

# 2023 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS – CONVENTION OUTCOMES

Updated: Monday, May 1, 2023

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 1. Physician Assistants                                                                       | East Kootenay RD       |
| 2. Shortage of Qualified Health Care Workers                                                  | Village of Canal Flats |
| 3. Supplementing Health Authorities with Regional Boards of Health                            | City of Grand Forks    |
| 4. Accessibility Plan Funding                                                                 | City of Nelson         |
| 5. Funding for Education and Protective Services Following Decriminalization of Illicit Drugs | City of Nelson         |

## HOUSING

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| 6. Landlord Licensing | City of Nelson |
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## COMMUNITY SAFETY

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| 7. Cost of Emergency Response                              | City of Fernie |
| 8. Local Emergency Risk Mitigation Authority               | Town of Golden |
| 9. Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities | City of Nelson |
| 10. 911 Levy                                               | City of Nelson |

## ENVIRONMENT

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| 11. Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation | District of Elkford |
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## REGIONAL DISTRICTS

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| 12. Long-Term Borrowing for Fire Apparatus Acquisition | Central Kootenay RD |
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## FINANCE

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| 13. Top-Up to Provincial Grants | Kootenay Boundary RD |
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## LAND USE

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| 14. Better Management and Maintenance of Forest Recreation Sites    | Kootenay Boundary RD |
| 15. Crown Land User Fee                                             | East Kootenay RD     |
| 16. Legislated Mapping and Management Plans in Community Watersheds | Central Kootenay RD  |

## TRANSPORTATION

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| 17. Provide Funding to Double Transit Services in Rural BC | City of Nelson |
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## LEGISLATIVE

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| 18. Shared Ethics Commissioner's Office | City of Nelson |
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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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

### 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **DEFEATED**

### 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to Endorse, **DEFEATED**

#### 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

#### 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **DEFEATED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **DEFEATED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **DEFEATED**

## 9. Funding Model for Emergency Management Responsibilities - **AMENDED**

## 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~~ **request** the Province of British Columbia to create an annual funding model for local governments to more adequately prepare for, and respond to, local emergencies.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse as amended, **CARRIED**

## 10. 911 Levy – AMENDED

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~~ **legislate** a 911 service levy on **telecommunications services** to the benefit of all dispatch operators in British Columbia.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse as amended, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **DEFEATED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

### 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**



## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**

## 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.

**AKBLG Convention Outcome:** Motion to endorse, **CARRIED**