

**Response to the 2021 Resolutions of the
Union of British Columbia Municipalities**

February 2022

Table of Contents

SR1	CARIP Replacement Funding UBCM Executive	1
SR3	Strengthening Responsible Conduct UBCM Executive	2
EB1	Electronic Permit and Public Hearing Notification Islands Trust	4
EB3	Enabling Legislation for Green Roofs North Vancouver District, Port Moody	5
EB4	<i>Local Government Act</i> - Section 744 - Most Extreme Lake Country, Climate Change Risk Powell River	6
EB6	Flood Mitigation Response Okanagan Similkameen RD	8
EB7	911 Call Answer Levy Bulkley-Nechako RD	9
EB8	Extending the Life of Fire Apparatus Port Alberni	10
EB9	Fire Apparatus Maintenance for Small Geographic Fire Departments Chase	11
EB10	Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services Prince George	12
EB11	Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems Prince George through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives	13
EB16	Safe Passing Distance for All Road Users North Vancouver City	15
EB17	Abandoned Vehicles on Crown Land Okanagan Similkameen RD	16
EB19	Vacant Land Property Tax Lillooet	17
EB20	Provincial Tax Sharing and Local Fuel Tax Courtenay	18
EB21	Flexibility of Grant Programs Cowichan Valley RD	20
EB22	COVID-19 Funding Allocation Deadline Okanagan Similkameen RD	21
EB23	Funding Support to Manage Post COVID-19 Pandemic Tourism Pemberton	22
EB24	Income Tax Credit/Deduction for Workers in Isolated Areas Port Hardy	25
EB25	Development Cost Charges for Local Government Facilities Lantzville	26
EB26	Protection of Waterways from Aquatic Invasive Species Sicamous	27
EB27	Invasive Asian Clams Sicamous	28

EB29	Drinking Water Protection and Private Managed Forest Land Cumberland	29
EB30	Illegal Dumping Chilliwack	30
EB31	Illegal Dumping in Rural Areas Fraser Valley RD	31
EB32	Illegal Dumping in Electoral Areas Nanaimo RD	32
EB33	Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector Recyclables East Kootenay RD	33
EB34	Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program in BC Kent	34
EB35	Help Cities Lead LMLGA Executive	35
EB36	Property Tax Assisted Clean Energy (PACE) Fernie	37
EB37	Developing a Vision to End Energy Poverty Powell River	38
EB38	BC Circular Economy Strategy Nanaimo City,	40
	Victoria	40
EB39	Community Climate Action Plans Comox Valley RD	41
EB40	CleanBC Support for Northern and Rural Communities Kitimat	42
EB41	New Provincial Trails Strategy Revelstoke	44
EB42	Protection for Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in BC Sicamous	45
EB43	Local Control of Land Use Practices Kootenay Boundary RD	46
EB44	Risk Assessments of Potential Threats to Natural Assets Gibsons	47
EB45	Watershed Security LMLGA Executive	48
EB46	Amendments to the Aquaculture Act Campbell River	49
EB47	Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in BC Cariboo RD	50
EB48	Rural Broadband Connectivity Fraser Valley RD	51
EB49	BCUC Regulatory Regime and Inquiry into the Regulation Vancouver	52
	of Municipal Energy Utilities	52
EB50	BC Hydro Pole Rental Sales East Kootenay RD	54
EB51	Wood Fiber Availability for Value Added Manufacturing Facilities Spallumcheen	55
EB52	Tree Management in Electoral Areas Nanaimo RD	56
EB53	Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation Okanagan Similkameen RD	57

EB54	Mental Health and Addictions Support During the Kootenay Boundary RD	58
	Pandemic	58
EB55	Additional Resources for Mental Health Grand Forks	59
EB56	Opioid Crisis Capital RD	61
EB57	Streamlined Funding – Overdose Prevention Chetwynd	63
EB58	Improved Access to Detox and Treatment Centres Port Alberni	65
EB59	Detox and Treatment Beds, and Sobering Centres Kamloops	66
EB60	Regional Model for Mobile Crisis Response Car Program White Rock	67
EB61	Emergency Health Services – Adequate Staffing Bulkley-Nechako RD	68
	in Communities	68
EB62	BC Ambulance Rural Service East Kootenay RD	70
EB63	Primary Care Network Funding Oliver	71
EB64	Cost-Sharing Model for Funding Hospital Capital Projects Nanaimo RD	73
EB65	Aging in Place Kaslo	74
EB67	Implement Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid Saanich	76
EB68	Increase Supported Child Development Funding Saanich	77
EB69	Dental Health Squamish-Lillooet RD	78
EB70	Farmers’ Markets as Essential Services During Local Emergencies Cumberland	79
EB71	Long-term Strategy to Address Homelessness Terrace	80
EB75	Housing in Rural British Columbia Vanderhoof	81
EB76	Black Lives Matter Saanich	82
2020-NR1	Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government Maple Ridge	83
2020-NR2	Request to Amend <i>Jury Act</i> Fort St. John	84
2020-NR3	Benefits of Public Car Insurance Burnaby	85
NR1	Parental Leave for Elected Officials Squamish-Lillooet RD	86
NR2	Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offences Prince George	87
NR3	Stronger Sentencing/Monitoring for Prolific/Repeat Offenders Williams Lake	88

NR5 Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members Prince George	89
NR10 Agroforest Specific Tenure License Nelson	90
NR11 911 Dropped Calls Okanagan Similkameen RD	91
NR12 Updating BC's Wrongful Death Law Fruitvale, Vancouver	92
NR13 Dangerous Dog Legislation in British Columbia Kitimat	93
NR15 Off-Site Tasting Rooms Penticton	94
NR16 Expanding Definitions and Responsibilities of Digital Campaigns Vancouver	95
NR18 BC Provincial Sales Tax on Non-Medical PPE Harrison Hot Springs	97
NR19 5.25 Percent Provincial Collection Fee on Rural Okanagan Similkameen RD	98
Area Property Tax	98
NR20 Regional District Requisitions to Municipalities Parksville	99
NR21 COVID Safe Restart Grant Inequity for Electoral Areas Capital RD	100
NR22 Audited Financial Statements for Municipally-Owned Corporations Powell River	101
NR23 Fair Taxation from Railway Operations Pitt Meadows	102
NR24 Review of the BC Assessment Appeal Framework and Process Coquitlam	103
NR25 Fair Taxation from Industrial Parks Pitt Meadows	104
NR26 Incentivizing Green Energy Production Logan Lake	105
NR27 Reform of the BC Utilities Commission Powell River	106
NR29 Clean and Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework Cumberland	108
NR30 Issuance of Water Licenses Central Kootenay RD	109
NR31 Contaminants Released from Wastewater Treatment Plants Powell River	110
NR32 Renewed Vision for Fraser River Estuary LMLGA Executive	112
NR33 Funding for Compliance with Landfill Operation and Central Coast RD	113
Closure Legislation	113
NR34 Provincial Authorization and Compliance of Landfills Columbia Shuswap RD	114
In British Columbia	114

NR35	Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy North Vancouver District	115
NR36	Single-Use Item Regional Regulation New Westminster	116
NR37	Right to Repair Legislation North Vancouver District	117

SR1 CARIP Replacement Funding**UBCM Executive**

Whereas since 2008 the provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) has provided local governments across BC with funding critical to achieving their commitments under the Climate Action Charter (CAC), allowing them to build staff capacity, develop policy and plans, and leverage capital to advance local climate action plans that support provincial climate action strategies and goals;

And whereas the cancellation of CARIP without local government consultation, and without a clearly defined replacement program, undermines the ability of local governments to support local climate action plans, the Province's CleanBC climate action strategy, and new provincial sectoral emission reduction targets;

And whereas both local governments and UBCM have prioritized climate action, and have implemented a range of initiatives to create energy efficient and weather resilient communities;

And whereas the Province has neither clarified whether it is actively working on a replacement funding program nor the nature, scope, amount and timing of such a program:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Province to immediately develop a CARIP replacement program which provides:

- annualized funding that is equal to or greater than CARIP;
- formula based funding that recognizes varying local capacity for climate action; and
- maximum flexibility on eligible projects that support local needs and priorities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province is committed to working with local governments to reach our shared climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia.

CARIP was introduced, in part, to encourage local governments to sign the Climate Action Charter (CAC). Since the program launched a decade ago, 187 local governments have signed the CAC, more than 50 local governments have achieved carbon neutrality in their corporate operations and many others have taken significant steps toward reducing emissions in their communities.

The Ministry heard from many local governments on the wrap-up of CARIP, and the feedback received will inform our work exploring new ways to support local governments in reducing emissions and creating complete, compact, energy efficient communities.

As part of this work, Ministry staff are supporting Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy staff in developing a new funding program for local governments that is flexible, predictable and supports the advancement of local climate action goals.

Ministry staff will keep local governments informed of the development of this work including through the revitalized Green Communities Committee, a partnership between UBCM and the Province to support local government climate action.

SR3 Strengthening Responsible Conduct**UBCM Executive**

Whereas responsible conduct of elected officials, both individually and collectively as a Council or Board, is essential to sound and effective governance;

And whereas local governments are best served by tools and resources that reflect the legislative framework for local government in British Columbia, which is based on foundational concepts of autonomy, empowerment, accountability and collaboration:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to:

- Introduce a legislative requirement that all local governments in British Columbia must consider the adoption or updating of a Code of Conduct at least once early in each new term of office;
- Work collaboratively with UBCM and others to consider the design of a mandatory educational module that would support responsible conduct by local elected officials;
- Update the oath of office prescribed by regulation to embed the foundational principles identified by the Working Group on Responsible Conduct; and
- Provide guidance for local governments that have established an oath of office by bylaw so that these oaths may be updated with the same foundational principles for responsible conduct.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Local elected officials have a responsibility to provide for good governance and engage in responsible conduct while carrying out their roles and responsibilities as decision makers for their communities. Responsible conduct refers broadly to how local elected officials conduct themselves with their colleagues, with staff and with the public, and includes acting with honesty and integrity and in a way that furthers a local government's ability to provide good governance to their community. Good governance requires acting in a way that is accountable, transparent, ethical, respectful of the rules of law, collaborative, effective and efficient.

Responsible conduct in BC is encouraged by a framework that includes education and training, legislation, legislated offices and the courts. BC's local government legislation sets out rules around roles and responsibilities of elected officials, along with council/board governance, procedures, ethical standards, conflict of interest and accountability. The Province recognizes local governments as democratically elected, autonomous, responsible, and accountable orders of government within their jurisdiction and believes that the responsible conduct framework should align with these principles.

Recognizing the need to explore issues related to responsible conduct and approaches to strengthening responsible conduct in BC, the Ministry, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) formed the Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC) in 2016. Since that time, the WGRC has undertaken collaborative research and policy work on the issue of responsible conduct of local government elected officials.

To date, the WGRC has made several resources available to support local government initiatives. A set of foundational principles was identified to act as a guide both for the conduct of individual elected officials and the collective behaviour of a council or board. Building on these foundational principles, the WGRC also released a model for local governments seeking to develop their own Code of Conduct and a

companion discussion guide. As well, it published a comprehensive guide to provide advice on fostering responsible conduct, maintaining good governance, resolving conduct issues and enforcing codes of conduct.

Following extensive policy work undertaken by the WGRC and consultation with UBCM and the LGMA, the Legislature passed the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021* in Fall 2021. Once brought into force by regulation, its amendments to the *Local Government Act*, *Community Charter* and *Vancouver Charter* add a new requirement for all municipal councils and regional district boards to publicly consider developing codes of conduct for their council or board members.

Government is pleased to take action that reflects this Resolution's request. The legislated requirement provides an additional and complementary tool to BC's local government responsible conduct framework by creating a regular process for elected officials to engage in conversations about shared expectations for conduct as they carry out their responsibilities and govern together. Further, the approach continues to respect BC's traditions of local government autonomy and direct accountability to citizens.

The WGRC continues its collaborative work, including on a work program that also covers review of the oath of office regulation and gaining better understanding of the desired outcomes for (and therefore potential approaches to) a continuing education module for elected officials.

The Province recognizes that how elected officials conduct themselves in their relationships with elected colleagues, staff and the public is directly connected to how a community is governed. The Ministry will continue to work collaboratively to identify new and existing opportunities to strengthen the responsible conduct framework.

EB1 Electronic Permit and Public Hearing Notification**Islands Trust**

Whereas the *Local Government Act*, Part 14, Divisions 3 and 8, requires that local governments give notice of public hearings in two consecutive issues of a newspaper, and temporary use permits in one issue of a newspaper;

And whereas many small communities no longer have local newspapers, or a newspaper that meets the definition in the Community Charter:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to update the *Local Government Act* to allow temporary use permit and public hearing notifications to be provided electronically, via an application or website if the local government can demonstrate equal or greater ability to reach relevant constituents than a regular printed local newspaper.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

In Fall 2021, the Legislature passed amendments to modernize local government public notice requirements. Once in force, the amendments will create a new flexible, “local choice” option for local governments to determine and specify, by bylaw, the means of public notice that will have the broadest reach in their communities.

Where the existing rules are working well for communities, there is no requirement to change – they can continue to use newspapers to provide public notice.

The Ministry heard from local governments that the notice requirements under local government legislation do not fully meet community needs and the realities of modern electronic communication. The Province is pleased to respond with the amendments to the requirements for public notice. The amendments are set to come into force by regulation, at the end of February 2022.

EB3 Enabling Legislation for Green Roofs**North Vancouver District, Port Moody**

Whereas green roofs serve multiple societal goals, including improved stormwater management, better regulation of building temperatures, reduced urban heat island effects, and increased urban wildlife habitat and biodiversity;

And whereas currently the *Local Government Act* allows a local government to require landscaping under section 527 and to control runoff under section 523, but the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* do not empower local governments to require and enforce the related building standard of construction (prohibited under the *Building Act*) or require and enforce maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Local Government Act* to empower local governments with enabling legislation, should they choose to implement it, to expressly require green roofs and enforce the related building standard of construction and maintenance of green roofs, including with security requirements.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The *Local Government Act* covers important authorities for municipalities and regional districts, including planning and land use regulation powers as well as some authority to regulate buildings and other structures. Core building regulation authority is, however, governed by the *Building Act* and establishes the B.C. government as the primary authority for setting building requirements, making local government building regulation bylaws subject to provincially legislated requirements.

The *Building Act* empowers the Province to set the BC Building Code and other provincial building regulations. Setting regulations provincially helps foster more consistent requirements throughout B.C. that support efficiency in the building construction industry and lower costs for builders and consumers.

The BC Building Code establishes a performance standard for roofs. Green roofs are able to meet these performance standards and have been an acceptable roofing practice for many years in B.C. If a local government wants to create a local building requirement to supplement the existing provisions of the B.C. Building Code for green roofs, it can apply to the Province for a 'variation.' If the minister responsible for the *Building Act* (the Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing) approves the request, the Province may adopt it as a regulation. Local governments can follow up with staff in the Policy Research and Legislation Branch, Local Government Division at: LG.PRL@gov.bc.ca for more information.

**EB4 Local Government Act - Section 744 - Most Extreme
Climate Change Risk**

**Lake Country,
Powell River**

Whereas climate change induced extreme weather events regularly overwhelm local government infrastructure;

And whereas this creates liability risks, even in the absence of negligence on the part of BC local governments because of the wording of Section 744 of the *Local Government Act*, whose protection is qualified by the inclusion of the phrase "breakdown or malfunction", while every other Canadian province and territory provides local governments with similar protection without this qualification;

And whereas the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia has deemed this is the most extreme climate change liability risk facing local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that Section 744 of the *Local Government Act* be amended to: remove the words "breakdown or malfunction"; include language consistent with other provincial legislation, such as, inter alia. Section 528 of Alberta's *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c. M-26 and Section 340 of Saskatchewan's *The Municipalities Act*, S.S. 2005, c. M-36.1; and read as follows:

A municipality, municipal council, regional district, regional district board, improvement district or greater board is not liable in any action based on nuisance or on the rule in the *Rylands v. Fletcher* case if the damages arise, directly or indirectly, out of the operation or non-operation of:

- a sewer system,
- a water or drainage facility or system, or
- a dike or a road.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Local governments, through UBCM, have expressed an interest in amendments to address local government liability and risk. This request to consider changes to expand the language of section 744 of the *Local Government Act* addresses a specific liability risk that is related to climate change impacts on infrastructure such as dikes and levees. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Ministry) recognizes that interest in this change and in liability risk relating to climate change impacts has grown in recent years as local governments face mounting pressures from the impacts of increasingly regular extreme weather events.

Extreme weather events in British Columbia in 2021 contributed to flood risk situations in many areas of the province. The Ministry is committed to working collaboratively with local governments to develop a shared understanding of liability risks resulting from extreme weather events and to better understand the feasibility, effectiveness and implications of potential amendments to the *Local Government Act* in relation to overland water liability provisions. This work must include consideration of complex public policy issues such as the extent to which the proposed changes would actually address liability concerns and how they would affect the balance of risks (e.g. a potential greater burden shifted onto affected citizens in communities).

Local governments are encouraged to share information with the Ministry about specific incidents related to infrastructure damage or inadequacy to further inform the Ministry about specific liability

risks associated with overland water flooding and infrastructure failures during and after extreme weather events.

EB6 Flood Mitigation Response**Okanagan Similkameen RD**

Whereas current funding programs for flood mitigation requires 1/3 of project funding from local government as well as requiring that the local government assume ownership of the works for a period of 10 years, in some cases resulting in an unrealistic burden on affected taxpayers;

And whereas the financial inability of residents to meet the requirements of the current funding program often precludes a planned proactive approach to known flood issues to minimize environmental impacts associated with mitigative works and instead results in a reactive approach when an imminent threat occurs, resulting in greater costs and greater environmental damage, in addition to the traumatic and sometimes devastating impacts on affected residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to develop programs that take a proactive approach to flood mitigation rather than continuing to try to download additional responsibilities on local governments that are ill-equipped and lacking in financial capacity to address these situations in a proactive manner that best respects the residents and the environment.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province, led by Emergency Management BC, continues to partner with the federal government on flood mitigation funding programs such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and Adaptation, Resilience, & Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program. In addition, through EMBC, the Province has funded the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), a program administered by UBCM that includes funding for flood risk assessments, mapping, mitigation planning and structural mitigation.

Since 2017, Emergency Management BC has provided \$123 million in Provincial funds to 342 local government and First Nation flood mitigation projects. These programs have also leveraged an additional \$92.8 million in federal funding, for total government investment of over \$215 million in B.C. These provincial programs have not required any local financial contribution.

Emergency Management BC continues to work with the federal government on new and expanded flood mitigation and climate adaptation funding programs that consider an equitable approach capacity for smaller local governments and First Nations to reduce flood risk.

Municipalities and Regional Districts are best positioned to own and maintain these assets, and to incorporate them into existing asset management programs. This can support an integrated hazard and emergency management program for the community. Local government ownership also allows for increased access to senior government funding, greater legal access, more coordinated land use planning and development approval, and amalgamation with other services. This local ownership requirement is consistent across all Provincial grant programs and is not limited to flood mitigation.

EB7 911 Call Answer Levy**Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas local government is only able to collect a 911 call answer levy from landline subscriptions; And whereas landline subscriptions across the province are decreasing;

And whereas local governments in the province do not have the ability to collect a 911 call answer levy from cellular telecommunications platforms:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of BC to enact a provincial 911 levy to include the collection of monthly charges from mobile devices, and provide these funds directly to local government 911 service providers.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government understands the importance of the role that 9-1-1 emergency communications plays in the delivery of emergency services, and that the decreased revenue from traditional funding sources such as landline levies have been a challenge for some local governments. The Province is interested in supporting local governments efforts to both establish and maintain 9-1-1 services and recognizes its role in the promotion of public safety.

While 9-1-1 is a local government responsibility, the Province provides support to facilitate delivery of 9-1-1 services wherever possible. Recent supportive efforts include assisting the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality in establishing 9-1-1 services in their remote and rural region.

Ministry staff will undertake further work to explore funding mechanisms to support 9-1-1 services, such as the establishment of a call answer levy on wireless phones and, in recognition that this is a cross-ministry issue, will work with colleagues at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

EB8 Extending the Life of Fire Apparatus**Port Alberni**

Whereas the Fire Underwriters Survey requires that in order to receive credit for fire insurance grading purposes, all first line fire apparatus in small and rural communities should be replaced after 20 years of service and may only be extended up to 25 years when fire apparatus is tested and proven to be in excellent mechanical condition;

And whereas small and rural local governments often are financially challenged to replace high cost and minimally used fire apparatus on a 20-25-year rotational basis:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to advocate to the Insurance Bureau of Canada for the recognition and acceptance of an annual professional engineer certification of the mechanical condition of fire fighting apparatuses to extend service life beyond 20 years.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

While the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) and the Province of B.C. do not have a role in the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) process of setting rates and gradings for fire apparatus, the OFC has committed to attempting to facilitate a discussion with the UBCM and the FUS to ensure local governments can access clear information on the rationale used in determining the FUS fire equipment rating system.

The Province recognizes the challenges that small and rural communities face in delivering suppression services as well as replacing and maintaining fire service equipment such as fire trucks. Through the OFC, the Province has been conveying these concerns and the desire to extend insurance beyond 20 years for well maintained and low mileage fire apparatuses.

For reference, the FUS has published a technical bulletin called "INSURANCE GRADING RECOGNITION OF USED OR REBUILT FIRE APPARATUS" and can be located on their public webpages at <https://fireunderwriters.ca/Downloads>. The bulletin speaks to the standards that are referenced and used in the grading process as well as recognition that small and rural communities that are utilizing used fire apparatus may have challenges meeting the strict standards. The bulletin also outlines additional options and steps that a community can take to extend the certified life span of a fire apparatus up to 30 years.

The FUS agreed to meet with UBCM to discuss these issues. The OFC has spoken to UBCM about scheduling a meeting for all three parties.

EB9 Fire Apparatus Maintenance for Small Geographic Fire Departments**Chase**

Whereas the Fire Underwriters has deemed that all fire apparatus from all municipal and regional district Fire Departments in British Columbia be in service for 20 years, providing annual testing and inspections are performed;

And whereas there are local governments that utilize their fire apparatus much less frequently than those of other local governments, and small geographically sized communities do not put nearly as much distance on their fire apparatus as do larger geographically sized communities, and all fire apparatus are annually tested and maintained to the highest standard of operation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Provincial Government to urge the Fire Underwriters to allow small municipalities with small geographic areas to operate their well maintained and low mileage fire apparatus beyond 20 years as their first response apparatus.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

While the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) and the Province of BC do not have a role in the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) process of setting rates and gradings for fire apparatus, the OFC has committed to attempting to facilitate a discussion with the UBCM and the FUS to ensure local governments can access clear information on the rationale used in determining the FUS fire equipment rating system.

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The FUS has agreed to meet with UBCM to discuss these issues. The OFC spoke to UBCM about scheduling a meeting of all three parties.

EB10 Increased Capacity at the National Forensic Lab Services**Prince George**

Whereas the RCMP are tasked to preserve and organize information and evidence collected in the course of their investigation, in consideration of the Crown's obligation to disclose and in recognition of the benefits of early disclosure;

And whereas in accordance with the *Crown Counsel Act*, Crown Counsel is required to "examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate";

And whereas the demand for, and backlog of, biological and other forensic service at the National Forensic Lab Services negatively impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of an investigation and ability to proceed with the laying of charges:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to increase working capacity within the National Forensic Lab Services for the provision of forensic services in biology, firearms, toxicology, and trace evidence in order to better meet the necessary timelines of RCMP investigations across Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Ministry shares the concerns of municipalities that high costs and lengthy delays are not acceptable. It is important to the Ministry that British Columbia's police and law enforcement have the tools and resources to ensure our public safety through the effective conduct of investigations and the laying of charges.

The capacity of the National Forensic Lab Services is within the federal control, and this is an issue with impacts felt nation-wide. Along with other Provinces and Territories, British Columbia works through the national RCMP Contract Management Committee to advocate with the federal government regarding policing issues impacting British Columbians. Additionally, the Province participates in regular meetings specific to costs and service delivery for DNA forensic analysis through the FPT DNA Working Group. The ministry will continue to advocate through these venues on issues of national concern, such as the capacity of National Forensics Lab Services.

Municipalities are also encouraged to raise their concerns with the federal government by writing to the Federal Minister, as UBCM has done in the past.

**EB11 Increasing Capacity in Provincial Court Systems
through Alternative Coordinated Initiatives**

Prince George

Whereas Provincial Crown Counsel prosecutes offences and appeals in British Columbia that arise under Canada's Criminal Code and British Columbia statutes;

And whereas collaborative approaches that address root causes of crime, such as mental illness and addictions, create effective and targeted responses by providing offenders with supports, services and ties to their community to promote rehabilitation and a crime-free lifestyle;

And whereas the provincial government, through the implementation of coordinated initiatives such as community/integrated court and addiction treatment centres, First Nation's Health Councils and Integrated Case Assessment Teams, recognizes social and economic factors and the negative effects of reliance on established measures within the mainstream justice system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Attorney General to improve capacity in the provincial court system by funding, province-wide, coordinated and collaborative alternatives to the court system.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Attorney General and Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government recognizes that there is a need to move beyond the traditional justice system. Government is working with Indigenous partners, community members and other ministries to ensure increased support for vulnerable populations, including those involved in the criminal justice system because of their unmet health and housing needs.

Specialized courts require additional supports such as dedicated staff, supportive housing availability, addictions programs and other social services and supports to be successful. For this reason, community proposals are reviewed by a cross-government provincial advisory committee, co-chaired by the Assistant Deputy Minister for Justice Services, the Co-Chair of the First Nations Justice Council, and the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court. Decisions around implementing new courts are made by the Chief Judge of the Provincial Court, in collaboration with the ministry and other justice partners.

To address the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, the ministry, in partnership with the First Nations Justice Council, has opened Indigenous Justice Centres (IJC) in Merritt, Prince George and Prince Rupert. Up to 15 centres are planned for throughout B.C. in the coming years. IJCs provide legal advice and representation for criminal and child protection matters; advocacy and support in dealing with agencies such as the police and Ministry of Children and Family Development; referrals to relevant agencies and wraparound services such as counselling or employment support; information towards better transitions from jail and integration into the community; and restorative justice options to better support and address the needs of those impacted by a crime.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) is committed to enhancing the use of restorative justice (RJ) and has engaged with a broad range of stakeholders to promote greater collaboration and dialogue about RJ across the province and have worked to identify opportunities to enhance its use in the province.

PSSG has also provided support for a number of initiatives focused on enhancing RJ across B.C., including supporting the development and implementation of an association for B.C.'s community-based RJ programs. The ministry has provided funding to the Restorative Justice Association of BC to assist their efforts in providing support and advocacy for RJ programs and services across the province.

The ministry also continues to increase its support for RJ programming through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program. We provided over \$1M to 33 RJ related projects through the grant program in fiscal 2020/2021 including funding for the development of a cross-sector advisory committee that will support this ministry's work in enhancing the use of RJ in B.C.

PSSG also currently supports community-based, volunteer-driven RJ programming through the Community Accountability Program (CAP). There are currently 52 providing RJ related programming to communities across BC.

CAPs are eligible for annual funding of up to \$4,000 to support volunteer training and administrative expenses. CAPs have various capacity levels, with some programs using municipal funding to provide more complex and extensive RJ services.

Some CAPs take on offences referred by Crown counsel. The BC Prosecution Service supports the use of RJ programs in appropriate cases including in alternative measures or extrajudicial sanctions and sentencing.

EB16 Safe Passing Distance for All Road Users**North Vancouver City**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia encourages cycling and walking for transportation, yet relatively few roads in BC have bike lanes or shoulders, and many do not have sidewalks, directing cyclists and pedestrians to share roads with high-speed motor vehicle traffic, which can result in close passes, poses potentially fatal crash risks, and discourages active transportation;

And whereas over 40 jurisdictions across North America, including the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, have all enacted “safe passing distance” legislation designed to protect vulnerable road users by requiring motor vehicle operators to maintain a minimum distance when passing vulnerable road users, thus creating a better understanding of and expectation for road safety:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* to better support safe active transportation by requiring drivers to provide 1 metre of space at speeds 50 km/h or less, and 1.5 metres of space at speeds in excess of 50 km/h, when passing people cycling or walking.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In support of the goal to double the percentage of trips taken by active transportation by 2030, the provincial government continues to work with local governments and other partners to make active transportation safer and more convenient for everyone.

The Province’s active transportation strategy—Move. Commute. Connect.—includes support for Vision Zero, an international project that aims to reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities on the road to zero. Expanding cycling infrastructure, boosting enforcement of road safety laws and delivering safety education programs are just some of the ways the provincial and local governments are working toward making cycling safer across the province.

Although the *Motor Vehicle Act* requires vehicle drivers provide a safe distance when passing, it does not dictate a specific minimum passing distance between vehicles and cycles or pedestrians. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure continues to monitor developments in other jurisdictions with minimum safe passing distances to determine the safety benefits of these laws, as well as issues related to enforcement, driver education and awareness, and impacts to road infrastructure.

The Ministry shares responsibility for road safety with the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and the ministries are working together to ensure the provincial government’s legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks, including the *Motor Vehicle Act*, acknowledge all road users and emerging transportation modes while maintaining overall safety.

EB17 Abandoned Vehicles on Crown Land**Okanagan Similkameen RD**

Whereas enforcement of abandoned vehicles on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way and road dedications may involve a number of agencies but little coordinated action;

And whereas members of the public have difficulty knowing who to contact to initiate a complaint of an apparent abandoned vehicle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province designate one Ministry or coordinating body to be responsible for abandoned vehicle complaints on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way, and road dedications.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Members of the public can report abandoned vehicles to the RCMP, Maintenance Contractors, or Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure District staff. The Ministry works with local governments and the RCMP in determining locations for No Parking signs.

The Ministry is focused on public safety and making sure that all provincial highways and roads are safe for people to travel on. If an abandoned vehicle is in a lane, blocking traffic, or in the way of snow removal equipment, it's a hazard and it will be towed immediately. If an abandoned vehicle is off to the side of the road, ministry staff work closely with the maintenance contractor and RCMP in all efforts to find the vehicle's owners so that they may remove their vehicle.

The RCMP can ticket vehicle owners for illegal parking where the vehicle is in violation of the *Motor Vehicle Act* or if there are signs restricting parking in the area. However, if a vehicle is legally licenced and insured, the driver is allowed to park off of the travelled lanes except for on major highways.

EB19 Vacant Land Property Tax**Lillooet**

Whereas some municipal councils in jurisdictions have the authority to set tax rates on vacant land at a higher rate than non-vacant land (such as the authority provided for in the s. 616 vacancy tax provision of the *Vancouver Charter*);

And whereas some municipal councils with the requisite authority choose to set tax rates on vacant land at a higher rate to encourage owners of vacant property to either develop the property or sell the land which may result in the development of the property under new ownership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia conduct a review of the *Community Charter* to amend the legislation to grant municipal councils' authority to add a 'vacant land' property tax.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is actively engaged in supporting new development and affordable housing in British Columbia. Any solutions to challenges in property development must be consistent with fundamental principles of tax policy as well as being practical, fair and effective. Creating a new property class for vacant land would not be optimal in that regard.

For example, the reasons for land being vacant can be many and varied. In many cases, property owners do not fully control the timing of new development, as it may depend on factors that are beyond the control of the property owner, like approvals and permitting. It would be unfair to levy a potentially punitive tax on a landowner because of development delays that are beyond the owner's control.

British Columbia already has more property classes than most other jurisdictions in Canada; additional classes would further complicate the assessment and tax system.

The Vacancy Tax authority in the Vancouver Charter is specific to vacant residential properties (e.g., empty homes) which are in most cases, different from vacant land. That tax is intended to encourage more residential rental accommodation availability by encouraging the rental of existing vacant residential accommodation units or properties, although in certain circumstances it will be applicable to vacant land. The vacancy tax authority was intended to address a specific circumstance identified by the City of Vancouver in relation to a shortage of available residential rental accommodation.

The Province will continue to monitor the situation. The Province is also looking at other means to improve the development process by focusing on development approvals and development finance through the Development Approval Process Review (DAPR).

EB20 Provincial Tax Sharing and Local Fuel Tax**Courtenay**

Whereas costs, regulations, and responsibilities for local governments are increasing at an unsustainable rate;

And whereas some traditionally provincial or federal funded responsibilities have shifted to local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments towards sharing:

- Sales Tax
- Liquor Tax
- Property Transfer Tax

And be it further resolved that the Province support and simplify the creation of local fuel taxes for local governments as an additional revenue stream.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The financial viability of local governments is of great importance to the Provincial Government. To achieve this, the Province provides local governments with broad revenue tools, including property value tax, parcel tax, user-fees, Development Cost Charges, agreements, and others. Additionally, through the pooled and Triple-A borrowing authority of the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, municipalities have access to inexpensive long-term borrowing. These financial tools are further complemented by over \$100 million annually in unconditional grant funding to local governments across British Columbia.

Provincial sales tax (which includes liquor) and property transfer tax are paid into the consolidated revenue fund. Putting 100 per cent of these revenues directly into the consolidated revenue fund ensures that the government is best positioned to respond to constantly changing needs across B.C., whether those have to do with the current COVID-19 crisis, wildfires or flooding, overdoses, housing, local infrastructure, and services, increasing pressures on the healthcare and education systems, climate change, or other priorities.

In terms of the creation of local government fuel taxes, from a design perspective, uniformity and consistency in the tax system is valued by the citizens and businesses that pay and, in some cases, collect taxes. BC's fuel tax system applies uniformly across the province but, at present, also authorizes higher tax rates in two areas of the province that operate large transit systems: in the Metro Vancouver area, a dedicated tax raises revenue for TransLink and in Greater Victoria, a dedicated tax raises revenue for the local BC Transit system. The higher rates in these two regions support their large transit systems, but creating further inconsistency in fuel tax rates is not desirable. As well, the stringency of climate policies aimed at reducing fuel usage will increase over time, resulting in a what is expected to be a decline in fuel tax revenues. Therefore, fuel taxes may not provide a reliable source of revenue for local governments.

Finally, at the 2021 UBCM Convention, the Premier committed the Province to an MOU with UBCM that would facilitate an open, honest conversations with local governments about their finance system, and how we can work together to better serve British Columbians. In support of that commitment, Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne, Finance Minister Selina Robinson, and UBCM president Laurey-

Anne Roodenburg signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Local Government Financial Resiliency on January 26, 2022.

This MOU will guide the Province and UBCM in a review of the local government finance system. This will include discussions about cost pressures local governments may be experiencing around attainable housing, community safety and climate change, and the impact of the new economy. These issues were identified in a UBCM membership-endorsed report titled *Ensuring Local Government's Resiliency - Today's Recovery and Tomorrow's New Economy* that was published in August 2021. The report included 20 recommendations that focused on strengthening the municipal and regional district finance system.

EB21 Flexibility of Grant Programs**Cowichan Valley RD**

Whereas local governments in BC are increasingly reliant on a wide variety of grant programs to support the delivery of services, programs and projects in their jurisdictions;

And whereas the administrative burden of managing increasingly complex criteria and requirements, from application to final reporting, can be overwhelming, time consuming and sometimes prohibitive for some local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM encourage the governments of British Columbia and Canada to coordinate their efforts across all grant program streams to establish more consistent and flexible application criteria and deadlines, simplified reporting requirements and provide funding for the general administration of grant programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province provides both non-application and application-based grant programs to all local governments in BC. In doing so, the Province tries to strike a balance between the simplicity and flexibility of non-application-based programs with the need for greater transparency and accountability that can only be achieved through application-based programs.

The Province understands the concerns of some local governments regarding “application fatigue”. However, application-based programs are designed to provide strategic funding to address specific and critical infrastructure needs throughout the province. A general (non-application) program, while simple, cannot ensure that critical infrastructure needs are adequately addressed. Those needs can only be addressed through a rigorous application-based program that involves vetting of individual applications to ensure the proposed project is in line with broader provincial and federal objectives and rules (e.g. safe drinking water).

The application and reporting requirements are designed to optimize accountability and transparency of funding, and to ensure that local government recipients have met, and continue to meet, specific program conditions. Also, many grant programs are designed and developed in consultation with UBCM and others to ensure that they meet local needs and that the application process is reasonably streamlined while fulfilling federal and provincial mandates.

Local governments are encouraged to reach out directly to provincial staff who are available to assist local governments from the application stage up to and including final reporting.

EB22 COVID-19 Funding Allocation Deadline**Okanagan Similkameen RD**

Whereas regional districts must fully allocate COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funds to an appropriate regional and local service before December 31, 2021, but municipalities do not have the same allocation deadline requirement;

And whereas regional districts would like the discretion to hold back some COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funding for allocation to an appropriate regional or local service in a future year:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide regional districts the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The allocation deadline of December 31, 2021 for regional districts recognized the difference between municipalities and regional districts in their structures and provision of services. Regional districts provide a mix of regional, sub-regional, and local services comprising various service partners (i.e. any combination of municipalities and/or electoral areas). Regional district services operate independently of one another, including the legal restriction that services cannot cross-subsidize one another.

As a result, it is important to know how the regional district board is allocating the COVID Safe Restart Funds to individual services before that money can be legally spent. This model of reporting regional allocations has been used for other provincial funding programs like the Northern Capital and Planning Grant.

The COVID Safe Restart Funds were provided to municipalities and regional districts in November 2020, with additional funds to regional districts in March 2021; that provided significant time to analyze and allocate the funds according to local and regional priorities prior to the allocation deadline of December 31, 2021.

EB23 Funding Support to Manage Post COVID-19 Pandemic Tourism**Pemberton**

Whereas in the summer of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Province moved to Phase 3 of BC's Restart Plan which resulted in Destination BC focusing on encouraging residents to Explore BC as a way to promote domestic tourism;

And whereas the Explore BC has been so successful that unprecedented number of residents and visitors have sought ways to experience the Province's natural environment and these numbers are expected to continue beyond the active pandemic phase:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide funding to the provincial ministries responsible for managing parks, crown lands, and recreation sites and to local governments to assist in establishing sustainable tourism policies and programs to ensure that visitor use of lands and natural resources is done in a manner that protects the natural environment in perpetuity.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

BC Parks has observed significant increases in public demand for recreation and access to protected areas for camping and day use; demand which has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic proving the value and importance of these natural spaces to British Columbians. For several years, BC Parks has been working in collaboration with key partners, including Indigenous Nations, to develop visitor use management strategies in areas experiencing the highest use.

In 2020, BC Parks piloted a free day use pass in six provincial parks where public use was becoming unmanageable and impacting park values. This pilot continued successfully in five parks within the Sea-to-Sky area during summer 2021 with a Park Ambassador Program in place to welcome visitors and check passes in four of the parks. In addition to free day pass reservations, BC Parks employs camping reservations to provide fair and equitable access to high demand camping opportunities, and to manage camping levels in sensitive backcountry areas such as Garibaldi Park, Joffre Lakes Park and Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park.

BC Parks is working collaboratively with our recreation partners to deliver consistent public messaging that promotes responsible recreation and shared stewardship of parks. This includes enhanced digital communications through bcparks.ca and social media channels, as well as in-park messaging through improved signage and outreach programs such as the Discover Parks Ambassadors. BC Parks is also proud to be a founding partner in the recently launched Camper's Code campaign, a cross-sector initiative aimed at inspiring a culture of respectful and responsible camping in BC and beyond.

To respond to the growing public demand for recreational opportunities, and to alleviate pressure in high use areas, the Province recently committed \$21.5M in new capital funding over three years to invest in enhancing our park facilities, creating new camping opportunities, developing new trails, and investing in renewing existing facilities that are being impacted by high levels of use. Further to this, \$6 million in new infrastructure maintenance funding will be invested over the next 3 years in all regions of the province on high-use trail and facility improvement projects. To further expand opportunities for outdoor recreation, BC Parks is also investing an additional \$5 million per year for land acquisitions. The Province regularly adds land to the parks and protected areas system through the acquisition of private

land and partnerships with conservation groups, individual donors, the BC Parks Foundation and supporters.

The Province continues to invest funding and resources into the management of recreation opportunities on public lands outside of BC Parks. Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, Recreation Sites and Trails in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) has implemented over \$5M in additional direct spending on sites and trails through economic recovery programs including the Forest Employment Program, Stronger BC and the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program.

Recreation Sites and Trails and FLNR continue to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities, local governments, and partner organizations to effectively manage increased use levels. Notable projects include the Visitor Use Management pilot projects in the Sea to Sky District, enhanced visitor use data collection province wide and the implementation of a new mountain bike trail management standard for the province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) also recognizes the significant increase in visitor demand for recreational opportunities and access to B.C.'s natural spaces and the impact that has on the natural environment. TACS coordinates activities between Destination British Columbia (DBC) and Government ministries and the local area to help mitigate concerns in areas experiencing high visitor use.

The Strategic Framework for Tourism in British Columbia sets out a clear direction to foster year-round sustainable tourism growth and provide world-class tourism experiences while preserving and protecting our natural environment. The Framework aims to guide and manage tourism growth, preserve the environment, and celebrate Indigenous culture, while inspiring travellers to visit all regions of the province.

For several years, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport (TACS) and DBC, have been working in partnership with the Regional Destination Management Organizations (RDMOs), First Nations, provincial government agencies, tourism partners and local communities to facilitate the coordinated planning and implementation of several local area destination development plans across the province. These grass roots plans identify key actions to support the sustainable growth of tourism to ensure tourism contributes to the livelihoods of residents and enhances and protects the natural and cultural assets that make B.C such a desirable place to visit.

As part of Government's StrongerBC plan, TACS invested \$53M in tourism related infrastructure projects in 2020. These investments were made through the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program Destination Development stream (\$20M), the Tourism Dependant Communities Fund (\$19.4M) and the Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiatives Fund (\$13.6M). Many of these projects were targeted at enhancement, rejuvenation and creation of infrastructure and services in outdoor recreational spaces as a tool to help offset the impacts of high visitation.

Furthermore, Destination BC's approach to sustainable visitor management has been twofold: Long term planning with private and public sectors partners, through Destination Development & Management planning work; and marketing lesser-known attractions & destinations with capacity to

disperse visitation and spending around B.C. Managing visitor capacity and flow to minimize negative experiences associated with capacity challenges is a key objective of Destination BC's Destination Management plan. Destination BC is developing ways to deliver and utilize real-time personalized content, situation relevant messaging, and offers to travellers to help manage visitor flow and dispersion, including the dissemination of timely and relevant information through Visitor Centres across the province.

In terms of marketing, Destination BC has responded to capacity challenges by adjusting promotional messaging through its owned, earned and paid channels to support geographic and seasonal dispersion of visitors away from busy areas and/or times of year. This includes stopping the promotion of 'hot spots' that are consistently challenged with capacity issues. Destination BC works closely with tourism industry partners (BC Parks, Regional and City Destination Marketing Organisations, activity sectors, communities, tourism industry businesses) to identify areas of the province, and times of the year, where there is both available tourism product and capacity for visitors.

EB24 Income Tax Credit/Deduction for Workers in Isolated Areas**Port Hardy**

Whereas it is challenging to attract and retain employees in isolated communities due to a lack of services and the extra cost to obtain these services elsewhere;

And whereas the provincial government has recognized the need to compensate provincial employees through an isolation allowance, which includes additional pay and vacation allowances for employees who work in posted isolated location points:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to provide a tax credit/deduction to workers living in communities that are included in the Province's list of posted isolated location points.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Government recognizes the challenges that British Columbians living in remote areas of the province face.

Under the tax collection agreement with the Government of Canada, B.C. must adopt the federal definition of taxable income and this prevents the implementation of a tax deduction. Eligible individuals can deduct from their income a northern resident allowance for income tax purposes if they live in the northern and intermediate zones. They may also be able to deduct some of the cost of travel to or from their residence if the travel costs were provided by their employers and included in their income. The Province does not currently have plans to introduce a provincial tax credit for individuals residing in a rural area. However, this resolution has been forwarded to Ministry of Finance staff for further review and analysis.

As well, travel costs for medical purposes may be claimed under the medical expense tax credit. There are also some income tax deductions available related to employment, including deductions for accommodation and travel.

EB25 Development Cost Charges for Local Government Facilities**Lantzville**

Whereas the *Local Government Act*, Section 559, authorizes a local government to impose, by bylaw, development cost charges on every person who obtains approval for development, for the purpose of providing funds to assist the local government to pay the capital cost of providing, constructing, altering or expanding sewage, water, drainage and highway facilities, and providing and improving parkland to service, directly or indirectly, the development for which the charge is being imposed;

And whereas in the same manner that development results in a capital cost burden on a local government for sewage, water, drainage, highway facilities, and parkland, the burden of providing, constructing, altering or expanding local government facilities is also incurred by a local government as a result of development:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be requested to contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to propose that the *Local Government Act*, Part 14, Division 19 [Development Costs Recovery] be amended to authorize a local government to impose a development cost charge for local government facilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province is undertaking the Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) to find improvements in the current development process, including looking at Development Cost Charges (DCCs) and other development finance tools. Through this process, the Province is engaging a broad range of interests, including local governments and developers.

A review of development finance is a critical component of DAPR. Part of this review will consider the expansion of DCCs to include other types of local government infrastructure. This will be a thorough review involving detailed research, analysis, policy development, consultation, and potentially legislation depending on the results of the review.

Any expansion of DCCs would still need to ensure sufficient clarity as to the infrastructure for which DCCs can be imposed. The term “local government facilities” from the resolution is probably too broad for inclusion in a DCC program. The current categories of allowable DCC costs are fairly specific (e.g. sewer, drainage, and parks), so any expansion would also need to be based on other specific categories of infrastructure.

EB26 Protection of Waterways from Aquatic Invasive Species**Sicamous**

Whereas Canada is home to 20 percent of the world's fresh water, and the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) poses irreparable environmental, social and economic threats that will cost Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars in lost tourism and economic opportunities, and other unknown costs;

And whereas the spread of AIS is largely connected to human activity, including the unsafe transport of watercraft and floatplanes between bodies of water;

And whereas current government efforts through fines for failing to stop at a BC watercraft inspection station, there is a lack of specific provincial or federal regulation and enforcement that is directed at watercraft owners who fail to prevent the spread of AIS by cleaning, draining, and drying their watercraft before transport:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments adopt increased and stricter enforcement measures for watercraft and floatplane owners including the introduction of a significant fine for watercraft and floatplane owners that fail to clean, drain and dry their watercraft or floatplane before transporting it to another body of water and an increase in the fine issued to motorists who fail to stop at a watercraft inspection station.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy*Watercraft*

Government continues to deliver the Invasive Mussel Defence Program and work with partners. Ongoing feedback and recommendations are taken into consideration as part of the program's annual review process.

The Ministry recognizes that "pull the plug" legislation, making it mandatory for boaters to clean, drain, and dry their watercraft, has been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions and this is something under active consideration.

The fine for motorists who fail to stop at a watercraft inspection station in B.C. is \$345 and the Ministry is not currently looking to increase this fine amount. Higher fines are unlikely to result in increased compliance as repeat offenders are not common.

Floatplanes

The potential risk that floatplanes may pose as pathway for the transport of aquatic invasive species is largely unknown. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force are undertaking a project to assess the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species via the seaplane pathway and develop measures to mitigate this risk. The results from this work will help inform future actions in B.C.

EB27 Invasive Asian Clams**Sicamous**

Whereas invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) are known to threaten the natural biodiversity of lakes by competing with native species for sustenance and space, cause biofouling to water treatments systems, alter water chemistry, and potentially reduce the quality of drinking water;

And whereas the spread of Asian clams will have significant environmental, social, and economic consequences for our waterways, wildlife and communities;

And whereas the Controlled Alien Species Regulation exists under the *Wildlife Act* to enforce controls for species that pose a risk to people, property, wildlife, and wildlife habitat:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to designate invasive Asian clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) as a Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Species under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation under the *Wildlife Act*.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Ministry staff are working to update the 2015 provincial risk assessment for Asian clams to incorporate recent changes to their distribution in B.C. This work will help inform whether Asian clams may be considered for future listing under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation (CAS) of the *Wildlife Act*.

Based on research and experiences from other jurisdictions, the impacts of Asian clams on water systems and infrastructure are highly variable and site specific, and they currently do not meet the criteria set by the province to be listed as species for Early Detection Rapid Response.

The Ministry is planning additional survey and outreach work in Shuswap Lake and surrounding waterbodies to assess the extent of *Corbicula* following the detection in 2019. This population is a significant distance from their previously known distribution in B.C. and indicates a new local introduction. The work is being done in partnership with local Indigenous communities. This includes continuing to promote existing outreach and education programs—such as Clean, Drain, Dry and Don't Let It Loose to help prevent the spread of Asian clams.

EB29 Drinking Water Protection and Private Managed Forest Land**Cumberland**

Whereas the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* identifies the protection of drinking water, both during and after harvesting, as a management objective;

And whereas private managed forest land located within and adjacent to community drinking water systems limit the ability of local governments to protect and control drinking water supply areas;

And whereas the Province of BC enacted the *Drinking Water Protection Act* to ensure the provision of safe drinking water, and local governments have improved treatment of community drinking water with significant financial support of senior government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia establish programs for local governments to work with private managed forest landowners to assess risks to drinking water systems and priority land acquisition for lands where harvesting is identified as a significant risk to the provision of safe drinking water.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The intent of the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program is to encourage sound forest management practices on private forested land. Membership in the program is voluntary and requires commitments to manage for key public environmental values, including water quality, in exchange for a lower property assessment.

The Private Managed Forest Land Council Regulation was created to ensure the protection of licenced waterworks intakes, water quality, fish habitat, soil and ensure reforestation where timber has been harvested. Additionally, sources for domestic drinking water systems are protected under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* regardless of landownership.

With an abundance of drinking water systems and private water intakes on private lands, landowners routinely work with the community members to address access and safety concerns. While there is no formal process through the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* for landowners to engage with local government for protection of drinking water, many landowners in the PMFL program have voluntarily worked with local governments to address concerns, and some landowners have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to meet local concerns. Local governments are encouraged to engage with landowners to develop a durable process moving forward. Where communities believe the protections in place under the *Acts* and regulation, or achieved through working with landowners, are inadequate to protect drinking water, communities may opt to purchase land for the protection of their domestic water source.

EB30 Illegal Dumping**Chilliwack**

Whereas illegal dumping of waste on private and crown land continues to be an issue across the Province resulting in unsightly, unsanitary and potentially dangerous refuse deposits in natural rural areas that should be protected and preserved for public enjoyment in 'supernatural British Columbia';

And whereas the problem of illegal dumping is an area of shared jurisdiction between multiple Provincial Ministries including Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, which results in decreased accountability and gaps in service:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to designate a single Ministry as responsible for regulation of illegal dumping in the Province, including enforcement of said regulations and cleanup and removal of dumped waste;

And be it further resolved that UBCM respectfully request that the Province provide adequate funding to the designated Ministry to ensure minimum staffing levels can be maintained in all areas of the Province to address the issue of illegal dumping.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, through the Conservation Officer Service (COS), and the Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) service (1-877-952-7277, <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>) is the lead provincial government agency for responding to complaints of illegal dumping. The COS takes appropriate action based upon officer availability and available evidence collected at the scene and responds accordingly. This can include working with the Natural Resource Officers from the Ministry of Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, to respond to a complaint.

The issue of illegal dumping is a shared responsibility among all involved and efforts are continuing. Under the authority of the *Environmental Management Act*, local governments in British Columbia address waste management practices, including illegal dumping, in their solid waste management plans. Local law enforcement, provincial conservation officers and by-law enforcement officers can issue tickets when incidents are brought to their attention. Private land and forestry owners can restrict access and report areas and incidents. Private citizens, community and outdoor groups, and the media often profile illegal dumping incidents and associated community clean-up events.

To support these efforts, the province continues to undertake work on waste prevention and waste management programs, including the recent announcement to include additional items of concern in reported illegal dumping incidents (e.g., mattresses) in Extended Producer Responsibility under the Recycling Regulation. As part of the stewardship planning processes, stewardship agencies must demonstrate how the public will be made aware of the free return options available to them.

The provincial government will continue to work with local governments to identify solutions to this challenging problem, including exploring opportunities for improving illegal dumping reporting options; enforcing compliance when resources are available; and identifying actions under the *Environmental Management Act* and through the Solid Waste Management Planning process.

EB31 Illegal Dumping in Rural Areas**Fraser Valley RD**

Whereas illegal dumping on Crown land continues to be an increasing concern in rural and backcountry locations, resulting in hazardous conditions;

And whereas local governments and non-profit community groups contribute significant resources to address illegal dumping, even though the Province has the mandate for enforcing illegal dumping on Crown land;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to increase resources and strategies to address illegal dumping in rural and backcountry areas and on Crown land and strengthen its partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this growing problem.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, through the Conservation Officer Service (COS), and the Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) service (1-877-952-7277, <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>) is the lead provincial government agency for responding to complaints of illegal dumping. The COS takes appropriate action based upon officer availability and available evidence collected at the scene and responds accordingly.

How to address illegal dumping requires a shared responsibility among all involved and efforts are continuing to reduce this issue. Under the authority of the *Environmental Management Act*, local governments in British Columbia address waste management practices, including illegal dumping, in their solid waste management plans. Local law enforcement, provincial conservation officers and by-law enforcement officers can issue tickets when incidents are brought to their attention. Private land and forestry owners can restrict access and report areas and incidents. Private citizens, community and outdoor groups, and the media often profile illegal dumping incidents and associated community clean-up events.

To support these efforts, the province continues to undertake work on waste prevention and waste management programs, including the recent announcement to include additional items of concern in reported illegal dumping incidents (e.g., mattresses) in Extended Producer Responsibility under the Recycling Regulation. As part of the stewardship planning processes, stewardship agencies must demonstrate how the public will be made aware of the free return options available to them.

The provincial government will continue to work with local governments to identify solutions to this challenging problem including exploring opportunities for improving illegal dumping reporting options; enforcing compliance when resources are available; and identifying actions under the *Environmental Management Act* and through the Solid Waste Management Planning process.

EB32 Illegal Dumping in Electoral Areas**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas illegal dumping of waste on Crown land and provincial rights-of-way continues to be a growing problem, particularly in rural locations, resulting in unsightly and dangerous refuse deposits in natural areas;

And whereas local governments contribute significant resources to mitigate illegal dumping, and the Province has the mandate for illegal dumping enforcement on Crown land:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to report out on the action of the provincial working group, review resources and strategies for addressing illegal dumping and optimize partnerships with local governments to more effectively combat this problem.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, through the Conservation Officer Service (COS), and the Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) service (1-877-952-7277, <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>) is the lead provincial government agency for responding to complaints of illegal dumping. The COS takes appropriate action based upon officer availability and available evidence collected at the scene and responds accordingly.

The issue of illegal dumping is a shared responsibility among all involved and efforts are continuing to address this issue. Under the authority of the *Environmental Management Act*, local governments in British Columbia address waste management practices, including illegal dumping, in their solid waste management plans. Local law enforcement, provincial conservation officers and by-law enforcement officers can issue tickets when incidents are brought to their attention. Private land and forestry owners can restrict access and report areas and incidents. Private citizens, community and outdoor groups, and the media often profile illegal dumping incidents and associated community clean-up events.

To support these efforts, the province continues to undertake work on waste prevention and waste management programs, including the recent announcement to include additional items of concern in reported illegal dumping incidents (e.g., mattresses) in Extended Producer Responsibility under the Recycling Regulation. As part of the stewardship planning processes, stewardship agencies must demonstrate how the public will be made aware of the free return options available to them.

The provincial government will continue to work with local governments to identify solutions to this challenging problem, including exploring opportunities for improving illegal dumping reporting options; enforcing compliance when resources are available; and identifying actions under the *Environmental Management Act* and through the Solid Waste Management Planning process.

EB33 Industrial, Commercial and Institutional 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 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 destined for landfills:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to amend the Recycling Regulation to require inclusion of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sectors in the Packaging and Paper Products Extended Producer Responsibility programs.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The ministry acknowledges that the proper management of industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) waste, which includes agricultural plastics, is a concern to many local governments.

In September 2020, the ministry issued a Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper that sought feedback on several items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs or other policy initiatives, including packaging and paper from the ICI sector. The feedback was consolidated in the Summary of Feedback Report and made publicly available in June 2021. The feedback helped inform the development of a Five-Year EPR Action Plan for EPR expansion in B.C, which was announced in September 2021.

For ICI Paper and Packaging Product (PPP), as a first step, there is broad support for collecting data to better understand both the current gaps in diversion practices for managing ICI PPP, as well as the best means to address such gaps. To this end, data collection is underway and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) anticipates completion of the study by April 2022. Engaging local government, and Indigenous nations as part of ICI PPP research is key to our understanding of the challenges to diverting these materials.

ENV appreciates that it may be several years before a long-term policy approach to ICI PPP is finalized and concerns with proper management of these materials continue. Therefore, following the completion of the ICI PPP study, ENV intends to engage rural and remote local governments and Indigenous government organizations that are facing similar challenges to jointly explore barriers and possible interim opportunities that could result in diversion of more ICI PPP over the short-term.

EB34 Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program in BC**Kent**

Whereas agriculture uses plastics to aid in crop production, protection, improve food quality and minimize water usage;

And whereas thousands of tonnes of agricultural plastics are dumped at the landfill by farmers after its use:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to set priority in resolving this problem by establishing a Plastics Recycling Program for agricultural plastics.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The ministry acknowledges that the proper management of industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) waste, which includes agricultural plastics, is a concern to many local governments.

In September 2020 the ministry issued a Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper that sought feedback on several items that were potential products to be captured under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs or other policy initiatives, including packaging and paper from the ICI sector. The feedback was consolidated in the Summary of Feedback Report and made publicly available in June 2021. The feedback helped inform the development of a Five-Year EPR Action Plan for EPR expansion in B.C, which was announced in September 2021.

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EB35 Help Cities Lead**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas emissions by buildings account for 40-60 percent of a community's green-house gas (GHG) emissions, and current actions in British Columbia to reduce GHG emissions from buildings are insufficient to achieve the province's GHG targets for 2030 and 2050;

And whereas the November 2020 mandate letters to ministers include direction to provincial ministries to move forward with three of the five policy measures included in the Help Cities Lead campaign to drive GHG reduction in British Columbia's building sector:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation supporting the three measures identified by Help Cities Lead and addressed in ministerial mandate letters: GHG requirements for new buildings, PACE financing, and home energy labelling;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the provincial government to introduce empowering legislation to permit local governments who so choose to implement the remaining two measures identified in the Help Cities Lead's campaign: GHG requirements for existing buildings and building energy benchmarking.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Province is taking action on GHG Requirements for New Buildings, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, and Home Energy Labelling commitments.

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) is currently focused on implementing energy labelling for ground-oriented residential buildings, including developing market supports and proceeding to the required legislative amendments. We will consider options for multi-unit residential buildings and commercial buildings over the coming years.

The Province is proceeding to next steps on a PACE program, including determining the scope and phasing of PACE. Additionally, the Province is currently developing carbon pollution standards for new construction for voluntary adoption by local governments.

The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 committed to new requirements to make all new buildings zero emissions by 2030 - this will be implemented through the introduction of carbon pollution standards in the base Building Code. The Roadmap to 2030 also commits to:

- Increased energy efficiency requirements, including a requirement that after 2030, or earlier where feasible, all new space and water heating equipment sold and installed in B.C. will be at least 100% efficient, significantly reducing emissions compared to current combustion technology.
- A greenhouse gas emissions cap that will require gas utilities to undertake activities and invest in technologies to further lower GHG emissions from the fossil natural gas used to heat homes and buildings and power some of our industries.

These two commitments, along with program supports, will achieve the emission reductions required to meet 2030 and ultimately 2050 targets. They are considered alternatives to the GHG requirements for existing buildings called for in the Help Cities Lead campaign.

EMLI encourages UBCM and Help Cities Lead to engage with EMLI staff to explore ways in which local governments can take early action to support market readiness for these regulations.

EB36 Property Tax Assisted Clean Energy (PACE)**Fernie**

Whereas retrofitting buildings across BC is crucial to reducing green-house gas (GHG) emissions and meeting our provincial climate targets;

And whereas upfront costs of retrofitting homes and businesses for climate resilience are cost prohibitive to many of our property owners, and Property Tax Assisted Clean Energy (PACE) lowers barriers to implementing GHG reductions, adding value to buildings and making them more desirable places to live or work;

And whereas PACE BC is working with interested municipalities across BC to assist in the establishment of a successful province-wide PACE program that meets the needs of residents and that local governments of all sizes can participate in with minimal start up costs or staff time;

And whereas PACE and the resulting ecosystem of retrofitting programs would create well-paying green jobs during a just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and a just transition away from fossil fuel infrastructure-related jobs:

Therefore be it resolved that UCBM ask the Ministry of Environment, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister of Housing and PACE BC to support BC legislation enabling PACE by third-party administration.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The establishment of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program was included in mandate letters to Ministers of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and Municipal Affairs in November 2020. StrongerBC allocated \$2M to the development of a PACE Roadmap and pilot program.

The CleanBC Roadmap to 2030 reiterated a commitment to proceeding with the next steps on a PACE program. Government will be considering the scope and phasing of a PACE program as a next step. Implementation of a PACE program will require legislative amendments as well establishment of an administrative structure.

EB37 Developing a Vision to End Energy Poverty**Powell River**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has a legislated target of reducing poverty in British Columbia by 25 percent by 2024 as part of the TogetherBC plan;

And whereas there are over 270,000 households in British Columbia that experience energy poverty, struggling to afford basic energy services like heating, lighting and cooking, and experiencing negative health, social and economic impacts as a result:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to set a clear vision and targets to end energy poverty in BC within the next ten years, taking action on the three key drivers of energy poverty: low incomes, high energy costs, and poor energy efficiency in homes.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The Province and BC Hydro released recommendations from Phase 2 of the BC Hydro Review in August 2021 aimed at keeping rates affordable and encouraging greater use of clean, renewable electricity to reduce emissions and achieve climate targets. The recommendations are in alignment with TogetherBC, the Province's poverty reduction strategy, and its guiding principle of affordability.

In June 2021, the Province temporarily extended BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund (CCF) to continue providing support for people in financial crisis and help avoid disconnections of their electricity service. As recommended by the BC Hydro Review Phase 2, staff from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low-Carbon Innovation, the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and BC Hydro will examine other crisis intervention program options over the next year including a consideration of a means-tested program modelled after the Customer Crisis Fund pilot program.

BC Hydro currently spends approximately \$90 million annually on demand side management (DSM) and FortisBC spends approximately \$75 million annually, which help provide customers with bill savings and reduces system costs.

The Province, through the Demand-Side Measures Regulation, requires and encourages utilities to have DSM aimed at low-income households. The Province is open to suggestions about how to amend this regulation to better address energy poverty.

CleanBC Better Homes and Better Buildings includes the Social Housing Incentive Program, as well as top-up funds for incentives for natural gas efficiency measures in low-income homes through FortisBC. In the coming weeks, the Province will be launching an income-qualified program for energy efficiency and fuel switching renovations aimed at low- and moderate-income households.

BC Hydro's October 2021 Electrification Plan includes more than \$140 million to fund programs, incentives, studies and energy management initiatives to encourage electrification and plans to spend up to \$8 million of this funding to support low-income customers.

BC Hydro is currently in the process of reviewing their residential electricity rates and is engaging with the public. One of the objectives of this process is to keep electricity costs affordable and explore opportunities for customers to reduce their bills through optional rates.

The CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy is a multi-stakeholder initiative to reduce diesel consumption for electricity generation in remote communities by 80% by 2030. Budget 2021 include a \$34 million investment in Indigenous community capacity, energy efficiency incentives and renewable energy generation in diesel-dependent remote communities.

EB38 BC Circular Economy Strategy**Nanaimo City,
Victoria**

Whereas the provisioning and management of goods and food consumed by BC communities produces excessive and unnecessary quantities of waste, pollution and carbon emissions that threatens environmental health;

And whereas the concept of a Circular Economy provides a vision and framework to design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use and regenerate natural systems to help BC communities move towards Zero Waste;

And whereas the Province has yet to develop a comprehensive strategy to transition BC's economy to a circular one:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the province of BC develop a provincial Circular Economy strategy.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province is aware of, and continues to promote and develop opportunities to move towards a circular economy. For example, the CleanBC plan includes working towards adoption of a circular economy in British Columbia, recognizing the potential for creating jobs, promoting innovation, and protecting the environment by harnessing the full value of resources.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is viewed as the first pillar of a circular economy. As detailed in the Extended Producer Responsibility Five-Year Action Plan, published on September 10, 2021, the Province plans to build on and to expand B.C.'s well-established EPR programs to support B.C.'s circular economy.

Meanwhile, through the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund, government is engaging B.C.-based innovators and companies in the circular economy, by investing in projects that reduce virgin plastics and make better use of post-consumer recycled plastic in manufacturing processes.

EB39 Community Climate Action Plans**Comox Valley RD**

Whereas 493 local governments across Canada, including dozens in BC, have adopted climate emergency declarations;

And whereas there is an urgent need for local governments to develop community climate action plans with clearly articulated targets, but local governments lack the financial resources to effectively implement such plans to mitigate the impacts of climate change:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government provide sustained financial support for local community climate action planning and implementation that serves to meet the goals of CleanBC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province has committed to a more prosperous, balanced, and sustainable future through CleanBC. The Province recognizes that local governments have a critical role to play in meeting our provincial climate targets and preparing for and adapting to climate risks, and is aware that over thirty local governments in B.C. have adopted climate emergency declarations.

CleanBC is only the beginning of the Province's efforts. The Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) has released a draft Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy informed by the 2019 Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for B.C, and input from UBCM, local governments, Indigenous Nations and others across B.C.. This draft strategy is anticipated for release in spring 2022, and will help to protect ecosystems, lower long-term costs and keep people and communities safe.

The Climate Action Secretariat was part of the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action comprised of elected officials and senior staff from local government along with other representatives from the province, non-governmental organizations, crown corporations and academia. The Province has received considerable feedback from the UBCM Special Committee on Climate Action, along with the Climate Solutions Council and other local governments in support of establishing new pathways to meet the goals of CleanBC.

In December 2020, UBCM released the recommendations of the Special Committee on Climate Action which called for funding and capacity building resources to support a low carbon future. The Province heard these recommendations and during the UBCM 2021 Convention, Premier John Horgan announced that over the coming months, Minister Heyman (Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy) in partnership with Minister Osborne (Ministry of Municipal Affairs), will establish a new approach to supporting local government climate action.

EB40 CleanBC Support for Northern and Rural Communities**Kitimat**

Whereas CleanBC is a pathway to a more prosperous, balanced, and sustainable future;

And whereas northern, remote, and rural communities face barriers to work towards the goals outlined in CleanBC due to lack of resources, training, and capacity at a local and regional level, such as Energy Step Code Certified Energy Advisor and dealerships providing options for electric vehicles:

Therefore be it resolved the UBCM lobby the Province of BC to provide greater support of resources, training, and capacity-building for northern, remote, and rural communities as they work towards meeting the CleanBC Plan goals, in particular the aspects of Cleaner Transportation and Better Buildings.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province is providing CleanBC programs and rebates for zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) and better buildings to directly support communities in BC.

The Province continues to support the CleanBC Go Electric Program which has been successful in:

- reducing market barriers
- encouraging the adoption of ZEVs province-wide by British Columbians
- leveraging private, municipal and federal investment in ZEVs and infrastructure in BC
- supporting new economic opportunities in the ZEV sector.

The Province has committed more than \$382 million to make ZEVs more affordable and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A focus of Provincial funding for public fast charging stations is on connecting northern and rural areas of B.C. to allow ZEV travel throughout the province. The Province passed the *Zero-Emission Vehicles Act (ZEV Act)* on May 30, 2019 and the Zero-Emission Vehicles Regulation on July 30, 2020, which requires automakers to meet ZEV sales targets reaching 10 percent of new light duty vehicle sales by 2025, 30 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2040. The purpose of the *ZEV Act* is to ensure increased ZEV availability and choice at more affordable prices everywhere in British Columbia.

Under BC's low carbon fuel standard, fuel suppliers could generate compliance credits by undertaking actions that are not otherwise economically viable to encourage uptake of lower carbon transportation fuels (e.g. investing in low carbon intensity hydrogen production and fueling infrastructure).

To increase capacity to implement the BC Energy Step Code in northern, remote and rural communities, the Province is actively working with partners and Energy Advisors to maintain and further develop support programs for these communities. To reduce the cost of energy advisors in new construction, the CleanBC Better Homes New Construction Program, launched in November 2020, provides rebates of up to \$15,000 to builders for the construction of new, energy efficient residential homes. The program offers flexibility through two participation pathways:

- Heat pump pathway: build a new home that uses an electric heat pump, regardless of BC Energy Step Code level; or

- Energy Step Code pathway: build a new home to Step 3 or higher that uses electric space and water heating systems.

Optional bonus rebates are also available to help make working with an energy advisor more affordable and for homes built with no fossil fuel connection.

EB41 New Provincial Trails Strategy**Revelstoke**

Whereas the provincial government is in the process of endorsing and updating the Trails Strategy for British Columbia (trails strategy) with many proposed changes recommended by the Provincial Trails Advisory Body including:

- making a commitment to implementing the Trails Strategy for BC;
- updating the vision and guiding principles;
- increasing Indigenous representation in trail planning and development under the Trails Strategy;
- providing opportunities and benefits for all; and
- developing a world-class trail system; and, ensuring a sustainable network of trails;

And whereas the implementation of an updated trails strategy presents a significant opportunity for the Province to support local governments in a number of ways including through the development of standards and tools, and potentially new funding opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government, as part of the process to approve and update the trails strategy for British Columbia, implement the following measures:

- Adopt the recommendations from the Provincial Trails Advisory Body.
- Confirm adequate provincial support for the implementation of the trails strategy.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is pleased to have partnered with the Outdoor Recreation Council to support the work of the Provincial Trail Advisory Body to review and update the Trails Strategy for B.C. The ministry acknowledges the exceptional level of engagement with communities, the public and First Nations in development of the recommendations.

The ministry is currently reviewing the recommendations for changes to the Trails Strategy and considering options for implementation.

EB42 Protection for Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in BC**Sicamous**

Whereas many local governments and communities rely on meaningful outdoor recreation for economic stability and development and, at the same time, those local governments and communities care about maintaining existing Recreation Sites and Trails Management and/or Partnership Agreements with the Province of British Columbia for respectful stewardship of the lands;

And whereas the BC government has established broad *Forest Range Practices Act* (FRPA) objectives under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) for ten of the eleven FRPA values - they have not established an objective for recreation - which makes recreation the only value without a FRPA objective and leaves recreation out of planning processes;

And whereas only the BC government can set objectives within the *Forest Range Practices Act*:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the BC government to allocate the necessary resources to create the following objective under the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation Part 2 Division 1:

The objective set by government for recreation is, without unduly reducing the supply of timber from British Columbia's forests, to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts to any recreation site, trail or facility that exists on Crown land.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is committed to effective management of forest recreation resources in British Columbia. While the Forest Practices and Planning Regulation does not include a broad objective for recreation resources, there is a mechanism in, Section 56(3) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* to establish objectives for individual sites, trails and interpretive forests. Following the Forest Practices Board Report on Management of Forest Recreation, Recreation Sites and Trails branch is evaluating opportunities to apply objectives to sites and trails.

The proposed objective would likely have a similar outcome to the current practice requirement found in the Section 70 of the Forest Practices and Planning Regulation, which is in place for Resource Features designated in accordance with the Government Action Regulation. Many recreation sites and trails are designated as resource features; and where appropriate, others can be considered for that designation.

Finally, Bill 23-2021, passed in fall 2021, requires consideration of values placed on forest ecosystems by local communities in forest landscape planning which are sure to include recreation.

EB43 Local Control of Land Use Practices**Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas local governments are provided with statutory responsibility for land use planning within their jurisdictions and provincial government crown land planning processes, including resource and watershed management, generally involve local governments as referral agencies only at late stages of those planning processes;

And whereas early and on-going local government involvement in provincial land use processes would provide an opportunity for improved intergovernmental collaboration and better informed decision-making:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Government of BC initiate a process intended to establish improved government-to-government collaboration with local governments regarding land use planning initiatives on crown land.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Modernized Land Use Planning (MLUP) processes are co-led, in partnership with the Province and Indigenous governments, with significant collaboration and input from local governments and engagement with communities, stakeholders and the public.

The [Provincial Land Use Planning Engagement Platform](#) for MLUP includes information for local governments and community members on five land use planning projects. In March 2021, the Province released [Modernized Land Use Planning: A Guide to Effective Stakeholder Engagement](#), which also includes information on best practices for engaging local governments in modernized land use planning processes. Regional MLUP project teams are required to use this guidance in the development and implementation of their stakeholder engagement plans, and include local governments in their request for input on new land use planning projects through the engagement platform.

The Province met with UBCM representatives on October 19, 2021 to provide an update on the MLUP program, including work underway on policy, land use planning projects, and tools. During engagement, UBCM provided feedback on updated LUP program principles. As an outcome of the meeting, the Province has committed to sharing updated materials with UBCM and to meeting again in early 2022 to provide ongoing updates and connection opportunities. The Province has also asked UBCM to consider providing input to key draft program policy pieces.

EB44 Risk Assessments of Potential Threats to Natural Assets**Gibsons**

Whereas local governments are working to prepare their communities for the impacts of climate change including increased severity of rain events, floods, fires, landslides and droughts, by working to develop co-governance and management plans and investing in the assessment, monitoring and, where appropriate, restoration of natural assets such as forests and creeks that provide vital ecosystems services;

And whereas the provincial government issues forestry and mining operating licenses and permits for the industrial activity taking place on Crown Lands and where these projects could have a potentially negative impact on the downstream communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to, in their consideration of these projects, include a referral to affected local governments and undertake risk assessments to identify and assess any potential threats to the natural assets that communities rely on to provide essential services such as drinking water and flood mitigation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The province acknowledges the importance of effective consideration to the impacts that natural resource development activities can have on ecosystems, including the influences of climate change. Legislative, regulatory and other policy requirements are designed to inherently limit and mitigate the potential for adverse effects on important environmental values such as streams as well as broader ecosystem health.

At the local level, detailed assessments are completed by resource professionals to address matters raised specific to an area or community such as hydrology, terrain hazards and other important environmental considerations. The new *Professional Governance Act* was brought into force in 2018 and is intended to provide a consistent framework for governance of regulated professions, and to ensure those professions protect the public interest.

Where there are resource development implications to local government services or environmental values under their jurisdiction and the communities they represent, referrals are generally provided to enable feedback that can be accounted for and incorporated into resource development plans and management. Often, this is accomplished through permit conditions that seek to address concerns raised by local governments. Legislative changes under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* also provide enhanced information sharing with the public and other stakeholders through tools like the pending Forest Operations Mapping.

Where there are gaps in the existing administrative and legal mechanisms, the province is willing to work with local government to address gaps in communication as required. This may include considering additional existing legislative measures to ensure appropriate communication and where appropriate, environmental value assessments are completed in a manner that is cognisant of local government jurisdiction.

EB45 Watershed Security**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas watershed security is recognized as central to the health and well-being of British Columbians with over 80 percent asserting that ongoing access to abundant clean fresh water in their regions is essential to health, food security, salmon, fire safety, jobs, economic well-being, and overall quality of life, both today, and in the years to come;

And whereas the Province of BC has committed to lead work to protect clean water through the creation of a Watershed Security Strategy and Watershed Security Fund;

And whereas the Watershed Security Fund is an essential mechanism for implementing the Watershed Security Strategy and to:

- support local Watershed Boards and regional partnership initiatives;
- create good, sustainable local jobs in restoration, monitoring, technology and community planning;
- support education and training in the watershed sector;
- build a connection between communities and their watersheds;
- support local tourism and recreation;
- provide sustainable, long-term funding for Indigenous capacity and community resilience, and advance DRIPA through co-governance partnerships with First Nations.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests that the Province of BC create a dedicated, sustainable, annual funding source for the Watershed Security Fund that provides \$75 million annually for community driven watershed security initiatives.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Protecting clean water is a priority for the Government of British Columbia. Developing a Watershed Security Strategy (Strategy) and a related Watershed Security Fund (Fund) is a mandate letter commitment for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy with support from the Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The Strategy and related Fund will need to build on, align with, and complement the current work across government to help ensure B.C.'s watersheds are healthy. The Strategy and Fund must also reflect the Province's commitment to true, lasting reconciliation and be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*. Government is working with Indigenous partners to jointly build an enduring engagement and collaboration process needed to ensure our success.

Government has developed a discussion paper for public engagement that outlines the key themes of a Strategy, including water governance, reconciliation, climate change, ecosystems, drinking water, land use planning, community and economic stability, and education and knowledge. The discussion paper was made available to the public on January 25, 2022, on the EngageBC site [www.gov.bc.ca/water]. We look forward to having discussions with local governments and external stakeholders as part of development of the Strategy.

EB46 Amendments to the Aquaculture Act**Campbell River**

Whereas aquaculture is an important economic driver for the Province of British Columbia, particularly on Vancouver Island;

And whereas the proposed Aquaculture Act must ensure decisions are based on scientific facts and technology, and take into consideration all stakeholder input:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM urge the Province to lobby the federal government to ensure that the proposed Aquaculture Act include language which ensures that all decisions on the management of aquaculture on the BC Coastline are based on science and evidence-based information with clear understanding of the advancement in technology and include all representatives of local or regional communities as stakeholders.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Government is interested in supporting local government interests in aquaculture in general, and in ensuring that the federal government in its development of an *Aquaculture Act*, considers local governments' interests. It is helpful to note that UBCM made a direct submission to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) requesting local government engagement as DFO further develops the new legislation. This will help to underscore the importance of local government engagement.

Ministry officials, on behalf of the Province of British Columbia and a number of provincial agencies, recently included in its significant high-level feedback on the proposed Act to DFO that, "The Act must support and implement local government's objectives and zoning;".

Work on these and related issues will continue through discussions on the creation and implementation of the *Aquaculture Act* through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM), and through bilateral discussions with DFO.

EB47 Ensuring Access to Broadband and Cellular Services in BC**Cariboo RD**

Whereas broadband and cellular services are essential components of sustainable, resilient, and vibrant communities;

And whereas there are still considerable impediments to overcome in looking to the private sector providing meaningful, cost effective service to rural and remote communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the federal and provincial governments to directly invest in the ownership and development of the needed capital infrastructure to facilitate effective, efficient and cost effective broadband services in rural and remote communities where a private sector business case does not exist.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens' Services

Telecommunications networks will undergo substantial change in the coming years, as the companies that operate them upgrade their technology. The Province's strategy is to encourage investment and promote competition in fibre broadband networks. To help more British Columbians, in more communities, get access to fast and affordable networks, the Province has committed to supporting competition, leveraging investments, and forming new partnerships to bring world-class internet to places across the province.

The Province is also focused on removing regulatory barriers and improving investment incentives with the goal of speeding up broadband deployment and is also working to promote greater coordination and cooperation between service providers along with community support.

Many communities have taken steps to improve their internet speeds by entering into new partnerships to deliver faster internet connections. Connecting British Columbia program grants have helped to encourage connectivity investments in rural and Indigenous communities where low populations and difficult geography can be a challenge. To advance this work, the Province has committed \$190 million since 2017 to eligible internet service providers that invest in bringing high-speed internet to unserved and underserved rural areas. Support from the Ministry of Citizens' Services is available, from planning to creating a positive cycle of investment, as providers in many communities continuously upgrade their networks and improve their offerings.

EB48 Rural Broadband Connectivity**Fraser Valley RD**

Whereas provincial and federal funding programs to improve rural broadband connectivity require an applicant to have experience building and operating broadband infrastructure networks, rendering many local governments dependent on private Internet service providers to select which project areas can apply for funding;

And whereas there is a lack of telecommunications industry transparency around levels of service, leading to mapping discrepancies on the National Broadband Internet Service Availability Map, which creates significant challenges when applying for funding:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal government funding programs for universal broadband Internet should directly engage with local government to prioritize the areas of greatest need when awarding funding for broadband projects;

And be it further resolved that UBCM urge the provincial and federal governments, in their efforts to make broadband Internet access universally available, require Internet service providers to make public to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada which properties are served to ensure projects can be more easily implemented and do not face unnecessary barriers.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Citizens' Services

While most people in B.C., about 94% according the latest Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission Monitoring Report, have high-speed internet access, there are still rural and non-urban Indigenous communities without adequate internet speed. The Province works with all levels of government, First Nations, the private sector, and funding agencies to encourage the expansion of high-speed internet services to more rural and Indigenous communities.

The Province, Union of British Columbia Municipalities and Northern Development Initiative Trust launched an independent study to understand the differences between internet speeds reported on the federal broadband map on the availability of high-speed internet in British Columbia and the performance people are experiencing in their communities. The results of this study are expected early in 2022 and will help inform next steps to further support underserved communities as the Province continues its work to advocate for people across our province. The results of the study will be shared with the federal government.

The Connecting British Columbia program provides grant funding to internet service providers to encourage investments in rural and Indigenous communities. Grants from the program can also be used to support regional governments with planning projects that can be an important first step toward achieving their connectivity goals. The Ministry of Citizens' Services also has an initiative called Connected Communities that can help local governments and First Nations benefit from telecommunications expertise that maximize the benefits for connectivity in their communities.

EB49 BCUC Regulatory Regime and Inquiry into the Regulation of Municipal Energy Utilities

Vancouver

Whereas the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) - grounded in 20th-Century needs and priorities, with its core function as a traditional “economic regulator” enforcing the “regulatory compact” (balancing services, rates and investor returns) - established an inquiry, by Order G-177-19, dated August 1, 2019, to examine the regulation of energy utilities affiliated with municipalities and regional districts (including exploring the regulatory status of different ownership structures and operational arrangements and the current municipal exclusion under the *Utilities Commission Act*);

And whereas in the event an outcome of the inquiry is BCUC oversight of municipal and regional energy utilities, this may have adverse impacts that do not serve the public interest including (1) duplication of current responsibilities that elected officials already have over municipal or regional district energy utilities; (2) adding unnecessary financial and regulatory burden, and regulatory risk; and (3) limiting the ability of municipal or regional district energy utilities to be flexible in how they respond to local needs or support the achievement of public policy goals – such as municipal strategies to mitigate the climate crisis, or a just transition of our carbon-based economy into one that is sustainable:

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

- re-design the regulatory regime for British Columbia’s energy sector, to provide a comprehensive, 21st-Century framework that is grounded in today’s urgent priorities and harmonizes fully with the priorities of our communities and their municipal representatives, and
- maintain or expand the current municipal utility exemption and autonomy to pursue local solutions to local and societal needs, and to enhance the benefits they bring to our communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The role of the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) as an economic regulator is to ensure that customers have access to a safe, reliable energy service at a fair price, while allowing the utilities it regulates the opportunity to earn a fair return on their investments.

The existing legislative and regulatory framework allows the Province to provide direction to the BCUC on government policy objectives that fall outside the BCUC’s mandate as an economic regulator. A 2015 Independent Review of the BCUC confirmed that it is the provincial government's prerogative to set provincial energy policy, to define the BCUC’s mandate, and to direct the BCUC on specific matters.

Local governments will play a critical role in the achievement of the Province’s CleanBC plan in areas such as developing new clean energy sources, supporting active and cleaner transportation options and helping B.C. transition to zero waste.

Municipalities and regional districts that directly deliver energy services to their residents through local government-owned electricity, district heating or other public utilities are not subject to BCUC oversight and the Province has no intention of eliminating this current exclusion under the *Utilities Commission Act*.

The Province recognizes that local governments are exploring opportunities to partner or otherwise affiliate with third parties in the delivery of energy services to their residents. Depending upon the nature of the arrangement and any ratepayer protections that exist under the arrangement, an exemption from some or all aspects of BCUC oversight may be appropriate. Under s. 22 and 88 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the minister responsible for BC Hydro can approve exemptions from some or all aspects of BCUC oversight.

The Province supports the BCUC's examination of these issues through its Municipal Inquiry and will be pleased to consider any requests or recommendations to government resulting from that inquiry.

EB50 BC Hydro Pole Rental Sales**East Kootenay RD**

Whereas high-speed internet is essential for the social and economic well-being of smaller rural communities and being without it brings significant challenges in today's digital economy;

And whereas hydro poles reach the majority of homes in rural communities, internet service providers (ISPs) often rent space on infrastructure such as poles owned by BC Hydro to attach and carry the transmission lines to provide service to their customers;

And whereas pole rental fees are often cost prohibitive in the business model for rural broadband and are harming broadband deployment, network upgrades, and competition in rural areas, contributing to the digital divide between urban and rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia, and BC Hydro as a crown corporation, establish affordable pole rental rates in a fair and equitable manner to accelerate the roll-out of broadband connectivity in rural communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

BC Hydro has a program that allows third parties – like telecommunications companies, municipalities, First Nations and government agencies – to add their attachments to BC Hydro's transmission and distribution assets. This helps these third parties reduce their construction and maintenance costs.

In B.C., about 85% of the approximately 900,000 distribution poles used by BC Hydro are jointly owned with Telus, for which the two parties entered into a joint ownership agreement in 1971. Telus also has solely owned poles; as does BC Hydro. BC Hydro and Telus have dedicated telecom space on distribution poles for the purposes of telecommunication attachments. About 90% of wireline attachments installed on jointly owned poles are Licensees of Telus, and the remaining 10% are Licensees of BC Hydro.

Government believes BC Hydro is part of the solution to meet the connectivity needs of underserved/remote communities. Hearing the concerns directly from communities and subject matter experts regarding access to BC Hydro pole structures, is very important input to the collaborative work between the Ministries of Citizen Services and Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation to accelerate the delivery of high-speed internet.

BC Hydro understands there are concerns about costs relating to renting space on its poles and remains committed to working to addressing these concerns. BC Hydro is working with telecommunication providers to coordinate planning and infrastructure investments to reduce the costs and improve the timeliness of installing cables on poles, including pole readiness measures.

EB51 Wood Fiber Availability for Value Added Manufacturing Facilities**Spallumcheen**

Whereas there is a shortage of available wood fiber supplies in British Columbia for value added manufacturing facilities;

And whereas the province has indicated that value added products are vital to the future of our forest industry:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the availability of wood fiber for value added manufacturing facilities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Government is interested in increasing fibre access for value-added domestic manufacturers. On June 1, 2021 government released the Modernizing Forest Policy in B.C. document (a.k.a. Intentions Paper), the vision for the future of the forest sector and our forests. An important component of this vision is to transition from a high-volume structure to one of high value through supporting local manufacturing and capturing value at every step in the production chain. The goal is to ensure local communities, including indigenous communities, have opportunities to benefit from the resources. B.C. will promote greater use of our wood products and encourage diversification in the industry.

To support the vision to diversify manufacturing and increasing value, the Intentions Paper outlined a policy intention to “Increase fibre access for value-added domestic manufacturers”.

This will be achieved through the following:

- Working with value-added sector representatives for traditional remanufacturing products, mass timber, and with new entrants on innovative products to understand what and where the province can act to support competitive value-added businesses.
- Advancing a process to minimize the burning of slash piles created after timber harvesting, so this fibre is available for manufacturing, and that reduced emissions benefit our climate as part of CleanBC.
- Developing a program for timber with a focus on the value-added sector.

Ministry staff are undertaking work on this issue and will be engaging with indigenous leaders, the forest sector, and local governments for perspectives on how to increase fibre availability for value-added manufacturing in B.C.

EB52 Tree Management in Electoral Areas**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas regional districts have limited regulatory authority for tree management except in relation to protection from certain natural hazards;

And whereas electoral areas have similar concerns and objectives as municipalities in terms of other important aspects of tree management including maintaining tree cover and protecting heritage trees and watershed health;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the *Local Government Act* to provide broader tree management authority to regional districts equivalent to the authority granted by legislation to municipalities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The provincial government is committed to ensuring healthy forest habitats are preserved for generations to come. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Ministry) is aware that regional districts and other stakeholders have raised concerns about tree management and that increased tree logging on private land has consistently been a challenge. The provincial government appreciates the importance of tree cover in the reduction of green house gas emissions and also the importance of sustainable forestry jobs for communities.

Tree management is a complex issue that affects various interest. While municipalities have the authority to regulate tree cutting in urban settings, that municipal authority does not extend to regulating forestry-type activities on land within municipalities. Regional districts have the authority to regulate tree cutting under certain circumstances, including the use of development permits to restrict tree cutting for certain developments. A key challenge is that the context of urban tree management in municipalities and tree management in the rural areas of regional districts is different, with the latter more directly raising the potential for conflict with forestry values.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is working with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) on this issue. In Winter 2022, FLNRORD is initiating a second phase of the review of the Private Managed Forest Land (PMFL) Program. The PMFL Program encourages sound forest management practices on BC's private forested land. Consultations will focus on local governments and Indigenous Nations. Results from these engagement sessions will be used to further define recommendations for legislative changes to the PMFL Program.

The voluntary nature of this program means that it does not encompass activities on all private forested lands in B.C. However, FLNRORD is committed to working with local governments in coordination with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to address citizen's concerns for land not registered in the PMFL Program.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs is also pleased to hear from individual communities and regions as to their specific concerns, and to work with them to find solutions.

EB53 Multi-Jurisdictional Cooperation**Okanagan Similkameen RD**

Whereas legislation does not provide regional districts authority to enforce regulatory bylaws on Crown Land and Road Rights-of-Way in Electoral Areas;

And whereas clarity on responsibility for enforcement in rural areas is required for constituents for issues that may cross federal, provincial, First Nation and/or regional district jurisdiction;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a formal multi-jurisdictional process for working in conjunction with lead agencies and governing bodies (including local governments) to resolve outstanding regulatory enforcement issues, by joint cooperation of the various government agencies.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Government recognizes the importance of inter-governmental collaboration to address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries, in terms of both responsibility and impact. It also recognizes that whenever multiple jurisdictions and agencies are involved, it can be challenging to strike the right balance of coordination.

Depending on the specific area of concern, local governments are encouraged to reach out to the relevant ministry and establish the staff-to-staff level relationships that may assist in resolving local issues. Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff continue to be available to assist local governments with connecting to appropriate provincial counterparts on issues of concern.

For example, where Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff are made aware of an issue on the Crown land base, they will advise Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) staff. Staff within FLNR will cooperate with the relevant federal, provincial, First Nation and/or local government counterparts to try to resolve the issue through the most effective forum available.

EB54 Mental Health and Addictions Support During the Pandemic**Kootenay Boundary RD**

Whereas the negative mental health and addiction impacts on British Columbians associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have further intensified the pre-existing challenges faced by community mental health services to keep pace with the needs of our communities, as evidenced by several past UBCM endorsed resolutions;

And whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has created a need for additional provincial funding resources to support the increased demand on already-stretched community services, including emergency services and front line workers:

Therefore be it resolved that the Government of BC increase funding for additional community mental health and addiction resources to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

To ensure people in British Columbia have increased access to vital community mental health services through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, the Province made a historic \$500 million investment in Budget 2021 that is focused on building a comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care. This funding is critically important to turn the tide on the overdose crisis, improve wellness for young people and families, and address the gaps in mental health and addictions services emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic at the community level.

New investments also support enhanced virtual services for people in B.C., with a focus on adults, youth, and front-line health care workers whose mental health has been impacted by the pandemic. These new and expanded services will provide more options for people living with mental health challenges who are currently unable to access in-person supports.

Our government is also pursuing commitments to invest in community-based mental health and social services to better support people in crisis as well as free up police and other front-line emergency services to focus on work in their core mandates. We are looking at various approaches, in B.C. and beyond, with the end goal of developing an approach to mental health crisis response that meets the needs of individuals in crisis, their families, and communities.

The Province is also planning the implementation of Complex Care Housing in communities across BC, a suite of services and supports aimed at ensuring people with significant mental health, substance use and other complexities attain safe and stable housing as a foundation to thrive. These services and supports will be person-centred and community-driven.

A Pathway to Hope, released in 2019, sets the 10-year vision for a new system of mental health and substance use care, with an emphasis on prevention, promotion, early intervention and integrated services, that builds on existing initiatives and implements new, innovative approaches.

Government will continue to invest in building a comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care that works for everyone in B.C. As *A Pathway to Hope* progresses, British Columbians who are experiencing mental health and substance use challenges and their families will see further improvements in access and quality of care as the system strengthens and evolves.

EB55 Additional Resources for Mental Health**Grand Forks**

Whereas substance abuse is considered to be a pandemic mental health disorder across Canada;

And whereas there are insufficient services available to assist those suffering through this pandemic who want to detox and rehabilitate themselves:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Provincial Ministry of Health to provide additional resources to fund more services and beds for rehabilitation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Province recognizes the ongoing need to enhance mental health and substance use supports for British Columbians, particularly those in rural and remote areas. We are committed to providing access to a range of quality options – with residential, or bed-based services, being one part of a comprehensive continuum of care.

Through Budget 2021, the Province has made a historic investment of over \$500M in mental health and addiction care with over \$132M over three years allocated for adult treatment and recovery services. These funds will support investments in withdrawal management, transition and assessment, specialized treatment and recovery, and aftercare services, representing an additional 195 treatment beds and over 132 new FTE positions, including beds and FTEs to support detox and treatment services. This investment addresses critical gaps in care through increasing access to services, reducing wait times, improving transitions through the system, supporting innovative initiatives improving client attachment and promoting holistic, person- centered and culturally safe services.

A Pathway to Hope, released in 2019, sets the 10-year vision for a new system of mental health and substance use care, with an emphasis on prevention, promotion, early intervention and integrated services, that builds on existing initiatives and implements new, innovative approaches.

Through *A Pathway to Hope*, BC's roadmap for making mental health and addictions care better for people, the Province is implementing a suite of evidence-based and culturally safe programs and supports that focus on problematic substance use prevention for children, youth, and young adults, and connecting young people to integrated care early before small problems become large. In addition to the \$132M in treatment and recovery funds, Budget 2021 provided \$97 million for integrated mental health and substance care for children, youth and young adults. This includes significant new investments to expand community-based prevention, early intervention, and wraparound substance use services for youth, as well as supporting expanded access to Foundry, a network of centres and online supports that offer young people ages 12 to 24 integrated health and wellness supports, including substance use services. Budget 2021 included additional funding to expand Foundry Virtual and open four new Foundry centres, for a total of 23 centres province-wide by 2025/26.

These investments build on new substance use treatment services already underway such as the creation of 123 new youth substance-use treatment beds – doubling youth substance use beds in the province – and more than 100 new adult treatment and recovery beds that are being added throughout the province.

We are actively working with health authorities, who are responsible for delivering substance use treatment services in the province, to plan and implement these new and enhanced services. Through

collaboration with health authorities, local governments, Indigenous communities, and organizations, we believe the investments of Budget 2021 will lay the foundation for a comprehensive substance use system of care in British Columbia.

EB56 Opioid Crisis**Capital RD**

Whereas it is understood that opioid addictions continue to cause an ever growing record number of heart breaking deaths and debilitations across the country;

And whereas while we understand the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia have recognized these impacts, it remains critically important to advocate for a national public health emergency through the municipal voices provided by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM requests the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency and develop appropriate comprehensive, holistic Pan-Canadian overdose action plans that include the legislative and funding frameworks for decriminalization, de-stigmatization, safe supply, suitable medical treatments and thereby function to holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness and overdose deaths in municipalities across Canada.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Government of BC is working closely with the Government of Canada on a number of jurisdictional issues related to the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* to identify shared priorities and opportunities to collaboratively address the ongoing drug toxicity crisis. BC's Provincial Health Officer declared a public health emergency in 2016 due to rising illicit drug toxicity deaths, and the Government of BC is supportive of all action at a federal level to continue to address drug toxicity crisis in partnership.

BC has moved away from urging the federal government to declare the toxic drug crisis a national public health emergency. The *Emergencies Act* – formerly known as the *War Measures Act* – and under which a national public health emergency would be declared, is intended to provide a short-term response and to provide authority and capacity to respond which is beyond that which the province has. It has never been used, including in response to COVID-19. The legislation is not set up for this type of long-term public health emergency and would offer us no advantages, such as new resources.

Since 2017, the Government of BC has accelerated its response to the toxic drug crisis by investing a total of \$938 million to expand existing services and add new resources across the full spectrum of substance use care.

A Pathway to Hope, released by the Government of BC in 2019, sets the 10-year vision for a new system of mental health and substance use care, with an emphasis on prevention, promotion, early intervention and integrated services, that builds on existing initiatives and implements new, innovative approaches.

On March 26, 2020, the Government of BC released new clinical guidance in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic to help reduce the risks to people who use substances and the disproportionate harms caused to substance users by the need to isolate and quarantine to stem the spread of the virus. *Risk Mitigation in the Context of Dual Public Health Emergencies* works to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection, while outlining steps prescribers, pharmacists, and care teams can take to support people who use substances through the provision of safe prescription alternatives to illicit drugs and telemedicine for clinical assessments.

On April 14, 2021, the Government of BC announced it will request a federal exemption from Health Canada to decriminalize personal possession of drugs in the province to remove the shame that often prevents people from reaching out for life-saving help. BC is working with partners on this application and the Solicitor General sent a letter to police chiefs asking police to focus on more serious crimes and align more with harm-reduction principles.

On July 15, 2021, the BC Government released a first in Canadian policy guidance to reduce toxic drug-related injuries and deaths through the provision of a prescribed safer supply of medications as an alternative to highly toxic illicit drugs — the next phase in risk mitigation following the March 2020 guidance. Budget 2021 provides \$22.63 million over three years and implementation is underway in each Health Authority region.

The Government of BC looks forward to continued collaboration with the Government of Canada to advance initiatives such as the decriminalization of drug possession that require bilateral collaboration.

EB57 Streamlined Funding – Overdose Prevention**Chetwynd**

Whereas overdose from illicit drug toxicity is now the leading cause of unnatural death in BC and the BC Center for Disease Control advises that “wide access to harm reduction and development of a comprehensive system of care remain key goals for saving and improving lives”;

And whereas the Province of BC has made funding grants available to eligible agencies to provide initiatives for harm reduction and access to treatment centres for those at risk of drug overdose:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the Province of BC to streamline, expedite and increase the grant funding process to enable eligible agencies to more easily access funds for harm reduction and access to treatment centres for those at risk of drug overdose.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Government recognizes the ongoing impacts of the toxic drug supply and how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the public health emergency. As evidenced by Government’s historic \$500 million investment in Budget 2021, it is determined to build a comprehensive system of mental health and addictions care that people in British Columbia need and deserve.

Budget 2021 included \$45 million to address emergent needs related to the toxic drug supply through enhanced access to overdose prevention services, harm reduction supplies and increased accessibility of inter-disciplinary outreach teams and nursing care. Additionally, Budget 2021 includes \$132 million to strengthen and expand access to substance use treatment and recovery services and supports—providing the addictions care that British Columbians deserve.

British Columbians are experiencing unprecedented rates of harm due to an illicit drug supply that is unpredictable and highly toxic. To address targeted needs within communities, Government invests \$6 million annually to support local priority projects. Examples include:

- \$2.75 million to support 36 community action teams that support the development of local, integrated planning and strategies to address the overdose crisis
- \$1.526 million to support 23 rural, remote, and Indigenous-focused projects to support an equitable overdose response
- \$1.2 million to support the provincial peer network

In addition to the historic investment committed through Budget 2021, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, has itself, provided over \$32 million in grant funding since 2017 to support mental health and addictions related services and initiatives such as:

- \$13.5 million to the Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division to support increased access to substance use treatment beds throughout the province.
- \$4.7 million to Our Place Society to the development of therapeutic recovery centre

- \$1.0 million to the Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division to support awareness of harms reduction, pain management, pathways to treatment, and other information about mental health and substance use within the trades and construction sector
- \$2.015 million as part of the COVID-19 response to support 53 operators of eligible adult and youth bed-based substance use treatment and support recovery services.

The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions recognizes that timely access to funding is critical to address emergent needs in response to the toxic drug supply, and continues to work with partner Ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance to streamline and expedite funding approval processes.

EB58 Improved Access to Detox and Treatment Centres**Port Alberni**

Whereas there are extensive wait lists and limited access for individuals seeking entry to provincially funded residential detox and recovery treatment centres;

And whereas individuals struggling with addiction are often required to complete medical detox prior to accessing/obtaining rehabilitation treatment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the Province to improve access to and reduce wait times for individuals seeking treatment for their addictions through medical detox and rehabilitation treatment centres.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Province recognizes the ongoing need to enhance mental health and substance use supports for British Columbians, particularly those in rural and remote areas. We are committed to providing improved access to a range of quality options – with medical detox and rehabilitation treatment services being one part of a comprehensive continuum of care.

Through Budget 2021, the province has made a historic investment of over \$500M in mental health and addiction care with over \$132M over three years allocated for adult treatment and recovery services. These funds will support investments in withdrawal management, transition and assessment, specialized treatment and recovery, and aftercare services, representing an additional 195 treatment beds and over 132 new FTE positions, including beds and FTEs to support detox and treatment services. This investment addresses critical gaps in care through increasing access to services, reducing wait times, improving transitions through the system, supporting innovative initiatives improving client attachment and promoting holistic, person- centered and culturally safe services.

In addition to the \$132M in treatment and recovery funds, Budget 2021 included additional funding to build and/or enhance services related to illicit drug poisoning as well as to improve the mental health and substance use system of care for children, youth and young adults.

These investments build on new substance use treatment services already underway such as the creation of 123 new youth substance-use treatment beds – doubling youth substance use beds in the province – and more than 100 new adult treatment and recovery beds that are being added throughout the province. We are actively working with health authorities, who are responsible for delivering substance use treatment services in the province, to plan and implement these new and enhanced services. Through collaboration with health authorities, local governments, indigenous communities, and organizations, we believe the investments of Budget 2021 will lay the foundation for a comprehensive substance use system of care in British Columbia.

EB59 Detox and Treatment Beds, and Sobering Centres**Kamloops**

Whereas local governments across BC work with business and neighbourhood associations, health authorities, social service providers, and provincial organizations to identify resources or programs that will support a safe and secure community for all;

And whereas many local governments are in need of more detox beds, treatment beds and a sobering centres in their communities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Minister of Health and the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions address the need for an increase in detox beds and treatment beds, and sobering centres that include treatment for addictions and mental health issues.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

The Province recognizes the ongoing need to enhance mental health and substance use supports for British Columbians, particularly those in rural and remote areas. We are committed to providing improved access to a range of quality options – with medical detox and rehabilitation treatment services being one part of a comprehensive system of care.

Through Budget 2021, the province has made a historic investment of over \$500M in mental health and addiction care with over \$132M allocated for adult treatment and recovery services. These funds will support investments in withdrawal management, transition and assessment, specialized treatment and recovery, and aftercare services. This investment represents an additional 195 treatment beds and over 132 new full time employee (FTE) positions, including beds and FTEs to support withdrawal management services, sobering beds and treatment services. This investment will address critical gaps in care by increasing access to services, reducing wait times, improving transitions through the system, supporting innovative initiatives improving client attachment and promoting holistic, person-centered and culturally safe services.

In addition to the \$132M in treatment and recovery funds, Budget 2021 includes additional funding to build and/or enhance services related to illicit drug poisoning as well as to improve the mental health and substance use system of care for children, youth and young adults.

These investments build on new substance use treatment services already underway such as the creation of 123 new youth substance-use treatment beds – doubling youth substance use beds in the province – and more than 100 new adult treatment and recovery beds that are being added throughout the province.

We are actively working with health authorities, who are responsible for delivering substance use treatment services in the province, to plan and implement these new and enhanced services. Through collaboration with health authorities, local governments, indigenous communities, and organizations, we believe the investments of Budget 2021 will lay the foundation for a comprehensive substance use system of care in British Columbia.

EB60 Regional Model for Mobile Crisis Response Car Program**White Rock**

Whereas a Mobile Crisis Response Car Program, such as is the Car 67 model which pairs an RCMP officer with a mental health care provider to address mental health calls, has been in place for some local governments for decades and has been well received;

And whereas an integrated robust health care regional model would have value, eliminating jurisdictional policy lines (based on local government boundaries) for a regional model that follows Health Authority boundaries:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to provide an integrated health care regional model for a Mobile Crisis Response Car Program.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Government supports a wide range of mental health crisis intervention services to support people experiencing a mental health crisis, including crisis lines, dedicated on-call mental health staff within local mental health centres, community stabilization beds, sobering and assessment beds, crisis residential care units, and mobile crisis response services.

The Ministry of Health is also supporting creation of civilian crisis response teams that will likely feature a combination of trained peers, mental health and social workers, and psychiatric nurses to respond to mental health calls instead of, or in combination with, police. These mental health crisis intervention services are integrated with local police departments and first responders such as ambulance and policing services, as well as acute care and community mental health and substance services.

Mobile crisis response teams that integrate police and mental health professionals require a minimum number of crisis calls to support the model of intervention, therefore these teams are more appropriate for urban centres. On call mental health staff within local mental health centres have found to be more appropriate for rural and remote communities.

There are presently eight police and mental health partnership mobile crisis response teams in BC located in: Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Kamloops, Prince George and the Capital region. The Government is presently addressing a number of mental health and substance use priorities such as the opioid pandemic and enhancing mental health and substance use complex care services. The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions is currently working with the Ministry of Public Safety and the Solicitor General to invest in community based mental health and social services to help people in crisis and free up police resources. At this point there are no plans to expand police and mental health partnership teams although the province is supporting a pilot project in Victoria to include peer support workers in its mobile crisis response teams.

**EB61 Emergency Health Services – Adequate Staffing
in Communities****Bulkley-Nechako RD**

Whereas the residents of the Province of British Columbia deserve timely and professional emergency health care services when health emergencies occur;

And whereas many rural communities lack after hour and weekend access to medical clinics or hospitals in their communities;

And whereas the BC Emergency Health Services prioritization model often takes ambulance crews from smaller rural communities to provide service to larger communities, leaving rural communities with limited or no ambulance resources within the community, significantly increasing ambulance response times:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia and BC Emergency Health Services to establish a staffing model that ensures adequate staffing levels are in place and remain within the rural community boundary before the BC Emergency Health Services prioritization model can be enacted.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province is supporting BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to make important changes in the way they serve patients, especially in rural and remote communities. The improvements are part of the implementation of the negotiated collective agreement (2019-2022) ratified by the members of the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (CUPE 873) and the Minister of Health's announced plans in July 2021 to strengthen BC's ambulance system.

The average annual spending increase for BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) over the last four years is 7.95% – the budget has increased from \$424.25 million to \$559.141 million.

In July 2021, the Minister of Health announced plans to further strengthen BC's ambulance system to ensure it is more responsive to British Columbians, a better place to work for paramedics and dispatch staff, and able to meet increasing demands and needs through focused and direct leadership. This work is on top of the improvements to emergency services that are being made through the Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Response Framework announced in April 2020, and improvements negotiated through the collective agreement between BCEHS and the BC Ambulance Paramedics (2019-2022).

The Minister's July 2021 announcement on actions to strengthen the provincial ambulance service include funding for an additional:

- 85 new full-time paramedics
- 30 dispatchers
- 22 additional ambulances
- 24 additional 24/7 ambulance stations in rural communities and new regular part time positions for the smallest remote stations.

Leadership changes, including a reconstituted board and a new chief ambulance officer position, will enable a direct and focussed approach to ensure better service for patients and families and better supports for front-line staff.

In April 2020, the Province announced the Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Response Framework (the Framework). It is intended to bring both immediate and long-term, sustainable solutions to those living in rural and remote communities.

The Framework has resulted in improvements to service delivery including the expansion of the First Nation Health Authority's Virtual Doctor of the Day, access to HealthLink BC's Emergency iDoctor-in-assistance (HEiDi), and several real-time virtual support pathways for providers available through the Rural Coordination Centre for BC. Transportation improvements and increased access to emergency services include an additional 55 ground ambulances and 5 air ambulances, the deployment of rural advanced care paramedics to rural and remote communities, and patient transfer improvements in northern BC.

These improvements mean people living in rural and remote communities can expect more consistent emergency medical responses, enhanced community paramedic primary care services, and a better place to work for front-line staff.

EB62 BC Ambulance Rural Service**East Kootenay RD**

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

And whereas the BC Ambulance Service within rural BC is under critical paramedic shortage and often there is not adequate availability of paramedics, leading to significant shift vacancies and underserved ambulance for prolonged period of times. This concern is a long standing issue, demonstrating that the current model is unsustainable due to the high degree of training and certification required and lack of meaningful and adequate compensation provided:

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

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The Province is supporting BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to make important changes in the way they serve patients, especially in rural and remote communities. The improvements are part of the implementation of the negotiated collective agreement (2019-2022) ratified by the members of the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (CUPE 873) and the Minister of Health's announced plans in July 2021 to strengthen BC's ambulance system.

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- 30 dispatchers
- 22 additional ambulances
- 24 additional 24/7 ambulance stations in rural communities and new regular part time positions for the smallest remote stations.

Leadership changes including a reconstituted board and a new chief ambulance officer position, will enable a direct and focussed approach to ensure better service for patients and families and better supports for front-line staff.

The Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Response Framework is intended to bring both immediate and long-term, sustainable solutions to those living in rural and remote communities. In addition to adding ambulances and air ambulances, the Framework has resulted in improvements to service delivery including the expansion of the First Nation Health Authority Virtual Doctor of the Day, access to HealthLink BC's Emergency iDoctor-in-assistance (HEiDi), and several real-time virtual support pathways for providers available through the Rural Coordination Centre for BC.

BCEHS is making important changes in the way they serve their patients especially in rural and remote communities through the implementation of the negotiated collective agreement (2019-2022) ratified by the members of the Ambulance Paramedics and Dispatchers Association of BC (CUPE 873).

Historically, BCEHS has relied heavily on on-call paramedic staffing in rural and remote areas. As part of the collective agreement, several initiatives were agreed upon including a new staffing model. This model is meant to provide rural and remote communities with permanent, salaried jobs for paramedics, with employer-provided health and wellness benefits, consistent emergency coverage and improved paramedic recruitment and retention.

There will be continued collaboration between the Ambulance Paramedics and Dispatchers Association of BC and BCEHS to implement measures to address employee wellness, operational performance, workload, response times, recruitment and retention, and public engagement. The Province recognizes the importance of this work and strongly supports this constructive and co-operative approach. The chief ambulance officer will be working with the union to find areas of common ground and solutions to continue to improve the ambulance system.

Key statistics:

- Between 2017 and 2019, 115 regular paramedic positions were added.
 - Additionally, 20 dispatchers, 4 nurses, 20 paramedic specialists, and 3 paramedic practice leads were added to support modernizing how BCEHS dispatches ambulances across the province.
- Between January 2021 and June 2021, BCEHS hired 271 paramedics, including 66 new scheduled on call positions.
- On July 2, 2021, 295 new paramedic postings were rolled out across the province in relation to the negotiated collective agreement.
- Before 2017, BCEHS had 506 ambulances and 11 air ambulances. Additional investments have increased that number to 593 ambulances and 16 air ambulances.
 - 55 of these ambulances and 5 air ambulances were activated to support rural, remote, First Nation and Indigenous communities in response to COVID-19. The 5 new air resources are positioned to ensure effective air coverage across the province with 3 in Prince George, 1 in Kelowna and 1 in Nanaimo.
 - The other 11 air ambulances include 4 helicopters (2 in Vancouver, 1 in Prince Rupert and 1 in Kamloops), 6 fixed wing planes (2 in Kelowna, 2 in Vancouver, 1 in Prince George and 1 in Fort St John) and 1 jet based out of Vancouver.

EB63 Primary Care Network Funding

Oliver

Whereas many British Columbians in the province do not have appropriate access to primary care services;

And whereas the Province introduced team based primary care clinics to serve and build interdisciplinary primary care teams in each community to ensure patients are at the center of health care delivery:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to establish team based primary care clinics in all BC communities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

In 2018/19, the Ministry of Health launched a transformational team-based primary care strategy envisioned to increase patient attachment and access to quality, comprehensive, culturally safe and person-centred primary care services across the province.

Team-based primary care is delivered using a number of different models of care, including: full-service Family Practices/Patient Medical Homes; Urgent and Primary Care Centres; Community Health Centres; First Nations Primary Health Care Centres; and Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Clinics. These clinical service models include teams of primary care providers (ie. family physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses and allied health professionals) in a defined geography, working together in local Primary Care Networks in order to better coordinate and leverage existing and new providers and services to meet the needs of local citizens.

Primary Care Networks are a significant component of the Primary Care Strategy and the requisite primary care teams. As of March 31, 2021, the Ministry of Health has

- established 53 Primary Care Networks,
- added 23 Urgent and Primary Care Centres,
- opened one new and two expanded Community Health Centres,
- launched one First Nations Primary Health Care Centres with 14 more in planning,
- opened and operating three Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Clinics, and
- approved funding for over 1400 team-based FTE resources.

With a Ministry of Health commitment of 85 Primary Care Networks by end of 2022/23, initial investments in primary care networks and team-based care resources have been recognized as a starting point to BC governments primary care transformation strategy. With the objective to fill in primary care service gaps in all regions of the province and ensure access continues to be equitable, culturally safe and high quality for British Columbians, the Primary Care Strategy will take time to shift the health care structures towards a system that responds to the needs, values, goals and preferences of patients, their families and caregivers.

EB64 Cost-Sharing Model for Funding Hospital Capital Projects**Nanaimo RD**

Whereas under the current funding model the Province provides funding for capital projects related to building and maintaining hospital infrastructure that is equivalent to a proportion not exceeding 60 percent of the cost, with 40 percent being cost-shared by the regional hospital districts;

And whereas this formula results in increases to local property taxation for regional hospital districts at levels that are unsustainable, given the diverse and growing demands on taxation dollars faced by local governments and the increasing costs of capital infrastructure projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government review the cost-sharing model for funding hospital capital projects and consult with regional hospital district boards with a view to reducing the reliance on property tax funding at the local government level, enabling local governments to implement sustainable taxation approaches for a realistic portion of the costs associated with hospital capital projects.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Regional hospital districts (RHDs) are key partners in building and maintaining local hospital infrastructure. Health authorities work closely with their RHDs to determine what level of cost sharing may be possible for specific projects within their approved capital plans and RHDs are expected to contribute 40 percent of capital project costs within their region.

The Ministry of Health recognizes that regional contributions towards health capital projects are inconsistent across RHDs and vary from project to project. When there is an opportunity to amend the *Hospital District Act* - the legislative framework for the roles and responsibilities of RHDs - the review of the cost-sharing model for funding health capital projects in BC could be considered in consultation with all stakeholders, including RHDs and the Union of BC Municipalities.

EB65 Aging in Place**Kaslo**

Whereas “aging in place” keeps seniors close to home, where their partner, family or friends are better able to provide loving support, which improves quality of life for all;

And whereas the gap between rural health care needs and capacity is growing;

And whereas concentrating health services in regional centers transfers a significant economic burden to individuals in the form of transportation costs, increased energy consumption and housing in-affordability;

And whereas our elderly, and all patients, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not as “users”:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Government of British Columbia to recognize the importance and benefits of aging in place in rural communities by committing to increase the number of care beds through the expansion or building of facilities to meet the growing need.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Government is dedicated to improving care for seniors and has invested more than \$1 billion over the last three years to improve care for seniors, including investments in primary care, home health, long-term care, assisted living, and respite services. This included \$75 million over three years to expand respite care and adult day programs to better support family and friend caregivers.

The 2020 Minister of Health’s mandate letter is evidence of our continued focus on improving services for seniors and includes the following commitments:

- Improve and expand publicly funded home care to provide better care and help with daily living so that people can stay in their own homes for as long as is safely possible, receiving care from a more stable group of care aides.
- Support delivery of better care to seniors by private operators of long-term care homes by making them more accountable for the public funding they receive.
- Work with the new Parliamentary Secretary of Seniors and Long-Term Care to engage non-profit providers to support the plan to build more public care homes, including new public beds, to keep seniors safer, healthier, and more comfortable.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is committed to ensuring seniors receive dignified and quality care through a coordinated, systematic, and purposeful approach to improving services including home care and long-term care. The Ministry is also actively involved in initiatives to enhance seniors’ connections with community with the goal of supporting seniors to live active and engaging lives.

Since 2017, we have taken significant action to improve long-term care in BC. This includes providing greater choice for individuals and their families when choosing a long-term care facility through a more client-centred, consistent, transparent, and clear process. Health authorities have also been funded to reach 3.36 direct care hours per resident-day, on average, across all owned and operated and contracted facilities since April 2020.

Our goal is to support seniors to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. In doing this, we can also delay or avoid their entry into long-term care. Expanding the Better at Home program is the latest in a series of investments the Province has made to help older adults living at home. More seniors and Elders in British Columbia are able to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes through expansion of the United Way's Better at Home (betterathome.ca) program to serve more communities.

Supporting seniors to remain at home longer was a key action identified in our plans to manage COVID-19, and temporary policies enabled greater flexibility with home support and in-home respite to support clients and caregivers. The Province also partnered with the United Way and bc211 to launch the Safe Seniors, Strong Communities program, a province-wide service that matches community-based seniors with local volunteers to provide non-medical services.

The Rural, Remote, First Nations and Indigenous COVID-19 Response Framework, launched in April 2020, was developed to help ensure people living in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities have access to critical health care to meet their unique needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and into the future. The Framework continues to support rural, remote and Indigenous communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, and planning for the longer-term strategies to support these communities beyond the pandemic is underway. The Framework is intended to bring both immediate and long-term, sustainable solutions to those living in rural and remote communities.

EB67 Implement Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid**Saanich**

Whereas affordable, quality child care provides the foundation for lifelong success and benefits to society overall, and child care is important for the economy and quality of life for British Columbians;

And whereas one of the greatest barriers to increasing child care spaces is the lack of qualified Early Childhood Educators:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to support the Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia and the coalition of Child Care Advocates' proposal to implement a competitive, publicly funded Early Childhood Education Provincial Wage Grid, made possible by a significant increase in operation subsidies for child care facilities, as a step towards their plan for a universal child care system.

RESPONSE: Ministry Of Children and Family Development

Government recognizes the critical role Early Childhood Educators (ECE) play in the quality of B.C.'s child care system. That is why work has been underway to ensure ECEs receive appropriate pay and recognition so that the sector has enough skilled workers to deliver a service that families, communities and employers can depend on.

On July 8, 2021, B.C. and the Government of Canada signed the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care bilateral agreement. As part of that agreement, B.C. has committed to develop a Wage Grid for ECEs. Initial steps have been taken with the ECE Wage Enhancement program.

Work will continue on this important item through engagement with key stakeholders and select child care providers from across B.C. The Province is committed to supporting the career opportunity of Early Childhood Educators by addressing the long standing issue of insufficient wages.

EB68 Increase Supported Child Development Funding**Saanich**

Whereas the Supported Child Development community-based program funded by the Ministry of Children and Development provides extremely valuable assistance for families of children with extra support needs to access inclusive child care;

And whereas the funding for this program is inadequate to meet family needs resulting in years-long waitlists:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the Supported Child Development funding.

RESPONSE: Ministry Of Children and Family Development

Government is committed to continuing to fund Supported Child Development (SCD) and Aboriginal Supported Child Development (ASCD) programs, enabling increased access to inclusive child care. These programs have a base budget of \$70M, and an additional \$10M annual enhancement through the Canada-B.C. Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Through Budget 2021, Government allocated an additional \$16.8M to these programs to increase access to an estimated 2000 more families. In 2022/23, an additional \$15M will be invested under the Canada Wide Early Learning and Care Agreement, enabling SCD and ASCD programs to expand services and partner with child care providers to build capacity through professional learning opportunities.

Consultation in 2019/20 and 2020/21 indicated a need for more information, resources and training opportunities for child care providers to support effective, inclusive child care. The ministry has undertaken four significant projects to support a base level of knowledge across all child care providers, including the development of an Inclusive Child Care Toolkit (launched October 2021) and funding the development of the following projects by CanAssist at the University of Victoria:

- An Inclusive Child Care Online Professional Learning Module (virtual launch event anticipated for June 2022)
- A series of toileting resources to support child care providers in providing inclusive care to children at all stages of toilet learning, regardless of age (launched October 2021)
- A second online professional learning module and other deliverables focused on positive approaches to children's behaviour (estimated completion by spring 2023)

EB69 Dental Health**Squamish-Lillooet RD**

Whereas dental health is a critical component to health and a key indicator of healthy childhood development, while poor dental health contributes to speech impediments, lower nutritional absorption and growth development, pain, learning inequality, and other health and quality of life issues;

And whereas dental care is not a universally accessible service in British Columbia for all residents of British Columbia, while the provincial government has made statements of their support for this resolution in the past:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Health commit to add basic dental care to Medical Services Plan coverage as soon as possible.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

The BC Government does provide coverage for basic dental care for many low-income individuals through programs administered by the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR). Through SDPR, routine dental care is covered for all eligible children up to 18 years of age and for all individuals with designated disabilities, regardless of age. The Ministry of Children and Family Development covers dental care for children in foster care.

Through the Medical Services Plan (MSP), the Ministry of Health covers surgical dental care, not including fillings or dentures, for anyone who, due to age or medical condition, requires procedures to be performed in a hospital. The Ministry of Health also provides annual funding to the BC Dental Association for administration of the Cleft Lip and Palate Prosthodontic Program, the Severe Facial Trauma and Congenital Dental Anomalies Program, and the Diagnostic Growth and Developmental Dental Conditions in Children and Cancer Patients Program.

The Ministry of Health and SDPR jointly fund the Community Dental Partners Program (CDPP). CDPP is a program administered by the BC Children and Women's Hospital that enables access to dental treatment under general anesthesia for children under nine years of age in the BC Healthy Kids program and for older children, including adults, with disabilities who require dental treatment under general anesthesia.

The Province recognizes the public's desire to be able to access affordable dental care, and funding for the dental program will continue to be reviewed each year. As the Ministry of Health continues to work to address ongoing pressures on the healthcare budget, at the present time the Ministry is unable to expand dental coverage.

EB70 Farmers' Markets as Essential Services During Local Emergencies**Cumberland**

Whereas farmers' markets are a key resource in addressing food security during an emergency by providing access to food quickly and efficiently;

And whereas it has been demonstrated that farmers' markets can replace disruptions to food supply chains at the local community level and in times of emergency, for instance in the case of the Quesnel Farmers Market during the 2017 Cariboo Chilcotin wildfires and the closure of Highway 97 over multiple days:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province take the necessary steps to ensure farmers' markets are identified as an essential service during all provincial and local states of emergency.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Government is interested in supporting local governments and British Columbians during emergency events to ensure quick and efficient access to locally produced foods and overall food security. Government moved quickly during the Covid-19 pandemic to designate farmers' markets as an essential service, minimize the pandemic's impact on our local food producers, and ensure citizens safe and efficient access to locally produced foods. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) also worked to secure funding to enable farmers' markets to quickly pivot their businesses and enable them to offer their products online to ensure continued consumer access.

MAFF have consulted with Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to confirm the use of essential service designations in the province during emergency events. EMBC has advised that such a designation does not exist for general emergency events, and that the essential service designations outlined in response to the Covid-19 pandemic is unique to this event.

In all emergency events, a key goal of the government is to minimize the incident's impact on citizens and businesses. It is not currently envisioned under other hazard types (examples: wildfire, flooding, tsunami, earthquake) that government would be taking steps to close businesses. As emergency response is predominantly led by local authorities and First Nations who are empowered to declare local states of emergency and make decisions regarding measures such as Evacuation Orders that may impact business operations within their jurisdiction, it would typically be up to this level of government to address the potential impacts of these decisions on farmers' markets and other businesses.

UBCM may wish to engage in further discussions with the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer regarding whether such a designation could be considered under the provincial pandemic response framework led by Ministry of Health. As occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic, MAFF will continue to advocate for, and support our local farmers' markets to ensure they are designated as essential during any future public health emergency where public safety considerations support such an approach.

EB71 Long-term Strategy to Address Homelessness**Terrace**

Whereas homelessness is an undesirable situation in every community in BC;

And whereas homelessness is a complex issue which may involve mental illness, addictions, systemic racism, and lack of appropriate housing options and supports:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a long-term strategy to eliminate homelessness, and in the meantime, fund year-round day programming and drop in spaces for the homeless population.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

The Ministry of Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing is leading the Province's work to develop a new path forward in our collective efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness in B.C. This strategy is being developed through close collaboration with partners, including people with lived experience of homelessness, Indigenous partners, non-profit operators, health care providers, and local governments, as well as other ministries whose core business has intersecting impacts on homelessness, including the ministries of Health, Mental Health and Addictions, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Children and Family Development, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Municipal Affairs, and Public Safety and Solicitor General. We expect to have more information regarding this initiative in the spring of 2022.

As part of this work, ministry staff are reviewing the outreach and in-reach services that are available to people experiencing homelessness throughout the province and are engaging directly with people with lived and living experiences of homelessness to hear from them which services and supports they need to find stability and belonging in our communities.

There is still much left to do to address homelessness in British Columbia, and the Ministry will continue to work in coordination and collaboration with local governments to support those who are most in need, and the entire community.

EB75 Housing in Rural British Columbia**Vanderhoof**

Whereas housing shortages impede the livability of British Columbians and impact a rural community's ability to attract and retain professional talents and labour thereby negatively affecting the economy;

And whereas there has been a demonstrated need, transferred social responsibility and pressure on rural local governments that lack the financial capacity and professional expertise to develop lands suitable for various forms of housing to encourage small scale developers to construct such housing:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to create funding programs to encourage small scale developers to provide much needed housing in rural BC.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

The Province is making a historic investment of \$7 billion over 10 years to build 114,000 units of affordable housing as part of Homes for BC – A 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability in British Columbia. The Province is committed to supporting local governments in their efforts to bring affordable housing to small, rural, and remote communities.

Regarding funding opportunities, local governments are encouraged to partner with BC Housing to create more innovative and sustainable housing solutions through the Building BC funding streams, including the Community Housing Fund, the Indigenous Housing Fund, and the Supportive and Women's Transition Housing Fund.

BC Housing partners with community, non-profit and private sector stakeholders to create new affordable rental and homeownership options for middle-income British Columbians through the HousingHub. The Province has added an additional \$2 billion in development financing through B.C.'s HousingHub to finance the construction of thousands of new homes for middle-income families. HousingHub works collaboratively with an array of local governments and industry groups to facilitate the purchase of suitable land, equity, access to pre-development funding, low-cost financing, and development expertise to create new affordable housing.

The ministry also supports utilizing available Crown land for affordable housing and we are in the early stages of working with ministry partners and Crown entities on new mechanisms to identify and assist municipalities in accessing available land for redevelopment. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) has a Crown Land & Nominal Rent Tenure Sponsorship program where local governments and community groups can apply for access to provincial Crown land for public purposes through a sponsored Crown Grant or nominal rent tenure. More information on how to apply for this process can be found on the Ministry website here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/economic-development/crown-land-nominal-rent-tenure-sponsorship>

EB76 Black Lives Matter**Saanich**

Whereas the federal and provincial governments have stated that their work at the federal and provincial levels is underway to address the elements of institutional racism across Canada and the Province of British Columbia;

And whereas there is a systemic disadvantage imposed on Black members of our community:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Prime Minister, the Premier of British Columbia, and all federal and provincial ministers responsible for education, employment, housing, mental health, and policing to review and report on elements of institutional racism that may be found to exist in the areas of education, employment, housing, mental health, policing and other sectors.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

The Province is committed to addressing systemic anti-Black racism and proclaiming the International Decade for the People of African Descent (IDPAD). The ministry hosted a series of 10 community dialogues from May to November 2021. These dialogues bring together members from Black communities and various Ministers to discuss recommendations on how to declare IDPAD in a meaningful way and identify opportunities to address long-standing and emerging issues of systemic racism faced by Black communities in B.C.

The ministry is also moving forward with work in introducing Anti-Racism Data legislation, in collaboration with Indigenous partners and racialized communities. This legislation is intended to improve government's ability to identify and address areas of systemic racism in government policies, programs and services and is essential to modernizing sectors like policing, health care and education.

The Province is also engaging in dialogue with the federal ministry responsible for Canadian Heritage, Diversity, Inclusion and Youth to ensure that we are working together to address institutional racism in all public programs and services provided to British Columbians.

Premier Horgan has made this work a priority for his government and has appointed Parliamentary Secretary Rachna Singh to lead delivering system institutional change and to work towards the eradication of racism in British Columbia.

2020-NR1 Independent Office of Integrity for Local Government**Maple Ridge**

Whereas the UBCM Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC) has been working extensively to support local government initiatives to address less-than-responsible local government conduct by providing local government council and board members with a set of principles and general standards of conduct that can be used to develop their own code of conduct;

And whereas the WGRC continues to work on potential legislative change that focuses on the importance of councils and boards turning their minds to codes of conduct in a standardized and consistent manner:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the provincial government to establish an Independent Office of Integrity to serve the public, elected officials and local government officials in an advisory, educational and investigative role in the development, application and enforcement of codes of conduct.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Ministry continues to support initiatives to provide education and other tools to local governments seeking to develop a broader responsible conduct framework for local government. Many of these reflect tools requested in the 2021 UBCM Special Resolution SR3, Strengthening Responsible Conduct, and are essential steps in supporting local governments in sound and effective governance.

In Fall 2021, the Legislature passed the *Municipal Affairs Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2021* which included amendments to the *Community Charter* and the *Vancouver Charter* making it a requirement for a newly elected or appointed municipal council or regional district board to publically consider the adoption of a code of conduct within 6 months of taking office. These new rules build upon and complement the existing responsible conduct framework in BC and provide local governments with an important new tool to support responsible conduct among local elected officials.

Recognizing the need to explore issues related to responsible conduct and approaches to strengthening responsible conduct in BC, the Ministry, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) formed the Working Group on Responsible Conduct (WGRC) in 2016. Since that time, the WGRC has undertaken collaborative research and policy work on the issue of responsible conduct of local government elected officials. The recent amendments were informed by this work.

Integrity Commissioners can play an important role in providing education and advice respecting responsible conduct and enforcing a code of conduct. At the same time, there are limits to that role – for example, integrity commissioners do not make the decision to impose sanctions on an elected official in breach of a code of conduct; that decision remains with the elected council or board. Local governments such as the City of Vancouver and the City of Surrey, are currently able to establish a local Integrity Commissioner to help guide these processes, if they so choose for their community.

2020-NR2 Request to Amend *Jury Act***Fort St. John**

Whereas the *Jury Act* disqualifies Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament from jury duty, but does not include local government elected officials;

And whereas local government elected officials actively lobby for legislative amendments, oversee their RCMP Detachment work plans and are privy to sensitive information that could create a real or perceived conflict of interest if required to participate on a jury in their local government:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM be asked to lobby the provincial government to amend the *Jury Act* to disqualify local government elected officials from jury duty.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

Government recognizes the many important and active roles local government elected officials play in service to their local communities. The Ministry is open to feedback and suggestions to improve the *Jury Act*. Ministry staff will undertake research, analysis, and consultation to determine the feasibility and benefits of amending the *Jury Act* to disqualify local government elected officials from jury duty.

2020-NR3 Benefits of Public Car Insurance**Burnaby**

Whereas public car insurance creates local jobs and significant investments in municipalities through road safety and improvement, grants-in-lieu, and community grants while providing greater control to municipalities to plan for risks and costs;

And whereas jurisdictions with only private insurance options have experienced significant rate hikes year after year while accident benefits dramatically decline:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM will call on the provincial government to preserve public car insurance, including jobs and local investments, in British Columbia.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government has demonstrated its commitment to preserving and strengthening the public vehicle insurance model in British Columbia with the implementation of Enhanced Care as of May 1, 2021. Enhanced Care provides the benefits British Columbians need to recover from a vehicle accident while ensuring stability, predictability and fairness with respect to premiums, and ultimately making life more affordable throughout the province.

NR1 Parental Leave for Elected Officials**Squamish-Lillooet RD**

Whereas the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter* do not provide maternity and parental leave rights to elected officials;

And whereas the absence of maternity and parental leave for local elected officials specifically disadvantages young and female candidates running for office and, hence, is a systemic barrier to attracting more diverse and representative candidates to local government:

Therefore, be it resolved that prior to the next local government elections in 2022, UBCM work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Gender Equity Office to amend the *Local Government Act* and the *Community Charter* to establish common minimum entitlements for maternity and parental leave for elected officials in BC following the birth or adoption of a child, but allows flexibility for local governments to exceed said minimum entitlements should they choose to.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

In response to a similar resolution in 2016 (2016-B99), the Province set out the complex policy considerations that would require analysis to establish a uniform maternity and parental leave framework for local elected officials. Those included the existing legal and policy rules around employee leave; whether elected officials can be considered employees under the Employment Standards Act for these purposes; and other implications that could flow from elected officials being considered “employees” given their collective status (as councils and boards) as “employers”.

Since then, the Province has observed an increase in the number of local governments that have adopted their own specific policies to allow elected officials to go on maternity or parental leave. The Province continues to favour an approach that allows individual communities to determine policies related to various types of leave under existing local government legislation, just as local governments determine remuneration and other benefits for local elected officials. In that way, local governments can continue to develop policies that best account for circumstances in their communities.

NR2 Improved Efficiencies in the Prosecution of Criminal Offences**Prince George**

Whereas the BC Crown Counsel Policy Manual's guidelines regarding charge assessment states that unless impracticable to do so, police will lay an Information charging a person with an offence only after approval of charges by Crown Counsel has been given;

And whereas police responsibilities regarding disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings is defined in the Disclosure Memorandum of Understanding between the BC Prosecution Service, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada (BC) and all BC police agencies, Crown Counsel's responsibility in accordance with the *Crown Counsel Act*, is to "examine all relevant information and documents and, following the examination, to approve for prosecution any offence or offences that he or she considers appropriate";

And whereas the costs and hours required to prepare a fulsome disclosure before charges are approved by Crown Counsel, can result in delays in charges being laid:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the BC Prosecution Service to work with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices in order to reduce delays in charges being laid for the prosecution of criminal offences.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) is actively working with all police agencies in British Columbia to improve efficiencies in the disclosure process and reduce delays.

In 2016, the BCPS undertook a comprehensive review of B.C.'s current disclosure processes with the aim of enhancing disclosure by making it more efficient and relieving the workload pressures associated with disclosure for both the BCPS and B.C. police agencies. The Comprehensive Disclosure Strategy that resulted from this review is informed by the active participation and collective experiences of members from the BCPS, the RCMP, and municipal police agencies. One of the goals of the strategy is to devise an end-to-end system that allows for the expeditious flow of disclosure materials in digital form from police investigators to the BCPS and ultimately to the accused person.

The Digital Evidence and Disclosure Management System will be the BCPS's core element in the end-to-end management of digital evidence, with integrations to police and BCPS databases. The project envisions a standardized digital system and uniform formatting that will facilitate the expeditious flow of digital investigative materials from BC police agencies across the province to the BCPS for charge assessment and prosecution. Currently in the configuration phase, it is anticipated that, once in place, Digital Evidence and Disclosure Management System will reduce delay in the transmission of investigative materials to the BCPS and will improve the efficiencies in disclosure and information management practices.

On [August 17, 2020](#), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the BCPS, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, and all police agencies in British Columbia. The new MOU updated and clarified the responsibilities of police and prosecutors for providing disclosure in criminal and regulatory offence proceedings, laying the groundwork for making all disclosure processes digital.

NR3 Stronger Sentencing/Monitoring for Prolific/Repeat Offenders**Williams Lake**

Whereas Williams Lake has repeatedly called for stronger sentencing for prolific and repeat offenders being released into the community;

And whereas the judiciary has consistently failed to adequately ensure community safety when releasing prolific and repeat offenders on conditions:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to enact legislative and regulatory changes to the criminal justice system to apply stricter penalties and ensure adequate incarceration of prolific criminals, including consistent use of electronic monitoring when released on conditions.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing

While the judiciary is independent and is responsible for sentencing, the Province is aware that sentencing decisions can impact communities, as well as members of the public. To ensure that our courts have the tools and resources they need to address crime, our officials work closely with our provincial and federal government counterparts to monitor the impacts of court decisions and to advocate for legislative and policy changes.

The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) is aware of community concerns regarding the release of repeat offenders and is addressing the issue within the framework of current law and policy. BCPS policies are, in part, guided by the Supreme Court of Canada's strong and clear statements that the justice system must respond in a more principled and restrained manner to alleged conduct, especially by Indigenous accused and offenders. This means fewer people are being held in custody before trial and fewer people are being imprisoned after conviction. Ultimately, the criminal justice system must balance the rights of society, including victims and communities, and the legal and constitutional rights of accused persons.

With respect to electronic supervision, it is most suitable for high-risk individuals who require an intensive level of supervision due to a substantial concern they will commit a serious, violent, and/or sexually motivated offence. The decision to impose electronic supervision rests solely with the court, as BC Corrections does not have authority to impose electronic supervision on clients. Electronic supervision cannot stop a person who is determined to commit an offence; however, it builds on other tools such as risk/needs assessments, programming, home visits and public notifications to support clients and promote public safety.

NR5 Comprehensive Training Model for RCMP Members**Prince George**

Whereas RCMP costs are borne by local governments, as well as the provincial and federal governments;

And whereas the Municipal Police Services Agreement between BC and Canada includes costs for RCMP training;

And whereas local governments have different policing and training needs based on factors such as crime rates and patterns, population size, and cultural, social and economic circumstances;

And whereas law enforcement officers have increased needs for specialized training to safely respond to complex and challenging situations in multi-cultural urban and rural environments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that both the provincial and federal governments increase funding and training specific to the provision of mental health resources (such as Health IM app) and the development of a comprehensive training model for RCMP members that includes components applicable to a detachment's service region and/or local government.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

British Columbia continues to experience many changes that impact policing with frontline officers dealing with persons suffering from mental health, substance abuse and homelessness. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General recognizes that a public safety response is only one approach to address some of these challenges is continuing to work with community agencies and other areas of government to build partnerships and implement collaborative solutions.

The provision of police training in British Columbia is seen as a partnership between various stakeholders, including RCMP national and the Pacific Region Training Centre, which is responsible for the delivery of advanced training for "E" Division members. One component of providing policing is to ensure police officers receive training that is funded appropriately and equitably by all parties set out in existing agreements and that officers have the tools and resources necessary to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

The Director of Police Services continues to establish provincial policing standards on specific matters, including training in key areas such as Crisis Intervention and De-escalation skills, trauma-informed practice, and fair and impartial policing, among others. Police departments may decide what additional or further learning pathways are required. The intent is to standardize approaches where necessary and leave room for local operationalization as needed.

The Ministry is also undertaking efforts to modernize policing and public safety in British Columbia and looks forward to receiving any recommendations from the Special Committee on Reforming the *Police Act* related to standards, funding, training, and education as well as the role of police with respect to complex social issues including mental health and wellness.

NR10 Agroforest Specific Tenure License**Nelson**

Whereas work is underway throughout the Province of BC to reduce wildfire risk to communities through prescribed fuel treatment on Crown land forests;

And whereas much of this work involves shared fuel break of fuel reduction in areas that are commonly restricted from a timber harvesting perspective;

And whereas agroforestry practices can maintain a state of low flammability in these areas and allow for economic benefit to area residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of BC develop an Agroforest Specific Tenure License.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Increased resiliency to wildfires is certainly an interest to government and Government appreciates the suggestion that agroforestry options may support this objective while providing opportunity for local communities.

Community forests are already engaged in hazard reduction treatments and also have the freedom to manage for botanical forest products. Community forests are an important part of that discussion, as they strike a balance between the diverse values and interests of the local communities that come from our forests. The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development will engage with our colleagues at Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) to explore opportunities within agroforestry to evaluate opportunities.

There are 60 issued community forest agreements (CFAs), managing an allowable annual cut (AAC) of 2 million m³ per year. CFAs and First Nations Woodland Licences (FNWLs) have the ability to manage and charge a fee for botanical forest products. Botanical forest products are to date, unregulated in British Columbia and Forest Tenures Branch currently manages this file. BC Lands provides tenure options for bare land and has established policy around pricing regimes for agricultural lands.

MAFF may be able to provide expertise around economies of scale for agroforestry and recommend how a lands tenure could be developed to support this initiative, potentially at nominal rent. To date, CFAs and FNWLs have not shown any significant interest in managing for botanicals, likely due to lack of financial return. Incremental land management activities like agroforestry may need to be incentivized if government wishes to proceed.

NR11 911 Dropped Calls**Okanagan Similkameen RD**

Whereas statistics indicate an increased number of identified abandoned 911 calls;

And whereas the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) do not have access to current personal information to respond effectively to abandoned 911 calls;

And whereas the RCMP response to abandoned 911 calls is labour intensive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Justice work with the Federal Government of Canada to make available current personal information collected by provincial and national telecommunication carriers to police communications centres and 911 public safety answering points within British Columbia to assist with tracking dropped 911 calls.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government recognizes the importance of 9-1-1 emergency communications to public safety. While 9-1-1 call taking and dispatching is a local government responsibility, the ministry supports efforts to establish and improve 9-1-1 services in the province.

For example, the ministry recently provided \$155,000 to E-Comm 911, which answers over 99% of the province's primary 9-1-1 calls, to develop a strategic plan and roadmap that describes when and how to best introduce Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) services in British Columbia. NG9-1-1 is a modernization of the 9-1-1 system that will support increased capabilities, including data and information sharing about a call such as the caller and their location.

The ministry has also worked with the Chair of the Emergency Services [9-1-1] Working Group (ESWG), a national group composed of Telecommunication Service Providers, Public Safety Answering Points, and 9-1-1 Industry specialists that develops reports and recommendations to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission related to the provisioning of 9-1-1 services. The ministry will further engage the Chair to better understand the work of the ESWG and seek opportunities to advocate the importance of caller information in public safety and emergency response.

NR12 Updating BC's Wrongful Death Law**Fruitvale,
Vancouver**

Whereas tragically, hundreds of British Columbians will experience the loss of a loved one each year, and in the event of a wrongful death, many will discover they cannot access legal representation or recourse because Wrongful Death Law in BC is legislated by the *Family Compensation Act* and provisions in the *Wills, Estates and Succession Act* in determining the "worth" of a deceased family member; and currently, access to the courts requires that the deceased was a breadwinner, and otherwise precludes opportunities for independent investigation, recourse, or accountability that could avail justice, system change, economic or non-economic damages;

And whereas the *Family Compensation Act* is antiquated legislation that's had no significant or meaningful updates since the 1800s, and British Columbia is the last remaining province in Canada to modernize its wrongful death legislation to provide a fair standard of human value, dignity, and protection under the law.

And whereas BC's *Family Compensation Act* discriminates against children, the elderly and many people with disabilities when killed by the recklessness and harm of another;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia and Attorney General modernize and reform wrongful death law in British Columbia to ensure access to justice, accountability, and compensation in British Columbia for the surviving family members of those wrongfully killed.

RESPONSE: Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing

As noted in the UBCM resolution, the provincial government will address concerns with the *Family Compensation Act* and the lack of compensation for individuals who are not employed within the current term of government.

At this time, we can confirm that staff have been assigned to the project and are looking at addressing both compensation and accountability as issues when there are allegations of wrongful death.

NR13 Dangerous Dog Legislation in British Columbia**Kitimat**

Whereas *Santics v. Vancouver (City) Animal Control Officer*, 2019 BCC 294 sets out that there is no longer discretion of the Courts to provide conditional orders to rehabilitate dangerous dogs, and that Courts must decide whether a dangerous dog poses an unacceptable risk to the public and must be destroyed or released back to its owner;

And whereas animal control officers can create individualized remedies, but cannot require seizure and rehoming of dangerous dogs:

Therefore be it resolved the UBCM petition the Province of BC and relevant Provincial Ministries to amend legislation in the *Community Charter* with regards to dangerous dogs to allow for conditional orders by judges, which would provide the Courts alternative means of dealing with dangerous dogs if they are deemed to not be an unacceptable risk to the public, and to also allow animal control officers additional powers to seize and re-home dangerous dogs, and to determine destruction when a serious injury and/or death has occurred.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* enable local governments to establish rules related to animal control, and the safety of persons and animals. Under this legislation, municipalities have the authority to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements regarding dogs and their owners, and to provide for seizure of animals in certain circumstances; as well, animal control officers have special powers in relation to dangerous dogs including seeking a destruction order from the provincial court in defined situations. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Ministry) is aware of a variety of concerns relating to how dogs are regulated in communities both from those who want more regulation and those seeking less, including specific issues around “dangerous dogs” and the related legislation.

The Ministry is also aware of the 2019 court ruling *Santics v. Vancouver (City) Animal Control Officer*, 2019 BCC 294, that provides no discretion for the courts to provide conditional orders to rehabilitate dangerous dogs. In general, the Ministry can appreciate the concerns that underly interest in providing the courts with alternative means of dealing with dangerous dogs deemed not to pose an unacceptable risk to the public and potentially qualified for rehabilitation, as well as allowing animal control officers additional powers to seize and re-home dangerous dogs, and to determine destruction when a serious injury and/or death has occurred. At the same time, there are significant complexities in developing further legislation in these areas – e.g. impacts on human and animal safety and on property rights; challenges of predicting animal behaviour (how to determine whether or not an animal poses an unacceptable risk); and practical considerations such as the availability of “re-home” options in all communities.

The issue of dangerous dogs is a shared responsibility between the Ministry and the Ministry of Attorney General. Ministry staff will work with Ministry of Attorney General staff to monitor and explore these issues, with the aim of finding the best possible, long-term solutions.

NR15 Off-Site Tasting Rooms**Penticton**

Whereas BC wineries and liquor manufacturers are not able to sell their products at an owner-operated secondary or offsite location;

And whereas land-based wineries are required to locate their tasting room and retail facility at their manufacturing establishment, which in turn must be located on the agricultural land where their vineyard is located; while commercial wineries may locate their tasting room and retail facility in a town or city only if their manufacturing facility is located on the same property;

And whereas allowing BC wineries and liquor manufacturers to establish off-site tasting room and retail facilities would attract visitors who are increasingly interested in regional, craft and artisanal products to communities around the province, creating significant economic development opportunities for smaller rural communities and limiting pressure on the development of agricultural land for non-agricultural uses:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General revise Division 5 of the BC Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation (dealing with Manufacturer's Licenses) and the Manufacturer License Terms and Conditions such that manufacturers may apply to establish a tasting room and retail facility off-site, either on an individual basis or in concert with one or more other manufacturers; together with associated lounge, patio and picnic-area endorsements.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Government is aware of interest in off-site tasting rooms and understands the ways they could help businesses gain exposure and provide educational opportunities for the public through increased access to regional products.

Ministry staff continue analysis on this issue to establish its possible impacts. This includes consideration of the effect of increased access to liquor products and associated health and social harms. Additionally, staff have assessed potential effects of off-site tasting rooms on the current moratoriums on the issuance of new Wine Store licences and new Licensee Retail Store licences, which has recently been extended to July 1, 2032.

We must also consider government's responsibilities under cross-jurisdictional trade agreements, which may be impacted by the expansion of sites that only offer B.C. wine.

NR16 Expanding Definitions and Responsibilities of Digital Campaigns**Vancouver**

Whereas Elections BC regulates and defines online advertising as election advertising that has or would normally have a placement cost, but this does not specifically or explicitly include all digital campaigns or data collection;

And whereas sophisticated data analytics, weapons-grade communication technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning, alongside under-regulated online campaign and engagement tools have emerged to use psychographic profiling and predicting techniques to identify voter behaviour and persuade the persuadables using a variety of online engagement methods including but not limited to news, profiles, groups, memes and shareables;

And whereas the use of deceptive and coercive digital campaigns have been implicated in manipulating electoral outcomes in developing nations, and more recently the Trump campaign in the United States, Brexit in the UK (Cambridge Analytica) and in BC's 2017 provincial and 2018 local elections (AIQ):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Government of British Columbia to expand the definition of advertising to cover digital political campaigns and tools, and mandate their disclosure of how and when data is being collected and used, and by whom.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

In 2020, the BC Chief Electoral Officer made recommendations for legislative amendments to the provincial Election Act (for which the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) is responsible) to better regulate online election advertising. While the recommendations are to amend the provincial Election Act, the report suggests making similar amendments to the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act (LECFA).

Traditionally, amendments to LECFA follow amendments to the provincial Election Act while also considering the unique nature of local elections. This approach ensures that there is no greater regulation of elections locally than provincially, and that the two regulatory schemes align where appropriate.

In 2020, the UBCM membership endorsed a resolution to update election campaign financing rules that included establishing a pre-campaign period. In early 2021, the Legislature passed amendments put forward by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (ministry) to lengthen the time period that election advertising is regulated from 29 to 89 days by establishing a pre-campaign period. The amendments also clarify that election advertising includes canvassing voters -- in person, by telephone or over the internet -- to attempt to influence how voters vote, or mailing material with those communications if the activities are conducted on a commercial basis. This ensures that when these activities are conducted on a commercial basis, they are subject to election advertising rules including disclosure requirements and need to be accounted for as an election advertising expense. Additionally, new enforcement tools allow Elections BC to directly require platforms like Facebook to provide information about sponsors of advertising on those sites.

The ministry will continue to consult with the MAG on the state of any potential amendments to the provincial legislation as they relate to digital campaigns and online election advertising and if so, consider whether similar amendments are required locally.

NR18 BC Provincial Sales Tax on Non-Medical PPE**Harrison Hot Springs**

Whereas the BC Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General under the *Emergency Program Act* has issued Ministerial Order M012 effective January 8, 2021 mandating that non-medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn inside indoor public spaces to assist in reducing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic;

And whereas this mandate has resulted in an increased financial cost for the residents of British Columbia during the Covid-19 pandemic:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC provincial government eliminate the 7 percent Provincial Sales Tax applied to non-medical, disposable or reusable PPE applied to these items at the point of sale.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

Government currently provides a PST exemption for respirators that offer protection from dust, toxic gases, and vapours. Although this exemption is part of the suite of safety equipment exemptions for workers, all purchasers can receive the exemption for items such as N95 respirators for non-work purposes.

Government has also provided targeted COVID-19 supports to British Columbians to support individuals and businesses during the pandemic, including the BC Recovery Benefit, which provided a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents, and up to \$500 for eligible individuals. For businesses, the Province provided the Small and Medium-Sized Business Recovery Grant, permanent wholesale liquor pricing for the hospitality sector, the BC PST Rebate on Select Machinery and Equipment, the BC Increased Employment Incentive and the BC Employer Training Grant.

**NR19 5.25 Percent Provincial Collection Fee on Rural
Area Property Tax**

Okanagan Similkameen RD

Whereas rural area property taxes are collected from the Province's Surveyor of taxes on behalf of Regional Districts;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia charges a 5.25 percent administration fee on the taxes collected which the property owner pays as part of their property taxes, and this increases the tax burden on electoral area residence:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reduce the provincial collection fee on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province's Surveyor of Taxes is the tax collector outside of municipal boundaries. The Surveyor of Taxes issues 401,000 annual tax notices each year which include the local service taxes collected on behalf of the regional districts.

The Surveyor of Taxes pays the regional district its annual property taxes, as billed, before August 1 of the taxation year, regardless of whether the taxes have been collected. This removes tax collection risk from the regional district. As well, any reductions to the amount of taxes initially billed because of the property assessment appeal processes are a loss to the Province, not to the regional district. This guarantees that the regional district receives its budgeted amount of tax revenue each year.

The percentage charged for the fee is subject to occasional review. It has not changed from its initial value of 5.25 percent.

NR20 Regional District Requisitions to Municipalities**Parksville**

Whereas section 386 of the *Local Government Act* requires a municipality to charge out the regional district requisition on an assessment base or as a parcel tax;

And whereas when the service is billed to the municipality based on something other than assessment base, the municipality should have the option to bill said charge out based on volume flow or based on assessment and not mandated to use only the assessment base:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting a change be made to the *Local Government Act* section 386 (1) (c) notwithstanding section 386 (1) (a), in the case of an amount to be recovered where the charge to be recovered is itself based on a volume flow charge, the option is available to impose a fee based on the flows used or consumed by the tax base.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Regional district requisitions are statutorily designed to recover taxes only, not fees. Regional districts have the authority to directly levy fees for services within a service area. Alternatively, regional districts may enter into agreements with member municipalities for bulk services (e.g. bulk water). The member municipalities can then recover the costs as they choose fit, including a metered user-fee.

NR21 COVID Safe Restart Grant Inequity for Electoral Areas**Capital RD**

Whereas the Capital Regional District, received a funding allocation of \$1.421M under the safe restart grant based on two per capita amounts formulae: \$8.13 for rural populations and \$3.10 for all populations, and a flat funding amount;

And whereas the safe restart program takes into account the unique structure of regional districts as a service provider, with differing per capita amounts, there is a significant disparity between the per capita allocation for Electoral Areas versus local municipalities with a similar population:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to provide more equitable safe restart grant funding to Regional District Electoral Areas in comparison to the funding provided to local municipalities.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The Province understands that roughly 90% of the \$425 million in direct COVID-19 Safe Restart Funding went to B.C.'s 162 municipalities, with the remainder going to the 27 regional districts. This roughly equals the percentage of British Columbians who live in municipalities versus unincorporated rural areas of the province serviced through regional districts. This is also similar to the funding allocation for Small Community and Regional District Basic Grants that has been in place for several decades.

The regional district board has full discretion in allocating these Restart funds to various services and regional participants, including electoral areas.

NR22 Audited Financial Statements for Municipally-Owned Corporations**Powell River**

Whereas the Inspector of Municipalities requires that new business corporations mandate the preparation of audited financial statements in their corporate articles;

And whereas municipally-owned corporations may consider business ventures or partnerships with other business corporations for which the articles of incorporation may not include the requirement for audited financial statements:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to legislate changes to mandate the preparation of audited financial statements in the articles of incorporation for municipally-owned corporations and the entities for which the municipally-owned corporations hold significant influence or control.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Section 185 of the *Community Charter* and 265 of the *Local Government Act* state that local governments may only incorporate, or acquire shares in, a corporation with the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities (Inspector). The role of the Inspector is to ensure that the incorporation, or acquiring shares, of a corporation protects the public interest and does not expose the local government to undue risk.

As part of the approval requirements, the articles of incorporation must state that the corporation will appoint an auditor and have audited financial statements prepared each year. This requirement is specifically included in formal provincial policy, found in the provincial guide titled "*Launching and Maintaining a Local Government Corporation Guide*".

Annually audited financial statements are essential to the Inspector's approval and, as noted above, are already covered through formalized policy.

NR23 Fair Taxation from Railway Operations**Pitt Meadows**

Whereas section 5(e) of the *Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81* mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically exclude land or improvements held for purposes ancillary to the business of transportation from railway operations;

And whereas this legislation creates unfair taxation from railway operations because they are reflective of a Class 5 Light Industrial use and require high level local government service support including fire services and road infrastructure use:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to repeal section 5(e) from the *Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81* in order to create fair taxation from railway operations.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province is aware of the issue that local governments have raised regarding property assessment and tax fairness for rail yards.

BC Assessment is also aware of the issue, and the Province would encourage any municipality that has concerns regarding the assessment of a specific property reach out to BC Assessment for assistance.

At this time, the Province does not intend to explore reclassification, as government undertook significant work in 1995/96 to classify rail yards as Class 6 – Business and Other.

Ministry staff are working with BC Assessment to review the assessment of linear properties, which includes rail properties in Class 2 - Utilities. The review may address some of the revenue concerns raised by local governments.

NR24 Review of the BC Assessment Appeal Framework and Process**Coquitlam**

Whereas BC Assessment is a provincial Crown Corporation that classifies and values properties and local governments rely on this information to annually set property taxation rates;

And whereas local governments have been increasingly impacted by the growing number of property assessment appeals submitted to BC Assessment and the Property Assessment Appeal Board and the significant period of time that can elapse between the submission of an appeal and a final decision being reached and local governments subsequently having to refund previously collected taxes from multiple years at once:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the provincial government review the BC Assessment property assessment appeals' framework and process to minimize the impacts to local governments' finances due to appeal decisions by ensuring decisions are reached in a timely manner and also increasing the transparency of settled appeals.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province is aware of the issue regarding property assessment appeals' framework and the impacts to local governments' finances, which has been raised in previous UBCM meetings.

The property assessment appeal system is impartial and independent of BC Assessment and the provincial government.

The Ministry of Finance will work with the Ministry of Attorney General, which has responsibility for the oversight of the Property Assessment Appeal Board, and with BC Assessment to identify any joint actions that could be undertaken to address appeal backlogs.

In terms of information sharing and transparency, the Ministry of Finance will work with BC Assessment on confirming timely and complete data-sharing regarding property assessment appeal progress and decisions, and potential impacts on municipal revenues and financial planning.

BC Assessment will continue to work with local governments to identify areas where pre-roll consultation processes and status updates on major appeals could be modified to better meet their needs.

NR25 Fair Taxation from Industrial Parks**Pitt Meadows**

Whereas section 5(f) of the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically excludes land or improvements being used principally as an outlet for the sale of a finished product to a purchaser for purposes of his or her own consumption;

And whereas this legislation creates unfair taxation from industrial parks which are a heavy burden on local government infrastructure through heavy trucking activity and movement of product:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to repeal section 5(f) of the *Assessment Act* - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 to create fair taxation from industrial parks.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

The Province is aware of the issue that local governments have raised regarding property assessment and tax fairness for industrial parks.

BC Assessment is also aware of the issue, and the Province would encourage any municipality that has concerns regarding the assessment of a specific property reach out to BC Assessment for assistance.

At this time, the Province has no plans to explore the reclassification of industrial parks (e.g., reclass to Class 5). However, in the future, should the Province decide to review this issue UBCM's view will be taken into consideration.

NR26 Incentivizing Green Energy Production**Logan Lake**

Whereas the production of low carbon-emitting energy is important to meeting climate action goals and should be encouraged;

And whereas local governments do not have the authority to incentivize low carbon-emitting energy production within the current BC Assessment property tax structure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that a new classification be created by BC Assessment Authority to recognize low carbon-emitting energy production in BC.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Finance

At this time, Government does not plan to create any new property class. BC already has 9 property classes, which is more than many jurisdictions in Canada.

Government is committed to fighting climate change. In 2018, Government launched the CleanBC climate action plan to lay out a pathway to reduce emissions.

In 2020, as part of B.C.'s response to the pandemic, Government temporarily redesigned the CleanBC Industrial Incentive Program to support the early release of a portion of funds and provided a higher portion of CleanBC Industry Fund investments upfront to help get projects off the ground.

There are provincial tax policies that promote green energy. For example, the carbon tax encourages the consumption of cleaner energy by applying additional tax to the purchase and use of fossil fuels. Provincial sales tax may be exempted for qualified low-carbon energy production machinery and equipment.

Government has also provided property assessment exemptions to support the independent power producers (e.g., wind power and solar power producers) and incentivize low carbon-emitting energy production.

NR27 Reform of the BC Utilities Commission**Powell River**

Whereas the Province of British Columbia and municipalities share common goals of:

- reducing carbon emissions through electrification of buildings and transportation
- improving energy affordability and reducing the incidence of poverty, and
- enhancing local energy resilience and self-sufficiency in municipalities and Indigenous communities;

And whereas the British Columbia Utilities Commission is currently governed by outdated legislation that limits its ability to guide the transformation of BC's energy system and its ability to direct utilities to realign their activities in line with the objectives stated above:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend and modernize the *Utilities Commission Act*, expanding the scope of the BCUC's mandate and giving it clear direction to consider environmental, equity, resilience, and reconciliation objectives in its decision-making.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The role of the BCUC as an economic regulator is to ensure that customers have access to a safe, reliable energy service at a fair price, while allowing the utilities it regulates the opportunity to earn a fair return on their investments.

In performing this role, it is required to consider British Columbia's energy objectives outlined in section 2 of the *Clean Energy Act*, which include objectives related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fostering the development of First Nations and rural communities, and encouraging economic development. In some circumstances, it is also required to consider the "public interest" in its decision-making, which is a broad concept that can capture a variety of public policy objectives.

The existing legislative and regulatory framework allows the Province to provide direction to the BCUC to inform the BCUC's decision making. A 2015 Independent Review of the BCUC confirmed that it is the provincial government's prerogative to set provincial energy policy, to define the BCUC's mandate, and to direct the BCUC on specific matters.

For example, under the *Clean Energy Act*, the Province is empowered to prescribe undertakings for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in B.C., and the BCUC is required to allow public utilities carrying out a prescribed undertaking and where applicable, recover the costs from its ratepayers. Pursuant to this authority, the Province has put in place the Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Clean Energy) Regulation, which includes prescribed undertakings designed to promote electrification including in the transportation sector.

The Province also has the ability under section 3 of the *Utilities Commission Act* to direct the BCUC with respect to the exercise of its powers and performance of its duties. The Province recently used this power to ensure the temporary continuation of BC Hydro's Customer Crisis Fund, which provides grants to customers who are unable to pay their BC Hydro bills because of a temporary financial crisis.

Mandatory Reliability Standards (MRS) help ensure the reliability and security of the bulk power system in North America. In 2009, the BC government amended the [Utilities Commission Act](#) by adding Section 125.2 to establish the MRS Regulation, including giving the BCUC exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether a “reliability standard” is in the public interest and should be adopted in B.C.

NR29 Clean and Renewable Energy Regulatory Framework**Cumberland**

Whereas local governments are required to set greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition towards becoming more compact, complete and energy-efficient communities;

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

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia 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.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

On December 21, 2021 BC Hydro submitted its [Integrated Resource Plan \(IRP\) to the British Columbia Utilities Commission \(BCUC\)](#). The IRP, which was developed with extensive engagement with a technical advisory committee, Indigenous people, and the public, examines British Columbia's electricity demand forecast over the next 20 years (2020 – 2040) and lays out the electricity resource options available to BC Hydro to meet that demand. The BCUC will determine whether or not to accept BC Hydro's IRP through its public hearing process, currently in progress.

The IRP suggests that BC Hydro will have energy surplus for at least the first half of the IRP planning period and includes regional forecasts showing how BC Hydro plans to meet its customers' needs in all regions of its service area.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation encourages local governments interested in generating electricity to participate in the BCUC's IRP review process. The deadline for registering as an Intervener is March 22, 2022.

Currently, approximately 98 per cent of British Columbia's electricity generation comes from large hydro-electric facilities and other clean, renewable resources, such as wind, solar, run-of-river, and storage hydro-electricity, biomass, and other alternative resources. Communities can significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by investing in energy efficiency and switching from fossil fuels to clean electricity.

NR30 Issuance of Water Licenses**Central Kootenay RD**

Whereas local governments can be reliant on surface water sources to support development;

And whereas water licenses can take the province years to issue:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources and Rural Development to provide clarity on what is causing delays in the issuance of water licenses.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development prioritizes water license applications with respect to public safety, environmental protection, and economic development and growth.

Water Stewardship continues to work with local governments to identify water licence applications with significant impacts to these priorities. Water Stewardship is also willing to provide input on how to address concerns of development, subdivisions, and water supply that are not dependent on a water licence issuance, noting that a water licence does not guarantee water supply. This would allow for improvements that could be implemented to minimize conflicting provincial and local government processes.

The Ministry continues to work through submitted applications. Water Stewardship seeks to review efficiency opportunities to better meet the needs of all applicants and licensees in the region and will continue to work with the local governments to identify these needs.

NR31 Contaminants Released from Wastewater Treatment Plants**Powell River**

Whereas contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are found in the sewage sludge of wastewater treatment plants and are then dispersed to the environment and food chain through aerosolization, marine discharge, and land application of biosolids;

And whereas CECs have been found to have negative effects on human and wildlife health:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to establish sampling protocols and introduce specific measures for monitoring and reducing levels of contaminants of emerging concern from wastewater treatment plants in order to prevent adverse impacts to human and wildlife health in three receiving environments: air, water and land.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has established processes to reduce the introduction of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), to monitor performance of wastewater treatment plants, and to assess the fate and effect of CECs in the receiving environment. As per the *Environmental Management Act (EMA)*, this includes Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMPs) and site-specific authorizations.

LWMPs are a form of authorization available to local governments to establish community goals for wastewater treatment and infrastructure, source control measures, and biosolids management. Although LWMPs are not mandatory under EMA, local governments are strongly encouraged to develop and implement these plans. LWMPs include source control measures that can be used to discourage or regulate discharges of certain wastes, including CECs, to local government infrastructure.

Either a site-specific authorization under the EMA or a registration under the Municipal Wastewater Regulation is mandatory for wastewater treatment facilities. These authorizations have established processes and methods for monitoring wastewater influent and effluent, treatment technology, and impacts to the receiving environment. Monitoring programs are required, in addition to the use of approved provincial and federal water quality guidelines for CECs, to measure the effectiveness of source control programs, treatments and impacts on the receiving environment.

The Ministry supports a prevention-first approach and will continue to consider policy approaches to address CECs. This includes supporting Extended Producer Responsibility programs for common CECs such as pharmaceuticals, to ensure these materials are managed responsibly and not introduced into wastewater systems. In addition, biosolid production and quality standards are regulated under the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). OMRR sets limits for metals in biosolids, which are based on limits in the federal Fertilizer Regulations. The OMRR also requires that biosolids be treated to undergo pathogen reduction to protect human health and the environment. Biosolids must be tested and must meet these quality standards to be beneficially reused and land applied as a fertilizer according to OMRR.

As part of planned regulatory amendments, the Ministry intends to add the authority in OMRR for a director of waste management to require monitoring of biosolids for contaminants of emerging concern. Research evaluating any potential harmful impacts from land application of biosolids is ongoing and the ministry will continue to use the most currently available scientific information to inform ministry policy to ensure that standards reflect up-to-date science and are protective of human health and the environment.

NR32 Renewed Vision for Fraser River Estuary**LMLGA Executive**

Whereas the Fraser River Estuary is a diverse and productive ecosystem, supporting over 100 species at risk, including salmon and southern resident killer whales, and, is under increased development pressure and impacts of climate change, including flooding of industrial and agricultural lands, and would benefit from a regional planning approach that balances the needs of the ecosystem, people and the economy;

And whereas Indigenous people have lived in and stewarded the Fraser River Estuary since time immemorial, and know the various species, habitat, and ecosystems as integral to their existence and identity, and are integral to the planning and governance of the of the Fraser River Estuary:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the federal and provincial governments to allocate the necessary resources and appropriately fund and support a renewed Fraser River Estuary Management planning process that will collectively protect the ecosystem of the Estuary through inter-agency collaboration;

And be it further resolved that the planning process includes, but is not limited to: First Nations, federal government and provincial governments.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Lower Fraser River is a place of fundamental cultural importance to local First Nations, a globally important ecosystem, and supports numerous industrial activities of national and global significance. The importance of clear management objectives for the Lower Fraser River is fully supported by the province. The LFR is currently being managed under a variety of existing policies and through a complexity of jurisdictions. The South Coast Region has focused increased resources in the last several years to explore opportunities and further relationships with First Nations, improve administrative alignment, develop Fraser River mapping tools, and clarify the ministry's key values and objectives.

Looking forward, developing a Coast Marine Strategy may also have linkages to an inter-governmental approach that overlaps with portions of the LFR estuary as well as tools and products being contemplated to advance Marine Spatial Planning in the south coast region. Exploratory work is also occurring to identify options to address matters of cumulative effects from existing development as well as new development while being mindful of the jurisdictional complexity.

In determining what additional planning might be appropriate in the LFR, the province has indicated a willingness to participate in Metro Vancouver's task force concept for the purpose of exploring options to improve management coordination while remaining cognisant of jurisdictional and resourcing constraints. Any inter-governmental approach will need to start with strong support, collaboration, and leadership from and amongst appropriate First Nation communities and leadership. Federal government support and active engagement is also critical to advance a renewed vision for the LFR.

The province has generally found more focused and well scaled management and planning initiatives to be the most efficient and effective way to influence land and resource management. Until such time as there has been suitable exploration of the various challenges, including overlaps with existing initiatives, and collaborative engagement across all levels of government, the province is not in a position to pursue further funding and resource commitments.

NR33 Funding for Compliance with Landfill Operation and Closure Legislation**Central Coast RD**

Whereas provincial legislation governing solid waste management in British Columbia has increasingly tightened over the past several years to address important environmental concerns and thereby downloaded new costs onto local governments who must operate or retire their landfills in compliance with new provincial priorities;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia has not developed an equitable or effective fiscal strategy to resource local governments to meet these new landfill operation and closure costs, thereby forcing some local governments to operate, and consider retiring their landfills, under “grandfathered”, outdated, and environmentally unsound legislative criteria in order to cope with the substantial and unforeseen costs of compliance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to provide the necessary resources to local governments for landfill compliance related projects so that landfills may be operated and retired in an environmentally sound manner and obligations to First Nations may be better met in acknowledgment of Indigenous rights and title to impacted lands and water.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Province acknowledges the difficulties that remote communities may encounter when managing solid waste with a limited population base and long travel distances. Remote communities have demonstrated progress in implementing effective waste diversion and waste management programs including the development of recycling depots, transfer stations and organics diversion programs to reduce the quantity of waste going to landfills. These are important waste reduction steps, to minimize the quantity of waste being disposed in landfills and the associated impacts that landfilled waste can have on the environment.

The Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste was updated in 2016 to provide clear guidance for how to achieve environmental protection during the siting or expansion of new landfills, as well as the safe operation and closure of existing landfills. The criteria recognize and enable the site-specific nature and variability of circumstances or conditions across the province.

The prioritizing, scheduling, and budgeting for upgrade plans to bring landfills into compliance with provincial requirements is within the purview of local governments to consider and plan for. When assessing what is required at a landfill site, a director will consider the site-specific and regional conditions before making final decision. Local governments who own and operate landfills can work with the Provincial director to understand the site-specific considerations to determine the necessary next steps to address environmental concerns and determine a reasonable approach forward and timeframe for implementation that will protect the environment. Local governments are encouraged to review the Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste and to work with Provincial staff to understand the financial liabilities under consideration and the options available in the development and approval of the plan, noting that required upgrades are contingent on the securing and raising of adequate funding.

**NR34 Provincial Authorization and Compliance of Landfills
In British Columbia**

Columbia Shuswap RD

Whereas the *Environmental Management Act* authorizes a regional district to manage solid waste in accordance with its Solid Waste Management Plan, which is approved by the Ministry of Environment;

And whereas the Authorizations Division of the Ministry of Environment is responsible to review and receive a landfill facility's design and operation plan and issue the operational certificate required for a local government to operate a landfill facility to receive solid waste;

And whereas the Compliance Division of the Ministry of Environment is responsible to inspect a local government operated landfill facility to ensure it is operating in accordance with its issued operational certificate;

And whereas the Authorizations Division of the Ministry of Environment works through a necessary application to update an existing Operational Certificate, the Compliance Division of the Ministry of Environment holds local government owned landfill facilities out of compliance against the existing Operational Certificates and issues landfill non-compliance letters to local governments containing threats of significant monetary penalties and even imprisonment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to request that the Ministry of Environment Compliance and the Authorizations Divisions act proactively and reasonably with each other and local government landfill owners to ensure landfill compliance with Operational Certificates without threats of imprisonment or substantial monetary fines.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) staff within the Regional Operations Branch strive for continuous improvement in implementing their business model and have taken these comments under advisement.

The *Environmental Management Act* clearly states that contraventions under the Act can result in fines and/or imprisonment and it is the duty of ENV staff to inform a regulated person or party of these potential consequences. It is common practice in the adjudication of the law to provide this information to a person or party in non-compliance to ensure that they can make fully informed decisions regarding the consequences of their actions.

To further understand the ENV's approach to compliance and enforcement can be found at:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/research-monitoring-and-reporting/reporting/reporting-documents/environmental-enforcement-docs/env_ce_policy_and_procedure_2019.pdf. This policy applies to all regulated parties under legislation administered by ENV, including the *Wildlife Act*, *Environmental Management Act*, *Integrated Pest Management Act*, and *Parks Act*. Warnings are intended to warn of the possibility of an escalating response should non-compliance(s) continue, but they can also be de-escalated to an Advisory or Notice of Compliance by the inspecting officer when considering a number of factors including the willingness to comply with the regulatory requirement or addressing the non-compliance(s).

For further information on how ENV conducts compliance and enforcement activities, this short video provides an overview of that approach: [BC Environmental Compliance 101 - YouTube](#).

NR35 Construction and Demolition Waste Strategy**North Vancouver District**

Whereas construction and demolition waste comprises approximately 2.8 million metric tonnes of materials annually in British Columbia, and about one-third of municipal solid waste disposed in the Province;

And whereas the materials disposed could have been resold, reused or recycled, they represent sources of embodied carbon, and deconstruction provides six times more job opportunities:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy develop a plan, including changes to regulations, provincial procurement policy, and economic and industrial policy, to significantly reduce construction and demolition waste.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Action Strategy

The *Environmental Management Act* requires regional districts to develop plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials. Final plans are approved by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) after public and stakeholder consultation has taken place. ENV has received several updated solid waste management plans from regional districts for approval and is supportive of the actions that many local governments have undertaken, including new management strategies to reduce construction and demolition waste.

To further support and address the significant quantities of construction and demolition waste being disposed of, the Province looks to promote and develop opportunities to move to a circular economy. The CleanBC plan includes working towards adoption of a circular economy in British Columbia, recognizing the potential for creating jobs, promoting innovation, and protecting the environment by harnessing the full value of resources and significantly reducing waste going to landfills, and has set a provincial target to reduce the per capita waste disposed annually to 350 kg/person.

NR36 Single-Use Item Regional Regulation**New Westminster**

Whereas enactment of bylaws to regulate single-use items by individual municipalities could lead to a mosaic of regulations across the region and in BC, which may lead to confusion and inconsistency for residents and businesses in the sale or distribution of these items;

And whereas greater consistency could be achieved by implementing a regional approach;

And whereas regional districts do not have the authority to establish bylaws or regulations in relation to the sale or distribution of single-use items:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to engage with regional governments to develop legislation which would provide regional districts with the legislative authority to restrict the sale and distribution of single-use items.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Action Strategy

Recognizing the desire of municipalities to take action on single-use plastics, the Province recently amended the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation (Regulation) under the *Community Charter*, to provide a clear framework for the development of harmonized municipal bylaws.

The Province also recognizes that different municipalities may have differing needs when regulating single-use plastics. Hence the Regulation offers a degree of flexibility, for example, with the types of single-use items to regulate, along with implementation timelines and exemptions.

As announced on Oct. 26, 2021, the Province is developing a provincial legal framework for bans to address single-use plastic waste and pollution, which will deliver greater provincial consistency while complementing current municipal actions. The framework includes the introduction of new legislation that enables the Province to take direct action to phase out single-use plastic products and packaging. Decisions will be made based on the environmental and economic impacts of any bans, with the first phase of new regulations expected in early 2023.

Regional districts are encouraged to support their member municipalities in their efforts to develop bylaws under the Regulation to ban single-use plastics, in order to achieve consistency across the region. For example, the Regional District of Metro Vancouver is developing a harmonized regional approach to inform member municipalities who want to move forward with implementing bylaws:

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/reduction-reuse/single-use-items/Pages/default.aspx>

Additionally, the *Environmental Management Act* requires regional districts to develop solid waste management plans that are approved by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. These plans include many actions around waste prevention and reduction that require working with municipalities in the region to develop an effective plan and implementation of various services, bylaws and other measures by municipalities to support the solid waste management plan.

NR37 Right to Repair Legislation**North Vancouver District**

Whereas the longevity of items is decreasing because manufacturers are deliberately designing products to be disposable;

And whereas residents and businesses are deterred from repairing their belongings by companies that claim ownership over the intellectual property in their products, fail to provide parts or other aspects that make it hard to repair items:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province of BC to draft and enact Right to Repair legislation.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Environment and Climate Action Strategy

The Province is working with federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) on the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste (the Plan). The Plan includes commitments for the development of targets and standards for repair by the end of 2022, facilitation of economic incentives for repair and other value recovery activities, and consideration of how regulatory and non-regulatory approaches can support product life extension. Additionally, the Province continues to work with the federal government to support efforts to advance the zero plastic waste agenda, including federal work underway to develop a national strategy for supporting and reducing barriers to value retention processes including repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing in all sectors of the Canadian economy.

Through the Province's Extended Producer Responsibility programs, producers are required to take responsibility for the lifecycle of their products, including the financial cost of managing these products. By making regulated producers financially accountable, they are incentivised to design products that can be more readily reused and recycled for future use rather than going to disposal. Extended Producer Responsibility is one of the key pillars that supports a circular economy approach where resources are continually conserved and reused.

The Province is committed to moving toward a circular economy where products can retain their value in the economy as long as possible, reducing waste and associated carbon emissions and protecting the natural environment.

LR1 Cancellation of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program

Delta

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced in May 2021, without consultation, the cancellation of the of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP) without identifying any new funding for the development, implementation or administration of local government climate action programs, undermining the ability of local governments to participate in climate action initiatives;

And whereas 187 local governments in British Columbia have voluntarily signed onto the Climate Action Charter and by doing so have been able to access the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program;

And whereas under the CleanBC Plan, the Province of British Columbia recently amended the Climate Change Accountability Act to include a sectoral GHG emissions reduction target of 59 to 64% below 2007 levels by 2030 for buildings and communities, requiring the development and implementation of comprehensive climate action initiatives and regulatory programs by local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to replace CARIP with a new, non-competitive funding program commencing in the 2022 fiscal year that provides equivalent or better funding to all local governments, enabling them to be effective and accountable partners with the Province.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Local governments across B.C. continue to demonstrate leadership and commitment to taking action on climate change. The Province remains committed to working with local governments to reach our climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia.

Building on the 2018 CleanBC strategy, the recently released [CleanBC Roadmap to 2030](#) is a more ambitious climate plan to reach government's 2030 emissions reductions targets and build a strong, low-carbon economy. The Roadmap includes actions across eight pathways including four pathways with particular relevance for local governments: low-carbon energy; transportation; buildings; and communities.

Under these pathways, the Roadmap connects to the work of local governments, and their communities, through several priorities:

- New requirements to make all new buildings net-zero emissions by 2030
- A focus on zero-emission vehicles with a goal of 90 percent ZEVs by 2030 and 100 percent by 2035
- An accelerated shift towards active transportation and public transit
- A goal to reduce distances travelled in light-duty vehicles by 25% by 2030.

The Roadmap builds on previous supports for local governments including the CleanBC Communities Fund and the implementation of an Active Transportation strategy and grant program.

The Roadmap to 2030 also commits the Province to establishing a new program to support local government climate actions through flexible, predictable funding. We hope to have more information on that soon.

Additionally, government has set aside \$11 million specifically to support local governments in creating complete, compact communities.

LR3 Provincial Approval Processes for Local Government Development and Infrastructure Projects

Delta

Whereas significant local government development projects may require approvals from one or more provincial ministry before they can proceed;

And whereas provincial approval can be granted in many different forms, including Water Sustainability Act Section 11 Change Approvals, provincial water lot leases, and approval of certain municipal bylaws;

And whereas delays in receiving provincial approvals add cost and uncertainty for all involved in development projects:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to review its permitting processes that relate to local government development and infrastructure projects and investigate opportunities to streamline those processes to reduce delays, provide more certainty for communities and developers, and minimize cost overruns.

RESPONSE: Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Province continues to review and adjudicate applications under the *Land Act*, *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) and Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR) as quickly as possible. Review times for provincial regulatory approvals are contingent on a number of factors, including:

- Overall volume of applications received;
- Technical compliance of materials received under professional reliance models;
- Interactions between provincial regulations (e.g., RAPR and WSA); and,
- First Nations engagement and consultation.

As local governments have also noted, the increased pace, value and complexity of development projects have created significant pressures on review. As such, the province is addressing process delays through the allocation of additional resources. Additional staff resources are being hired and trained to deliver more timely decisions.

The provincial *Budget 2021* provided a \$3.805 million permanent budget lift to increase capacity to process land and water use authorizations. The funding is intended to address the growing backlog of tenure applications, renewals and rent reviews to use provincial public land and water in three regions: West Coast, Lower Mainland, and Thompson Okanagan.

The province has also implemented several iterative WSA process improvements, including a new triage process to identify high priority works and initiation of early First Nations consultation on all files with sufficient project information. The Province is taking additional steps to support timely review, including:

- Development and publication of revised technical guidance to improve application quality;
- Outreach to professional associations to strengthen RAPR's professional reliance model;
- Ongoing internal coordination between work units to streamline process; and,

- Providing centralized support for review of bylaw content implementing RAPR standards.

As a result of these new resources being deployed and implementation of significant process changes in 2020 and 2021, the WSA backlog for approvals for works in and about a stream is being eliminated in the South Coast.

New application review times are dependent on the quality and completeness of the applications, including any preliminary work possible with First Nations. A number of submissions continue to be put on hold at the triage or review stage due to incomplete project details; there are also instances where requested and/or required information is not provided in a timely manner. The ministry has provided regular and consistent messaging to municipalities and developers stating that application processing is facilitated by ensuring applications contain all required project information and applications are submitted well in advance of proposed start dates. Ministry staff continue to foster an open and collaborative working relationship with local government staff.