

AKBLG Resolutions 2019

Amendments & UBCM comments received by April 16, 2019 included (201904161209 version).

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AKBLG PREAMBLE: Determination to endorse & ‘gold star’ resolutions

The AKBLG Resolutions Committee uses the following criteria to arrive at our recommendations for endorsement, in no particular order:

1. Clarity of language.
2. Clarity of direction to UBCM.
3. Applicability to the domain of local government.
4. Timeliness (e.g. Redundancy of resolutions recently at AKBLG/UBCM).

It is important to note that AKBLG does not consider the merits of the content of the resolution in making a decision to recommend endorsement.

As a reminder, UBCM identifies the following eight criteria for ‘Gold Star’ Resolutions:

1. Resolution must be properly titled.
2. Resolution must employ clear, simple language.
3. Resolution must clearly identify problem, reason and solution.
4. Resolution must have two or fewer recital (WHEREAS) clauses.
5. Resolution must have a short, clear, stand-alone enactment (THEREFORE) clause.
6. Resolution must focus on a single subject, must be of local government concern province-wide and must address an issue that constitutes new policy for UBCM.
7. Resolution must include appropriate references to policy, legislation and regulation.
8. Resolution must be submitted to relevant Area Association prior to UBCM.

LOCAL RESOLUTIONS FOR AKBLG ACTION

L1. RDCK – Hydro Increase Rates

WHEREAS, the major utility companies in British Columbia practice universality in utility rates between rural and urban customers;

AND WHEREAS, Nelson Hydro’s proposed rate increase for rural customers exceeds the proposed rate increase for urban customers, despite urban customers already receiving the benefit of the City of Nelson's yearly dividend:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments Executive make a written submission in opposition of Nelson Hydro’s 2019 application to the British Columbia Utilities Commission to implement a precedent-setting disparity in rates between rural and urban customers

AKBLG Comments: *No recommendation.*

COMMENTS:

RESOLUTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION AND SUBMISSION TO UBCM

1. Fernie & Nelson – Private Managed Forest Land Act and Regulations

AKBLG Comment: *The City of Nelson and the City of Fernie are sponsors of the same resolution; Nelson suggested the following proposed amendment after UBCM comments were received, the amendment is supported by the City of Fernie. The amendment is noted here:*

WHEREAS many Local Governments in rural BC are surrounded by significant amounts of forested private land;

AND WHEREAS local governments are expected to manage the assets that support the value of their communities which include sight line, municipal infrastructure, slope stability of land, and watersheds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM call upon the Province to ~~amend the Private Managed Forest Land Act and Regulations to standards~~ **implement regulations and standards** that are equivalent to Crown forest land regulations **and standards that address forest harvesting for commercial purposes on private lands, and grant** and to ~~provide~~ local governments the authority to require **private land** owners of PMFL to undertake annual consultations with local governments to ~~share~~ **provide information and opportunity** regarding long term disposition or development intentions for land adjacent to municipal boundaries **if intended for commercial purposes.**

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a similar resolution, 2018- B41 that asked the Province to give local governments the authority to require owners of PMFL to undertake annual consultations with local governments.

In response, the Province indicated that imposing requirements for information sharing within municipal boundaries is an unjustified intrusion into private decisions of landowners. There are opportunities available for direct communication between concerned local governments, individual land owners, Private Managed Land Association, and the regulator of the Private Managed Forest Land Act, the Managed Forest Council.

The Committee also notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions 2011-B50 and 2008- B34, both of which sought to revise the Private Managed Forest Land Act and related regulations to improve forestry practices on private managed forest lands to a standard equivalent or better than Crown forest land regulations.

Further, membership endorsed resolution 2010-B26, which asked the Province to amend the PMFL Act to ensure riparian area protection. The membership also endorsed resolution 2005-B27, which asked the Province to establish a transparent and open mechanism for regular inspection and monitoring of forestry operations on private lands where such operations occur in community watersheds.

COMMENTS:

2. Fruitvale – Credit Card Discount Fee Proposal

WHEREAS the majority of the tax-paying citizens of British Columbia use credit cards to pay their bills “at the counter;”

AND WHEREAS the service fee that must be paid to major credit card companies presents a heavy financial burden to British Columbia municipalities and regional districts who seek to provide convenient “at the counter” payment services for their citizens:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT UBCM use its collective influence to negotiate a preferred corporate credit card rate with one of the major credit card companies for British Columbia municipalities and regional districts.

AKBLG recommendation: **Endorse.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership have not previously considered a resolution asking UBCM to negotiate a preferred corporate rate with a credit card company for local governments.

However, the Committee advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, resolution 2005- B109 which asked the Province to give local governments the ability to add a surcharge to any credit card payment equal to the transaction fee charged by credit card companies.

COMMENTS:

3. Grand Forks – Additional Rehabilitation Detox Centres

WHEREAS substance use, particularly drug addiction, is considered a mental health issue;

WHEREAS smaller communities do not have many of the supports required to assist those wanting to recover from addiction and detox followed by immediate rehabilitation is necessary in order to recover and the wait time between the two can be up to three months:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions be encouraged to fund more detox and rehabilitation centres throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities.

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a similar resolution, 2007- B51, which asked the Province to provide more funding for detox centres in more areas of the province.

The Committee notes that resolution 2006-B8 was also endorsed by the membership and it asked for more regional detox facilities.

The Committee also notes that membership has endorsed related resolutions requesting federal and provincial funding for the development of a continuum of drug detox and rehabilitation programs throughout the province (2000-B61) and the enactment of a full provincial drug strategy and increased funding (2014-B34, 2007-B2, 2006-B1, 2006-B50, 2005-B43, 2002-B74) to address the many problems associated with addiction.

COMMENTS:

4. Grand Forks – BC Housing Accountability

WHEREAS the City of Grand Forks has been devastated by a recent flood and is challenged to protect and to rebuild its downtown core as a vibrant commercial area;

WHEREAS the basic principle of *Community Charter* is that municipalities and the Provincial government should foster cooperative approaches to matters of mutual interest;

AND WHEREAS BC Housing failed to consult Council about the location or size of supportive housing facilities before land was purchased and designs chosen:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT BC Housing seek local government's approval before land is purchased for supportive housing initiatives.

| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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| <i>UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:</i> | No Recommendation |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province to seek local government approval prior to purchasing land for supportive housing initiatives.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting affordable housing and social service investments by the province (2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2015-B47, 2013-B52), but these do not make specific requests around consultation on site selection.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions emphasizing the importance of provincial communication and consultation with local government (2014-B37, 2013-B34, 2013-B36, 2012-B119, 2009-B54, 2009-B141, 2002-SR1, 2001-A9, 1995-B91, 1994-A2, 1990-B59).

In response to resolution 2009-B54 the provincial government confirmed the importance of consultation with local governments as “a key principle of local-provincial relations” and cited the statutory requirements for consultation that it uses to guide its actions:

- section 2 of the Community Charter, regarding consultation between the Province and municipalities on any matters of mutual interest;*
- section 3 of the Local Government Act, regarding consultation when provincial interests directly affect regional district interests; and*
- section 276 of the Community Charter, which identifies areas of provincial legislation and policy for which the ministers responsible must consult with local governments through UBCM.*

Membership also endorsed resolution 2017-B44 requesting improved oversight and accountability of supportive recovery homes.

COMMENTS: _____

5. Grand Forks – Disaster Financial Assistance and *Emergency Program Act*

WHEREAS many small business owners in rural British Columbia have many different household income sources; and

WHEREAS small businesses form a critical part of rural communities because of the employment, taxes, and services they provide:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province change ~~the *Emergency Program Act* and~~ the Disaster Financial Assistance program **criteria relating to income requirements, eligibility, and insurance availability** to better address the needs of rural British Columbia small business owners.

AKBLG recommendation: Endorse upon further clarification of intent of desired changes to DFA/EPA.

AKBLG Note (2019-04-08): The City of Grand Forks supplied the above-noted amendment to further clarify the resolution.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking for changes to the *Emergency Program Act* and *Disaster Financial Assistance program* to better address the needs of rural BC small business owners.*

*It is unclear what the sponsor is seeking when they ask for a “change” to the *Emergency Program Act* and *Disaster Financial Assistance Program*. They have not specified what the change would entail. Are they requesting that small businesses qualify for help under these programs? The sponsor may want to amend their resolution to improve clarity.*

COMMENTS:

6. Grand Forks - Insurance Practices During and After Disasters

WHEREAS many property owners and small businesses were recently affected by floods and fires across British Columbia; and

WHEREAS many of those property owners and small businesses were unable to get insurance coverage, were unable to access that coverage in a timely manner, or were denied insurance coverage from their insurance provider:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Finance review insurance practices in British Columbia to identify ways to **insure property owners and small businesses during and after a disaster.** ~~better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster.~~

AKBLG recommendation: **Endorse**, though AKBLG recommends an amendment to ensure that the 'therefore be it resolved' clause is able to stand independently may be helpful.

AKBLG Note (2019-04-08): Amendment from the City of Grand Forks as provided above to improve structure of the resolution.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting the Province review insurance practices to identify ways to better serve property owners and small businesses affected by disaster.

However, the membership has recently endorsed multiple resolutions seeking disaster financial assistance for property owners, including 2015-B78, 2013-B90, 2008-B99. Members have also endorsed resolutions 2014-B36 and 2013-B141, which ask ICBC to begin offering home insurance.

The Committee advises that resolution 2015-B116 proposed calling on MIABC to investigate the feasibility of providing insurance for rural BC homes, was considered, but not endorsed.

COMMENTS:

7. Invermere - Lower Voting Age

WHEREAS Having more youth engagement and participation in the democratic process is a worthy goal:

AND WHEREAS Those who vote young are more likely to be life long voters;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ask:

1. The Provincial Government to lower the age to vote in local government elections, to 16.
2. The Provincial Government to lower the age to vote in Provincial elections, to 16.
3. The Federal Government to lower the age to vote in Federal elections, to 16.

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse previous resolutions calling for the lowering of the voting age to 17 (2011-B117) and to 16 (2006-B75) for local government elections. However, these resolutions did not address provincial or federal elections and the Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered resolutions requesting that the voting age be lowered for provincial and federal elections.

COMMENTS:

8. Invermere - Wildfire Hazard Reduction Treatment on Private Lands

WHEREAS the Province has experienced successive extreme wildfire years which, because of climate change, is expected to be the new normal;

AND WHEREAS many Local Governments have initiated fuel management treatments within their boundaries and on adjacent Crown lands to reduce wildfire risk;

AND WHEREAS significant wildfire risk still exists on private lands adjacent to many communities that are currently ineligible for funding under the Community Resilience Investments (CRI) Program for wildfire risk reduction treatments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Kootenay & Boundary Local Governments and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities ask the Provincial Government to offer incentives under the CRI or an alternate program to private land owners to complete wildfire risk reduction treatments on private lands, adjacent to communities which have been identified by the B.C. Wildfire Service as having a high or extreme wildfire risk.

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution that asks the Province to offer incentives under the Community Resilience Investments (CRI) Program for private land owners to complete wildfire risk reduction treatments.

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. The program also supports 'FireSmart Activities for Private Land' which is limited to: planning for private land, rebate programs for home owners and off-site debris disposal for private land owners that have undertaken their own vegetation management.

COMMENTS:

9. RDCK – BC Emergency Response Model and First Responders

WHEREAS, in May of 2018, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) implemented the new Clinical Response Model for dispatching paramedics, ambulances and other resources to patients, throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS, under the new system highly trained rural first responders attached to fire departments and rescue societies are being called less frequently to medical incidents in their areas, resulting in pain and suffering and risking patient lives in rural and remote areas where ambulance dispatch may be an hour or more away:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Union of BC Municipalities work with the BC Minister of Health to ensure that the BCEHS Clinical Response Model be changed to improve the utilization of local first responders in remote and rural areas.

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that there is currently no UBCM policy regarding the BCEHS Clinical Response model that was introduced in May of 2018.

However, the membership considered, but did not make a decision, on resolution 2018-B140, which in part addressed the new BCEHS Clinical Response model. This resolution was debated by the membership, and amended to add an enactment clause on the BCEHS clinical response model. The membership voted to refer the resolution to the UBCM Executive for a decision given that the amended resolution confused the intent of the original resolution.

The UBCM Executive reviewed the resolution and referred it back to the two sponsors (the sponsor who submitted the original resolution, and the sponsor who amended the resolution to add the BCEHS clinical response model).

Both sponsors have been asked to bring forward their resolutions separately for the 2019 Convention.

COMMENTS:

10. RDCK – Cannabis Revenue Sharing

WHEREAS, Local Governments in British Columbia have incurred substantive planning department and other costs related to supporting the implementation of cannabis legislation and have not yet received confirmation from Federal and Provincial levels of Government that they would receive cannabis-related revenue to offset these costs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Federal and Provincial Governments immediately provide confirmation of funds from cannabis-related revenue streams to offset Local Government cannabis legislation implementation related costs.

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| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee 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."

UBCM continues to place a high priority on cannabis excise tax revenue sharing with local governments. This issue was a top priority during UBCM's annual advocacy meetings with provincial MLAs in February 2019.

COMMENTS:

11. RDCK – Foreclosed Crown Properties Restrictions

WHEREAS, in the Kootenays at the present time, provincial policy is to prohibit sale of crown lands, including properties under foreclosure for non-payment of taxes;

AND WHEREAS, such foreclosed properties are being left derelict, often becoming unsightly and posing a fire hazard, even though there is a housing shortage:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this policy of non-sales or non-use on foreclosed properties be revoked and such foreclosed properties be offered for rent or sale.

AKBLG recommendation: Endorse pending an amendment to allow the ‘Therefore be it resolved’ clause to stand independent of the preamble (i.e. to clarify ‘this policy ...’).

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not specifically sought to have foreclosed properties, under crown land lease, be offered for rent or sale.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking amendments to allow local governments to collect the outstanding taxes or have the provincial government reimburse the local government for the amount of unpaid taxes on crown land lease properties (2017-B13, 2011- B86, 2007-B112).

Specifically resolution 2011-B86, called for provincial amendments to the Community Charter to enable local governments to collect outstanding taxes owing on defaulted Crown leases; as well as a provincial commitment to compensate local governments for revenue loss in cases where a Crown lessee defaulted on its local taxes.

In response to the resolution, the provincial government suggested that local governments could apply the legal remedy of distress, in accordance with Section 252 of the Community Charter. The Province indicated that local governments could use this mechanism to “collect on outstanding taxes before they become delinquent,” thereby providing an opportunity to collect prior to provincial cancellation of a Crown lease.

COMMENTS:

12. RDCK – Legislation of Old Growth Management Areas and *Water Sustainability Act*

WHEREAS, the Timber Supply Areas within the province of British Columbia includes both consumptive watersheds and Old Growth Management Areas designated for the purpose of enabling and securing ecological resilience to withstand the long-term effects of forest degradation;

AND WHEREAS, these critical landscape elements are not protected under legislation and these watersheds are experiencing effects detrimental to slope stability, water quality and quantity which ultimately leads to forest decline and increased risk of wildfire, landslides, loss of water supply, and other effects that local governments must respond to and mitigate without having any concurrent decision-making authority over; and these areas are being traded for other areas within a tenure that do not have equivalent ecological value thereby accelerating the decline in forest resilience and ecological integrity:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Old Growth Management Areas and provisions in the *Water Sustainability Act* for protection of watersheds be entrenched in legislation with enforceable and monitored regulations.

AKBLG recommendation: Endorse pending clearer identification of desired outcome within the resolution. For example, is the intent possibly to entrench OGMAs in legislation and to regulate the WSA?

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that it is not clear what the ask is within the enactment clause of this resolution. Is the sponsor asking that growth management areas and sections of the Water Sustainability Act related to water protection be put into new legislation?

However, in regard to watershed protection, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions supporting improved watershed protection and management and the incorporation of the voice of local governments into water management processes (2018-B34, 2017- B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88).

The Committee also notes that members endorsed 2017-B66 requesting that UBCM support the formation of an advisory committee focused on the management and preservation of old growth forests, and that this advisory group consist of First Nations groups, local government representatives from forest communities, industry, and environmental representation.

COMMENTS:

13. RDEK - Fire Department Capital Funding Program

WHEREAS rural and municipal fire departments provide essential structural and wildfire mitigation services and are regularly called upon by the BC Wildfire Service to respond to wildfires in and around their response area;

AND WHEREAS the BC Wildfire Service relies on the support of rural and municipal fire departments to provide an effective wildfire response program, the Province of British Columbia benefits from having these additional resources available, and many communities struggle to pay for the infrastructure and equipment essential for the existence and operation of the fire department; yet the Province of British Columbia does not contribute towards this vital infrastructure and equipment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be requested to develop an efficient and effective program to provide capital funding for rural and municipal fire departments.

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| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding for first responder (e.g. fire departments) supplies and equipment, including 2018-B106, 2017-B61, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2014-B15, 2012-B10, 2010-B6, 2000-B15.

In response to endorsed resolution 2018-B106, requesting timely compensation for organizations who provide assistance during a state of emergency, the Province indicated support for tools and processes to support more timely compensation.

UBCM also administers the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, a suite of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments and their residents in responding to emergencies.

COMMENTS:

14. RDKB – Support for Fire Services

WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Commissioner has, over the past three two years, put more requirements in place for fire departments in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the cost and time commitment of these increased training, risk management, and records management requirements have negatively impacted volunteer and paid-on-call fire fighter recruitment and has resulted in increased local government taxation:

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM be directed to work with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to explore provincial funding support to help fund staffing, compliance with standards, and capital costs of British Columbia fire departments.

| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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| <i>UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:</i> | Endorse |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members recently endorsed resolution 2017-B3, which also requested UBCM work with the Office of the Fire Commissioner to explore provincial funding options to help BC fire departments meet new standards.

In response to the resolution, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General noted the resources available, via the Office of the Fire Commissioner, to assist local governments, including a free training curriculum, financial resources to provide Train-the-Trainer courses, and OFC/LGMA workshops for chief administrative officers and fire chiefs.

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking more provincial funding, training and resources to support fire departments, including 2018-B20, 2018-B22, 2016-B4, 2015-B3, 2012-B10, 2011-B6, and 2009-B63.

COMMENTS:

15. RDKB – Victims Services Funding

WHEREAS the costs to local governments for providing police-based victim services continues to escalate due to increased demand and annual inflation;

AND WHEREAS the authority for providing victim services for: victims’ issues; development of legislation, policies and programs; training; and delivering and funding programs that support victims and their families is the responsibility of the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General to increase the Ministry’s funding contribution for the provision of police-based victim services within the Province of British Columbia.

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| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that provincial government funding for victim services programs is a long-standing issue. Members have consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to increase funding for victim services programs, including 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2016-B83, 2015-B4, 2014-B4, 2011- B14, 2010-B12, 2008-B4, 2006-B9, 2003-OF1, 2001-B12, 1998-A11, 1994-B35.

COMMENTS:

16. RDKB – Forestry Development Plan Referral Best Practices

WHEREAS local governments have actively advocated for a larger role in the review of forest management plans in the province and are now increasingly being asked to provide input into the forest management plans proposed by the forest industry and BC Timber Sales, but without a clearly defined mandate, framework, or best practices within which to consider such plans;

AND WHEREAS the authority for managing and regulating the Province’s forest resources rests with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM urge the Province of BC, through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development to work with local governments and the forest industry to develop guidance documents intended to better define the role of local government in the review process and best practices for forest management plan referrals from the forest industry and Provincial agencies.

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| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking a direct and effective role for local governments in forest resource policy, planning and management decisions (2018-B40, 2018-B41, 2018-B44, 2017-B36, 2016-B32, 2015-B24, 2015-B39, 2015-B63, 2015-LR2, 2013-B80, 2013-B105, 2013-B112, 2013-B116, 2011-B57, 2011-B167, 2010-B91, 2010-B98).

This resolution is asking for the preparation of guidance documents that will assist local governments to better engage and provide input into review processes and referrals from the forest industry and provincial government agencies. This appears to be a logical next step building on the advocacy work to ensure that local governments are better engaged and consulted on forest policy decisions.

COMMENTS:

17. Rossland – Climate Accountability for Fossil Fuel Companies

WHEREAS communities throughout BC face a range of impacts from climate change, our area, the Kootenay Boundary region, faces increasing risks from forest fires, significant challenges with an altered snowpack, incursion by new invasive species, and accelerated changes in our mountain environments and other changes that threaten our economy, our environment, and our way of life;

AND WHEREAS our communities are already facing growing costs associated with planning and preparing for, and dealing with, the impacts of climate change; and we have a choice as elected officials between passing this added cost burden on to our citizens or working to hold accountable those responsible for a significant portion of the changes;

AND WHEREAS the 20 largest global fossil fuel companies are responsible for, through their operations and products, a significant portion of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS addressing the climate change and its impacts will require that everyone do their part, from our taxpayers to local governments to fossil fuel companies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AKBLG, UBCM and FCM be requested to write a climate accountability letter on behalf of their member groups to the top twenty fossil fuel companies outlining the impacts felt by all BC communities and requesting that the companies assist with the financial burden of climate change adaptation and mitigation costs to BC communities.

AKBLG recommendation:

Endorse.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:

Not Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse a similar resolution, 2018-B128, which called for climate accountability letters to be sent to the twenty largest fossil fuel companies.

COMMENTS:

18. Rossland - Wildlife Rehabilitation Resolution

WHEREAS the current process for making decisions to rehabilitate or euthanize all species of juvenile wildlife is inconsistent throughout the Province of BC and is left to various local authorities' personal opinion; some of whom lack training, expertise or experience in wildlife rehabilitation or assessment;

AND WHEREAS we have a responsibility because the most common reason for orphaned wildlife is human-caused (road kill, hunted, habitat interference), and the general public does not want orphaned wildlife to be left to die or shot as is often the current practice:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the BC Provincial government consider all orphaned and /or injured juvenile wildlife for rehabilitation, and work with licensed wildlife rehabilitators in BC, wildlife biologists, veterinarians, and Conservation Officers to develop a standardized procedure for the assessment of suitability for rehabilitation, capture, emergency treatment, and transfer to a wildlife rehabilitation facility of orphaned and injured wildlife.

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| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
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UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the province to consider all orphaned and/or injured juvenile wildlife for rehabilitation, rather than be euthanized.

COMMENTS:

19. Sparwood - Stand-by Pay for Key Emergency Personnel

WHEREAS the Provincial Government of British Columbia has ceased to reimburse local governments for their expenditures of stand-by pay for key emergency staff during peak freshet and wildfire hazard seasons in 2018;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District of East Kootenay has observed an upsurge in the requirement of this service due to environmental circumstances, including climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Regional District of East Kootenay views the elimination of this funding by the Provincial Government of British Columbia as a downloading of provincial responsibilities to local governments;

AND WHEREAS the District of Sparwood is now required to pay a portion of that service cost to the Regional District of East Kootenay for participation in the Elk Valley and South Country Emergency Program to cover the cost of this service previously reimbursement by the Provincial Government of British Columbia to the Regional District of East Kootenay:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ~~District of Sparwood~~ **Union of BC Municipalities** requests that the Provincial Government of British Columbia restore standby pay during freshet and wildfire seasons as an eligible expense for reimbursement to local governments.

AKBLG recommendation: **Endorse as amended** (amendment proposed by AKBLG).

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to restore stand-by pay for emergency personnel during freshet and wildfire seasons as an eligible expense for reimbursement.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has previously endorsed several resolutions calling for more adequate or higher rates of stand-by (on-call) pay for paramedics (2017-B134, 2009-B68, 2006- B4, 2000-B93).

COMMENTS:

20. East Kootenay RD - Search and Rescue – Sustainable Funding

WHEREAS Search and Rescue volunteers provide valuable service in support of police forces, the BC Ambulance Service, the Coroners Service, and local governments in the province, and the costs associated with providing the necessary training, equipment and facilities is increasing;

AND WHEREAS Search and Rescue groups rely on grants and other time consuming, short term and unpredictable funding sources which do not provide financial security or allow long term strategic operational planning;

AND WHEREAS the Province has supported Search and Rescue groups with a series of one year grants for the last three years, there is no provision in the 2019 budget for any further financial support for Search and Rescue groups:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM petition the Province to implement a consistent and sustainable funding model for Search and Rescue groups to allow them to better provide efficient and effective search and rescue operations.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| AKBLG recommendation: | Endorse. |
|------------------------------|-----------------|

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed many 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 has not announced any dedicated search and rescue funding as part of this year's budget.

COMMENTS:

RESOLUTIONS CARRIED FROM 2018 FOR SUBMISSION TO UBCM

2018-15. Canal Flats – Speculation Tax & Local Government Consultation

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has introduced a Speculation Tax on vacant and recreational properties in parts of British Columbia with the intent to deter investors removing homes from the long-term housing stock;

AND WHEREAS in many areas of the province communities rely economically on non-resident property owners who invest in our communities, are active community members, with many eventually becoming full-time residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province to permanently exempt communities in the Kootenays from the Speculation Tax;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province consider refining the Speculation Tax so that it does not penalize Canadians with a recreational property, no matter what Province they reside in or file income taxes in.

AKBLG AGM outcome: Motion to entertain as a Special Resolution was defeated at 2018 AGM, thus is deemed a 2018 Late Resolution.

AKBLG Comments:

In 2018 AKBLG recommended endorsement of this resolution pending an amendment to remove the second “therefore be it resolved” clause. Given that change, the proposed resolution would read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province to permanently exempt communities in the Kootenays from the Speculation Tax;

~~*FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province consider refining the Speculation Tax so that it does not penalize Canadians with a recreational property, no matter what Province they reside in or file income taxes in.*~~

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments: **Not Endorse**

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several recent resolutions regarding property speculation and vacant properties, including 2018-A3, 2017-A2 and 2017-B91.

Resolution 2018-A3 requests authority for local governments across BC to collect a levy on vacant residential properties at their discretion, and to invest any revenues into non-market housing. Resolution 2017-B91 similarly

requests the authority for local governments across BC to introduce a surtax on vacant and derelict residential properties to address affordability and safety.

Resolution 2017-A2 supports the introduction of measures to discourage speculation, rapid-resale of properties, commodity investment and other market distortions that contribute towards housing price escalation.

The Committee notes that a request for consultation with local governments prior to further expansion of the speculation tax is consistent with local choice as a foundational tenet of general policy adopted by UBCM members.

However, the Resolutions Committee notes a request to refine the speculation tax to exclude Canadians with a recreational property runs counter to existing policy that supports measures to discourage speculation and holding of properties vacant, in order to support affordability (2017-A2, 2017-B14, 2017-B91). As such, the Committee recommends an amendment to strike out the second enactment clause.

The Committee also notes that the Speculation Tax has now been implemented, so the sponsor may wish to update the whereas clauses of the resolution.

COMMENTS:

2018-16. Nelson – Professional Reliance

WHEREAS, the provincial government is undertaking a review of BC’s natural resource sector professional reliance model to be complete by Spring 2018

AND WHEREAS, the use of professional reliance within BC’s resource sector is a long-standing practice

AND WHEREAS, over the past decade the use of professional reliance has increased in response to government’s regulatory reform initiatives

AND WHEREAS, since 2013 the Environmental Appeal Board, Forest Practices Board, Office of the Auditor General and Office of the Ombudsperson have highlighted the need for adequate oversight of qualified professionals in providing independent, objective advice to government regulators

AND WHEREAS, there is increasing public concern related to specific instances of decision-making based on professional reliance

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of British Columbia ensure that government oversight of professional associations and professional associations that oversee qualified professionals employ best practices to protect the public interest in the management of public land by the natural resource sector.

AKBLG 2018 AGM outcome: Motion to entertain as a Special Resolution was defeated at 2018 AGM, thus is deemed a 2018 Late Resolution.

AKBLG Comments:
AKBLG recommends endorsement.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: *Endorse*

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed the same resolution, 2018-B40.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2016-B108 that called on the Province to assess the effectiveness of current professional reliance regimes in order to reduce potential for conflicts of interest, ensure appropriate checks and balances, improve environmental performance and restore government approval authority where necessary.

COMMENTS:

2018-17. **Kalso** – Collection of Unpaid Bylaw Fines

WHEREAS municipalities lose a significant amount of non-tax revenue annually because of unpaid bylaw fines;

AND WHEREAS non-tax revenue sources such as a bylaw fines help offset costs to municipal services and reduce the property tax burden on residents.

AND WHEREAS the current methods available to Municipalities for the collection of bylaw fines are slow, expensive and labor intensive;

AND WHEREAS the collection of bylaw fines with the cooperation of the Province and the Insurance Corporation of BC will ensure prompt payment of any unpaid bylaw fines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the Province and the Insurance Corporation of BC collect outstanding bylaw fines on behalf of municipalities at the time of auto insurance and/or driver’s licence renewal.

AKBLG 2018 AGM outcome: Deemed by the AKBLG as a Late resolution, rather than a special resolution, thus not brought forward to the 2018 AGM.

AKBLG Comments: AKBLG recommends endorsement. This resolution was received April 16, 2018. It was not put forward to the membership in 2018.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation Pending Clarification from the Sponsor

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

*The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution, 2018-B18, which specifically sought assistance from the Province and ICBC to “collect outstanding **traffic related** bylaw fines on behalf of municipalities at the time of auto insurance and/or driver’s licence renewal.*

This 2019 resolution does not specifically stipulate “traffic related” bylaws so the sponsor may wish to clarify the scope of the ask.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed 2007-B81 urging the Province and the Insurance Corporation of BC to approve the collection of bylaw fines in the same manner as fines imposed by violation tickets under provincial statutes.

The Committee also notes that members have previously endorsed resolutions requesting that unpaid bylaw vehicle-related offences be collected by ICBC and that local government be given the authority to add unpaid fines for property-related offences to the property tax roll (2003-A3; 2000-B17.) The need for a better collection system for bylaw fines has been identified as an ongoing concern by local government.

COMMENTS:
