



The Association of Kootenay and
Boundary Local Governments

2025 RESOLUTIONS

For consideration at the Annual General Meeting

April 26/27th, 2025

Kimberley, BC

REPORT OF THE 2025 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The Resolutions Committee is pleased to present the 2025 Resolutions Workbook. We look forward to a lively debate of this year's resolutions.

Forty-one (41) resolutions are being presented for membership consideration. This includes resolutions that were submitted by more than one local government and combined into one co-sponsored between two or more local governments. This is a 145% increase over 2024 when there were 28 resolutions to debate. In addition to the 41 resolutions submitted by members, one additional resolution will be presented by the AKBLG Executive. This resolution relates to the Legislative Reform process and will be presented on Sunday morning prior to the close of the AGM and after the Legislative Reform information session is held.

The AKBLG Resolutions Committee appreciates the time that each local government has taken to prepare and submit resolutions. Endorsed resolutions relating to a provincial matter will be forwarded to UBCM for action.

Given the increased number of resolutions to consider and the limited time available, the Resolution Committee has organized the resolutions into four (4) sections. The Chart on the following page describes these sections and explains the rationale for each.

For 2025, one section of resolutions is being presented as a block for endorsement (consent agenda). The resolutions in this group are those that both the AKBLG and UBCM Resolutions Committees have recommended for endorsement by the membership. These resolutions are found in the ER (Endorse Resolution) section at the start of the resolution package.

Five resolutions are considered Regional Resolutions. These resolutions address an issue which is specific to the AKBLG region and/or the enactment clause directs only the AKBLG Area Association (and not UBCM) to consider taking action. These resolutions, if endorsed, will not be forwarded to UBCM but will remain with AKBLG for action. These are found in the RR (Regional Resolution) section of the workbook.

Advance Preparation

The Resolutions Committee recognizes there are many resolutions to consider and is committed to facilitating efficient and effective policy debate over the time allotted to resolutions.

If you wish to speak against or propose an amendment to a resolution that is included in the ENDORSE BLOCK, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Executive Director prior to the debate session to have it pulled from the block. The purpose of the Endorse Block (Consent Agenda) is to enable more time for debate of resolutions that have not received an endorsement from the AKBLG and UBCM Resolutions Committees.

For resolutions being considered individually, sponsors should be ready to speak to their resolution and provide information that clarifies the request made by the resolution.

Sponsors will have up to three (3) minutes to introduce their resolution and subsequent speakers will be limited to two (2) minutes. Delegates are also respectfully requested to limit repetitive debate, to make it possible to debate as many resolutions as time permits.

Once a resolution is introduced by the sponsor, if there are no speakers to DO NOT ENDORSE (CON), the question will be called with no discussion.

Depending on the complexity of proposed amendments, the elections officer may require that amendments be provided in writing at the front of the room, prior to speaking to them.

Full Rules of Procedures will be available at the convention and explained prior to the debate session.

Order of Debate

Resolutions will be considered in the order presented in the AGM/Resolutions Workbook. The Endorse Block will be considered first followed by individual consideration of the NE (Not Endorse), NR (No Recommendation) and RR (Regional Resolutions).

Per AKBLG Bylaws, late resolutions will be held over until the next Annual General Meeting unless the Resolutions Committee considers the late resolution to pertain to a *“unique and unforeseen event or circumstance requiring time-sensitive attention and having occurred since the submission deadline”*. A Special Resolution requires a 2/3rds vote in support of consideration prior to being introduced onto the floor at the AGM.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee 2025

Aidan McLaren-Caux

Susan Clovechok

Colleen Jones

Kyle Hamilton

Kevin McIsaac

Wesley Routley

Organization of Resolutions in the Resolutions Workbook

Section		Description	Handling
EB	Endorse Block	These have been recommended for endorsement by both the UBCM and AKBLG Resolutions Committees.	Consider as a Block
NE	Not Endorse	The UBCM and AKBLG Resolutions Committees have suggested that these resolutions do not meet UBCM policy and have recommended that they are not endorsed. For 2025, there is one (1) provincial resolution categorized as NE.	Consider individually
NR	No Recommendation	These are resolutions which received “no recommendation” by Resolutions Committees. These resolutions include: resolutions not previously considered; resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with UBCM policy; or resolutions with proposed policy positions that do not align with previously endorsed policy papers or documents; or resolutions where there is no action required.	Consider individually
RR	Regional Resolutions	These resolutions address an issue which is specific to the AKBLG Region and/or the enactment clause directs only the AKBLG Area Association (and not UBCM) to consider taking action. Endorsed AKBLG region-specific resolutions will not be forwarded to UBCM for consideration by the UBCM membership but will instead remain with AKBLG where they may be actioned.	Consider individually

2025 AKBLG RESOLUTIONS

SECTION EB (Endorse Block)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

EB1 Rural Health Transportation City of Nelson

HOUSING

EB2 Speculation Housing and Vacancy Tax in Rural Communities City of Nelson

EB3 Income Tax on Secondary Suites and In-Home Rentals City of Nelson

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EB4 Addressing Repeat Offenders City of Nelson

EB5 Motor Vehicle Response – Compensation Model District of Elkford

ENVIRONMENT

EB6 Supporting Rural Contractors for Effective Home Retrofits City of Nelson,
Central Kootenay RD

EB7 Support for BC Conservation Officer Services District of Elkford

EB8 Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Sector Recyclables East Kootenay RD

EB9 Incentives to Invest in Low Carbon Power Generation Village of Nakusp

EB10 Enforcement for Use of Crown Land District of Elkford

FINANCE

EB11 Increased Core Funding for Public Libraries City of Grand Forks, Town
of Creston, City of Nelson

EB12 Consistent and Predictable Funding for Housing, Infrastructure
and Rural Economic Development Village of Nakusp

EB13 Allocation of Provincial Sales Tax for Municipal Infrastructure Village of Nakusp

TAXATION

EB14 Unpaid Fines by Transfer to Property Taxes East Kootenay RD

TRANSPORTATION

EB15 Enhancing Rural Transit Systems City of Nelson

EB16 Importance of Inland Ferries Central Kootenay RD,
Village of Nakusp

LEGISLATIVE

EB17 Unruly Behaviour Problems – Development of Task Force Village of Nakusp

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EB18 Investment in Recreational Tourism City of Nelson

EB19 Rural-Focused Immigration Policy City of Nelson

SELECTED ISSUES

EB20 Increased Funding and Requirement for Civics Education City of Nelson

SECTION NE (Not Endorse) - FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NE1 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees City of Grand Forks

SECTION NR (No Recommendation) - FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NR1 Mental Health Support for Local Elected Officials City of Fernie,
District of Sparwood
NR2 Expand Alert Ready Program Village of Nakusp
NR3 Hiring More Qualified Medical Professionals Village of Nakusp
NR4 Ensuring Equitable Access to Child Care Funding City of Nelson

HOUSING

NR5 Provincially Backed Affordable Home Insurance City of Fernie
NR6 Property Transfer Tax Exemption for Local Govt Housing Corps Town of Creston

COMMUNITY SAFETY

NR7 Insurance Deductibles for Small Municipalities Affected
by Wildfires Village of Slocan
NR8 Referendum for the Replacement of Fire Apparatus Village of Salmo

ENVIRONMENT

NR9 Standardized Wake Surfing Regulation East Kootenay RD
NR10 Regulations to Ban Burning of Wood Piles District of Elkford

FINANCE

NR11 Financial Support for Infrastructure Costs Village of Canal Flats

TRANSPORTATION

NR12 Localized Input on Highway Maintenance Contracts District of Elkford

LEGISLATIVE

NR13 Balanced Approach to Building Code Updates Central Kootenay RD

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NR14 Interprovincial Trade Barriers City of Nelson

ELECTIONS

NR15 Ranked Voting for Mayoral Elections City of Nelson

SECTION RR (Regional Resolutions) – topics specific to AKBLG region

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

RR1	Regional Strategy for Rehabilitation, Homelessness, and Public Safety	Cities of Nelson, Trail and Castlegar
RR2	Youth Detox and Treatment Centre	City of Cranbrook

HOUSING

RR3	Regional Approach to Homelessness	City of Nelson
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SAFETY

RR4	Request for Regional Support for Dike Maintenance	Village of Canal Flats
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TRANSPORTATION

RR5	Rural Transportation Systems in the East Kootenay Region	City of Kimberley
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SECTION EB – ENDORSE BLOCK

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

EB1 Rural Health Transportation

City of Nelson

Whereas residents in rural areas face significant challenges in accessing timely and quality health care due to long travel distances, difficult terrain, and adverse weather conditions, further exacerbated by the lack of robust public transit options in rural areas;

And whereas ensuring equitable access to health care requires strategic investments in transportation infrastructure, enhanced regional transit services, and collaboration between the provincial government, local health authorities, local governments, and community organizations to develop tailored solutions for rural communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to prioritize the improvement of health care transportation infrastructure in rural areas by:

1. Providing funding and support for a comprehensive regional transit system tailored to the unique needs of rural communities, including inter-community transit links that facilitate access to health services; and
2. Working collaboratively with local health authorities, local governments, and community organizations to develop and implement strategies that ensure equitable and reliable access to medical care for all residents.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed numerous resolutions seeking improvements to the provision and funding of public transit in small, rural and remote communities (2024-EB81, 2024-EB82, 2023-EB60, 2023-EB61, 2023-NR75, 2023-NR77, 2020-SR4, 2020-EB17, 2018-B63, 2017-B8, 2017-B9, 2015-B9).

As well as endorsing numerous resolutions seeking improved and more equitable access to health care services in rural and remote areas of the province and funding for medical travel if services are not available near a patient's home (2024-NR10, 2023-SR1, 2023-EB7, 2022-EB15, 2019-B62, 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). The UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR64 which asked the Province for a strategy to expand rural and remote community health care services.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

HOUSING

EB2 Speculation Housing & Vacancy Tax in Rural Communities City of Nelson

Whereas the provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax was introduced to address housing affordability in communities facing housing challenges by discouraging property speculation and vacant homes;

And whereas each community experiences unique housing challenges, including a limited rental market, housing affordability, seasonal property use, and the economic reliance on part-time residents, which makes a one size fits all model inappropriate in many of our communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to ensure all local governments have the authority to opt in to the Speculation and Vacancy Tax program based on housing availability and community needs.

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2024-EB28 which asked the Province to give all BC communities the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax.

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed a number of resolutions which asks the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties (2023-EB14, 2020- EB33, 2020-NR69, 2019-B19, 2019-B181, 2018-A3, 2017-B91).

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

EB3 Income Tax on Secondary Suites and In-Home Rentals City of Nelson

Whereas income tax on secondary suites and in-home rentals serves as a financial barrier for homeowners, discouraging them from making these spaces available for long-term rental and adding unnecessary administrative burdens;

And whereas removing this tax would incentivize homeowners to offer more long-term rental housing, alleviating rental shortages and reducing reliance on short-term rentals, thereby increasing housing stability in communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the federal and provincial governments to eliminate income tax on secondary suites and in-home rentals as a means to encourage more long-term rental housing, simplify administrative processes for homeowners, and support efforts to address the housing crisis.

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2022-EB26 which asked the provincial and federal governments to provide tax exemptions for all income derived from the rental of secondary suites as a measure to encourage the provision of safe and affordable housing.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the provincial and federal governments to work to provide affordable housing for all Canadians (2023-NR21, 2022-EB25, 2021-EB75, 2019-B30, 2018-B55, 2018-B56, 2017-B17, 2015-B47, 2013-B53, 2011-B67, 2011- B175, 2008-B158, 2006-A2, 2006-B162, 2005-B48, 2005-B50).

The Committee further notes that the membership endorsed resolutions 2015-B14, 2008-A3 and 2007-A7 which called for a variety of federal tax reforms to encourage the construction of rental housing. The membership also endorsed resolutions 2015-B47 and 2012-B143 which called for incentives for the retention of existing, and development of new, market rental housing.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EB4 Addressing Repeat Offenders

City of Nelson

Whereas repeat offenders, particularly those involved in property crimes, pose a significant threat to community safety and well-being, contributing to increased fear, financial loss, and a decline in community trust;

And whereas current measures, including sentencing and bail provisions, have proven insufficient in deterring repeat offenders and ensuring public safety, necessitating stronger sentencing guidelines and reforms to prevent high-risk individuals from reoffending while awaiting trial:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to implement stronger sentencing guidelines for repeat offenders, including harsher penalties and more stringent probation requirements;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to collaborate with the federal government to pursue necessary bail reforms that enhance public safety and effectively address the issue of repeat offenders.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking provincial and/or federal action, including stricter enforcement measures, to address repeat offenders:

- *consider public safety and fairness when dealing with prolific offenders, and furthermore that guidelines be developed as to what constitutes “the public interest” with respect to pursuing charges for criminal offences (2022-NR36);*
- *impose weightier consequences and greater accountability for repeat offenders, thereby supporting the rights of all Canadians to live in safe communities (2022-NR37);*

- *enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, as well as the consistent use of electronic monitoring when individuals are released on conditions (2021-NR3); and*
- *ensure prolific offenders are "sentenced effectively," and supported by credible programs to address underlying challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness (2015-B54).*

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB5 Motor Vehicle Response – Compensation Model

District of Elkford

Whereas local governments are not compensated by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) for responses to motor vehicle incidents inside or outside of their jurisdiction;

And whereas provincial reimbursement rates for out-of-jurisdiction responses are insufficient and do not cover all of the costs associated with out-of-jurisdiction responses;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government consider a compensation model to assist local governments with the actual costs for all motor vehicle incident responses.

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 (2023-EB22, 2023- EB23, 2023-EB24, 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41, 2020-EB9, 2019-B9, 2018-B5, 2015-B17, 2014-B15).

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 (2023-EB24, 2022-EB40, 2022-EB41).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

ENVIRONMENT

EB6 Supporting Rural Contractors for Effective Home Retrofits

City of Nelson, Central Kootenay RD

Whereas home retrofits are essential for reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, and increasing climate resilience, especially in rural communities facing extreme weather and energy poverty;

And whereas rural contractors face financial and administrative barriers in the CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program (ESP) for low to medium income qualified households, reducing program participation and limiting access to retrofits;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia, local governments and industry stakeholders to improve support for rural contractors in the CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program by:

1. Providing advance payments to ease financial strain on contractors;

2. Offering incentives to attract contractors to rural areas;
3. Expanding rebate coverage to boost homeowner participation;
4. Promoting the health and climate benefits of retrofits; and
5. Partnering with post-secondary institutions to train contractors in high-performance building and business administration.

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 improve support for rural contractors in the CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program by:

1. *Providing advance payments to ease financial strain on contractors;*
2. *Offering incentives to attract contractors to rural areas;*
3. *Expanding rebate coverage to boost homeowner participation;*
4. *Promoting the health and climate benefits of retrofits; and*
5. *Partnering with post-secondary institutions to train contractors in high-performance building and business administration.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2024-NR24, 2023-EB20, 2023-EB21, 2022-EB31, 2022-NR18, 2021-EB40, 2020-NR73, 2020-EB87, 2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25) and calling for federal and provincial programs to provide incentives for residential energy efficiency (2020-NR52, 2014-B28, 2014-B93, 2012-B25, 2010-B86, 2009-B166, 2007-B33, 2007-B177, 2006-B111).

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-EB87 that addresses the Building Code's requirements around Energy Step Code requirements, and asked the Province to assist communities with Energy Step Code implementation in an equitable way, considering some of the barriers faced in rural and remote communities, by working with communities to address barriers.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB7 Support for BC Conservation Officer Services

District of Elkford

Whereas the BC Conservation Officer Service is responsible for public safety focused on natural resource law enforcement and human wildlife conflicts prevention;

And whereas underfunding and understaffing has an ongoing negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

And whereas continued reductions to conservation officers in the field results in the inability to adequately monitor and enforce activities throughout large management units:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to review its staffing model to work toward adequate funding and staffing to better support the BC Conservation Officer Service in providing services.

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 increase numbers of conservation officers and resources to support wildlife management and to reduce human-wildlife conflict (2024-EB52, 2021-NR38, 2018-B36, 2017-B29, 2016-B30, 2015-B26, 2013-B27, 2013-B73, 2012-B21, 2012-B72, 2010-B25).

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB8 Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Sector Recyclables

East Kootenay RD

Whereas the BC Recycling Regulation does not include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) recycling in requirements for Extended Producer Responsibility programs, and therefore recyclables from these sectors are not accepted in the Recycle BC system or other stewardship programs;

And whereas packaging and paper products utilized in the ICI sectors form a significant proportion of recyclable materials in our communities, and continue to result in significant collection and recycling costs borne by local governments, and recyclable materials potentially being destined for landfills:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to amend the Recycling Regulation to require inclusion of the ICI sectors in an Extended Producer Responsibility program focused on ICI paper and packing.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed several resolutions seeking to include the ICI sectors in the Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility programs (2023-EB41, 2021-EB33, 2020-EB54, 2020-NR57, 2019-B146, 2018-B68).

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB9 Incentives to Invest in Low-Carbon Power Generation

Village of Nakusp

Whereas BC Hydro has a “2024 Call for Power” indicating the need for an additional 3,000 GWh/year as early as fall 2028;

And whereas CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 advocates for low-carbon energy production:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to incentivize BC citizens to invest in individual low-carbon power generation, such as solar panels for residential and commercial property owners, to alleviate the burden on the electrical grid and provide self-sufficiency for more rural and remote communities, aiding in the provincial goals through CleanBC.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR44 which asked BC Hydro to increase the price they will pay for the municipal, First Nations and private production of renewable energy, including solar, wind, geothermal energy, sufficient to stimulate the increased investment and production at all scales—including household and municipal—needed to tackle the climate emergency, while also ensuring reasonable energy affordability and that natural environments are protected.

More generally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions that seek to financially incent and make it easier to add solar panels to homes (2024-EB31, 2024-NR74, 2022-NR18, 2009-B166).

The Committee also notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling for provincial assistance and programs to support and incent energy retrofits of buildings to, in-part, help lower GHG emissions (2019-B152, 2018-B31, 2014-B28, 2014-B64, 2012-B25).

The Committee further notes that the membership has endorsed additional resolutions addressing BC Hydro and the purchase of power from local governments, including:

- *2022-EB47 which asked 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;*
- *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;*
- *2020-NR49 which asked the Province to reinstate the BC Hydro funding and electricity purchase program for renewable energy projects for local governments; and*
- *2006-LR14 which asked the Province to establish legislation that makes it mandatory for BC Hydro to purchase power created by BC local government-supported, green, renewable power projects.*

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB10 Enforcement and Education for Use of Crown Land District of Elkford

Whereas the usage of Crown Land for overnight camping and other recreational uses is increasing, in part due to the provincial housing shortage;

And whereas increased backcountry use results in the additional need for compliance resources to mitigate aesthetic and environmental impacts, human wildlife conflicts, and improve public safety:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to provide appropriate conservation service resources (staffing and funding) for increased enforcement and education for use of Crown Land.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB57 which asked the Province to 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.

The Committee also 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 (2023-EB58, 2021-EB41, 2021-EB42, 2021-NR42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72, 2015-B35, 2011-B49, 2010-B41).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

FINANCE

EB11 Increased Core Funding for Public Libraries

**City of Grand Forks,
Town of Creston, City of Nelson**

Whereas in the past 15 years, BC's population has grown 29% while public libraries have continued to rely on stagnant funding to provide services in increasingly challenging circumstances, including addressing the province's important goals of enhancing economic growth, reducing costs for families, and making communities safer;

And whereas public libraries continue to meet these goals by supporting the economic and social health of their communities, providing information and services for consumers, individuals seeking employment and career enhancement, entrepreneurs and small businesses, providing critical locations of refuge during emergencies, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role in keeping costs low for British Columbians and making communities safer, and increase the annual core provincial funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the long-standing request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the Province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;

And be it further resolved this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed a resolution calling on the Province to increase the annual core provincial funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the long-standing request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the Province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services; as well as having the core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to review, maintain and increase its funding for public libraries (2024-EB63, 2024-NR67, 2023- EB54, 2022-EB59, 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).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB12 Consistent and Predictable Funding for Housing, Infrastructure and Rural Economic Development **Village of Nakusp**

Whereas inconsistent grant-based programs favour communities that already have the resources and capacity to apply for grants to pursue and complete projects simultaneously, creating inequities for smaller communities where an inordinate amount of time is spent on pursuing grants instead of doing the work of community development;

And whereas federal programs like the Community Works Fund provide local governments with stable, predictable and dedicated funding equitably for all municipalities;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to implement consistent and predictable funding for housing, infrastructure and rural economic development.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for increased long-term, predictable allocation-based funding from the provincial and federal governments that would support growth and complete communities, and that recognizes the limited financial capacity of local governments under the current financial framework (2024-SR2, 2023-EB11, 2023-EB49, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2018-B111, 2012-A1, 2012-B13, 2011-B34). Recent provincial legislation mandating housing growth and further regulating the ability of local governments to collect growth charges from developers is creating more financial pressure.

In 2021 the UBCM membership endorsed the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that included a working partnership between the Province and UBCM to strengthen the local government finance system. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing the funding of growth-related infrastructure. The Working Group agreed to a shared problem statement recognizing the difficulties local governments report regarding infrastructure capital costs.

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that request improvements and/or enhancements to both federal and provincial funding programs (2023-EB50, 2020- EB36, 2020-B40, 2016-B18, 2014-B19).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB13 Allocation of Provincial Sales Tax for Infrastructure Renewal

Village of Nakusp

Whereas communities across British Columbia are experiencing significant infrastructure funding deficits for replacements and improvements as they reach the end of their useful lifespan at a cost solely burdened to the property owners, even though the infrastructure provides benefits to residents and tourists alike;

And whereas the ever-increasing downloading of requirements on each local government with no associated changes on how local governments can generate funds has adverse effects on the ability of local governments to raise adequate revenue;

And whereas downloading also places increased pressure on finite local government staff capacity to continuously research and apply for the current grant-based infrastructure funding model provided by the provincial government, which is biased towards benefiting larger or jurisdictions with greater economic resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to allocate one (1) percent of the seven (7) percent collected as Provincial Sales Tax to be used solely for investment in local government infrastructure and asset renewal for a defined time period and that the proportion each local government receives be related to the amount of the PST that is generated within each local government boundary.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions asking the Province to share one percent of the PST with local governments to provide steady and predictable revenue for local governments (2020-EB34 and 2012-B11). These endorsed resolutions do not note restrictions on the use of the allocated funds for infrastructure and asset renewal for a defined time period, as the current resolution does.

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

- *Cannabis Taxation Revenue (2022-NR30, 2022-EB32, 2020-SR2, 2019-A2, 2018-SR1, 2017-SR1, 2016-A3);*
- *Fuel Tax (2021-EB20, 2013-B99, 2012-B19, 2010-B24, 2007-B21, 2007-A5, 2005-B20);*
- *Liquor Tax (2019-B31, 2014-B60, 2011-B26); and*
- *Property Transfer Tax (2021-EB20, 2019-B30, 2017-B17, 2012-B18, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23, 2005-B87).*

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

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

TAXATION

EB14 Unpaid Fines by Transfer to Property Taxes

East Kootenay RD

Whereas local governments face challenges in in collecting unpaid bylaw fines;

And whereas the collection of unpaid bylaw fines through the property tax collection process will aim to streamline the enforcement of bylaws, enhance compliance and ensure that local governments can effectively manage and collect outstanding fines:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to develop legislation that allows local governments to apply unpaid fines issued for property-related bylaw infractions to be collected by transfer to property taxes.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolutions seeking local government authority to collect unpaid fines specific to property through property taxes, including:

- *2018-B19 which asked the Province to amend the legislation to allow the addition of unpaid municipal fines related to a specific property to the permitted ‘special fees [...that...] may be collected as property taxes’, including through eventual tax sale property auction; and*
- *2015-B23 which asked the Province to allow municipalities through legislation to collect unpaid municipal bylaw fines through property taxes where the fines are property related.*

The Province’s response to resolution 2018-B19 did not recognize that the resolution was asking for this authority only for fines that are related to a specific property. The response discussed fines that weren’t specific to servicing a property and gave that as a reason for not linking them to the tax sale process. The 2018 response states “As their name entails, property taxes are taxes levied against a specific property for a basket of government goods and services. Thus, unpaid property taxes represent an effective lien on the underlying property. If those outstanding taxes become delinquent, a municipality may initiate a tax sale process in the year the taxes become delinquent.

There is a limited range of fees and charges that are somewhat similar to property taxes because they relate to services provided to a specific property (e.g. a water utility fee or a garbage pickup fee). Because of this similarity, section 258 of the Community Charter allows for these limited fees to be incorporated into taxes in arrears (and ultimately linked to the tax sale process). It is important to note, this is a very limited application of the broad scope of potential fees, most of which are not eligible for inclusion as taxes in arrears.

Fines and penalties (like noise, parking, and nuisance violations) are very different from taxes and eligible fees because they do not relate to servicing a property. Instead, they are issued for violations of civic regulations.

The confiscatory authority of government (including tax sale) is an extremely significant power, and therefore must be used in a limited and restrained manner and under very strict rules. As fines and penalties have little or no relationship to any municipal service to properties, there is no reasonable basis for linking them to the tax sale process.”

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

TRANSPORTATION

EB15 Enhancing Rural Transit Systems

City of Nelson

Whereas rural communities rely heavily on public transit for access to essential services, employment, education, and social activities;

And whereas the current rural transit system is insufficient to meet the growing needs of rural riders, leading to challenges in accessibility and mobility for residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for increased funding and resources from provincial and federal governments to expand and improve rural transit services;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call on the provincial and federal governments for initiatives aimed at enhancing the frequency, coverage, and reliability of rural transit to better serve the needs of rural riders and promote sustainable and equitable access to transit.

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved funding and expanded service for public transit in rural and remote communities (2024-EB81, 2024-EB82, 2023-EB61, 2023-NR76, 2023-NR77, 2022-NR56, 2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9).

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

EB16 Importance of Inland Ferry Service

**Central Kootenay RD,
Village of Nakusp**

Whereas under section 25 of the *Coastal Ferry Act*, which supersedes the BC Labour Relation Code, the Act states, “it is deemed that the delivery of ferry services is necessary for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of British Columbia”;

And whereas inland ferry services in the interior create part of the highway, providing access to and from BC communities, some of which are entirely or partly accessed by ferry and have been limited by labour relation disruptions affecting citizens' ability to access essential services such as health services, emergency services, fuel for heating homes and business, food supply chain, and access to schools and work, but they are not designated as necessary for the protection of health, safety and welfare of the residents for the interior of the Province of British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to recognize that all ferry services are essential to the health, safety and welfare of British Columbians and that a minimum requirement is set for the number and frequency of daily sailings on a site by site basis to provide adequate access to communities that are entirely or partly accessed by inland ferry.

***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 recognize that all ferry services are essential to the health, safety and welfare of British Columbians; and to set a minimum requirement for the number and frequency of daily sailings on a site by site basis to provide adequate access to communities that are entirely or partly accessed by inland ferry.

However, the Committee notes that membership endorsed resolution 2002-B78, which asked the Province to prepare a socio-economic impact analysis on the effects to tourism, industrial transportation and residential traffic expected as a result of reductions of inland ferry services. The Committee acknowledges that this is a dated reference.

More generally, the Committee notes that membership has endorsed resolutions which have requested that ferries be administered and funded as a critical component of the provincial transportation system and be treated as an extension of provincial highways and therefore travel must be affordable, accessible and dependable (2011-A3, 2010-B20, 2007-B18, 2004-B59, 2001-B64). The Committee acknowledges that some of these are dated references.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

LEGISLATIVE

EB17 Unruly Behaviour – Development of Task Force

Village of Nakusp

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

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

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM's Executive endorsed 2024-NR89 which asked the Province to identify and implement measures to protect all elected local government officials from harassment, intimidation, and threats, thereby reinforcing a unified front to safeguard democracy.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EB18 Investment in Recreational Tourism

City of Nelson

Whereas rural communities near the United States border are experiencing economic challenges due to declining tourism, which is a vital source of income for local businesses and job creation;

And whereas these challenges are primarily caused by aging infrastructure, limited marketing support, and intense competition from well-funded US destinations, making it difficult for rural communities to attract and retain visitors:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to address declining tourism due to aging infrastructure, limited marketing support, and better-funded US destinations by increasing targeted investment in recreational tourism infrastructure, including parks, trails, ski resorts, indoor facilities, and outdoor adventure amenities, and by providing enhanced marketing support to promote these areas to potential visitors from the United States;

And be it further resolved that the Province work collaboratively with local governments, Indigenous communities, and tourism stakeholders to develop a sustainable, long-term strategy for tourism investment in border regions, ensuring economic growth while protecting natural and cultural resources.

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 increase targeted investment in recreational tourism infrastructure, and provide enhanced marketing support to promote these areas to potential visitors from the United States. Nor have members considered the second request, that the Province collaborate with local governments, Indigenous communities, and tourism stakeholders to develop a sustainable, long-term strategy for tourism investment in border regions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions in support of recreational tourism (2024-EB92, 2024-EB93, 2024-EB94, 2021-EB23, 2018-B45). In addition, the Committee notes that members have endorsed resolutions calling on the Province to provide funding and staff to support the continued and sustained operation of provincial parks, recreational sites, trails, and backcountry areas (2021-EB42, 2019-B50, 2018-B45, 2018-B72).

The Committee would observe, however, that communities throughout BC may be experiencing a similar decline in recreational tourism, and might similarly benefit from the investments, and marketing and strategic support, that this resolution proposes. This is not unique to border regions, and the sponsor may wish to consider the support that non-border regions of the province could provide to this resolution, if the wording did not exclude them.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

EB19 Rural-Focused Immigration Policy

City of Nelson

Whereas many rural communities across British Columbia rely on international students and skilled immigrants to support local economies, fill critical labor shortages, and sustain essential services;

And whereas recent changes to federal immigration policies, including restrictions on international student enrollment, have significantly impacted rural colleges, businesses, and industries by reducing the available workforce and limiting economic growth:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the federal and provincial governments to develop a rural-focused immigration policy that prioritizes workforce needs, ensures economic resilience, and provides support to rural businesses, post-secondary institutions, and communities affected by recent changes to federal immigration policies, including restrictions on international student enrollment.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR87, which asked the Province to create an economic immigration program that would enable local governments to streamline application and approval to allow foreign workers to work in British Columbia.

The Committee also notes that members have supported hiring internationally trained doctors and nurses to help address the shortage of health care professionals (2022-NR5, 2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91, 2009-B148).

The Committee understands that the Provincial Nominee Program does have two streams to address gaps and shortages: skills immigration (tech, international students, priority occupations such as health care), and entrepreneur immigration which supports economic development. The entrepreneur stream includes a regional pilot program where the Province works directly with small to mid-size BC communities to attract entrepreneurs to fill an identified gap.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

SELECTED ISSUES

EB20 Increased Funding and Requirement for Civics Education

City of Nelson

Whereas a significant portion of Canadians lack basic civic knowledge, which negatively impacts voter participation, democratic engagement, and public discourse, contributing to issues such as social polarization and the spread of disinformation;

And whereas informed and engaged citizens are essential to a functioning democracy, and stronger civics education in schools is necessary to equip students with a fundamental understanding of democracy, government, and citizenship:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for civics education, ensuring that teachers have access to professional development, resources, and support to deliver high-quality, experiential learning, and to prioritize civics education in the provincial school curriculum to strengthen democratic literacy among students.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed two resolutions calling for more specific and increased education about local government:

- *2011-B73 which asked the Province to significantly increase and improve the educational curriculum related to local government; and*
- *2010-B55 which asked the Province to add “Local Government Studies” to the grades 8 to 12 school curriculum.*

In response to the 2011 resolution, the provincial government highlighted parts of the elementary Social Studies curriculum that focus on local governance structures and government elections; as well as “specific learning outcomes about the structure and function of government in Canada and the different powers and responsibilities of different levels of government” in Social Studies 10 and 11, and Civic Studies 11.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

SECTION NE (Not Endorse) - FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NE1 Regional Hospital Oversight Committees

City of Grand Forks

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

And whereas since 2001, Health Authorities have had issues providing health care in their respective areas leading to negative impacts on local communities;

And whereas an improvement to the operational functioning and the relationship between the Health Authorities and the communities they serve would be beneficial:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to instruct Health Authorities to establish Regional Hospital Oversight Committees, with membership including, but not limited to, the Provincial Health Authority, elected local government officials, and local hospital healthcare professionals as may be in the hospital's staff complement, to be responsible for strategic guidance and oversight concerning the operation of the hospitals within their regions.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Endorse

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership considered, but did not endorse, a similar resolution from the same sponsor, 2024-NR8. It asked that UBCM petition the provincial government to consider augmenting Health Authorities with Regional Hospital Oversight Committees responsible for providing strategic guidance and oversight concerning the operation of their regional hospitals. And that Regional District Boards appoint Committee members from all areas involved in the delivery of hospital health care including, but not limited to, the Provincial Health Authority, Elected Officials, and Local hospital healthcare providers (ie: doctors, nurses, lab technicians, etc.).

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

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting a renewed opportunity for local governments to provide input on health care service in their communities, including:

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

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Not Endorse

SECTION NR (No Recommendation) - FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NR1 Mental Health Support for Local Elected Officials City of Fernie, District of Sparwood

Whereas the stresses faced by local elected officials are increasing due to a degradation in the tone of civil discourse;

And whereas additional mental health supports for local elected officials would be beneficial beyond what is provided by Medical Services Plan and extended health plans:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to implement initiatives that offer mental health supports tailored to the needs of local elected leaders in British Columbia.

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

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to implement initiatives that offer mental health supports tailored to the needs of local elected leaders in British Columbia.

The Committee would note that UBCM, through its Group Benefits Plan, offers elected officials:

- extended health care;*
- dental;*
- employee and family assistance plan (e.g. mental health supports);*
- optional life insurance; and*
- optional accidental death and dismemberment.*

For those local governments that have their staff benefits through the UBCM Group Benefits Plan, there is the option to provide your elected officials with the same level of benefits/plan design that you provide to your non-union staff for Extended Health and Dental.

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

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

NR2 Expand Alert Ready Program

Village of Nakusp

Whereas ineffective public notice for planned or unplanned emergency room closures creates immediate life-and-death situations for BC citizens, especially in rural communities where the next emergency room may be hours away;

And whereas Health Authorities are responsible for providing public notice for service disruptions, and health services are the responsibility of the Province, which already has access to the Alert Ready notification program that the Province identifies the criteria for using the service as:

- 1) there is a threat to human life;
- 2) the threat is immediate; and
- 3) there are recommended actions that may save lives:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to expand the Alert Ready Program to include Health Services so that Health Authorities can effectively reach the public and advise of emergency room closures.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to expand the Alert Ready Program to include Health Services so that Health Authorities can effectively reach the public and advise of emergency room closures.

However, the Committee advises that the membership has supported resolutions in which local governments are wanting to share timely alerts with their residents, including:

- *2021-EB5 which asked the Province to find ways/means to have accurate and more timely community-based information that can be shared with local governments and their residents during declared local and provincial states of emergency; and*
- *2018-B8 which asked the Province to provide access to the Alert Ready (emergency alert) system to local governments in order to allow them to broadcast critical and potentially life threatening alerts to residents of their respective communities using the framework of the Alert Ready System.*

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 (2023-SR1, 2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162, 2006-B48, 2006-B50, 2006-B154, 2006-B156, 2005-B146).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

Whereas medical practice has been restricted to the province or territory in which the licence was granted as each province has its own regulatory body;

And whereas British Columbia, has a shortage of medical professionals, contributing to long wait times, emergency room closures and difficulty accessing primary care:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urges the provincial government to hire more qualified medical professionals by providing immediate provisional licences for those trained in Canada.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution urging the Province to hire more qualified medical professionals by providing immediate provisional licences for those trained in Canada.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking additional resources, funding and training for health care professionals and the health care system, including:

- *reducing barriers for healthcare training opportunities (2024-EB11);*
- *supporting the resourcing and strengthening of primary care as part of the health care system (2022-SR1, 2022-EB17, 2017-B42, 2017-B43, 2016-B44, 2015-B70, 2015-B68, 2008-B162, 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);*
- *calling for greater opportunities for Canadian internationally-trained medical graduates to undertake postgraduate training and establish practices in BC (2018-B51, 2014-B132, 2012-B91, 2009-B148);*
- *working with universities and communities to encourage graduates of medical programs to practice and stay in rural areas of BC (2011-B60);*
- *developing appropriate changes in the Canadian medical education system required to ensure that general practitioners can meet the needs of rural Canadians, such as proficiency in surgery, anesthesia and obstetrics (2010-B112); and*
- *improving education and training opportunities for more health care professionals (2009-B148, 2008-B49).*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

NR4 Ensuring Equitable Access to Child Care Funding

City of Nelson

Whereas a significant portion of childcare spaces in many communities are provided by small, private childcare operators, which play a critical role in ensuring accessible and diverse childcare options, particularly in rural and underserved areas;

And whereas current government childcare programs, such as the New Spaces Fund, primarily prioritize non-profit, public, and Indigenous providers, limiting access for small private providers and creating financial barriers that may reduce overall childcare availability:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government to:

1. Expand incentives and financial supports indicated in Budget 2025 for non-profit, public, and Indigenous childcare providers to also include small private childcare operators;
2. Ensure that any public investment into the construction of public buildings, such as schools, hospitals, and libraries, includes dedicated childcare spaces to address growing demand;
3. Provide funding, establish partnerships, and develop initiatives to support the recruitment, training, and certification of Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), including specialized training for infant-toddler and special needs care; and
4. Improve communication policies with private childcare providers, ensuring they are actively engaged in policy development and funding allocation discussions.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the provincial government expand incentives and financial supports for small, private childcare operators, include dedicated childcare spaces in the construction of new public buildings, improve recruitment, training and certification of Early Childhood Educators, and improve communication policies with private childcare providers, ensuring they are engaged in policy development and funding allocation discussions.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions requesting that the Province create a universal, affordable child care system in BC (2024-EB17, 2023-NR1, 2023-NR2, 2022-EB23, 2017-B50, 2016-B49, 2016-B50, 2016-B51, 2014-B39, 2012-B50, 2007-B54, 2007-LR8, 2005-B156).

The Committee also notes that the membership has supported resolutions focused on early childhood educators, seeking to increase their availability through more training and increased paid (2022-EB22, 2021-EB67, 2020-NR68, 2006-B168).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

HOUSING

NR5 Provincially Backed Affordable Home Insurance

City of Fernie

Whereas residents in high-risk areas of British Columbia increasingly struggle to secure affordable home insurance as a result of more frequent and severe natural disasters driven by climate change, contributing to financial hardship, widening economic inequality, and undermining community stability;

And whereas cooperative models such as the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) have proven the effectiveness of member-owned solutions in filling the gaps left by private insurers:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province of British Columbia to establish a provincially backed insurance entity designed to offer affordable home insurance for those unable to obtain coverage from the private market.

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 establish a provincially backed insurance entity designed to offer affordable home insurance for those unable to obtain coverage from the private market.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has supported resolutions seeking better access to insurance including:

- *asking the Province to introduce and adopt legislation that requires all underwriters providing homeowner insurance coverage in BC to provide insurance to all homeowners with provisions that are consistent, fair, and equitable to all homeowners in the province (2022-NR19);*
- *asking the Province to take evidence-based actions to address rapidly increasing insurance costs for multi-residential housing (2020-SR9);*
- *asking the Province to review insurance practices in British Columbia to identify ways to insure property owners and small businesses during and after a disaster (2019-B103); and*
- *asking ICBC to begin offering home insurance (2014-B36, 2013-B141).*

Conversely, the Committee advises that the UBCM Executive did not endorse referred resolution 2015-B116 which requested that MIABC investigate the feasibility of providing insurance for rural BC homes.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: No Recommendation

NR6 Property Transfer Tax Exemption for Local Government Housing Corporations

Town of Creston

Whereas British Columbia has a housing affordability crisis that is impacting every local government in the province, with the BC government recognizing that local governments are on the front lines of the housing crisis and are positioned to help advance the development of new homes and that communities need solutions that work for them;

And whereas local governments that wholly own local government housing corporations as their chosen community solution for creating more affordable housing are subject to the provincial Property Transfer Tax (PTT) on acquired property, including land donated to the corporation from the local government or land leased for more than 30 years;

And whereas the *Property Transfer Tax Act* provides exemptions to local governments, there are no exemptions applicable to a local government housing corporation, even if the corporation is wholly owned by the local government and carrying out local government purposes:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to expand exemptions for Property Transfer Tax to include wholly owned local government housing corporations for the purposes of building affordable housing;

And be it further resolved that land transferred, including long-term leases, from a local government to any non-profit for the purposes of affordable housing development be also exempt.

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 expand exemptions for Property Transfer Tax to include wholly owned local government housing corporations for the purposes of building affordable housing.

However, in regards to the second request of the transfer or lease of local government land for affordable housing, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-EB13 which asked the Province to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies and co-operatives who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing;

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2022-NR14 which asked the provincial government support the recommendation of the Canada-British Columbia Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability, to develop a provincial acquisition strategy and grant program that would allow non-profit housing providers to purchase and repair aging rental stock for the purposes of maintaining existing affordable housing. Of note, the second whereas clause in resolution 2022-NR14 included reference to a statement by the Expert Panel on Housing Supply that "...BC government should exempt non-profit organizations from the property transfer tax for building acquisitions that will be used to provide affordable housing:"

The Committee further notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that requested the provincial government allocate a portion of revenues from the Property Transfer Tax to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability (2017-B17, 2011-B67, 2008-A3, 2007-B23, 2007-B109, 2006-B23).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: No Recommendation

COMMUNITY SAFETY

NR7 Insurance Deductibles for Small Municipalities Affected by Wildfires Village of Slocan

Whereas small local governments face significant financial challenges in recovering from natural disasters, including wildfires, which are increasing in frequency and severity due to climate change;

And whereas the high insurance deductibles required for disaster-related claims, often \$10,000 or more, place an undue financial burden on small local governments with limited tax bases, delaying critical recovery efforts and straining local resources:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia and the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) to explore mechanisms to reduce insurance deductibles for small local governments affected by wildfires, including but not limited to:

- Adjusting deductible thresholds based on population size and financial capacity;
- Establishing a provincial fund to assist with deductible costs for disaster-related claims; and
- Collaborating with insurers to create more equitable coverage options for small communities at higher wildfire risk.

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 and MIABC to explore mechanisms to reduce insurance deductibles for small communities affected by wildfires, including, but not limited to:

- *Adjusting deductible thresholds based on population size and financial capacity;*
- *Establishing a provincial fund to assist with deductible costs for disaster-related claims; and*
- *Collaborating with insurers to create more equitable coverage options for small communities at higher wildfire risk.*

The Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions seeking better access to insurance, including:

- *asking the Province to introduce and adopt legislation that requires all insurance providers in BC to provide insurance to all homeowners in the province (2022-NR19); and*
- *asking the Province to review insurance practices in British Columbia to identify ways to insure property owners and small businesses during and after a disaster (2019-B103).*

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation No Recommendation

NR8 Referendum for the Replacement of Fire Apparatus

Village of Salmo

Whereas local governments need to replace aging fire apparatus to ensure continued effective emergency response capabilities;

And whereas pursuant to local government legislation, a referendum is required for the authorization to spend public funds to replace fire apparatus, and the process of holding a referendum can bring significant costs to local governments, in particular small communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to remove the requirement to hold a referendum to replace fire apparatus for local governments under 15,000 in population.

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 remove the requirement for local governments under 15,000 in population to hold a referendum to replace fire apparatus.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR32 which asked the Province, in part, enact legislation that permits local governments to utilize long-term borrowing from the Municipal Finance Authority over a 20-year period, without the requirement to go to referendum or Alternative Approval Process.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2023-NR53 which asked 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.

It is further noted that the UBCM 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).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

ENVIRONMENT

NR9 Standardized Wake Surfing Regulation

East Kootenay RD

Whereas the larger, higher energy and displacement waves created by wake surfing have been recognized to be a threat to lake health and the health of the surrounding ecosystem (i.e. wetlands, riparian areas, sensitive shoreline habitat) on lakes and water bodies meeting certain objective criteria;

And whereas Transport Canada, a federal institution, holds the authority through the Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations (VORR) to regulate and restrict boating activities in Canadian waters, and has recognized that VORR processes need to be modernized to provide a means to address specific issues caused by wake surfing activities;

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM petition the Province of BC to advocate for Transport Canada to develop objective, science-based, lake and water body characteristics and criteria where the activity of wake surfing would threaten the lake health and the health of the surrounding ecosystem;

And be it further resolved that UBCM to advocate that Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation restricting wake surfing be applied to those lakes and water bodies meeting the specific characteristics and criteria, by the federal government, using a standardized approach.

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 advocate for Transport Canada to develop objective, science-based, lake and water body characteristics and criteria where the activity of wake surfing would threaten the lake health and the health of the surrounding ecosystem. Nor has the membership considered the second request that Vessel Operation Restriction Regulation restricting wake surfing be applied to those lakes and water bodies meeting the specific characteristics and criteria, by the federal government, using a standardized approach.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

NR10 Regulations to Ban Burning of Wood Debris

District of Elkford

Whereas data indicates that seasonal air quality concerns from outdoor wood burning, combined with common air inversion events greatly impact the health of residents, and noting that municipalities and regional districts have taken strong measures to limit or ban outdoor burning by residents;

And whereas the *Wildfire Act and Environmental Management Act* permit the burning of woody debris slash from forestry operations on private and Crown land within community airsheds that often contribute to poor seasonal air quality:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Environment and Parks to consider new regulations to ban the burning of wood debris piles on private and Crown forest lands within community airsheds.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has endorsed resolution 2016-B24 which asked, in part, the Province to further limit or ban the burning of wood debris piles on private and crown

forest lands within community air-sheds in order to ensure communities and industry are synchronized in working toward the same goal of a safe and healthy environment for all.

Conversely, the Committee advises that the membership did not endorse 2022-NR44, which called for the Province to limit the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation to prohibit open burning across the province as an alternative to chipping, mulching or transporting material to green-waste recycling facilities.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

FINANCE

NR11 Financial Support for Infrastructure Costs

Village of Canal Flats

Whereas small communities face ongoing challenges relating to rising infrastructure costs and increased provincial permitting requirements for providing essential services such as drinking water;

And whereas the additional funds to upgrade infrastructure to meet current infrastructure regulations is too great to be passed onto residents by taxation and is far above borrowing capacity or funding by small local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM engage in discussions with relevant provincial authorities to develop funding opportunities for infrastructure projects and to provide additional funding to address the challenges faced by smaller local governments that are less than 5,000 in population to support the delivery of essential services.

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 funding opportunities for infrastructure projects and to provide additional funding to address the challenges faced by smaller local governments that are less than 5,000 in population to support the delivery of essential services.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for increased long-term, predictable allocation-based funding from the provincial and federal governments that would support growth and complete communities, and that recognizes the limited financial capacity of local governments under the current financial framework (2024-SR2, 2023-EB11, 2023-EB49, 2022-EB34, 2020-SR5, 2020-EB35, 2018-B111, 2014-B20, 2013-B1, 2012-A1, 2012-B11, 2012-B13, 2011-B34).

In 2021 the UBCM membership endorsed the Ensuring Local Government Financial Resiliency report that included a working partnership between the Province and UBCM to strengthen the local government finance system. UBCM signed an MOU with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 that led to the formation of the Local Government Financial Review Working Group. This group has representatives from UBCM and both ministries with a work plan that includes reviewing the funding of

growth-related infrastructure. The Working Group agreed to a shared problem statement recognizing the difficulties local governments report regarding infrastructure capital costs.

The Committee further notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions that request improvements and/or enhancements to both federal and provincial funding programs (2023-EB50, 2020-EB36, 2020-B40, 2016-B18, 2014-B19).

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

TRANSPORTATION

NR12 Localized Input on Highway Maintenance Contracts District of Elkford

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

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

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit be requested to meet with local governments prior to the negotiation of highway maintenance contracts to receive localized input to inform the negotiations with the goal of improved highway maintenance standards.

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 consult with local governments prior to the negotiation of highway maintenance contracts, to receive localized input on improving highway maintenance standards, that can inform the negotiations.

However, the Committee notes that membership has endorsed resolutions seeking improved road and highway maintenance, including 2024-EB78, 2023-EB62, 2022-EB69, 2021-EB14, 2020-EB18, 2020-EB20, 2020-EB22, 2020-EB23, 2020-EB25, 2020-NR23, 2017-B12, 2017-B58, and 2017-B59. However, these resolutions have not sought local government consultation on provincial negotiation of provincial highway maintenance contracts.

The Committee would observe that this resolution seems to suggest involving local governments in procurement processes between the provincial government and provincial contractors. Is this a role that local governments desire, and do they have the capacity to take on this role?

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

LEGISLATIVE

NR13 Balanced Approach to Building Code Updates Central Kootenay RD

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has been implementing frequent and substantial updates to the BC Building Code to enhance safety, energy efficiency, and accessibility;

And whereas local governments require sufficient time and resources to adapt to these changes, including training staff, updating bylaws, and supporting local builders and developers in compliance efforts;

And whereas an accelerated pace of code revisions can create unintended challenges, including increased construction costs, delays in project approvals, and difficulties for smaller local governments with limited capacity to enforce new requirements effectively:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to implement a more measured approach to Building Code updates by ensuring:

1. Longer transition periods between code changes to allow for adequate training and implementation;
2. More extensive consultation with local governments, industry stakeholders, and Indigenous communities to assess the practical impacts of proposed changes;
3. Increased financial and technical support for local governments, especially smaller communities, to effectively adapt to new requirements; and
4. A focus on stability and predictability in the code update schedule to reduce uncertainty in the construction and development industry.

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 implement a more measured approach to Building Code updates by ensuring:

1. *Longer transition periods between code changes to allow for adequate training and implementation;*
2. *More extensive consultation with local governments, industry stakeholders, and Indigenous communities to assess the practical impacts of proposed changes;*
3. *Increased financial and technical support for local governments, especially smaller communities, to effectively adapt to new requirements; and*
4. *A focus on stability and predictability in the code update schedule to reduce uncertainty in the construction and development industry.*

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM Executive endorsed referred resolution 2020-NR73 which asked that the BC Building and Safety Standards Division assess regional financial disparities making

building affordability and flexible low cost building methods a priority for the revision of the BC Building Code in 2022. It also asked that additions to building code that are beyond structural integrity and safety be addressed through incentives, not punitive or prescriptive measures.

The Committee also notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2020-EB87 that addresses the Building Code's requirements around Energy Step Code requirements, and asked the Province to assist communities with Energy Step Code implementation in an equitable way by working with communities to address barriers.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NR14 Interprovincial Trade Barriers

City of Nelson

Whereas interprovincial trade barriers in Canada create inefficiencies and economic costs, negatively impacting businesses, consumers, and governments;

And whereas these barriers are caused by differences in regulations, licensing requirements, transportation rules, procurement policies, and professional certification standards across provinces, leading to higher costs, reduced business growth, limited labor mobility, and increased consumer prices:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to collaborate on eliminating interprovincial trade barriers by harmonizing regulations, simplifying licensing and certification processes, standardizing transportation rules, and promoting open procurement policies;

And be it further resolved that efforts be made to strengthen the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) to ensure comprehensive reduction of internal trade restrictions, thereby fostering economic growth, improving labor mobility, and reducing costs for businesses and consumers alike.

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 provincial and federal governments to collaborate on eliminating interprovincial trade barriers, and strengthen the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) to ensure comprehensive reduction of internal trade restrictions.

The Committee is aware that the provincial government introduced Bill 7, Economic Stabilization (Tariff Response) Act on March 13, 2025. Bill 7 in part provides for the removal of barriers to trade between British Columbia and other provinces or territories of Canada.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

NR15 Ranked Voting for Mayoral Elections

City of Nelson

Whereas the current First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system used in municipal mayoral elections in British Columbia can result in elected mayors who are not a preferred choice of a majority of voters;

And whereas ranked choice voting can ensure that elected mayors have broader support from the electorate, encourage more positive campaigning, and provide voters with more choice in electing the most preferred candidate:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Local Government Act* to create a ranked choice voting system for mayoral elections.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Local Government Act to create a ranked choice voting system for mayoral elections.

The sponsor clarified that the intent of this resolution is for the ranked voting to apply only to mayoral candidates, and not to those running for councillor or electoral area director.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No Recommendation

REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS (not for Provincial consideration)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

RR1 Regional Strategy for Rehabilitation, Homelessness And Public Safety

**City of Nelson, City of
Trail, City of Castlegar**

Whereas individuals facing severe mental health and addiction challenges require comprehensive and coordinated care, and the current resources in southeastern BC are insufficient to meet the growing demand for detoxification, rehabilitation, and supportive housing, leading to inadequate treatment and forcing individuals to leave their home communities for essential services;

And whereas communities in British Columbia have experienced a significant increase in the street population, leading to heightened concerns about public safety, community well-being, and the challenges associated with mental health, substance abuse, and public disorder, while current policing resources remain insufficient to effectively address these complex issues:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be urged to:

- Increase funding and resources to expand and enhance detox and rehabilitation services across southeastern BC;
- Establish initiatives that foster collaboration among local governments, government agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and community members to ensure effective coordination, resource allocation, and holistic support for individuals undergoing detox and rehabilitation;
- Develop a regional strategy to address homelessness by increasing funding for housing, shelter, and treatment services in the Kootenay and Boundary regions; and
- Provide dedicated funding streams for local governments facing increased street population challenges, including direct grants through the Provincial Policing and Public Safety Fund, additional allocations to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, and enhanced federal contributions under the Reaching Home program to support specialized policing units, mental health crisis response teams, and community safety initiatives.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: None Offered – Too Regional

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to:

- *Increase funding and resources to expand and enhance detox and rehabilitation services across southeastern BC;*
- *Establish initiatives that foster collaboration among local governments, government agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and community members to ensure effective*

coordination, resource allocation, and holistic support for individuals undergoing detox and rehabilitation;

- *Develop a regional strategy to address homelessness by increasing funding for housing, shelter, and treatment services in the Kootenay and Boundary regions; and*
- *Provide dedicated funding streams for local governments facing increased street population challenges, including direct grants through the Provincial Policing and Public Safety Fund, additional allocations to the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch, and enhanced federal contributions under the Reaching Home program to support specialized policing units, mental health crisis response teams, and community safety initiatives.*

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2024-EB5, 2024-EB6, 2024-EB8, 2024-NR1, 2024-NR2, 2024-NR3, 2024-NR6, 2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2023-EB2, 2023-EB3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

As this resolution has a regional focus, it is worthwhile to note that the membership has supported resolutions seeking to address mental health and addictions in rural and remote communities, including:

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

The Committee also notes that the membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services and shelters to address homelessness (2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2023-NR28, 2022-NR22, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).

Finally, the Committee notes that the membership has supported public safety-focused resolutions, including crime prevention and harm reduction solutions in communities across the province (2022-EB44, 2020-EB7, 2015-B54, 2011-B15, 2008-B67, 2005-B3); and the request to consider public safety and fairness when dealing with prolific offenders, and furthermore that guidelines be developed as to what constitutes “the public interest” with respect to pursuing charges for criminal offences (2022-NR36). In 2020, the Province announced its intent to review the Police Act, subsequently creating the all-party Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act (SCRPA). In its final report, the SCRPA recommended that the Province “create and appropriately fund a continuum of response to mental health, addictions and other complex social issues with a focus on prevention and community-led responses and ensuring appropriate first response.” This issue was also prioritized by UBCM and the Local Government Policing Modernization Roundtable, which is currently working with the Province to address policing modernization.

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

RR2 Youth Detox and Treatment Centre

City of Cranbrook

Whereas there is an urgent need for publicly funded beds to support youth (0 - 18 years of age) struggling with drug and alcohol addiction in southeastern British Columbia (SE BC);

And whereas the closest treatment centres serving youth are located in Kamloops for detox and recovery, an eight-hour drive from Cranbrook, and in Kelowna for recovery, a six-hour drive from Cranbrook;

And whereas there is no public transportation linking SE BC with Kamloops or Kelowna;

And whereas a parent or guardian is required to accompany their child and remain there at their expense while their child participates in detox (Kamloops) and waits for a recovery bed to become available (Kamloops and Kelowna), resulting in hundreds of dollars in personal expenses for travel, accommodation and meals:

Therefore be it resolved that the BC government, through the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Health, provide a minimum of 10 publicly funded detox and treatment beds for youth, to be located in a centre in southeastern British Columbia.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: None Offered – Too Regional

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously called on the Province to provide a minimum of 10 publicly funded detox and treatment beds for youth, to be located in a centre in southeastern British Columbia.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed several resolutions calling on the provincial government to provide improved resourcing and facilities for mental health and addictions services throughout the province (2024-EB5, 2024-EB6, 2024-EB8, 2024-NR1, 2024-NR2, 2024-NR3, 2024-NR6, 2023-SR3, 2023-EB1, 2023-EB2, 2023-EB3, 2022-EB9, 2021-EB54, 2021-EB55, 2021-EB56, 2021-EB57, 2020-SR8, 2019-B60, 2019-B61, 2019-B171, 2019-B172, 2018-B52, 2017-B70, 2017-B71, 2016-B43, 2015-A2, 2014-B34, 2013-B52, 2010-B42, 2008-A1, 2007-B89, 2007-B153, 2006-B50, 2006-B51, 2005-B3).

As this resolution has a regional focus, it is worthwhile to note that the membership has supported resolutions seeking to address mental health and addictions in rural and remote communities, including:

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

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: Endorse

HOUSING

RR3 Regional Approach to Homelessness

City of Nelson

Whereas homelessness is a complex and multifaceted challenge that affects communities across the Kootenay and Boundary regions;

And whereas the lack of a coordinated regional strategy and insufficient resources worsen this issue, leaving many vulnerable populations without adequate housing, and shelter, and as a result, many are forced to leave their home communities to seek these basic services that are available in other communities:

Therefore be it resolved that AKBLG advocate to the provincial government to coordinate a regional approach to homelessness by increasing funding and resources to support housing, and shelter initiatives across the Kootenay and Boundary regions, and support initiatives fostering collaboration among local governments, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, housing authorities, and community members to ensure effective coordination, resource allocation, and holistic support for the unhoused population.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: None Offered – Too Regional

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for action on the part of the provincial and federal governments to fund, provide and facilitate affordable and adequate housing in communities, with adequate support services and shelters to address homelessness (2024-EB23, 2024-EB24, 2023-NR26, 2023-EB18, 2023-NR28, 2022-NR22, 2022-NR64, 2021-LR5, 2020-SR10, 2020-NR70, 2019-B68, 2019-B183, 2015-B46, 2013-B54, 2012-B94, 2009-C28, 2008-A3, 2007-B24, 2006-B81).

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

AKBLG Resolution Committee recommendation: Endorse

SAFETY

RR4 Regional Support for Dike Maintenance

Village of Canal Flats

Whereas the Village of Canal Flats is situated between the Kootenay River to the south and Columbia Lake to the north and the topography of Columbia Lake is 7 meters lower in elevation than the Kootenay River;

And whereas communities to the north could be affected in the event of a major flood of the Kootenay River; And whereas the Village of Canal Flats has been authorized by the Province to complete a dike improvement project and the costs of future maintenance be born by the Village alone:

Therefore be it resolved that the local governments within the Columbia Valley create a collaborative funding agreement through the Regional District of East Kootenay to provide support for maintenance costs of the dike in the Village of Canal Flats.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: None Offered – Too Regional

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the local governments within the Columbia Valley to create a collaborative funding agreement through the Regional District of East Kootenay to provide support for maintenance costs of the dike in the Village of Canal Flats.

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

AKBLG Resolution Committee Recommendation: Not Endorse

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: It is the opinion of the AKBLG Resolutions Committee that this resolution is a matter between the Village of Canal Flats and the Regional District of Central Kootenays. Rather than involving members who are not affected by the action, it would best be created between the involved parties.

TRANSPORTATION

RR5 Rural Transportation Systems in East Kootenay Region City of Kimberley

Whereas communities in the East Kootenay region, including rural residents, require expanded inter-community public transportation for improved access to essential services, commerce, employment, education, and social activities;

And whereas the current inter-community transportation system does not meet the growing needs of residents in the Kimberley/Cranbrook/?aąam and East Kootenay Region, leading to challenges in accessibility and mobility for residents:

Therefore be it resolved that AKBLG advocate for increased funding and resources from provincial and federal governments to expand and improve inter-community transportation services in the Kimberley/Cranbrook/?aąam and East Kootenay region;

And be it further resolved that AKBLG support initiatives aimed at enhancing the frequency, coverage, and reliability of inter-community transportation to better serve the needs of residents and promote sustainable and equitable access to transportation in the Kimberley/Cranbrook/?aąam and East Kootenay Region.

UBCM Resolutions Committee recommendation: None Offer – Too Regional

UBCM Resolutions Committee comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to expand and improve inter-community transportation services in the Kimberley/Cranbrook/?aąam and East Kootenay region; and to support initiatives aimed at enhancing the

frequency, coverage, and reliability of inter-community transportation to better serve the needs of residents and promote sustainable and equitable access to transportation in the Kimberley/Cranbrook/ᑭᐱᑭᐱᑭ and East Kootenay Region.

However, the Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions seeking improved funding and expanded service public transit in rural BC, including:

- consider the unique challenges faced by small rural transit services and adjust the funding formula for anticipated annual operational increases (2024-EB81);*
- enhanced transit in and between rural communities (2024-EB82);*
- doubling of services in BC regional, rural transit systems (2023-EB61);*
- provide more flexible and innovative models for service delivery, such as Transit On-Demand, for smaller and rural communities where conventional transit may not be an appropriate service model (2023-NR76);*
- BC Transit's share of expenses be increased for rural routes (2023-NR77);*
- more robust funding, plus revenue tools, to support overall expansion of service, particularly in rural and remote communities (2020-SR4, 2017-B8, 2017-B9); and*
- implementation and expansion of interregional transit, to address safety concerns and rider demand (2022- NR56, 2015-B9, 2012-C37).*

The Committee would recommend an amendment to direct the request to the provincial and federal governments, not just for funding and resources as the first enactment requests, but also for initiatives from these two orders of government, as well.

The Committee would suggest that this resolution is too regional in nature, and advocacy would best be undertaken by the Area Association, if endorsed.

AKBLG Resolutions Committee recommendation: No recommendation

AKBLG Resolutions Committee comments: The AKBLG Resolutions Committee notes that the proposed resolution is relevant to a specific region within RDEK and suggests that it is too narrow in scope to be actioned by AKBLG. The committee also notes that there are already several endorsed resolutions at UBCM on this subject matter and that these endorsed resolutions apply to a broader range of local governments.