grow facility with resulting issues involving nuisance in neighbourhoods not zoned for such land use.

CARRIED

L9. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, is responsible for establishing the standards for drinking water quality as codified by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality; and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has adopted the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality as the standard for drinking water quality under the Safe Drinking Water Act, which community water systems are required to meet;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities call on the Government of Canada and Province of British Columbia to provide ongoing, long-term, and stable funding for local governments to upgrade community water distribution and treatment systems to enable compliance with the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and all subsequent amendments thereto.

CARRIED

L10. FIREWORKS SALES BAN DURING WILDFIRE SEASON

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS fireworks are a known fire hazard which can start wildfires when conditions are dry with sufficient forest fuels;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities urge the Province of B.C. to prohibit the sale of fireworks in any area for which an open burning ban has been issued.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT the Assembly extend the Resolutions Session – Part Two for fifteen minutes.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

L11. EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT FOR REGIONAL DISTRICTS

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the Emergency and Disaster Management Act seeks to set out a comprehensive framework for the management of wildfires, floods, and other disasters in a manner consistent with the SENDAI Framework; and

WHEREAS the statutory responsibilities, geographic disparity, and legal powers of regional districts are not recognized by the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association and Union of BC Municipalities call on the Province of BC to develop regulations under the Emergencies and Disaster Management Act in collaboration with representatives of each regional district, to ensure that emergency powers and responsibilities impacting regional districts are designed in consideration of their powers, jurisdiction, and areas of responsibility.

CARRIED

L12. UNION OF BC MUNICIPALITIES NAME CHANGE

Submitted by: Cariboo Regional District

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS the Union of B.C. Municipalities (“UBCM”) was established to provide a common voice for local governments across B.C. and has done so since 1905; and

WHEREAS the membership of UBCM consists of more than just municipalities, including regional districts, Indigenous governments, and improvement districts, for which the name of UBCM does not adequately represent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that North Central Local Government Association and Union of B.C. Municipalities call on the Union of BC Municipalities Executive, as empowered by the bylaws of the Union of B.C. Municipalities, to initiate the process of formally requesting an amendment to the Union of BC Municipalities Act to change its statutorily established name to be reflective of the diversity of local governments in B.C. by means of an Extraordinary Resolution to be considered at Convention 2025.

CARRIED

ON THE FLOOR RESOLUTIONS

MOVED/SECONDED, THAT Late Resolutions O1 – O2 submitted from the Floor at the 2024 NCLGA AGM & Convention be approved for consideration.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

O1 – INCREASING INVESTMENT IN TOURISM

Submitted by: District of Houston

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Off the Floor Resolution O1, Increasing Investment in Tourism, be amended by adding the wording, “and UBCM” before “call on the Province”.

CARRIED

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS North-Central BC has reached the low levels of timber harvest that was projected in the mid-term timber supply; and

WHEREAS the need to diversify rural economies and make our communities more attractive and livable places to be is more crucial than ever.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that NCLGA and UBCM call on the Province to dramatically increase the funding and mandates for Northern BC Tourism, BC Parks, and Rec Sites and Trails BC to help our communities start to accelerate economic diversification.

CARRIED

O2 – DOWNLOADING COSTS BY THE PROVINCE OF BC TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE RESULTING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS SUPPORTS

Submitted by: Two Directors (Barb Bachmeier, Electoral Area B Director, Caribou Regional District & Lara Beckett, Electoral Area C Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George)

MOVED/SECONDED

WHEREAS Local Governments are dealing with the results of homelessness without financial supports due to new legislative changes by the Province of BC and funding mechanisms are insufficient to meet the growing demand for services in our communities; and

WHEREAS not enough supports have been put in place by the Province of BC for Mental Wellness, increased appropriate healthcare workers in communities, and Addiction Recovery Services & Supports;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC pay for costs incurred by Local Governments to address the lack of homelessness support, mental health and wellness issues, and addictions recovery services and supports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NCLGA and UBCM mandate their Executives to engage in discussions with the Province of BC to negotiate a fair and equitable reimbursement framework for downloading services related to homelessness and Mental Health and Addictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of BC, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and all relevant stakeholders to advocate for immediate action.

CARRIED

POINT OF ORDER: A point of order was raised that a motion was not made to vary the agenda to begin the Resolution Session – Part Two early and that a Parliamentarian should be on hand for future NCLGA conventions.

17. PLENARY SESSION: TOURISM/BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

NCLGA Second Vice-President, Gladys Atrill, acknowledged Sponsor, Prince Rupert Port Authority, and introduced panel speakers Clint Fraser, CEO, Northern BC Tourism, Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Director, West Quesnel Business Association, and Derek Botchford and Steve Morrow, Owners of Epic Waters Angling. The panel discussed the history of tourism in Smithers, community to community collaboration and spoke to the value of tourism (7.2 billion) to the provincial economy and local economic impacts. They discussed ways to become more creative and support local businesses and entrepreneurship.

18. MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 3:35 pm on May 15, 2024, for the afternoon break and reconvened the meeting at 3:50 pm on May 15, 2024.

MOVED/SECONDED

THAT the Assembly vary the agenda by moving Item #20, Plenary Session: Host Community Updates, to replace Item #29, Plenary Session: Minister's Panel, Minister Anne Kang on May 16, 2024.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

19. PLENARY SESSION: EMERGENCY / DISASTER MANAGEMENT PANEL

Mark Parker, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako Chair, introduced guest speakers Ryan Chapman, Deputy Fire Centre Manager, Northwest Fire Centre, and Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services, Regional District of Bulkley Nechako, to address the delegates regarding proactive planning, collaboration among agencies, community resilience, continuous training, effective communication strategies, and cultural sensitivity in disaster management. He then opened the floor to a Question & Answer period.

MEETING ADJOURNED

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm adjourned the Annual General Meeting - Business Session B at 4:47 pm on May 15, 2024, and reminded the delegates that the evening dinner and musical entertainment would begin at 6 pm.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BUSINESS SECTION C, held Thursday, May 16, 2024

NCLGA President Sheila Boehm reconvened the Annual General Meeting – Business Session C at 9:00 am on May 16, 2024. She provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, recapped the events of Day 2, and outlined the Agenda for Day 3.

NCLGA President Boehm invited the new NCLGA President, Judy Greenaway, to the podium. On behalf of the 2023/24 NCLGA Board, newly elected President Judy Greenaway thanked Past President Sheila Boehm for her service to the NCLGA. She thanked all the sponsors, NCLGA staff, the host communities, event planner, and the NCLGA organizing committee for an excellent convention and then delivered the new NCLGA President's Address. The 2025 Host Community for the 2025 NCLGA AGM and Convention was announced: City of Prince Rupert, with co-host communities: District of Port Edward, and North Coast Regional District.

24. PLENARY SESSION – ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

NCLGA President, Sheila Boehm, introduced Jerrilyn Kirk, NCLGA Director at Large and Chair of Resolutions Committee, to address the delegates regarding electoral areas and effective engagement in rural advocacy; she then opened the floor to a Question & Answer period.

25. PLENARY SESSION – NCLGA STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

NCLGA Directors Terry Robert and Tony Zabinsky moderated an interactive session to identify what the NCLGA can do collectively to support officials, explore accomplishments and priorities, break down silos, and improve open dialogue and communication.

MEETING RECESSED/RECONVENED

NCLGA President Boehm recessed the Annual General Meeting - Business Session C at 9:45 am on May 16, 2024, and Michael Moses, Director at Large, invited the delegates to show support for the Moosehide Campaign Day event by taking a short walk outside altogether. President Boehm reconvened the meeting at 10:16 am on May 16, 2024.

26. PLENARY SESSION – COMMUNITY SAFETY

Frank Wray, Councillor, Town of Smithers, introduced guest speakers, Lorne Benson, Smithers Citizens on Patrol, Trudy Klassen, Councillor, City of Prince George, and Dillon Rochon, Owner, Digital Shield Group, who presented on critical issues surrounding community safety from innovative approaches to social development to culturally sensitive initiative.

27. PLENARY SESSION: OFFICIAL OPPOSITION ADDRESS, MLA MIKE BERNIER, MLA FOR PEACE RIVER SOUTH AND OFFICIAL OPPOSITION SHADOW MINISTER FOR FORESTS

NCLGA First Vice-President, Judy Greenaway, introduced MLA Mike Bernier (Peace River South) and welcomed him to provide comments as the Official Opposition in the BC Legislature.

28. PLENARY SESSION: LOCAL MLA ADDRESS, MINISTER OF LAND, WATER, AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP, THE HON. NATHAN CULLEN (MLA STIKINE-BULKLEY VALLEY)

NCLGA 2nd Vice-President, Gladys Atrill, introduced guest speaker, Nathan Cullen, MLA Stikine, who virtually addressed the delegates regarding current provincial initiatives and how they specifically impact the local area. He passed on regrets from Minister Kang who was unable to attend.

29. PLENARY SESSION: HOST COMMUNITY UPDATES

Leonard Hiebert, NCLGA Appointed Regional Representative, acknowledged Sponsor, MIABC, and introduced guest panel speakers Gladys Atrill, Mayor, Town of Smithers, Shane Brienens, Mayor, District of Houston, and Mark Parker, Chair, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, who provided updates on the co-host communities projects, challenges, and recent initiatives.

30. CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE 68TH ANNUAL NCLGA AGM

NCLGA President Boehm provided closing comments, thanked all sponsors, NCLGA staff, the host communities and host communities staff, the Event Planner and the NCLGA Organizing Committee members following which the draw/prize winners were announced.

MOVED/SECONDED THAT the 69th Annual North Central Local Government Association Annual General Meeting held from May 13-16, 2024, be ADJOURNED at 12:31 pm on May 16, 2024.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS