



MINUTES - COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

February 5, 2026, 10:31 A.M.

SAANICH ROOM, LEVEL 1, VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE, VICTORIA, BC
The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation

PRESENT: Mayor Alto in the Chair, Councillor Caradonna, Councillor Coleman, Councillor Dell, Councillor Gardiner, Councillor Kim, Councillor Loughton, Councillor Thompson

PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY: Councillor Hammond

STAFF PRESENT: J. Jenkyns - City Manager, S. Thompson - Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, C. Kingsley - City Clerk, C. Mycroft - Manager of Intergovernmental & Media Relations, P. Rantucci - Director of Community Safety, Wellbeing and Safety, S. Webb – Assistant Director of Corporate Planning & Strategic Partnerships, B. Roder - Deputy City Clerk, A. Klus - Legislative Coordinator

A. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee acknowledged that the City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees First Nation and Xwsepsum First Nation communities, and thanked them for their role in creating opportunities to make important decisions and reflect our shared history in those decisions.

B. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

B.1 Council Member Motion: AVICC and UBCM Resolution on Upholding the North Coast Tanker Ban

Moved and Seconded:

That the late item *B.1 - Council Member Motion: AVICC and UBCM Resolution on Upholding the North Coast Tanker Ban* be added to the agenda as item G.5.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved and Seconded:

That the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

G.1 Council Member Motion: Post-secondary student affordability - advocacy to AVICC and UBCM

1. That Council consider this matter on February 5, 2026.
2. That Council requests that the Mayor write to the Provincial Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills to:
 - a) Create the Student Food Security Grant, committing an annual grant worth \$1.50 per student enrolled in a public BC post-secondary institution to the student union representing that institution to fund student food bank jobs.
 - b) Instate a \$10 flat-rate ferry fare for post-secondary students travelling as foot passengers, taking shape as a one-year trial.
 - c) Explore and consult with student advocacy organizations in relation to all 15 of the recommendations made in the Student Issues Backgrounder 2025 provided to Council.
3. That Council endorse the following three resolutions, to be brought to the next AVICC and UBCM meetings:

A. \$10 Per Day Flat Rate Ferry Fare for Post-Secondary Students

Whereas post-secondary students currently pay full adult BC Ferries fares, despite facing significant cost-of-living pressures and limited incomes, and this creates affordability barriers to travel to co-op employment, internships, conferences, networking opportunities, and travelling home to visit family, particularly for students who must regularly travel between Vancouver Island and the mainland;

And whereas indigenous students and students from rural communities are more likely to rely on ferry services, post secondary students paying a full adult fare reinforces barriers to being able to travel home with ease, increasing inequities in mobility:

Therefore be it resolved that **AVICC and UBCM** advocate to the Honourable Minister Mike Farnworth, Minister of Transportation and Transit, for a \$10/day flat rate ferry fare pilot program, during non-peak hours, for post-secondary students.

B. \$1.50 Per Student Food Security Grant for Post-Secondary Food Security

Whereas since 2020 an approximately 20 percent inflation rate has contributed to a cost-of-living crisis that has particularly impacted students, and post-secondary food banks are seeing dramatically increased use, including a ten fold increase in visits to the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) food bank from Spring 2020 to Spring 2024;

And whereas local businesses and the broader community regularly support campus food banks with donations, but student societies require stable funding for student part-time staff positions in order to operate and expand food bank programs to meet the increased needs on their campuses:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Honourable Minister Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, to provide funding support to BC post-secondary student unions, by establishing a food security grant, equivalent to \$1.50 per student, to address student food insecurity as evidenced by the increased use of post secondary campus food banks.

C. Post-secondary affordability

Whereas post-secondary students are facing greater cost-of-living challenges, due to a variety of factors including a lack of affordable housing options, longer and more expensive commutes, a lack of food security and underfunded food banks, and a range of other cost increases, resulting from a university funding model that's over reliant on international students;

And whereas, student advocacy organizations have put forward a Student Issues Backgrounder 2025 with policy solutions that can help make life more affordable for students on campus, help bring down housing and transportation costs, and help ensure students have access to affordable food and services that they need to thrive while pursuing higher education.

Therefore, be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province implement all 15 policy solutions identified in the Student Issues Backgrounder 2025.

G.2 Council Member Motion: Advocacy to the Federal Government on Environmental Regulations related to Large Marine Vessels around Victoria

That Council directs the Mayor to write to the Federal Minister of Transport, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the local Member of Parliament for Victoria, and request the following:

1. That the Federal government mandate the phase-in of low-sulphur fuel by large marine vessels in Canadian territorial waters;
2. That the Federal government develop regulations to prevent the discharge of scrubber wash water within Canadian territorial waters;
3. That the Federal government ensure that all regulatory emissions requirements are being followed by large marine vessels;
4. And that the Federal government work collaboratively with the marine shipping and transportation industry and related stakeholders, including

local communities and First Nations, to ensure that the industry meets both its own decarbonization and environmental objectives and those of Canada.

G.3 Council Member Motion: Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters in Bike and Routes - advocacy to AVICC and UBCM

That Council endorse the following resolution, to be brought to the next AVICC and UBCM meetings:

“Whereas BC’s Motor Vehicle Act and associated regulations currently inhibit the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to be active, independent, and engaged by prohibiting the use of wheelchairs and 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters on municipal bike and roll lanes and routes;

And, whereas many groups including the Council of Senior Citizens Organisations of BC and the BC Cycling Coalition are calling for an update to the provincial legislation to clearly allow the use of wheelchairs and 3 & 4 wheel mobility scooters on bike and roll routes.

Therefore be it resolved that that AVICC and the UBCM advocate that provincial Motor Vehicle legislation and regulations be updated to allow the use of wheelchairs and 3&4 wheel mobility scooters on bike lanes and traffic calmed bike routes across BC.”

G.4 Council Member Motion: Safer Motor Vehicle Design Advocacy

That Council request that the Mayor write letters to:

1. Call upon the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia to undertake a comprehensive review of recent motor vehicle design trends and their impacts on the safety of people walking, and using bikes and other mobility devices,.
2. Request that this review include, but not be limited to, examination of:
 - a. increasing hood and front-end heights on pickup trucks and SUVs;
 - b. vertical and box-style front-end designs and their effects on pedestrian injury severity;
 - c. visibility and blind zones created by hood height, hood length, and vehicle structure;
 - d. headlight brightness, mounting height, beam pattern, and glare impacts on people walking, and using bikes and other mobility devices,; and
 - e. any other vehicle design changes identified as contributing to increased risk for vulnerable road users.
3. Urge senior governments to consider updates to motor vehicle safety standards, testing protocols, regular vehicle inspections, and other regulations to better protect people walking, and using bikes and other mobility devices, including visibility and impact considerations as being as important as occupant protection

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. STAFF REPORTS

E.1 Report Back on STEP Program Model (Verbal)

Committee discussed the following:

- *Funding streams contributing to the Regional Housing First program*
- *Portfolio of housing facilities within the City of Victoria and CRD*
- *Involvement of BC Housing and Island Health*

Motion arising:

Moved and Seconded:

That Council directs staff to work with the CRD, BC Housing, and other partners in developing a potential cost shared STEP-like positive flow pilot and report back to Council in April 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

There were no Notices of Motions.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1 Council Member Motion: Post-secondary student affordability - advocacy to AVICC and UBCM

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

G.2 Council Member Motion: Advocacy to the Federal Government on Environmental Regulations related to Large Marine Vessels around Victoria

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

G.3 Council Member Motion: Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters in Bike and Routes - advocacy to AVICC and UBCM

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

G.4 Council Member Motion: Safer Motor Vehicle Design Advocacy

This item was approved on the Consent Agenda.

G.5 Council Member Motion: AVICC and UBCM Resolution on Upholding the North Coast Tanker Ban

Moved and Seconded:

That Council endorse and submit the following resolution to AVICC for consideration at its 2026 Convention:

WHEREAS in 2019, the federal Oil Tanker Moratorium Act was implemented, banning large oil tankers from carrying crude oil and persistent oils along B.C.'s ecologically sensitive North Coast;

WHEREAS the Federal government has revisited discussions around reopening the Northern Gateway pipeline and tanker project, which would imperil salmon, orcas, herring, halibut, clean water, healthy beaches and a coastal economy built on tourism and sustainable seafood;

THEREFORE be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Provincial and Federal government to maintain their support for the North Coast tanker ban and the protection of B.C.'s coast from the threat of oil spills, economic disruption, and environmental harm associated with new oil pipelines and tanker traffic.

And that the matter be forwarded to the February 5, 2026 Council (to follow COTW) meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. CLOSED MEETING, IF REQUIRED

A closed meeting was not required.

I. ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved and Seconded:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK

MAYOR