

2024 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS – For referral to UBCM

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COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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AKBLG PREAMBLE

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 (eg. 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.

Best practices for writing 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 should have two or fewer recital (WHEREAS) clauses.
5. Resolution must have a short, clear, stand along enactment (THEREFORE) clause.
6. Factual background should be provided.
7. Resolution must focus on a single subject of local government concern province wide.
8. Resolution must include appropriate references to policy, legislation and regulation.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Mental Health Supports

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas social issues in the province such as the opioid crisis, mental health issues, the lack of affordable housing, and a shortage of family physicians has led to increasing pressures on fire departments to respond to first response calls;

And whereas communities need more support and resources to deal with the impacts of the opioid crisis and mental health issues:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to allocate resources to improve access to mental health supports, harm reduction sites, detox and treatment facilities, family doctors, walk-in clinics, community health centres and affordable housing.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking resources and improved access to mental health supports, harm reduction sites, detox and treatment facilities, family doctors, walk-in clinics, community health centres and affordable housing.

Mental Health Supports/Harm Reduction Sites/Detox and Treatment:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

Health Care Professionals:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting improved physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals, including but not limited to (2023-SR1, 2022-SR1, 2022-EB15, 2022-EB16, 2022-EB17, 2022-EB18, 2022-NR5, 2022-NR6, 2017-B42, 2015-B68, 2014-B132, 2013-B47, 2012-B91, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2010-B43, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B154, 2005-B41, 2003-B104).

Primary Care:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for more resourcing and strengthening of Primary Care Networks (2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2022-NR6, 2021-EB63, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).

Affordable Housing/Supportive Housing:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services, to address homelessness (2023-NR26, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81, 2004-B2, 2004-B30).

Housing:

The Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-EB11, 2022-EB25, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011-B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50, 2004-B128).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

2. Mental Health Mandate for Health Authorities

City of Nelson

Whereas the number of people in BC, including in rural and remote communities, experiencing mental health and addictions issues continues to increase and there is a distinct lack of resources and treatment options for such individuals;

And whereas the provincial government has committed to expanding complex care, treatment, and aftercare across the province to provide quality care to British Columbians where and when needed but there appears to be a disconnect in how regional Health Authorities are advancing this commitment in rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to mandate regional Health Authorities to take a proactive approach to developing and implementing regional plans to address mental health and addiction issues.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2023-SR3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

While the enactment clause doesn't mention rural and remote communities, the whereas clauses do, so it is worthwhile to note that the membership has supported resolutions seeking to address mental health and addictions in rural and remote communities, including:

- 2019-B61 which asked for more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities;*
- 2010-B145 which asked, in part, for more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC;*
- 2007-B51 which asked for more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province; and*
- 2006-B8 which asked for more regional detox centres.*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

3. Augmenting Health Authorities with Regional District Boards of Health

City of Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population as shown by closures of beds in local hospitals and closures of emergency rooms at times when no qualified staff are available to work;

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have governed the provision of health care in their respective areas but are not held accountable for poor policy decisions and the negative impact those decisions have on local communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to consider augmenting Health Authorities with Regional District Boards of Health responsible for health care where there is a regional hospital;

And be it further resolved that Regional District Boards appoint a Local Board of Directors responsible for health care and that such Board must include representation from doctors, nurses, lab techs, and administration.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has previously considered a number of resolutions regarding the structure of Health Authorities in BC, including the role of local governments in health care decision-making.

Between 1992 and 2001, health care regionalization resulted in a major change in health care planning in BC. Where there were previously 700 different agencies involved in health care planning, the regionalization process resulted in 5 regional health authorities. Previous to this process, local governments had input into health care delivery and services in their communities through the local boards of health and regional health boards.

The UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions requesting a renewed opportunity for local governments to provide input on health care service in their communities.

Resolutions have asked the Province to consider the appointment of local government elected representatives from each regional hospital district to the boards of health authorities in order to enable direct decision making on capital priorities and budgets (2007- B155); that health authorities support local community health advisory committees (2007-B53); and for an amendment to the Health Authorities Act to formally establish and recognize the role of community health advisory councils and require that regional health authorities consult with these organizations prior to establishing local service plans or making changes to local health care (2003-A1).

The Committee notes that the membership supported resolution 2023-NR10 which called for a review of the structure/management of Health Authorities. The membership also endorsed resolution 2014-C19 which requested legislative change to require the composition of health authority boards to include representation from regional districts.

The Committee offers the recommendation 'No Recommendation' as the specifics in the enactment clauses have not been considered.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: NO RECOMMENDATION

The Committee suggests that the second enactment clause does not provide direction for action to a provincial body.

4. Comprehensive Summary of Actions Taken for Healthcare

District of Elkford

Whereas the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for increased funding and improved services within the health care system over the past two decades, including for those in rural, remote and northern communities;

And whereas rural, remote and northern communities face ongoing challenges relating to necessary health care services, such as resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system, increasing funding and innovative service and support models for health care delivery, improving physician recruitment and retention and maintaining adequate staffing levels and delivery of service in rural communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests that the Ministry of Health and Health Authorities provide a comprehensive summary of responses and actions taken to address health care issues being experienced in rural, remote and northern communities in British Columbia.

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 Ministry of Health and Health Authorities to provide a comprehensive summary of responses and actions taken to address health care issues being experienced in rural, remote and northern communities in British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that that membership endorsed a special resolution, 2023-SR1, which sought health equity for rural and remote communities. It asked the Province to introduce metrics and policy to identify reasonable travel distances from each community to health care services and facilities, to ensure transparent, accountable, and equitable health care access for those living in rural and remote communities in BC, as well it asked the Province to move quickly to increase the health care workforce in rural and remote communities.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing the need for additional resources for health care in rural and remote communities in BC, including:

Rural and Remote Health Care Services and Primary Care Providers:

- *providing more funding or other assistances for placing medical locums in small, rural communities (2022-EB19);*
- *building a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services (2020-NR64);*

- *ensuring equitable access to health services in rural BC with adequate funding to support that model (2019-B62);*
- *providing solutions to ensure medical specialists and services are available in rural BC (2019-B63); and*
- *requiring resources and permission for local physicians to perform minor operating procedures in remote rural hospitals (2006-B154).*

Rural and Remote Ambulance Paramedics:

- *managing recruitment and retention of paramedics, maintaining adequate staffing levels and delivery of service in rural communities (2022-EB5, 2022-EB7, 2021-EB61, 2021-EB62, 2020-EB74);*
- *more advanced care and critical care paramedics in rural ambulance stations (2017-B133); and*
- *restoring funding to the BC Ambulance Service so that citizens could expect a timely response from qualified personnel throughout the province (2007-B50).*

Education of Health Care Providers to Work in Rural and Remote Communities:

- *working with universities and communities to encourage graduates of medical programs to practice and stay in rural areas of BC (2011-B60); and*
- *developing appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112).*

Rural and Remote Mental Health and Addiction Services:

- *seeking more funding for detox and rehabilitation throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities (2019-B61);*
- *seeking, in part, more harm reduction services, including detox and treatment beds, to be made available in every local government in BC (2010-B145);*
- *seeking more funding for detox centres in more areas of the Province (2007-B51); and*
- *seeking more regional detox centres (2006-B8).*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

5. Reasonable Access to Insured Medical Services

District of Elkford

Whereas one of the five principles of the Canada *Health Act* is portability with the intent that residents who are temporarily absent from their home province or territory, such as on business or vacation, are permitted to receive necessary services in relation to an urgent or emergent need when absent;

And whereas British Columbia residents are restricted from accessing specialized or non-urgent services in Alberta, even when the services are located geographically closer than services in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petitions the Province to work toward a solution to ensure that all residents of British Columbia also have reasonable access to insured specialized or non-urgent medical services in Alberta in cases where the services are geographically closer.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to ensure that all residents of British Columbia also have reasonable access to insured specialized or non-urgent medical services in Alberta in cases where the services are geographically closer.

British Columbians receive health care in their own Province. When temporarily out of province, MSP will cover unexpected medical services provided the services are medically required, rendered by a licensed physician and normally insured by MSP.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

HOUSING

6. Expanding the Rental Protection Fund

Village of New Denver & Village of Nakusp

Whereas the current parameters of the Rental Protection Fund only provides funding for the purchase of rental buildings that have a minimum of 5 units and 4 in rural Fund communities;

And whereas many small rural and remote communities do not have properties that are for sale with a minimum of 4 units;

Therefore be resolved that the UBCM urge the provincial government to expand the Rental Protection Fund to allow for the purchase of individual units in communities that are less than 5,000 in population classified as remote or very remote.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the Rental Protection Fund to allow for the purchase of individual units in communities that are less than 5,000 in population classified as remote or very remote.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolution 2022-NR14 which called for the development of a non-profit housing acquisition strategy.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed a variety of resolutions seeking assistance to renters and expansion of rental housing stock, including:

- 2023-EB17 which asked for a rapid increase in the rental stock, mitigate the number of no-fault evictions, and close the gap between core housing need and cost via income and disability assistance, guaranteed annual incomes and rental assistance programs;*
- 2023-NR21 requesting that the Federal Government modify the Rental Construction Financing Initiative to further incentivize rental construction; and*
- 2022-EB28, 2017-B51, 2013-B53 all of which sought additional aid and support for senior renters.*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

COMMUNITY SAFETY

7. Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities City of Nelson

Whereas local governments across British Columbia are increasingly being impacted by severe weather events that are creating complex emergency situations;

And whereas local governments are legislated to plan for, respond to, and assist their communities in recovering from these emergencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for each phase of emergency management.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution from the same sponsor, 2023-EB26, which asked the Province to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for, and respond to, local emergencies.

In response to endorsed resolution 2023-EB26, the Province acknowledged the importance of supporting communities, noting several short-term financial commitments towards the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The Province has not sought to develop a long-term funding and capacity-building framework to address new and enhanced emergency management responsibilities, despite numerous requests delivered through endorsed resolutions, the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, and UBCM Executive.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2022-EB34, 2022-EB35, 2022-NR23, 2020-SR1, 2020-EB38, 2019-B11, 2018-B107, 2017-B86, 2017-B86, 2016-B56, 2015-B7, 2015-B77, 2015-B78, 2014-B76, 2013-B44) and disaster recovery (2019-B104, 2019-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

8. Victim Services Program Delivery Regional District of East Kootenay

Whereas the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General has primary responsibility for the Victim Services Program delivered throughout the Province of British Columbia in close collaboration with policing services;

And whereas a variety of agencies and local governments deliver/manage the Program in different communities, with varying degrees of expertise and limited connection to services to be able to provide adequate supervision and support of victim service workers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of the Victim Services Program, with oversight from the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution requesting that the Province develop a standardized approach for the delivery and funding of victim services programs.

As part of information received from the sponsor, it is understood that the intent of the resolution is for the Province to contribute more funding towards victim services programs; and, that delivery of these programs be the responsibility of the relevant RCMP detachment or provincial government.

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 2020-EB2, 2019-B6, 2017-B5, 2017-B56, 2015-B4, and 2014-B4.

It should also be noted that the UBCM membership considered but did not endorse resolution 2016-B83, which requested that UBCM work with the Province to develop a mandatory funding formula for local government contributions towards victim services program. Local governments are currently not required to fund victim services programs, although some do provide financial contributions.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

ENVIRONMENT

9. Re-Naming Natural Gas

Town of Golden

Whereas fossil fuels are responsible for most of climate change and a vast amount of natural gas is a fossil fuel with the sole exception being the small amount of natural gas known as renewable natural gas or alternately biogas;

And whereas using the name “natural gas” for what is more accurately named “fossil gas” is a form of greenwashing and serves to mislead the true nature of the substance from users or potential users:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM solicit the Province use the name “fossil gas” rather than “natural gas” in all communications and material except only the substance which is known as renewable natural gas.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to use the name “fossil gas” rather than “natural gas” in all communications and material except only the substance which is known as renewable natural gas.

However the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a range of resolutions calling for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions (2020-NR38, 2014-B26) as well as range of low carbon initiatives to support local climate action in buildings, transportation and solid waste (23023-EB43, 2022-NR43, 2018-B131, 2018-B130, 2020-EB28, 2019-B144, 2017-B132, 2018-B131, 2018-B130, 2019-B142, 2018-B32, 2018-B31, 2017-B62, 2014-B94, 2017-B63).

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

10. Funding for Youth Climate Corps

City of Nelson

Whereas local governments recognize the urgent need to address climate change and the impact that climate change is having on communities through extreme weather such as wildfires, floods, and extreme heat, which is causing major infrastructure damage and loss of life to residents;

And whereas there is a need to engage young people in local governments, and train the next generation of low carbon sector workers and leaders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government of British Columbia to expand and scale a Youth Climate Corps that will provide good green jobs and training to young adults to work on important climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their communities, such as wildfire mitigation, building retrofits, ecosystem restoration and community engagement.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand and scale a Youth Climate Corps that will provide good green jobs and training to young adults to work on important climate adaptation and mitigation projects in their communities.

However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2013-B81 which asked the Province to create and support a Green Jobs Plan for BC.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions proposing policy and actions to mitigate the effects of climate change, as well as requesting funding for local government to continue undertaking climate action plans and projects. These resolutions most recently include (2023-EB31, 2023-NR46, 2022-NR38, 2021-SR1, 2021-EB39, 2019-B135, 2019-B138, 2019-B139, 2019-B141, 2016-B58, 2015-A5, 2015-B38, 2015-B75, 2014-B26, 2014-B27, 2014-B95, 2014-B96, 2013-B75, 2012-B25, 2012-B35, 2012-B63, 2012-B79, 2012-B121, 2011-B22, 2011-B79, 2011-B91, 2011-B98, 2010-B15, 2010-B18, 2010-B31, 2010-B32, 2010-B40, 2010-B47, 2010-B83, 2010-B101, 2010-B140).

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

11. Provincial Funding Towards Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention

City of Nelson

Whereas the presence and proliferation of invasive species, specifically zebra and quagga mussels, pose a significant threat to our province's aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity, and infrastructure;

And whereas the negative impacts of zebra and quagga mussels include the disruption of native ecosystems, damage to water supply infrastructure, and economic implications for industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism;

And whereas effective prevention measures require substantial financial resources for research, monitoring, and implementation of strategies to prevent the introduction and spread of zebra and quagga mussels:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to recognize the urgency of addressing the zebra and quagga mussel issue and commits to allocating additional funding for comprehensive prevention efforts including research and monitoring, prevention measures, public awareness and education, collaboration and partnership and infrastructure protection.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking more funding and enforcement to address zebra and quagga mussels (2023-EB36, 2020-RB50, 2017-B27, 2016-B60, 2015-B60, 2014-B21, 2013-B76, 2012-LR2).

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

12. Reducing Regulatory Complexity in Freshwater Sources City of Nelson

Whereas in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing population; fresh water for human consumption, agriculture, industry, and ecological needs has become a precious commodity across British Columbia;

And whereas securing a new water source involves the navigation of complex provincial regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies and simplify the associated regulatory process, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB38 that had a very similar enactment clause, which asked for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions asking the Province to establish standards and funding around drinking water, including:

- Province to assist regional districts by developing a means by which sustainable funding can be provided for very small water systems, so as to ensure these systems are built, operated, and maintained in a sustainable and safe manner (2022-EB81);*
- Province to provide funding opportunities that reflect the true cost of the upgrades to aging drinking water infrastructure particularly in the rural areas of the province of British Columbia (2011-B107);*
- Province to standardize water quality and treatment regulations across BC and develop a funding strategy for their implementation (2009-B51);*
- Province to establish province-wide standards on potable water to be applied universally and implemented consistently in order to protect public health and public confidence in local and regional potable water systems (2007-B123); and*
- Province to ensure that funding is available to develop the infrastructure required to meet the Province's drinking water standards (2006-B90).*

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding from the Province and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (2023-EB37, 2021-EB28, 2021-EB45, 2020-EB51, 2017-B115, 2016-B25, 2015-B32, 2014-B88, 2013-B32, 2013-B37, 2013-B195, 2011-B50, 2011-B57, 2011-B100, 2011-B129, 2009-B136, 2008-B35, 2007-B26, 2007-B42, 2007-B122).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

REGIONAL DISTRICTS

13. Vote Weighting in Regional Districts

City of Fernie

Whereas municipalities within Regional Districts are impacted by rezoning decisions in their adjacent areas, influencing local development and community well-being;

And whereas a more inclusive and equitable decision-making process is desirable to reflect the concerns of municipalities adjacent to the land proposed for rezoning:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for an overhaul of Regional District rezoning legislation to incorporate a weighted vote system for municipalities that are adjacent to the land under consideration;

And be it further resolved that UBCM collaborate with relevant provincial authorities to develop and implement legislative amendments that establish a fair and representative voting structure, ensuring that municipalities with adjacency to proposed rezoning areas have a proportional and influential voice in the decision-making process.

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 for an overhaul of Regional District rezoning legislation to incorporate a weighted vote system for municipalities that are adjacent to the land under consideration. Nor has the membership considered a resolution calling on the Province to develop and implement legislative amendments that establish a fair and representative voting structure, ensuring that municipalities with adjacency to proposed rezoning areas have a proportional and influential voice in the decision-making process.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking to clarify the authorities assigned to, and improve the relationship between, regional districts and municipalities (2015-B1, 2014-B68, 2007-A4, 2007-LR9, 2006-B47).

The Committee further notes that membership has endorsed resolutions seeking a review of the Local Government Act as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts (2022-EB80, 2018-B4, 2015-B1).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

FINANCE

14. Streamlining of Grant Applications and Reporting

City of Nelson

Whereas local governments in BC are increasingly reliant on a wide variety of grant programs to support the delivery of services, programs and projects in their jurisdictions;

And whereas the administrative burden of managing increasingly complex criteria and requirements, from application to final reporting, can be overwhelming, time consuming and sometimes prohibitive for some local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed an identical resolution: 2021-EB21.

The membership also endorsed resolution 2018-B111 which was very similar, identifying limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements. B111 went further requesting that the provincial and federal governments restructure programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding.

Further, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting various changes to existing grant programs focused on funding formula (reducing local government share), streamlining processes and/or alternative allocation methods, including:

- *2020-EB35 - Doubling the Gas Tax*
- *2018-B109 - Amendments to Rural Dividend Fund Access*
- *2014-B19 - Federal Matching Grants*
- *2013-B19 - Infrastructure Grants for Small Municipalities*
- *2012-B13 - Infrastructure Funding Criteria*
- *2012-B69 - Local Government Funding*
- *2009-B29 - Federal Provincial Infrastructure Program Funding*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

15. Stable Municipal Funding in BC

City of Fernie

Whereas local governments across British Columbia face challenges in securing stable funding for essential services;

And whereas a consistent and reliable source of funding is crucial for the effective functioning of local governments;

And whereas alternative funding mechanisms, such as a municipal sales tax or alternative tax be directly allocated to BC local governments, can contribute to financial stability and local autonomy:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for the exploration and implementation of alternative funding options, including, for example, a municipal sales tax, to ensure stable and predictable funding for local governments in British Columbia, with a specific focus on directing funds directly for local government budgeting;

And be it further resolved that UBCM engage in discussions with relevant provincial authorities to develop and implement a sustainable funding model that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by local governments, promoting financial resilience and supporting the delivery of essential services.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province for alternative funding options (e.g. municipal sales tax) to ensure stable and predictable funding for local governments in BC, nor to develop and implement a sustainable funding model for local governments.

However, the Committee notes that in 2021, the UBCM membership endorsed UBCM's Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report on issues affecting the financial sustainability of local governments. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a mandate that includes reviewing local government financial resiliency and analyzing recommendations in the report. The work plan includes a review of the current local government property tax system and opportunities for revenues to strengthen the local government finance system.

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to create revenue sharing programs as a way of establishing new revenue sources for local governments (2015-B82, 2011-B28, 2011-B29, 2011-B30, 2010-B24, 2010-B76, 2009-B30, 2009-LR9, 2008-B119, 2006-B24, 2005-B18, 2005-B20, 2005-B106, 2004-A6, 2004-A8, 2004-B11, 2004-B111).

The membership has also supported resolutions asking for local government to receive a share of other taxation revenues, including:

- *Cannabis Taxation Revenue (2023-NR31, 2022-NR30, 2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3);*
- *Provincial Sales Tax (2021-EB20, 2020-EB34, 2012-B11);*
- *Fuel Tax (2021-EB20, 2013-B99, 2012-B19, 2010-B24, 2007-B21, 2007-A5, 2005-B20, 2003-B60, 2003-B75, 2003-B65);*
- *Liquor Tax (2021-EB20, 2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26, 2004-B111); and*

- *Property Transfer Tax (2023-EB52, 2021-EB20, 2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2012-B18, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2005-B87, 2004-A8).*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

16. Municipal and Regional District Tax Fund Overhaul to Enable Investment in Infrastructure **City of Fernie**

Whereas the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) serves as a vital revenue source for communities in British Columbia, particularly in resort areas, through its application to short-term accommodations;

And whereas recognizing the evolving needs of municipalities, there is a growing demand for flexibility in utilizing MRDT funds to address critical infrastructure projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Province for a comprehensive overhaul of the Municipal and Regional District Tax funding framework to expand the allowable usage of funds, including directing a portion towards essential infrastructure projects;

And be it further resolved that UBCM collaborate with relevant provincial authorities to review and amend existing legislation, ensuring that Municipal and Regional District Tax funds can be strategically utilized for infrastructure development, thereby enhancing the resilience and sustainability of communities.

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 overhaul of the Municipal and Regional District Tax funding framework to expand the allowable usage of funds, including directing a portion towards essential infrastructure projects.

The Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) was introduced in 1987, by the provincial government to provide funding for local tourism marketing, programs, and projects. The tax is intended to help grow BC revenues, visitation, and jobs, and amplify BC's tourism marketing efforts in an increasingly competitive marketplace. The MRDT is an up-to three percent tax applied to sales of short-term accommodation provided in participating areas of British Columbia on behalf of municipalities, regional districts and eligible entities. Affordable housing was added as a permissible use of funds in the 2018 Provincial Budget, to help address local housing needs.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

LAND USE

17. Keep BC Parks Open Longer

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas provincial parks serve a vital recreational, cultural, social and economic role in the lives of many British Columbians;

And whereas the Province of BC closes many of its parks to campers in September each year, limiting the ability of British Columbians access to those parks at a time of year when they continue to be functionally usable:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to extend the season for all provincial parks, including campgrounds, by keeping them open until the end of October to enable the access to parks for all visitors to enjoy these recreational benefits for a longer period and to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to extend the season for all provincial parks, including campgrounds, by keeping them open until the end of October.

*However, the Committee notes that the membership did endorse resolution 2011-B49 which, in part, asked the Province “to provide appropriate budgets and staff to fully support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks and related facilities and services, **year-round where appropriate**, thereby supporting the tourism industry and the quality of life of all British Columbians”.*

Members have also endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide appropriate resources (funding, staffing) to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites and trails and backcountry areas (2021-EB42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2003-B28, 2003-B94, 2001-B84).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

TAXATION

18. Volunteer Firefighter and Search and Rescue Members Income Tax Credit

Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members perform a critical, lifesaving role in the safety of British Columbians while receiving no pay and are increasingly difficult to recruit and retain;

And whereas the Province of BC passed legislation in 2017 that enabled these volunteers to receive a \$3,000 non-refundable tax credit;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC increase the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members to \$10,000 per annum.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR75 which sought an increase of the existing tax credit for search and rescue and firefighter volunteers from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

The Committee also notes that the membership supported a number of resolutions that sought a tax credit for volunteer emergency responders, prior to the credit of \$3,000 being put into place (2011-B118, 2006-B22, 2005-B15, 2004-B61).

The Committee further notes that a federal private member's bill proposing an increase in tax credits from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services was submitted by the MP for Courtenay-Alberni. Bill C-310 received first reading at the House of Commons on December 8, 2022.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

TRANSPORTATION

19. Expanding Transit in Rural Communities

City of Nelson

Whereas adding more routes between our rural communities and more trips on existing routes will benefit our economy, affordable housing strategy, and community development;

And whereas an expanded rural transit system will deliver significant GHG reduction, by shifting kilometers travelled from costly and polluting single-occupancy vehicles to high-occupancy buses:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide sufficient additional funding to double services in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB61 from the same sponsor, with an identical enactment clause.

In response to resolution 2023-EB61, the provincial government suggested that it had invested consistently in inter-city transportation since Greyhound ceased BC operations in 2018, and was working with selected economic trusts to undertake regional engagement, planning, and capacity development for passenger transportation services. However, the Province did not address the specific request to fund double the service in regional rural transit systems in BC.

The Committee notes that in general, UBCM members have consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to fund expansion of public transit across BC (including but not limited to 2022-NR56, 2020-SR4, 2020-EB17, 2020-EB75, 2018-B16, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2015-B9, 2013-B15).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

20. Enhanced Transit Support

City of Fernie

Whereas communities across British Columbia are struggling with a housing crisis and a labour shortage;

And whereas communities in rural British Columbia are poorly served by public transit:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the appropriate British Columbia ministries to enhance transit in and between rural communities to improve citizen mobility and to assist those who may already have housing in and adjacent to rural communities, or who can only afford housing in proximity to rural communities, to access available employment more readily in a sustainable, GHG friendly fashion.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions asking the provincial government to fund expansion of public transit across BC, including:

- doubling of services in BC regional, rural transit systems (2023-EB61);*
- more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9); and*
- implementation and expansion of interregional transit, to address safety concerns and rider demand (2022-NR56, 2015-B9, 2012-C37).*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

21. Collaborative Model of Engagement - Winter Maintenance

District of Elkford

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for providing safe, well-maintained highways and oversees the privatized service contracts according to terms set out by the Province that define road maintenance standards across British Columbia;

And whereas contract terms and local area specifications included in highway maintenance agreements apply to broadly scoped regions, creating critical gaps in safety and service standards, especially pertaining to communities that face severe winter conditions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to create a collaborative model of engagement with local governments to provide the opportunity for localized input to winter maintenance service standards to be considered in the development of highway maintenance agreements.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking greater funding and improved snow removal standards for provincial roads, including:

- 2022-EB67 which asked the Province to review the existing road classification system, reprioritize the order in which roads are cleared or maintained, and increase funding for maintenance of secondary roads;*

- 2021-EB15 which asked the Province to work with local governments to identify flaws or deficiencies in snow-clearing on arterial routes, expect that contractors heed reasonable local government requests, and involve local governments in setting standards for snow clearance when contracts are renewed;
- 2018-B85 which asked the Province to review snow and ice control in rural areas, as well as minimum equipment standards, and staffing requirements; and
- 2007-B98 which asked the Province to work with UBCM to ensure that the standards, practices, and funding for winter maintenance of provincial highways within a local jurisdiction are harmonized with the standards and practices used by the local government to clear its roads of snow, ice, and gravel.

In response to resolution 2021-EB15, the provincial government suggested that the Highway Maintenance Quality Plan already captures stakeholder feedback about roads, as well as interactions with the maintenance contractor in the local community. The Province further stated that District staff from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regularly consult local governments regarding the performance of local road maintenance contractors, and share this local government feedback with contractors.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

LEGISLATIVE

22. Extended Health Benefits for Local Government Elected Officials

City of Fernie

Whereas as a body of elected officials, we seek to support and represent as broad a demographic of our constituency as possible;

And whereas the Province of BC, UBCM, and each local government provides extended health benefits to each of their employees;

And whereas the remuneration for sitting as an elected politician anywhere but a major urban center does not provide sufficient monetary reward to compensate for the time away from regular full time employment, and wherein such time away can negatively impact the ability to either maintain said job, or maintain eligibility for employer funded health benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with its partners to identify a funding stream for providing extended health benefits to local government politicians so as to minimize financial hardship as a reason for any individual from not running for elected office.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the enactment as currently worded is asking “UBCM to work with its partners to identify a funding stream for providing extended health benefits to local government politicians so as to minimize financial hardship as a reason for any individual from not running for elected office.” It is not clear from the enactment who the “partners” are that would be working together to identify a funding stream to cover these benefits.

The Committee would note that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR63 which sought an accessible benefits program for local government elected officials to support attracting diverse local government candidates. UBCM, through its Group Benefits Plan, does offer the following benefits to elected officials:

- *extended health care;*
- *dental;*
- *employee and family assistance plan;*
- *optional life insurance; and*
- *optional accidental death and dismemberment.*

The following is the eligibility and enrollment process:

- *following local government elections, elected officials have 4 months to enroll;*
- *there must be a minimum of 3 elected official applicants from the local government to enroll; and*
- *enrollment must be for the full term of office.*

The Committee would note that benefits programs are offered by an insurance provider, so it is up to that insurance provider what benefits to offer and cover, and this has been negotiated with UBCM. Therefore it is not a decision of UBCM or the provincial government, it is reliant on an insurance provider who is willing to offer those benefits. In the case of UBCM's benefit plan, our insurance provided Pacific Blue Cross, has made the benefits program available to elected officials based on the enrollment criteria noted above.

The Committee would also note that there is deadline to join a plan set by the insurance provider for both staff and elected officials. The four month deadline to indicate confirmation of enrollment is standard for all new participants.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: NO RECOMMENDATION

The Committee concurs with the UBCM comments suggesting there is a lack of clarity in the enactment.

23. Group Benefits Plan – Firefighters and First Responders

Village of Radium Hot Springs

Whereas volunteer (or paid-on-call) firefighters and first responders are essential for providing emergency services in small communities;

And whereas small towns increasingly experience difficulty attracting candidates for local government and volunteers for local fire/first response agencies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act*, Division 5, Section 82 to allow volunteer (or paid-on-call) firefighters/first responders to hold elected office and continue to be eligible for group benefit plans which are now afforded to many firefighters and first responders in volunteer capacities.

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 amend Section 82 of the Local Government Act to allow volunteer (or paid-on-call)

firefighters/first responders to hold elected office AND continue to be eligible for group benefit plans which are now afforded to many firefighters and first responders in volunteer capacities.

However members have considered resolutions related to the issue of volunteer firefighters holding elected office, and the issue of group benefits for volunteers and elected officials separately, but not together. While this resolutions addresses two issues: 1) that volunteer firefighters be able to run for office, and 2) that volunteer firefighters who run for office keep their group benefits. The sponsor's main concern is with the second issue, of volunteer firefighters keeping their group benefits.

The Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2009-B71 which asked UBCM to work with existing carriers to design a medical/dental benefit plan, at a reasonable cost, specifically for volunteer fire fighters.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR63 which sought an accessible benefits program for local government elected officials to support attracting diverse local government candidates.

The Committee would note that UBCM, through its Group Benefits Plan, does offer the following benefits to elected officials:

- extended health care;*
- dental;*
- employee and family assistance plan;*
- optional life insurance; and*
- optional accidental death and dismemberment.*

The following is the eligibility and enrollment process:

- following local government elections, elected officials have 4 months to enroll;*
- there must be a minimum of 3 elected official applicants from the local government to enroll; and*
- enrollment must be for the full term of office.*

The Committee wanted to share that local elected officials do have the ability to also access group benefits through UBCM based on the above criteria.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

24. Uncivil and Unruly Behaviour Impacting Local Governments

Village of Silvertown & Town of Creston & Village of Nakusp

Whereas several community, council, board, and hearing disruptions have been caused by uncivil and unprofessional conduct by a small number of elected officials or residents, resulting in police intervention, adjournments of meetings, and a movement toward digital instead of in-person meetings;

And whereas the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act* do not adequately provide local governments and the Province with the tools needed to respond effectively to the detrimental and paralyzing conduct of residents and elected officials who bully, harass, and intimidate others despite the long history of local government openness and democratic values:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to take all steps necessary to convey the urgent need to create an effective task force to analyze the incivility and unruly behaviour problems and their causes, to consider best practices of other jurisdictions and recommend legislation and enforcement mechanisms to address the crisis of uncivil and paralytic behaviour that is impacting local government before the next local general election.

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 create a task force to analyze the incivility and unruly behaviour problems and their causes, to consider best practices of other jurisdictions and recommend legislation and enforcement mechanisms to address the crisis of uncivil and paralytic behaviour that is impacting local government before the next local general election.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed three resolutions seeking assistance for local governments with matters relating to conduct, including investigation and enforcement of Codes of Conduct:

- 2023-EB69 which asked the Province to create a shared local government ethics commissioner's office(s) to serve local governments in the efficient and effective implementation of Code of Conduct policies;*
- 2022-B77 which asked the Province to create an Office of the Municipal Ethics Commissioner within the Ministry of Municipal Affairs; and*
- 2021-2020 NR1 which asked the Province to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials.*

The Committee notes that this resolution is seeking to address the unruly behaviour of both members of the public and elected officials. While UBCM has policy addressing the unruly behaviour of elected officials, the membership has not previously considered a resolution addressing the behaviour of members of the public. This resolution might benefit from focusing on just one of the groups: members of the public or elected officials, rather than both.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

25. Implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure

City of Nelson

Whereas Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), comprising of smart meters, data management systems, and communication networks, is a key tool in providing efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable utility services;

And whereas the implementation of AMI comes at a significant cost for public utilities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province of British Columbia to begin exploring a funding model to support the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across public utilities in the province.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province for a funding model to support the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) across public utilities in BC.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2011-B174 which sought a moratorium on the installation of wireless smart meters by BC Hydro, until health, privacy, and other concerns could be addressed.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE

26. Tourist Information Centres Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas museums across British Columbia are providing tourist information services and promoting our province for free to thousands of visitors each year;

And whereas without the designation of "Tourist Information Centre," these museums do not receive funding from the province and must assume the costs involved with providing services to visitors:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of BC provide funding to museums that act as Tourist Information Centres and simplify and expedite the process for museums to receive Affiliate Information Centre status.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to simplify and expedite the process for museums to attain Affiliate Information Centre status, as well as provide additional funding to museums that provide tourist information to the public.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: ENDORSE