

AKBLG Resolutions 2019 – Convention outcomes

Updated Monday April 29

Contents

- LOCAL RESOLUTIONS FOR AKBLG ACTION2
- L1. **RDCK** – Hydro Increase Rates2
- RESOLUTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION AND SUBMISSION TO UBCM2
- 1. **Fernie & Nelson** – *Private Managed Forest Land Act* and Regulations2
- 2. **Fruitvale** – Credit Card Discount Fee Proposal.....3
- 3. **Grand Forks** – Additional Rehabilitation Detox Centres3
- 4. **Grand Forks** – BC Housing Accountability.....3
- 5. **Grand Forks** – Disaster Financial Assistance and *Emergency Program Act*4
- 6. **Grand Forks** - Insurance Practices During and After Disasters4
- 7. **Invermere** - Lower Voting Age4
- 8. **Invermere** - Wildfire Hazard Reduction Treatment on Private Lands.....4
- 9. **RDCK** – BC Emergency Response Model and First Responders5
- 10. **RDCK** – Cannabis Revenue Sharing5
- 11. **RDCK** – Foreclosed Crown Properties Restrictions6
- 12. **RDCK** – Legislation of Old Growth Management Areas and *Water Sustainability Act*6
- 13. **RDEK** - Fire Department Capital Funding Program.....6
- 14. **RDKB** – Support for Fire Services7
- 15. **RDKB** – Victims Services Funding7
- 16. **RDKB** – Forestry Development Plan Referral Best Practices.....7
- 17. **Rossland** – Climate Accountability for Fossil Fuel Companies8
- 18. **Rossland** - Wildlife Rehabilitation Resolution8
- 19. **Sparwood** - Stand-by Pay for Key Emergency Personnel.....9
- 20. **East Kootenay RD** - Search and Rescue – Sustainable Funding9
- 2018-15. **Canal Flats** – Speculation Tax & Local Government Consultation 10
- 2018-16. **Nelson** – Professional Reliance 10
- 2018-17. **Kaslo** – Collection of Unpaid Bylaw Fines..... 11

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, **DEFEATED**

RESOLUTIONS FOR PROVINCIAL ACTION AND SUBMISSION TO UBCM

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

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 implement regulations and standards that are equivalent to Crown forest land regulations and standards that address forest harvesting for commercial purposes on private lands

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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:

BE IT RESOLVED that local governments be granted the authority to require private land owners to undertake annual consultations with local governments to provide information regarding long term disposition or development intentions for land adjacent to local government boundaries if intended for commercial purposes.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, **DEFEATED**

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 Health be encouraged to fund detox and rehabilitation centres throughout the Province, particularly in rural and remote communities.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, **DEFEATED** (48:49)

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 significant incentives under the CRI or an alternate program to private land owners to complete wildfire risk reduction treatments on private lands, adjacent or within communities which have been identified by the B.C. Wildfire Service as having a high or extreme wildfire risk.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED (94:2)

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 foreclosed crown properties be offered for rent or sale.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Ministry of Forest Land Natural Resource Operations implement regulations to protect Old Growth Management Areas by removing the option to trade these areas within a tenure,

AND FURTHER, THAT watersheds that are essential to land base resiliency be entrenched in legislation that requires local government consultation, consideration of community safety and water supply before resource extraction is permitted.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

17. Rosland – 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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, DEFEATED

18. Rosland - 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.

AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, **DEFEATED**

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 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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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 Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

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.

2019 AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, DEFEATED

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.

2019 AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED

2018-17. **Kaslo** – 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.

2019 AKBLG Convention outcome: MOTION TO ENDORSE, CARRIED