



## Governance and Priorities Committee Report For the Meeting of June 12, 2014

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**To:** Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** June 2, 2014  
**From:** Robert Woodland, Director, Legislative and Regulatory Services  
**Subject:** 2014 UBCM Resolutions

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The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a final opportunity to propose policy resolutions for the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Conference in September.

The UBCM is the provincial advocacy group for local governments. Resolutions passed at the UBCM annual convention guide the organization's policy and advocacy work. The UBCM urges members to submit their resolutions to Area Associations first for consideration.

Council held a Resolutions Workshop in January 2014 to identify policy resolutions for the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention. Two resolutions from the City, as outlined in Appendix A, were heard at the AVICC Convention in April, with the following results:

- Utility Bill Deferral resolution was NOT ENDORSED
- Agricultural Land Reserve & Agricultural Land Commission resolution was ENDORSED and will be forwarded automatically for consideration by UBCM

Currently, there are no additional Council resolutions to be submitted for consideration by UBCM. Since the AVICC resolutions workshop in January, the following issues have been discussed by Council and may warrant consideration as potential resolutions (minutes and additional information are attached as Appendix B):

- Closure of the Provincial Youth Custody Center
- Mining Moratorium in First Nations Reserves (e.g., Tla-o-qui-ahi territories)
- Sponsorship at AVICC/UBCM meetings

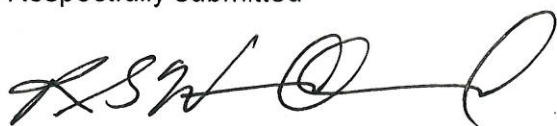
The deadline for submitting resolutions directly to UBCM for inclusion at their Annual Convention is **June 30, 2014**. Policy matters identified at the June 12<sup>th</sup> GPC meeting will come forward to the June 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting as a proposed resolution in time for the June 30<sup>th</sup> submission deadline.

### **Recommendation:**

That Council:

- a) Identify any further policy matters that warrant consideration at the 2014 UBCM Convention; and
- b) Direct staff to prepare draft resolutions for Council's consideration at the June 26, 2014 Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted



Robert Woodland, Director  
Legislative and Regulatory Services

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:**



**Date:**

Jun 3, 2014

## **Appendix A – Resolutions Forwarded to AVICC**

### **R9 UTILITY BILL DEFERRAL**

**Victoria**

WHEREAS utility billing, once included as a part of property taxes, is increasingly being billed separately by local governments;

AND WHEREAS this has unintended consequences of creating potential financial hardship for seniors, people with disabilities, surviving spouses, and families with children who participate in the provincial Tax Deferment Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to include municipal utility bills in the Tax Deferment Program.

**ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED**

### **R22 AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE & AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION**

**Victoria**

WHEREAS the Agricultural Land Commission, created as an autonomous body in 1974, has served to protect over four million hectares of farmland in the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS measures to protect farmland and support farmers and regional food systems are essential to provide food security in the face of increasing global transportation and energy costs and the impacts of climate change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) request that the provincial government respect the integrity of the province-wide Agricultural Land Reserve and support its management by an independent and adequately funded Agricultural Land Commission;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government work with the agricultural community, UBCM and local governments to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in British Columbia.

**ON MOTION, was ENDORSED**



## Appendix B – Minutes and Additional Information

### Minutes from Council Meeting of May 8, 2014

#### NEW BUSINESS

*Councillor Alto withdrew from Council Chambers at 9:53 p.m. due to an indirect pecuniary conflict of interest in the following item as her partner is an employee of Ministry of Children and Family Development.*

1. **Proposed Closure of Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Joe, that Council approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently announced the proposed closure of the Victoria Youth Custody Services centre in the Town of View Royal;

AND WHEREAS this is the only provincial youth custody facility on Vancouver Island, meaning the closure would result in all young offenders remanded or sentenced from Vancouver Island Courts being removed from their family and community supports, to custody facilities on the Lower Mainland or elsewhere in the Province;

AND WHEREAS there are no custody facilities for women on Vancouver Island, resulting in all female offenders who are remanded or sentenced from Vancouver Island Courts being temporarily held in local police cells and subsequently removed from their family and community supports, to custody facilities on the Lower Mainland or elsewhere in the Province;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria and Capital Regional District appoint representatives to the Youth and Family Justice Committee to consider and address current issues impacting youth and families involved in the Youth and Family Court system;

AND WHEREAS reasonable access to family and community supports is integral to rehabilitation planning for Vancouver Island youth and women in custody;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to write a letter to the Minister of Children and Family Development, requesting that the Victoria Youth Custody Services centre remain open and, further, that the Provincial Government consider re-purposing a part of this facility to include female offenders remanded in custody from Vancouver Island Courts. Carried Unanimously

*Councillor Alto returned to the meeting at 3:13 p.m.*

## Minutes from the Council meeting of April 10, 2014

### 4. **Motion of Support for Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation**

It was moved by Councillor Isitt, seconded by Councillor Helps, that Council approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation has requested that the City of Victoria support its request for a moratorium on mining activity within its territories, so as to allow for implementation of its Land Use Plan and the pursuit of economic, ecological and social priorities;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has issued expanded mining exploration permits to Imperial Metals for drill sites within the Tranquil Creek watershed, notwithstanding the lack of consent from the First Nation Government;

AND WHEREAS the City of Victoria has been a leader among local governments in British Columbia in forging respectful relationships with indigenous people and First Nations governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria supports the request of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation for a moratorium on mining activity within its territories, so as to allow for implementation of its Land Use Plan and the pursuit of economic, ecological and social priorities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to write to the Premier and Minister of Energy and Mines requesting that a moratorium on mining activity in Tla-o-qui-aht territories be introduced.

*Councillor Isitt said that he hopes if we were facing a similar issue here in Victoria, that other municipalities would support us.*

*Councillor Young said that he is unable to support as there can be competing needs and interests and all resource development involve some kind of impact on the environment and he does not know if this is the appropriate response. He also cannot support as sometimes other local governments make mistakes and following their requests blindly can be an unwise course of action*

Carried

**For:**

**Mayor Fortin, Councillors Alto, Coleman, Gudgeon,  
Helps, Isitt, Madoff and Thornton-Joe**

**Against:**

**Councillor Young**



## Minutes from the GPC Meeting of February 13, 2014

### 3.1 Motion – Sponsorship at AVICC/UBCM Meetings

**Action:** Councillor Isitt moved that Committee recommends that Council approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria supports the following resolution for consideration at the 2014 annual meetings of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

WHEREAS, the Community Charter provides clear direction to local governments to ensure that decision-making is independent of interested parties and free to the greatest extent possible from conflicts of interest;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and its area associations agree to conduct their proceedings in a manner that encourages decision-making that is independent from interest parties, by:

- Transitioning by 2016 toward a self-financed model for annual meetings that do not rely on financial contributions by external sponsors;
- Allows for ongoing opportunities for externally-sponsored events scheduled and promoted outside the official program of UBCM and its area associations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Victoria forward this resolution to AVICC and UBCM member municipalities/local governments, requesting those bodies adopt resolutions in support of this policy to regional area conventions and UBCM.

Committee discussed:

- The need to protect our process by not having the appearance of conflict of interest.
- The financial impact on the ability of smaller municipality's to attend conferences.
- If Committee has enough information on the effect that eliminating sponsorships would have on the respective organizations.
- If the organizations have a sponsorship policy that Committee could review prior to making any decisions.

**Action:** Councillor Isitt moved that Committee amend the motion as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Victoria supports the following resolution for consideration at the 2014 annual meetings of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM).

WHEREAS, the Community Charter provides clear direction to local governments to ensure that decision-making is independent of interested parties and free to the greatest extent possible from conflicts of interest;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM and its area associations ~~agree to~~ **examine conducting** ~~conduct~~ their proceedings in a manner that encourages decision-making that is independent from interest parties, by:

- Transitioning by 2016 toward a self-financed model for annual meetings that do not rely on financial contributions by ~~external sponsors~~ **non-governmental entities**.

- Allows for ongoing opportunities for externally-sponsored events scheduled and promoted outside the official program of UBCM and its area associations.

**Action:** Councillor Coleman moved that Committee postpone consideration of this item until further information is obtained regarding current sponsorship policy from the UBCM and member organizations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 14/GPC096

## **UBCM comment to City of Victoria's motion regarding "Sponsorship at AVICC/UBCM Meetings" - June 3, 2014**

### **UBCM Sponsorship Overview**

#### **1. Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines**

- Only companies that UBCM considers compatible with its goals, values and mission will be considered as potential corporate sponsorship partners.
- UBCM's Executive Director will decide the eligibility of a potential corporate sponsor.
- If UBCM's Executive Director decides that a sponsor may not be compatible, the Executive Director will seek direction from Executive before approval is given.
- UBCM reserve the right to terminate an existing corporate sponsor if the sponsor becomes incompatible with UBCM's values and mission.

#### **2. Sponsorship Contributions**

UBCM convention sponsorship contributions from non-governmental entities will equate to \$200K+ revenue in 2014. Non-Governmental sponsorship provides measurable benefits to our members including:

- Lower registration fees
- Receptions for networking and socializing
- Strong relationship building opportunities with corporate partners

Many non-governmental sponsored receptions are included within UBCM's "official program" including the CUPE reception. CUPE has been a long-standing sponsor and the reception is one of the most anticipated events for local government elected officials to socialize and network. Under this resolution the CUPE reception would no longer be acceptable.

#### **3. Implications of adopting the City of Victoria's Resolution**

The implications of adopting the City of Victoria's resolution on sponsorship for 2014 are a 30% increase in member registration fees from \$455 to \$590 and approximately 34% increase for non-member and government fees.

UBCM has seen a reduction in governmental sponsorship revenue as agencies come under public scrutiny and sponsorship budgets are reduced.

### **AVICC Convention 2014 Sponsorship Overview**

The April 2014 AVICC Convention generated \$67K in convention related revenue of which \$18K or almost 30% was non-governmental sponsorship.