

May 14, 2019

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



Dear Mayor Helps:

Re: 2019 Resolutions

UBCM is in receipt of the attached resolution(s) endorsed by your Council. Your resolution(s) received endorsement at the AVICC Spring 2019 AGM.

The resolution(s) will be presented to the UBCM membership for their consideration at the 2019 UBCM Convention in September.

Please feel free to contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst, if you have any questions about this process.

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

Very Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arjun Singh".

Arjun Singh
UBCM President

Enclosure

Youth Voting in Local Government Elections

Victoria

Whereas youth have a strong interest in the future of local communities;

And whereas empowering young people to participate in democratic processes fosters ongoing and active civic participation:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia revise the voting age for local government elections to 16 years of age.

Convention Decision:

Revitalizing Island Rail

Victoria

Whereas one of the conditions of the original Order-in-Council establishing the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) now Island Corridor Foundation (ICF) railway corridor is that if the corridor is no longer needed or used for railway purposes, it goes back to the original owner and assembling a similar multi-modal corridor connecting the Alberni Inlet to the Comox Valley to Greater Victoria in the context of current land values and land uses would be impossible to replicate;

And whereas repair of the railway infrastructure can only reasonably be accomplished by way of capital investment from senior levels of government, in co-operation with First Nations and local governments and respecting first nations interests, rail transport and a parallel trail system are integral sustainable transportation options for Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in the context of climate change, including the option of electrified rail for the sustainable movement of people and goods on the island:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia take immediate actions to provide sufficient funding in a timely manner to restore the railway infrastructure of Vancouver Island and ensure that the corridor remains intact and available to future generations of Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

Convention Decision:

Shifting Investment to Low-Emission Transportation

Victoria

Whereas the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers of BC and most provinces signed the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change in 2016, endorsing a policy shift that could substantially reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution from transportation while funding public transit improvements, including inter-city and commuter bus and rail service;

And whereas the transportation sector is the second-largest contributor of GHG pollution in Canada, representing 23% of total emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that local governments call on the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to fully implement their commitment in the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, to shift investments “from higher to lower-emitting types of transportation”.

Convention Decision:

Promoting and Enabling GHG Reductions

Victoria

Whereas the world's leading climate scientists have warned that we have less than 12 years to meet our climate targets, and early action is required to avoid significant costs and impacts to social and environmental well-being in our communities, and worldwide, local governments are uniquely positioned to enable this mobilization effort, in a coordinated and integrated fashion across sectors, enabling individual action with timely and accurate information, incentives, directions, coordination, tools, targets and scalable, impactful programs;

And whereas local governments GHG reduction plans will be effectively and expeditiously realized through a dedicated focus on cutting the most impactful GHG sources, including: retrofitting existing buildings to high-efficiency standards; renewable electricity; elimination of fossil fuel heating sources; shifting people to transit, active transportation, and renewably powered mobility options; and the electrification of commercial and passenger vehicle fleets, the complexity and pace/progress of GHG reductions in both local governments and community require additional resources and planning to reduce risks of missing interim and longer GHG and renewable energy targets:

Therefore be it resolved that local governments call on the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to pursue the following immediate sector actions to promote and enable GHG reductions and realize important social and economic co-benefits:

1. Make available all ICBC municipal vehicle km/make/model/fuel economy information.
2. Continue the development and implementation of world-class low carbon fuel standards.
3. Fully invest in delivery of the zero-emission vehicles sales targets as established in the CleanBC Plan.
4. Continue progressive and direct funding programs and partnerships for municipal low-carbon initiatives, including building retrofit, transportation, waste management and other priority and shared GHG reduction programs.

Convention Decision:

Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives

Victoria

Whereas It has been two years since BC declared a public-health emergency due to increased overdoses, yet the death toll for those consuming substances continues to rise due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply;

And whereas people with opioid use disorder, a chronic relapsing medical condition, are at high risk of overdose-related harms including death and an estimated 42,200 people inject toxic substances in British Columbia, it is not possible for the treatment system to rapidly increase services fast enough to manage this number of people as “patients” within a medical treatment model given the many challenges in achieving and retaining the people on opioid use disorder treatment, people at risk of overdose in British Columbia do not have access to a safer alternative to the unpredictable, highly-toxic drug supply:

Therefore be it resolved that in an effort to save lives and reduce harm due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery, that the Province of British Columbia work with local communities, Health Authorities across the Province, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Ministry of Health ensure that people at risk of overdose harm have access to safer alternatives.

Convention Decision:

Extension of Vacancy Taxation Authority to Local Governments

Victoria

Whereas the Province of British Columbia responded to a housing affordability crisis in 2016 with legislation empowering the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties, resulting in \$38-million in revenues for that community in 2018 and creating a strong disincentive to leaving properties vacant;

And whereas communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures, while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant, including properties that have remained derelict for years or decades, and vacant and derelict buildings pose substantial risks in terms of public safety in communities, as well as liveability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties to local governments across British Columbia, providing communities with the discretion to decide whether to introduce an additional tax to discourage vacant and derelict buildings, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

Convention Decision:

Provincial Universal School Food Program

Victoria

Whereas almost 500,000 individuals in BC experience food insecurity, and Canada remains one of the only Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations without a national school food program and Canada's current patchwork of school food programming reaches only a small percentage of students;

And whereas school food programs have been shown to increase children's consumption of vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods and decrease the consumption of unhealthy ones; improve students' mental health, including reductions in behavioural and emotional problems; improve cognitive skills and increase scholastic success:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for a Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in BC to have access to healthy meals at school, building on existing programs and including food education to serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible.

Convention Decision:

Subsidies to Fossil Fuel Companies

Victoria

Whereas the Federal government recently released a scientific report that reveals that Canada is warming at twice the global rate, the Provincial government recently approved a \$5.35-billion package of tax incentives for a \$40-billion LNG Canada megaproject, supported by \$1.275 billion from the Federal government, and, according to a 2015 report by the International Monetary Fund, the annual Federal government subsidy to the fossil fuel industry is \$46 billion;

And whereas the funding formula for local governments has changed little since 1867 with local governments receiving roughly 8 cents of every tax dollar leaving them unprepared for the emerging and significant costs of mitigation and adaption to climate change:

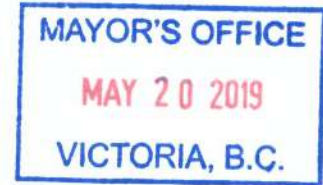
Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call on the Provincial government to end all subsidies to fossil fuel companies and to invest the money instead in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities being undertaken by local governments in a predictable and regularized funding formula;

And be it further resolved that the UBCM through the FCM call on the Federal government to end all subsidies to fossil fuel companies and to invest the money instead in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities being undertaken by local governments in a predictable and regularized funding formula.

Convention Decision:

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Very Best Wishes,

Arjun Singh
UBCM President

Enclosure

Allow Permanent Residents to Vote in Municipal Elections

Victoria

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has the governing authority to implement electoral legislative changes including allowing for Permanent Residents to vote in municipal elections;

And whereas more than 45 countries have granted Permanent Residents some form of voting rights — including seven jurisdictions in the US and 25 European Union countries; and 11 municipalities in Canada are working toward extending local election voting rights to Permanent Residents:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia make the necessary changes to allow Permanent Residents to vote in municipal elections in Victoria and other municipalities **and regional districts.**

Convention Decision:

Support Transformational Improvements to Regional BC Transit

Victoria

Whereas the transportation sector is the second-largest contributor of GHG, some of the largest reductions in GHGs are possible through facilitating a mode shift to low carbon mobility options, such as increased ridership of emissions-free transit;

And whereas transforming regional public transit could drastically increase mode-shift to clean public transit system:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia and BC Transit take immediate actions to support and provide funding for transformational improvements to regional BC transit infrastructure to promote and enable rapid mode shift to transit, including transitioning the BC Transit fleet to zero emissions as early in the 2020s as possible.,~~and:~~

- ~~I. Completion of dedicated bus lanes on all connections between the West Shore and downtown.~~
- ~~II. Installation of Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) sensors in all buses that operate in the City of Victoria.~~
- ~~III. Installation of 'all door loading' capabilities for all buses in the Victoria regional transit system.~~
- ~~IV. Introduction of real time, digital bus information to enable super convenient, accessible transit operational information.~~
- ~~V. Introduction of "tap" payment systems common to multi-modal service providers, to support rapid loading of busses and align with Smart Mobility goals.~~
- ~~VI. Completion of the business case to determine the most effective investments in public transportation to realize the highest potential mode shift and ridership in the South Island, including but not limited assessing commuter ferry, public transit along the E&N rail corridor and Douglas Street / Highway 1 / Highway 99, bus rapid transit (BRT) or light rail transit (LRT).~~
- ~~VII. Reporting of annual regional transit GHG and combustion pollutants, mitigation priorities, progress and business cases for investments.~~

Convention Decision:

Observed Inhalation Sites for Overdose Prevention

Victoria

Whereas British Columbia is currently experiencing an unprecedented public health emergency due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and smoking or inhalation is the second most common mode of consumption among all people who have died from a suspected illicit drug overdose and the most common mode of consumption among men and those between the ages of 15 and 29;

And whereas observed consumption services (i.e. supervised consumption services and overdose prevention services) are evidence-based harm reduction approaches shown to reduce overdose-related harm, and there is not adequate access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation where communities are facing crisis:

Therefore be it resolved that to ensure that people at risk of overdose across BC have access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation, that the Province of British Columbia **fund and** work through local communities, Health Authorities across the Province, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health to fund and provide these services as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.

Convention Decision: