

2022 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS BOOK

ALL ENDORSED

1. Dike Work Permitting Process – Salmo, New Denver
2. Mitigate Risk from Flooding - Berms, Dikes and Dams – Central Kootenay RD – Top 5 Priority
3. Flood Risk Mitigation – Kaslo – Top 5 Priority
4. FireSmart Program Improvements – Rossland – Top 5 Priority
5. BC Wildfire – Kootenay Boundary RD – Top 5 Priority
6. Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities – Nelson, Central Kootenay RD
7. Improving Provincial Grant Processes – Nelson
8. Library Funding – Radium Hot Springs, Nelson, Cranbrook, Central Kootenay RD – Top 5 Priority
9. Recycle BC – Elkford
10. Amendment to Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation – Elkford (amended)
11. Creating Incentives for Renewable Energy Projects – Nelson
12. Increased Resources for Modernized Land Use Planning – Central Kootenay RD
13. Assistant to Private and Public Utilities Providers with Historical Unregistered Rights of Way – Nelson
14. Broadband Connectivity – Kootenay Boundary RD
15. Increased Funding for Additional Resources for Healthcare – Elkford (amended)
16. BC Ambulance Service – Kootenay Boundary RD
17. Pre-Hospital Care in British Columbia – Cranbrook (amended)
18. First Responder Call Out – Radium Hot Springs (amended)

COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. Dike Work Permitting Process

Salmo, New Denver

Whereas in order to realistically facilitate the repair and maintenance of dikes during the annual 'fish window', many local governments and communities find the lack of provincial funding and the current dike work Permitting Process onerous, lengthy and conflicting;

And whereas the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Diking Authority, and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans often have contradictory requirements in the dike work Permitting Process;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Diking Authority, and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to work collaboratively together to streamline the Permitting Process and work together to create a standard, shared step-by-step checklist for the process, along with guidelines for handling conflicting requirements;

And be it further resolved that the Province accept responsibility for funding dike maintenance in order to bring BC dikes up to regulatory requirements and proactively forestall catastrophic dike failures during weather events and spring freshet;

And be it further resolved that the Province take on flood mitigation projects more generally, including upstream risks outside of municipal jurisdiction.

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 and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to work together to streamline the dike permitting process and create a standard step-by-step checklist for the diking process, along with guidelines for handling conflicting requirements; and, that the Province accept responsibility for dike maintenance and addressing general flood mitigation projects.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing dikes, including:

- 2020-EB14 - which called on the Province to consider applications for funding essential and cost-effective minor dike upgrades that may not meet seismic standards.

- 2018-B33 - which, among other things, called on the Province to clarify the roles and responsibilities of local governments in relation to dike upgrades and climate change, and provide long-term funding to support municipal dike corridor upgrade strategies.
- 2017-B85 - which called on the Province to revise the Seismic Design Guidelines for Dikes to reflect predicted local ground settlement conditions with the primary goal of community flood protection.
- 2015-B52 - which called on the Province to be re-established as diking authority in all local governments.
- 2014-B75 - which called on the Province to be re-established as diking authority in local governments under 20,000 in population and rural areas.
- 2009-B8 - which called on the Province to allow proactive and cooperative solutions to flood mitigation and dike repairs.
- 2006-B18 - which called on the Province and federal government to develop a comprehensive and sustainable program for funding dikes and flood protection measures.

Additionally, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1).

The Resolutions Committee recognizes the 2021 provincial flooding that, among other things, resulted in highway washouts, landslides and power outages. These events have emphasized the need to re-examine the Province's 2003 decision to download diking responsibility to local governments, and the role that the Province and local governments should play with respect to flood management.

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

2. Mitigate Risk from Flooding – Berms, Dikes and Dams Central Kootenay RD

Whereas communities across British Columbia are struggling to assess and mitigate the risk from flooding with historic berms, dikes and dams in various states of repair where pre-emptive work is constrained by Ministry of Environment Regulations;

And whereas communities do not have taxation and borrowing capacity to address the financial commitment required to safeguard infrastructure and residential development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to create a strategy to reassume the responsibility for existing abandoned berms, dikes, dams and historic emergency flood works that protect multiple homes or infrastructure.

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 create a strategy to reassume the responsibility for existing abandoned berms, dikes, dams and historic emergency flood works that protect multiple homes or infrastructure.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed two resolutions which called on the Province to be re-established as diking authority in all local governments (2015-B52), and in local governments under 20,000 in population and rural areas (2014-B75).

Additionally, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1).

The Resolutions Committee recognizes the 2021 provincial flooding that, among other things, resulted in highway washouts, landslides and power outages. These events have emphasized the need to re-examine the Province's 2003 decision to download diking responsibility to local governments, and the role that the Province and local governments should play with respect to flood management.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

While addressing a similar topic as Resolution #1, UBCM felt resolutions #2 and #3 were sufficiently different to stand on their own.

Whereas small, rural and remote municipalities have limited resources and capacity to take on complex flood risk mitigation projects;

And whereas the regulatory regimes of the provincial and federal agencies responsible for in-stream infrastructure works, and funding those works, operate independently of each other, resulting in mis-aligned approval windows, inconsistent application of environmental regulations, and an unnecessarily onerous and time-consuming process to get approval for critical flood mitigation works in already disturbed ecosystems, resulting in significantly higher costs, missed deadlines, and unacceptable increase in climate-related risk;

And whereas flood mitigation has been downloaded by the province while upstream watershed hazards and risks to infrastructure that are outside of local government jurisdiction have generally been ignored;

And whereas major flood events are far more destructive to the natural environment than the mitigation works that could help minimize the damage to community in an ecologically balanced way:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM calls upon the provincial government to assume a greater role in planning, funding, and constructing local flood mitigation works, maintaining dikes, and taking a proactive approach to watershed planning;

And be it further resolved that the regulatory regime for approving flood-mitigation projects be streamlined and coordinated by the province, including coordination with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to ensure that projects can proceed quickly, and fully funded, in the best and balanced interests of public safety and the environment.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advised that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial government to assume a greater role in planning, funding, and constructing local flood mitigation works, maintaining dikes, and taking a proactive approach to watershed planning; and, that the Province streamline and coordinate the regulatory regime for approving flood-mitigation projects to ensure that projects can proceed quickly, and fully funded, in the best and balanced interests of public safety and the environment.

However, the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions requesting support and/or funding for flood protection, prevention and mitigation measures (2021-EB6, 2020-SR1, 2020-NR16, 2019-B12, 2018-B123, 2018-B94, 2018-B37, 2016-B56, 2015-B97, 2015-B7, 2014-

B76, 2013-A1, 2013-A2, 2012-B3, 2012-B4, 2011-B11, 2011-B12, 2011-B79, 2010-B8, 2009-B3, 2008-B69, 2007-A1).

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking funding and authority for local governments to manage the use and activities in their communities' watersheds (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 Resolutions Committee recognizes the 2021 provincial flooding that, among other things, resulted in highway washouts, landslides and power outages. These events have emphasized the need to re-examine the Province's 2003 decision to download diking responsibility to local governments, and the role that the Province and local governments should play with respect to flood management.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

While addressing a similar topic as Resolution #1, UBCM felt resolutions #2 and #3 were sufficiently different to stand on their own.

Whereas the FireSmart Mitigation Rebate program, funded by the provincial CRI FireSmart Community Funding and Supports Program is a useful and popular component of municipal FireSmart hazard mitigation programs and the current reimbursement maximums were set, and have remained unchanged since program inception, in 2019:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to review the guidelines restricting reimbursement maximums to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$500 per property, with consideration to increasing these financial incentives to motivate more property owners to participate in the Firesmart rebate programs offered by local governments.

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 review the guidelines restricting reimbursement maximums to 50% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$500 per property, with consideration to increasing these financial incentives to motivate more property owners to participate in the Firesmart rebate programs offered by local governments.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B93 that asked the Province to develop eligibility requirements for Community Resilience Investment Program funding, and a funding model, that are equitable and based on local government need.

The Committee further notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

Whereas communities have written to the federal and provincial governments requesting that they empower — local persons, those working with licensees, industry and contractors, Indigenous communities, ranchers and workers such as fire fighters, forestry workers, and all those that see the day-to-day issues and have front-line knowledge — to provide feedback on the inconsistencies and shortcomings with regard to forest management and wildfire prevention in order to help bring about much-needed change;

And whereas the Ontario government has assembled an 'All Hazards Agency' that employs people to manage emergency events such as wildfires:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide better forest management and wildfire protection by assessing current policies and guidelines to enhance those that are working to re-evaluate and change those that are not.

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 for the Province to "provide better forest management and wildfire protection by assessing current policies and guidelines to enhance those that are working to re-evaluate and change those that are not."

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2021-SR2 that sought improved forest management in BC.

The membership has also endorsed numerous resolutions seeking provincial support and funding for carrying out wildfire mitigation activities (2021-NR10, 2020-EB12, 2020-NR21, 2019-B13, 2019-B76, 2019-B92, 2019-B93, 2018-B22, 2018-B97, 2018-B100, 2015-B5, 2012-B114, 2008-B59, 2007-B75).

The Province's Budget 2022 includes significant financial and operational commitments to improve emergency management, including through shifting the BC Wildfire Service to operate with a year-round workforce.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **No Recommendation**

While the Committee supports the intent, the concern was that the language in this resolution was vague. It is important to note that there have been significant Provincial commitments already made for 2022.

6. Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities

Nelson,
Central Kootenay RD

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 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 advises that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking ongoing funding related to emergency management (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).

In 2019, Emergency Management BC began work to amend and modernize BC's emergency management legislation. The UBCM Executive, in response to proposed provincial policy shifts, has conveyed recommendations to EMBC requesting that support and funding be provided to address new and ongoing local government responsibilities. These recommendations were also included as part of the August 2021 report by the UBCM Select Committee on Local Government Finance, Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

FINANCE

7. Improving Provincial Grant Processes

Nelson

Whereas local government in British Columbia 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 investment in developing projects and programs, completing grant applications and delivering projects and programs is increasingly time consuming and complex which all require significant investment of front end resources by local governments and the resulting delays in waiting for granting decisions add cost and delay project delivery resulting in inefficiencies at all levels of government and do not maximize the value of public funds that are utilized for these purposes;

And whereas grant funds for many programs and projects are better suited to be distributed to local governments on a non-application based granting basis;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the government of British Columbia to work with its federal counterparts to identify and expand grants that are more efficiently and effectively delivered on a non-application basis (similar to the Community Works Fund) and for those application based grant programs, that the delivery program of the provincial and federal governments be reviewed to increase certainty for local governments and reduce the costs and delays that are inherent in the current application based grant funding programs.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2021-EB21 that encouraged 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.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B111 which requested that the provincial and federal governments restructure grant programs to mirror the federal gas tax fund allocation in order to provide ease of access to year over year incremental funding and it identifying the burden of having limited staff and financial resources to complete grant applications and unnecessary reporting requirements.

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 comments: **Endorse**

8. Library Funding

Radium Hot Springs, Nelson,
Cranbrook, Central Kootenay RD

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for over 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources, including internet, computers, digital library tools, and in-person services from expert staff

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services, that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion;

Therefore be it resolved that AKBLG and UBCM strongly encourage the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term, sustainable funding, clarity on the funding formula and equity in funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to provincial government funding reflecting the BC Consumer Price Index in subsequent years.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2020-EB41, 2019-B28, 2019-B29, 2018-B24, 2017-B60, 2016-B95, 2014-B17, 2012-B71, 2011-B27, 2010-B46, 2008-B57, 2007-B56, 2006-B55, 2006-B56).

However, the Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to provincial government funding reflecting the BC Consumer Price Index in subsequent years.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

ENVIRONMENT

9. Recycle BC

Elkford

Whereas local governments are eligible to join the Recycle BC program as a contracted collector provided that they are an incorporated municipality with a minimum population of 5,000 residents and have had a curbside garbage collection program in place for a minimum of two years in advance of the new curbside program for the same households;

And whereas Recycle BC's Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan, revised June 2019, notes that in 2021, Recycle BC will assess the feasibility of servicing smaller, densely populated communities of less than 5,000 residents that are immediately adjacent to an existing curbside service area, with the same requirement for curbside garbage collection:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to amend the recycling regulation to require the inclusion of communities with populations of less than 5,000 to be included in the Recycle BC Curbside Collection Program.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed other resolutions requesting financial support and recycling services for smaller and rural communities (2019-B43, 2018-B69, 2017-B109, 2014-A6).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

The Committee recommends that the sponsor consider amending the resolution to request *investigating* the feasibility of expanding recycling to all communities under 5,000. In some circumstances it may be too impractical or financially prohibitive without further investigation for those communities located far from a larger centre.

10. Amendment to Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (amended) 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 amend** 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.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **No Recommendation**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution asking the Province to amend 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.

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

- Province develop and fund a program to support and incentivize alternatives to burning of agricultural vegetative debris and/or expand agricultural innovation funds to support such alternatives (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);
- further limit or ban burning of wood debris piles on private and crown forest lands within community air sheds (2016-B24);
- establish standards for regulating wood burning appliances and outdoor boilers (2008-B72, 2007-B35, 2006-B109, 2005-B28, 2005-B114);
- establishment of emission level standards for agricultural boilers (2007-LR4); and
- request senior agency support for monitoring and managing local air quality issues (2001-SR3).

Most recently, 2021-NR41 was endorsed by the Executive, which called on the Province to develop and fund a program for the agriculture sector to support and incentivize the implementation of alternatives to the burning of agricultural vegetative debris and/or expand existing agricultural innovation funds to support such alternatives.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **No Recommendation**

The Committee is supportive of the intent, but is concerned there could be unintended consequences if no exceptions are allowed to address extenuating conditions.

Whereas local governments are required to set greenhouse gas reduction targets and decarbonizing the energy supply is critical to the Province's efforts in reaching its low-carbon future as communities transition towards becoming more energy-efficient;

And whereas communities may have opportunities to create clean and renewable energy projects, such as micro-hydro, geothermal, or solar power;

And whereas such projects are typically only viable where local governments are guaranteed to be able to sell the power at a economically beneficial cost:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the Province to restore the power purchase call program from BC Hydro to purchase local government generation at a price and term that supports the development of these renewable energy projects.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR49 which asked the Province to reinstate the BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2021-NR29 which asked the Province to explore changes to the regulatory framework to support communities in partnering with BC Hydro to provide safe reliable clean energy and to generate revenue sources to support local economies.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

LAND USE

12. Increased Resources for Modernized Land Use Planning Central Kootenay RD

Whereas public lands in British Columbia are facing complex and cumulative pressures, with competing demands between stakeholders and ever-increasing impacts to wildlife and ecosystems, and in 2018 the Province of BC committed to “work collaboratively with Indigenous governments, communities, and stakeholders to modernize land use planning”, including “collaborating with Indigenous governments in natural resource management that is informed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action”;

And whereas the advancement of land use planning through the Modernized Land Use Planning program to date has been limited, leaving many regions in BC without strategic direction or guidance on stewardship and management of public land and waters. With communities and local governments responding to proposals without the benefit of an integrated approach and knowledge of cumulative impacts:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC add staffing to facilitate the completion of modernized land use planning, inclusive of the UNDRIP protocols endorsed by the Province of BC, by the end of 2024.

*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 add staffing to facilitate the completion of modernized land use planning, inclusive of the UNDRIP protocols endorsed by the Province of BC, by the end of 2024.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions addressing land use planning, including:

- improving government-to-government collaboration regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land (2021-EB43);
- asking the Province to ensure that the principles of mutual respect, consultation and cooperation, as outlined in s. 2 of the Community Charter, are adhered to and implemented when the Province moves forward with future initiatives, including processes and programs affecting the land base (2019-SR1); and
- seeking better land use planning that ensures decision making takes into account the cumulative effects on the environment, such as watersheds (2020-EB61, 2019-B36, 2019-B155, 2018-B34, 2017-B65, 2017-B115, 2016-B25).

In response to the sponsor’s second whereas clause, the Committee would note that the intent of the Modernized Land Use Planning Process is to focus on priority areas to resolve current land and resource management challenges on provincial public lands and marine areas. Currently there are five processes underway.

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

13. Assistance to Private and Public Utilities Providers with Historical Unregistered Rights of Way

Nelson

Whereas there are many instances throughout British Columbia where both private and public utilities have infrastructure located within private property and no associated statutory rights of way or easement was registered against title to the property in the Land Title Office at the time of installation many years ago;

And whereas utilities are responsible for their infrastructure within private property because they are of benefit to the public and essential to the operation and maintenance of these critical services;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to work with local governments and the private utilities to develop legislation that would permit the registration of statutory rights of way or other instruments to resolve historic issues with unregistered statutory rights of way or easements for critical infrastructure located within private properties in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2019-B165 titled Outstanding Statutory Rights of Way, that made a similar request calling on the Province to work with local governments to develop legislation that would permit the registration of statutory rights of way to resolve historical issues of unregistered statutory rights of way or easements for municipal utility works located within private properties.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

14. Broadband Connectivity

Kootenay Boundary RD

Whereas reliable and affordable access to broadband internet connectivity should be made available to all rural, remote and Indigenous communities in BC to support public health safety, economic development, social inclusion and access to information;

And whereas the Government of Canada has recognized that not all Canadians have access to reliable and affordable internet services and has established a Ministry of Rural Economic Development that includes rural broadband as a top priority:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of BC to seriously commit to funding, and lobbying the federal government to fund, the implementation of affordable and reliable broadband internet services for all British Columbians.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for federal and provincial government action and funding to ensure that broadband Internet is available in all communities, especially underserved rural and remote areas (2021-EB47, 2021-EB48, 2021-EB50, 2020-SR6, 2020-EB69, 2020-EB70, 2019-B54, 2018-B48, 2017-B37, 2013-B61, 2012-B149, 2011-B72, 2010-B72, 2009-B57, 2006-B54, 2003-B35, 2002-B23).

Resolution 2021-EB47 in particular called for federal and provincial investment in “ownership and development of the needed capital infrastructure to facilitate effective, efficient and cost effective broadband services in rural and remote communities where a private sector business case does not exist.”

In response to resolution 2021-EB47, the provincial government cited its focus on “removing regulatory barriers and improving investment incentives” to achieve competitive fibre broadband networks, as well as the Connecting British Columbia funding program.

The Resolutions Committee is aware that in March 2022, the provincial and federal governments announced their intent to invest up to a combined \$830 million towards achieving high-speed internet in rural, remote and Indigenous communities throughout BC. However, the federal and provincial governments have not yet provided timelines, program details, or any further information on how the funding will be deployed.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

15. Increased Funding for Additional Resources for Healthcare (amended) Elkford

Whereas many communities across the province, particularly in rural and remote areas, there exists a shortfall of qualified staff to provide healthcare services;

And whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional demand on healthcare services;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for additional resources to provide necessary **primary** healthcare services across the province **such as increased Primary Care Network funding to support team based care in clinics (physicians, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, etc); funding for new Community Health Centres; and a review of the payment model for physicians in clinics, providing an alternative to the fee-for service model which is ill-suited to the CHC model for providing health care.**

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

**UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:*

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for more funding for various areas of the health care system, including:

- resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2021-EB63, 2016- B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162);
- funding hospital and health care capital project funding (2021-EB64, 2017-B39, 2016-B114, 2014-B35, 2011-B58, 2009-B150, 2008-B129, 2007-B184, 2005-B42, 2004-B28, 2002-A2);
- increasing funding and innovative service and support models for rural and remote health care delivery (2019-B63, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2016-B124, 2014-B130, 2013-B43, 2013-B44, 2013-B45, 2013-B46, 2013-B47, 2012-B38, 2012-B39, 2012-B91, 2012-B93, 2012-B103, 2011-B60, 2011-B61, 2010-B43, 2010-B44, 2010-B112, 2009-B148, 2008-B49, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146);
- improving physician recruitment and retention, and the need for more health care professionals (2018-B143, 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);
- managing recruitment and retention of paramedics, maintaining adequate staffing levels and delivery of service in rural communities (2021-EB61, 2021-EB62, 2020-EB74);
- resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services (2021-NR45, 2020-SR8, 2020-NR63, 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); and
- adding basic dental care to Medical Services Plan (2021-EB69, 2018-B146).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: Endorse

The Committee appreciates the intent, but suggests this would be a stronger resolution if the request was more specific.

Whereas BC Emergency Health Service (BCEHS)'s ambulance service is a vital component of life safety and access to healthcare for those who live and work in small rural communities, which are often a significant distance from fully-equipped hospitals;

And whereas, in addition to there often not being an adequate availability of paramedics in the province, the BC Ambulance Service within rural BC is experiencing a critical pandemic shortage, leading to significant shift vacancies and underserved ambulances for prolonged periods of times—a long standing issue which demonstrates that the current model is unsustainable due to the high degree of training and certification required and lack of meaningful and adequate compensation provided:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to undertake a review of the BC Ambulance Service, specifically in the rural areas, to find a solution and systematic way of managing recruitment and retention of paramedics and delivery of service in rural communities.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: **Endorse**

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed a near identical resolution 2021-EB62 titled BC Ambulance Rural Service.

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking to improve and increase ambulance service in BC, including in small rural communities.

- more resources and a commitment to find a long-term solution for staff shortages for small rural community ambulance services (2020-EB74);
- better and more equitable standby pay for paramedics (2017-B134, 2006-B48);
- better coordination for pre-hospital health care (2019-SR3);
- more solutions to ensure medical specialists and services are available in rural BC (2019-B63); and
- more advanced care and critical care paramedics in rural ambulance stations (2017-B133).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

Whereas the pre-hospital care system in British Columbia lies within the jurisdictional responsibility of the Ministry of Health, however it relies critically on the delivery of service by municipal, regional and First Nations organizations;

And whereas the Ministry is critically reliant on this partnership in delivery of pre-hospital care in the Province of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to work with the LGMA, FCABC and FNESS to develop a fee-for-service framework to bill the Province on call outs that appropriately fund community based organizations that provide **First Responder pre-hospital care** services in support of the Ministry's health care responsibility to the citizens of 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 Province to work with the LGMA, FCABC and FNESS to develop a fee-for-service framework to bill the Province on call outs that appropriately fund community based organizations that provide pre-hospital care services in support of the Ministry's health care responsibility to the citizens of British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26, 2001-B4).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**

The Committee encourages the sponsor to speak more specifically from the floor and detail precisely the issues to be addressed.

Whereas many rural areas in the Province are isolated with limited communications and large distances from established communities, there is a need in extenuating circumstances for Emergency Medical Aid First Responders (EMAFR) to attend emergency scenes at a considerable distance from the station. These 'Out of Jurisdiction' responses require both skilled personnel and a rescue vehicle and can be of several hours duration. In many instances, the EMAFR are located closer to the scene of an incident than BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) and can provide a response sooner than the BCAS;

And whereas during these 'Out of Jurisdiction' responses, fire departments are reimbursed for activities under Emergency Management BC Policy 2.07, Road and Medical Rescue; while Emergency Medical Aid First Responders are not reimbursed for their activities at the same scene;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask Emergency Management BC ~~to amend Road and Medical Rescue Policy 2.07~~ to include Emergency Medical Aid First Responders as eligible for reimbursement under Section 2.07.3 for extenuating circumstances.

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 Emergency Management BC to amend Road and Medical Rescue Policy 2.07 to include Emergency Medical Aid First Responders as eligible for reimbursement under Section 2.07.3 for extenuating circumstances.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking fair compensation for local government provision of first responder services (2019-SR3, 2019-B11, 2018-B141, 2014-A2, 2012-A6, 2009-B14, 2004-B26, 2001-B4).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: **Endorse**