

March 19, 2018

Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

MAYOR'S OFFICE

MAR 26 2018

VICTORIA, B.C.

Dear Mayor Helps:

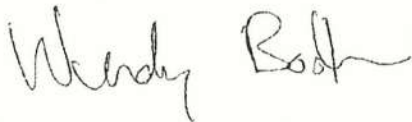
Re: 2017 Resolutions

Please find attached the Federation of Canadian Municipalities response to the 2017 resolution(s) put forward by your Council and endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you. Please feel free to contact Jamee Justason, UBCM Information & Resolutions Coordinator with any questions.

Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 100 Email: jjustason@ubcm.ca

Sincerely,



Director Wendy Booth
President

Enclosure

Whereas residents and communities across British Columbia face acute housing affordability and housing availability challenges, threatening the economic security of individuals as well as the productivity and viability of local economies, as youth, seniors, people with disabilities and working people lack access to affordable housing options;

And whereas effective fiscal and taxation tools have been identified to address these challenges by encouraging the use of residential property to provide housing, and discouraging speculation, "flipping," commodity investment and other market distortions aimed at maximizing the exchange-value of residential property for the owner, while contributing toward a sharp escalation in the price of housing:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia and Government of Canada take action to introduce effective fiscal and taxation tools to encourage the use of residential property to provide housing, and discourage speculation, "flipping," commodity investment and other market distortions that contribute toward a sharp escalation in the price of housing.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed as Amended**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Finance

The BC government's top priority is to make life more affordable for British Columbians. Our first steps include actions to address affordability problems for renters and buyers.

Through Budget Update 2017, capital funding is being increased to make sure more families have access to housing and to address the rising issue of homelessness. New spending will support construction of 3,700 new units for people in need of affordable housing. This is in addition to about 6,700 units that are currently in development or under construction throughout the province.

The BC government is also increasing resources to improve services for renters and landlords. New funding will reduce wait times for tenancy disputes and help the Residential Tenancy Branch address a current backlog.

The Finance Minister is reviewing the tax system to improve housing affordability, close real estate speculation loopholes, and reduce tax evasion, fraud and money laundering in the BC real estate marketplace. As part of that review, the Minister will evaluate existing and proposed housing tax measures. Housing affordability must be addressed in a comprehensive way.

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be working closely with local governments to address the housing and affordability problems impacting people in BC. The Minister has met with several mayors to discuss comprehensive short- and long-term housing solutions.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing also worked with the Federal Government and provinces and territories to help develop a new National Housing Strategy and multi-lateral framework.

Both Ministers will be listening to communities and working together to develop an integrated strategy to improve housing affordability for British Columbians.

Federal Response

Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities

The establishment of fiscal and taxation tools is not the responsibility of Infrastructure Canada. I would encourage you to follow up with my colleagues at the British Columbia Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Other Response

FCM

At the latest board meeting in March 2018, the FCM Board of Directors considered the resolution and adopted it as Category A – Concurrence. This category contains resolutions not addressed by FCM in the last three years that are the direct responsibility or concern of Canadian municipalities beyond a regional level and falls within the jurisdiction of the federal government. As this resolution has been adopted with concurrence, it will guide future FCM policy positions. In support of this adopted resolution, a letter will be sent to the relevant federal government minister outlining the call for action directed at the federal government contained in the resolution.

Whereas local governments across North America are partnering with other levels of government to provide incentive programs to property owners to save money and reduce the environmental impact of buildings, including incentive programs funded through local service charges to support the installation of solar energy technology options for solar photovoltaic, solar hot air and solar hot water;

And whereas municipal local improvement charges in British Columbia cannot currently include the provision of cost recovery for municipal services on private property;

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia work with local governments, First Nations governments and the federal government to introduce robust incentive programs to support residents, property owners and property managers in improving energy efficiency of buildings to address climate action and housing affordability objectives, and that the Province of British Columbia enact legislation to allow the cost recovery of municipally-financed green energy technologies on private properties through municipal local improvement charges.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

The Provincial Government supports local governments in the implementation of programs to promote a green economy. Under existing legislation, municipalities may provide grants to individual households to subsidize a portion of the acquisition of acquiring solar panels.

This would be a direct grant from the municipality to the individual property owner, and would not be done through a local improvement charge. The money to fund such a grant program would come from the Municipal General Revenue Fund. Please note a municipality cannot provide assistance to businesses. Therefore, a municipality can only provide a grant to individual residents and non-profits.

Local improvement charges and accompanying public borrowing are reserved for financing the costs of public infrastructure that are owned and controlled by the municipality, such as construction of a sidewalk and wastewater infrastructure. Local improvement charges are not the appropriate vehicle to finance private acquisitions that are owned by residents.

Federal Response

Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities

One of the eligible investments categories of the Gas Tax Fund (GTF) is Community Energy systems, which includes building retrofits. Unfortunately, under all current Infrastructure Canada programs, only tangible capital assets primarily for public use or benefit are eligible for funding.

Other Response

FCM

At the latest board meeting in March 2018, the FCM Board of Directors considered the resolution and categorized it as Category D – In accordance with existing FCM policy. This category contains resolutions that have been considered by FCM in the previous three years or that are in accordance with FCM's standing policy and advocacy priorities. In this case, the resolution was received by the Board of Directors for information only.

Whereas the AVICC and UBCM have passed a number of motions with regard to the removal of derelict vessels;

And whereas in Parliament an Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and to provide for the development of a national strategy (abandonment of vessels) has been introduced:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse the Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and to provide for the development of a national strategy for abandoned vessels.

Convention Decision: Endorsed

Other Response

FCM

At the latest board meeting in March 2018, the FCM Board of Directors considered the resolution and categorized it as Category D – In accordance with existing FCM policy. This category contains resolutions that have been considered by FCM in the previous three years or that are in accordance with FCM's standing policy and advocacy priorities. In this case, the resolution was received by the Board of Directors for information only.