

## 2023 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS

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## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Physician Assistants

### Regional District of East Kootenay

Whereas the Province of British Columbia is in a healthcare crisis;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia is struggling to fill healthcare positions in rural British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to approve physician assistants to work alongside physicians and other health professionals to help produce better outcomes, access for patients and alleviate burnout.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2016-B124 which asked the Province to recognize and regulate physician assistants so that they may practice in BC, with establishment of an appropriate system for liability coverage, and regulatory oversight by an organization similar to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, as one of the steps toward meeting health care demands and alleviating physician shortages in all areas of the province.

Physician's Assistants are generalists who practice medicine within a defined scope of practice authorized by a physician within a formalized supervised practice arrangement. This contrasts with Nurse Practitioners who are Registered Nurses with advanced education and training in a clinical specialty who carry out legislated nursing services independently and other delegated tasks under physician supervision.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2022-SR1, 2022-EB15, 2022-EB17, 2022-EB18, 2022-EB19, 2021-EB63, 2019-B63, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162).

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## 2. Shortage of Qualified Health Care Workers

## Village of Canal Flats

Whereas there is a shortage of qualified health care workers in the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas the COVID-19 vaccine mandate remains in effect for health care workers in BC contributing to the shortage:

Therefore be it resolved that AKBLG and UBCM ask the Provincial Government to rescind the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care professionals and rehire the terminated workers.

*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 rescind the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for health care professionals and rehire the terminated workers.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No recommendation**

The Committee concludes that there is insufficient information regarding the relationship between the COVID-19 vaccine mandate and the health care professional shortage.

### 3. Supplementing Health Authorities with Regional Boards of Health

#### City of Grand Forks

Whereas health care in British Columbia is inadequate to meet the needs of the population;

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 supplementing Health Authorities by including the responsibility of health care where there is a regional hospital and replacing such with Regional District Boards of Health responsible for health care;

And be it further resolved that Regional District Boards of Health responsible for health care 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 not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to consider supplementing Health Authorities by including the responsibility of health care where there is a regional hospital and replacing such with Regional District Boards of Health responsible for health care, nor have they considered a request that the Regional District Boards of Health include representation from doctors, nurses, lab techs, and administration.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed relevant resolutions addressing hospital districts and Regional District Boards of Health, including:

- 2017-B96 which asked the provincial government to review and update the *Hospital District Act* expeditiously and invite input from the regional hospital districts in British Columbia in order to clarify the mandate and role of hospital districts;
- 2014-C19 which asked the provincial government to require the composition of health authority boards to include representation from regional districts; and
- 2007-LR6 which asks UBCM to support the continuation of Local Boards of Health to give local governments flexibility and opportunity to address matters of public health.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## 4. Accessibility Plan Funding

City of Nelson

Whereas the Province has required all local governments to develop accessibility plans that must be renewed every 3 years:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.

*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 establish a granting stream with UBCM to support local governments in the development and implementation of their accessibility plans.

*AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## 5. Funding for Education and Protective Services Following Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs

### City of Nelson

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has been granted an exemption by Health Canada from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to decriminalize the possession of certain illegal drugs;

And whereas the provincial government is working with health and protective services partners to destigmatize illicit drugs;

And whereas local governments lack the resources to respond to community concerns and shifts in law enforcements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to provide ongoing financial support to local governments to provide protective services and education to the public.

*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 provide ongoing financial support to local governments to provide protective services and education to the public.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-SR2 ask, in part, for the Province and health authorities to include funding and staff for security, clean-up, and social services at harm reduction locations and surrounding neighbourhoods in BC communities. As well, members endorsed resolution 2022-EB10 which asked the provincial and federal governments to provide a funding stream to cover the additional security and cleanup costs related to overdose prevention sites and safe injection sites, and any other social services related to people experiencing addiction and/or mental health issues.

*AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation:* **Do not endorse**

The Committee suggests the resolution lacks clarity and the need is not adequately identified (insufficient data)

## HOUSING

### 6. Landlord Licensing

City of Nelson

Whereas secure and appropriate housing is imperative to the health and safety of the residents of BC and is a protected human right;

And whereas the delivery of a large segment of the housing stock is through private landlords with a wide range of experience implementing best practices;

And whereas the required membership within professional organizations is a model demonstrated within other industries to develop and implement accountable best practices among membership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to develop a mandatory licensing model for landlords of residential property to an appropriate professional organization as a required prerequisite to renting property within the province of British Columbia, with the exception of owners of secondary suites.

*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 develop a mandatory licensing model for landlords of residential property to an appropriate professional organization as a required prerequisite to renting property within the province of British Columbia, with the exception of owners of secondary suites.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking to better protect the rights of renters (2020-EB85, 2020-NR47, 2017-B126, 2016-B121).

On the other hand, the UBCM Executive endorsed, with an amendment, referred resolution 2021-NR59 which sought landlord protection by asked the Province to undertake a broad review of landlord protections to increase confidence in entering the rental market to grow the number of rental properties.

UBCM's housing policy includes recommendations towards a balanced approach to rental properties that both reflect the rights of renters and create greater certainty for landlords. It is possible that the proposed approach would create a disincentive for prospective landlords to rent out their properties.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments:* **No recommendation**

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

### 7. Cost of Emergency Response

City of Fernie

Whereas the cost of emergency response to highway motor vehicle accidents has increased for local governments, but the compensation from the province has not increased commensurately:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to revisit the funding formula to ensure that first responder costs incurred on the Province's behalf by local government responders are fully covered.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide funding for road rescue and vehicle extrication, including 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15, 2013-B8, 2011-B4, 2011-B5, 2010-B6, 2009-B28, 2009-B69, 2009-B88, 2007-B10.

In response to resolution 2020-EB9, the Province responded that it "recognizes and appreciates the invaluable life-saving service that communities provide to motorists throughout British Columbia and is committed to developing a sustainable funding model."

The Committee also notes that some of the endorsed resolutions specifically identify ICBC in their request for compensating local governments and fire departments for highway rescue services (2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2013-B8, 2011-B5 and 2009-B88). The Province has previously rejected the idea of involving ICBC in a road rescue funding model, primarily due to potential impacts on insurance rates for BC motorists.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments:* **Endorse**



## 8. Local Emergency Risk Mitigation Authority

## Town of Golden

Whereas the threat to communities throughout British Columbia imposed by disasters and other emergencies requires a comprehensive approach to mitigate the province-wide and region-specific risks thereof;

And whereas local governments have been assigned the responsibility to address flood risk, and may address wildfire risk, within their boundaries, using the treatments and other solutions prescribed by the Province;

And whereas in its adoption of the United Nation's Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Province has begun updating its emergency legislation including, but not limited to, an increased emphasis on disaster risk reduction, consideration of climate change, and the roles and responsibilities of Indigenous and local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to empower Indigenous and local governments to produce and submit supplementary and/or alternative strategies to mitigate any identified disaster and emergency risks within their boundaries;

And be it further resolved that the Province commit to the sustained financial and resource support of such emergency risk mitigation strategies without compromising the funding opportunities allocated toward emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

*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 empower Indigenous and local governments to produce and submit supplementary and/or alternative strategies to mitigate any identified disaster and emergency risks within their boundaries.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking financial and resource support for emergency risk mitigation strategies and management, as the second enactment clause requests, including through several recent resolutions:

- 2022-SR3, which requests that the Province significantly increase its level of funding and assume greater responsibility for flood preparedness and mitigation;
- 2021-EB6, which calls on the Province to develop programs that take a proactive approach to flood mitigation, as opposed to downloading responsibilities on to local governments;
- 2020-NR14, which requests that the Province be required by legislation to undertake disaster mitigation work on all lands and facilities under the care and control of the Province where emergency events could negatively impact adjacent local government jurisdictions;
- 2019-B105, which requests that EMBC add mitigation to its mandate, under the *Emergency Program Act*; and
- 2019-B106, which requests, among other things, that there be sufficient provincial staff resources to work with local jurisdictions to mitigate disasters.

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2022-EB34, 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).

As part of its work to provide input into the 2019-2023 review of emergency management legislation, UBCM and its members have consistently called on the Province to provide ongoing funding and support to address local government responsibilities. In a 2019 formal response to a provincial discussion paper, UBCM specifically recommended that the Province:

- Develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities; and
- Confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments, to address emergency management capacity issues.

The Province's 2023 budget is allocating \$85 million to increase emergency management capacity in BC and provide new investments in disaster risk assessment, preparedness and mitigation. Funding will also support more cross-ministry coordination, including working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations.

***AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: No recommendation***

While the Committee appreciates the intent, they noted that empowerment and financing are separate issues and both require clarity.

## 9. 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, and respond to, local emergencies.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (2022-EB34, 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).

As part of its work to provide input into the 2019-2023 review of emergency management legislation, UBCM and its members have consistently called on the Province to provide ongoing funding and support to address local government responsibilities. In a 2019 formal response to a provincial discussion paper, UBCM specifically recommended that the Province:

- Develop an ongoing sustainable funding framework for local governments to address emergency management responsibilities; and
- Confirm adequate provincial support services for local governments, to address emergency management capacity issues.

The Province's 2023 budget is allocating \$85 million to increase emergency management capacity in BC and provide new investments in disaster risk assessment, preparedness and mitigation. Funding will also support more cross-ministry coordination, including working collaboratively with local governments and First Nations.

*AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

## 10. 911 Levy

City of Nelson

Whereas the 911 dispatch levy is applied to landline subscribers and not mobile subscribers;

And whereas landline subscribers continue to diminish and transition to mobile, resulting in increasing losses of necessary funding for effective delivery 911 dispatch services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to implement a 911 service levy on **telecommunications services** to the benefit of all dispatch operators in British Columbia.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed multiple resolutions (2021-EB7, 2012-LR1, 2011-B13, 2009-B10, 2004-SR1) seeking a 911 call answer levy on mobile devices, as a means to contribute to the costs associated with the delivery of 911 services.

The Committee also notes that members most recently endorsed resolution 2022-EB42, which asked the provincial government to work with the UBCM to develop a new provincial mandate and structure for 911 service delivery, including a new governance, funding and operational model, to "help modernize and improve 9-1-1 services across BC." The Province's response did not directly address the requests made in the resolution, only noting that it would be seeking to implement Next Generation 911 services and modernize emergency communications service delivery.

In October 2022, UBCM formally requested that the Province assume greater responsibility for emergency communications service delivery in BC, including through the following changes to support 911 service delivery:

- Creation of a provincial 911 governance model, with local government representation, to address policy and service standard issues;
- Development of consistent 911 service standards, without increasing service costs for local governments; as well as guidance for police, fire and ambulance call takers across BC;
- Development of a provincial strategy for the modernization of 911 services, including opportunities to best utilize Next Generation 911 technology; and
- Implementation of a 911 call answer levy on cellular devices, to address current and future financial challenges associated with the delivery of 911 services.

*AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: **Endorse***

## ENVIRONMENT

### 11. Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation

District of Elkford

Whereas in recent years there have been significant increases of wildfire activities in both number and size across the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation requires that a person must ensure that every reasonable alternative for reducing, reusing or recycling vegetative debris is used in order to minimize the amount of vegetative debris to be open burned:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to further limit the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation to prohibit open burning across the province, with the exception of wildfire fuel management operational programs and agricultural waste, as an alternative to chipping, mulching or transporting material to a green-waste recycling facility.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **No Recommendation**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse a very similar resolution, 2022-NR44 from the same sponsor. Resolution 2022-NR44 asked "...the Province of British Columbia to further limit the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation to prohibit open burning across the province as an alternative to chipping, mulching or transporting material to a green-waste recycling facility."

The sponsor has updated this resolution from the 2022 version, by adding the exception of wildfire fuel management operational programs and agriculture waste.

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions that address burns, air quality and particulate emission standards, including:

- supporting and incentivizing alternatives to burning of agricultural vegetative debris (Executive endorsed resolution 2021-NR41);
- venting indexes and efficiency of burns (Executive endorsed resolution 2020-NR42) and (2018-B70);
- addressing and mitigating risks associated with wildfire smoke (2019-B94);
- limiting or banning burning of wood debris piles on private and crown forest lands within community air sheds (2016-B24);
- establishing standards for regulating wood burning appliances and outdoor boilers (2008-B72, 2007-B35, 2006-B109, 2005-B28, 2005-B114); and
- establishing emission level standards for agricultural boilers (2007-LR4).

*AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation:* **No recommendation**

The Committee encourages the sponsor to speak more specifically from the floor and detail precisely the issues to be addressed as there is limited background material for clarity.

## REGIONAL DISTRICTS

### 12. Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition

#### Regional District of Central Kootenay

Whereas regional district fire services across British Columbia are facing increasing financial pressure with respect to replacing fire apparatus and are not permitted to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority to purchase the same without costly referendum processes;

And whereas should these referendums fail, communities will be left without fire protection during a time that sees increasing risk from wildfires as well as increased insurance rates, particularly for those without fire protection services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over the life-span of fire apparatus without the requirement to go to referendum, subject to the service having been established through a referendum process.

*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 enact legislation to permit regional districts to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over the life-span of fire apparatus without the requirement to go to referendum, subject to the service having been established through a referendum process.

However, the Committee notes that membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking flexibility from the Fire Underwriters Survey in setting requirements and guidelines to accommodate the particular challenges faced by fire services, in particular to extend the life-span of fire apparatus (2022-EB38, 2021-EB8, 2021-EB9, 2020-EB11, 2016-B5, 2014-B49, 2011-B2, 2009-B5, 2008-B60).

The Committee further notes that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed related resolutions seeking a PST exemption for the purchase of fire trucks and other life-saving equipment (2022-EB64, 2005-B14, 2003-B14) and for the purchase of fire protection equipment and supplies for fire departments (2019-B20, 2007-B22).

**AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse**

## FINANCE

### 13. Top-Up Provincial Grants

### Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to rising global inflation, labour shortages and supply-chain issues, which in turn have led to higher costs for consumers;

And whereas provincial grants provided to local governments for projects will likely not cover the increased costs associated with supplies and construction, therefore leaving jurisdictions unable to complete projects aimed to benefit their communities and citizens:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC top up those grants given to local governments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that projects can be completed.

*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 top up those grants given to local governments since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that projects can be completed.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolutions seeking grant funding around COVID-19, including:

- 2021-EB22 which asked the Province to provide regional districts with the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities;
- 2021-NR21 which asked the Province to provide more equitable safe restart grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas in comparison to the funding provided to local municipalities; and
- 2020-SR7 which asked the Province to work collaboratively with UBCM to identify the health, safety, social and economic challenges facing BC communities and provide corresponding financial support that will aid local governments in the Province's overall COVID-19 recovery effort.

Further, the membership has previously endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to recognize an inflation component in some grant allocations (2013-B18, 2005-B101).

UBCM manages a number of provincial grant programs. The funding threshold for new applications under several grant programs was increased with 2021 intakes in recognition of general cost increases. The increases did not apply to previous applications as no additional funding for closed intakes was received from the Province.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## LAND USE

### 14. Better Management and Maintenance of Forest Recreation Sites Regional District of Kootenay Boundary

Whereas Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) has a mandate to provide safe, quality recreation opportunities by developing, maintaining and managing a network of recreation sites and trails throughout the province for the use and enjoyment of British Columbians;

And whereas some users of these sites and trails are holding events and gatherings that hinder others' enjoyment of these public assets and threaten to harm the natural and built environments through vandalism and wildfire:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC commit greater resources to the management and maintenance of forest recreation sites, trails and facilities to ensure that user safety and sanitary conditions are maintained and that facilities, infrastructure and the environment are protected.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has 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-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41, 2003-B28, 2003-B94).

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**



## 15. Crown Land User Fee

## Regional District of East Kootenay

Whereas increasing usage of crown land for overnight camping and other recreational uses requires additional amenities, such as pit toilets, to protect the environment and additional trail and road maintenance and litter pick-up, to provide for sustainable and enjoyable usage;

And whereas with increased backcountry use there is additional need for education and compliance resources to mitigate aesthetic and environmental impacts, human/wildlife conflicts, and improve public safety:

Therefore be it resolve that UBCM petition the Province to implement a crown land camping fee structure, with the revenues to be used to provide sustainable use amenities and increased funding to the Conservation Officer service for improved education and enforcement.

*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 implement a crown land camping fee structure, with the revenues to be used to provide sustainable use amenities and increased funding to the Conservation Officer service for improved education and enforcement.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has 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-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41, 2003-B28, 2003-B94).

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## 16. Legislated Mapping and Management Plans in Community Watersheds Regional District of Central Kootenay

Whereas communities across British Columbia relying on surface water systems as their only source of drinking water are facing historic droughts and becoming increasingly aware of the need to maintain the integrity and hydrological production capacity of their community watersheds while they continue to be adversely impacted by other tenure holders or developers;

And whereas community expectations are often not aligned with requirements for tenure holders and developers to prepare and provide comprehensive watershed mapping and management plans in collaboration with such water user communities and licencees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact legislation prescribing tenure holders and developers to prepare detailed watershed mapping including Lidar imagery and comprehensive community watershed management plans in collaboration with water user communities and licencees prior to any development or incursion into consumptive use watersheds to avoid the risk of adversely impacting the hydrological production capacity of these watersheds.

*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 enact legislation prescribing tenure holders and developers to prepare detailed watershed mapping including Lidar imagery and comprehensive community watershed management plans in collaboration with water user communities and licencees prior to any development or incursion into consumptive use watersheds to avoid the risk of adversely impacting the hydrological production capacity of these watersheds.

However, the Committee 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 (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).

The Committee further 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).

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

## TRANSPORTATION

### 17. Providing Funding to Double Transit Service in Rural BC

City of Nelson

Whereas adding more routes between our rural communities and more trips on existing routes will benefit our health system by helping seniors and others access healthcare services;

And whereas reliable regional rural transit is a critical component of a British Columbia wide affordable housing strategy;

And whereas improving our rural transit systems will deliver significant economic benefits by providing more reliable transportation for students and frontline workers;

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 advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to fund a doubling of service in British Columbia regional rural transit systems.

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

- more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2005-B7, 2004-B55);
- public transportation options that specifically provide access to healthcare services (2020-EB17, 2020-EB75, 2018-B16, 2009-B15);
- a provincial transportation strategy with solutions including both public transit and taxis in rural communities (2013-B15, 2012-B115); 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**

## LEGISLATIVE

### 18. Shared Ethics Commissioner's Office

City of Nelson

Whereas all local governments are required to decide on the implication of code of conduct within the first 6 months of a new term, which may include the designation of a local ethics commissioner officer;

And whereas local governments may often lack the resources or expertise to develop local ethics commissioner's role:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask 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.

*UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**

*UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM's membership has endorsed two related resolutions requesting the Province to establish Ethics Commissioner/Integrity Commissioner offices to assist local governments with matters relating to conduct, including investigation and enforcement of Codes of Conduct:

- 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 resolution under consideration would allow for a decentralized approach through the establishment of more than one office.

The Ministry in its response to the 2021 resolution Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government, stated that "Integrity Commissioners can play an important role in providing education and advice respecting responsible conduct and enforcing a code of conduct. At the same time, there are limits to that role – for example, integrity commissioners do not make the decision to impose sanctions on an elected official in breach of a code of conduct; that decision remains with the elected council or board." The Ministry also notes that local governments "...are currently able to establish a local Integrity Commissioner to help guide these processes, if they so choose for their community."

In 2021, the Working Group on Responsible Conduct released a guide (Forging the Path to Responsible Conduct) which includes information on the considerations for a local government to develop procedures for the enforcement of a Code of Conduct, including the use of an independent third-party investigator to review alleged breaches of conduct in a manner that ensures procedural fairness for all parties.

*AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation:* **Endorse**