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**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2018 March 06

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 2125 20  
*Reference: UBCM Resolutions*

**SUBJECT:** 2018 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

**PURPOSE:** To present resolutions for submission to the 2018 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council endorse the three new resolutions outlined in Section 3.0 of this report for submission to the 2018 LMLGA AGM and the 2018 UBCM Convention.
2. **THAT** staff be authorized to forward a copy of this report, accompanied by any applicable background reports and information, to the UBCM, located at Suite 60, 10551 Shellbridge Way, Richmond, BC V6X 2W9.
3. **THAT** copies of this report be forwarded for information to Burnaby MLAs, MPs and to Metro Vancouver.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Each year, resolutions are considered for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Annual General Meeting (AGM). The adopted resolutions from the LMLGA are then forwarded to the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) Convention. These resolutions are a means to request amendments to the *Community Charter, Local Government Act* and other Provincial or Federal legislation and policies to address issues of significance to local government.

This report presents three new resolutions for Council's consideration as a submission to the 2018 UBCM Convention. The deadline for submissions to the LMLGA AGM, which will take place from 2018 May 9 – 11 in Whistler, BC, is on 2018 March 23. The UBCM Convention will take place from 2018 September 10 – 14, also in Whistler, BC. The deadline for any resolution submissions made directly to the UBCM is 2018 June 30.

For the convenience of Council, this report also details the senior government response to resolutions previously approved by Council and submitted to the LMLGA AGM and the UBCM Convention in 2017 and 2016.

## 2.0 POLICY SECTION

The proposed 2018 UBCM resolutions are aligned with the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan by supporting the following goal and sub-goal of the Plan:

- A Healthy Community
  - Healthy Environment

To learn more about the City of Burnaby's Corporate Strategic Plan, please visit [www.burnaby.ca/CSP](http://www.burnaby.ca/CSP).

## 3.0 2018 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

This section provides background information on three new resolutions that have been developed for Council's consideration and possible submission to the 2018 UBCM convention.

### 3.1 Resolution: Taxation Reforms to protect farming uses in the Agricultural Land Reserve

As raised by Council at its 2017 June 12 meeting, land within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in Metro Vancouver is increasingly threatened from permitted non-farm uses taking place on these lands, as well as from applications for exclusion of land from the ALR.

According to *The Metro Vancouver Regional Report (Summer 2010 & 2011) Agriculture Land Use Inventory*, only 13% of the ALR in Metro Vancouver is used solely for farming, with another 43% used for farming in combination with other uses (e.g. residential). Indeed, according to the inventory, the most extensive Metro Vancouver land use in the ALR is residential.

The existing 'farm class' property taxation assessment category, which applies to ALR lands, confers significant tax benefits to the property owner. Existing tax policy enables property owners that are not farming in the ALR to still receive a lower tax assessment than homes or businesses located elsewhere within the region. Agricultural land that is purchased and utilized for purposes other than farming has a number of impacts felt by all municipalities in Metro Vancouver, and in other regions of the province. These include higher prices for agricultural land which can prevent new farmers from establishing production. As well, the proliferation of permitted non-farm residential and commercial uses outside the Urban Containment Boundary<sup>1</sup> are increasing the geographic spread and demand for services such as utilities, transit, police, fire and emergency services, all of which are financed by local governments.

Metro Vancouver has conducted research on possible tax reform mechanisms that could address these issues. In a report entitled *Encouraging Agricultural Production through Farm Property Tax Reform in Metro Vancouver (2016)*, potential approaches are outlined. These include review of the school tax exemption for residential properties in the ALR; review of the income thresholds

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<sup>1</sup> The Urban Containment Boundary is a term utilized by Metro Vancouver to refer to those lands designated in the Regional Growth Strategy (*Metro 2040*) as the focus of urban development and land-use patterns.

to achieve farm classification, and reviewing whether non-farmed land in the ALR should be valued as if it were within regional lands designated for urban land-use patterns.

On 2018 February 20, the Provincial Government released the 2018 B.C. Budget. With the budget a number of backgrounder 'companion documents' were also released. One of them is entitled, *Homes for B.C.*, which sets out a number of policy approaches for improving housing affordability in the province. One of the items listed refers to reviewing property tax measures for ALR land to prioritize farming uses instead of residential (#11, pg. 16). This is an encouraging development and swift action could be encouraged.

As such, the following resolution has been prepared for Council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION: Agricultural Land Reserve – Protective Taxation Reform**

**WHEREAS** a significant portion of Agricultural Land Reserve lands are being used for permitted non-farming uses;

**AND WHEREAS** this land is some of the most agriculturally productive in Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** existing taxation and assessment procedures for the Agricultural Land Reserve provide benefits for non-farm uses that occur on these lands.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities further encourage the Provincial Government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary 'farm uses', as laid out in the *Homes for B.C.* companion document to the 2018 Provincial Budget.

**3.2 Resolution: Software Consumer Protections for Public Institutions**

Burnaby residents increasingly expect to be able to view, apply for and process civic services online (e.g. licences, electronic Council Agendas and Minutes, lane closure requests, taxes). City staff also rely on access to a range of business software applications to support the effective operation of civic services. As such, Burnaby and other cities have an understanding of the benefits that technological advancement can provide to the delivery of citizen services and a corresponding increased need for specialized software. The purchase, implementation, and optimization of these software applications often require a significant investment of limited public resources.

As well, ongoing support and maintenance programs are usually required to be purchased from the provider in order to keep the application(s) up-to-date and secure. The terms and conditions imposed by the vendor community are becoming increasingly problematic in terms of accelerated product obsolescence, total cost of ownership and the ability to maintain citizen data across the entire product lifecycle. Rapid change in the software market, including mergers, acquisitions and competitive pressures, translate into increased cost and risk at the consumer level to ensure that software is supported and inter-operates within an increasingly complex applications

environment. Changes to legal ownership of software companies can compromise the original agreements or result in lost investment or utility of the software product, depending on the changes and responses required to impacts of ownership changes, software service models and other factors.

The speed of technological advancement, while often positive for society as a whole, places significant financial pressure upon cities and other public institutions that, as keepers of the public purse, are required to make financially prudent software investment decisions while still maintaining an expected level of electronic customer service.

All of these complexities were highlighted by Council during discussion in Fall 2017. A level of consumer protection for public institutions is required when purchasing and maintaining software packages. In light of these ongoing and increasing concerns, and as this is an experience shared by many public institutions across Canada, the following resolution has been prepared for Council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION: Consumer Protection for Public Institutions When Purchasing Software**

**WHEREAS** public institutions are placed in a position of financial and contractual vulnerability when purchasing and maintaining needed software applications;

**AND WHEREAS** the speed of major upgrades, final software obsolescence, and industry mergers and acquisitions are occurring at a rate beyond the financially responsible capacity of public institutions to respond;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to work with Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, and/or other appropriate bodies such as the Office of Consumer Affairs, to develop standard public institution consumer protection regulations when purchasing software applications and maintenance packages.

**3.3 Resolution: Enhanced Municipal Bylaw Fine Collection Procedures**

In 2003 October, the Province enacted the *Local Government Bylaw Notice Enforcement Act*. This Act sets provincial standards for the enforcement of local government bylaws by notice, outlines a system for notice dispute adjudication and standards for the collection of outstanding notice penalties. The Act was developed by the Province in response to issues and concerns raised over the previous ten to fifteen year period by the UBCM, and other provincial bodies, with respect to needed bylaw enforcement reforms. This legislation (*Chapter 60*) gives local governments the ability to enact local 'bylaw notice enforcement bylaws', including the adjudication of bylaw disputes locally rather than through the Provincial Court system. With this measure, violation notices can be disputed out of court with a private adjudicator appointed by the Provincial Attorney General Office.

In Burnaby, this is *Bylaw No. 12657, the Burnaby Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw (2009)*. The Bylaw sets out procedures for the issuance, payment, compliance agreement plan development, and disputation (adjudication) of municipal fines. As stated in the Provincial Act, the adjudicator's decision is final and cannot be appealed. If the adjudicator determines that the fine is valid, and should payment still be refused, the City can either work with a collections agency or proceed to small claims court to enforce payment. This latter process can be a particularly time-consuming, costly and onerous process for local governments. This is an issue experienced by municipalities across the province.

These concerns were underlined by Council during discussions in early winter 2018. Further streamlining measures for the collections of municipal fines are required. A potential additional legislation amendment which could address these payment extraction complications is the addition of unpaid municipal fines to the permitted 'special fees [...that...] may be collected as property taxes', outlined in *Division 14, Section 258 of the Community Charter*. This would permit local governments to recoup unpaid fines that are related to a specific property as a portion of property taxes, including through eventual tax sale property auction, should this final step be necessary.

Further, the court online filing system for unpaid fines could be improved so that multiple fines outstanding against one person could be filed together, rather than separately as currently required. This simple change would reduce both the time and filing administration costs (charged by the courts for each filing) borne by cities, and correspondingly increase the rate of fine collection. Additional efficiencies could be investigated. As such, the following resolution has been prepared for Council's consideration.

**RESOLUTION: Enhanced Municipal Bylaw Fine Collection Procedures**

**WHEREAS** the current mechanisms for collecting municipal fines, though improved, still do not provide adequate provision for the collection of unpaid fines;

**WHEREAS** existing effective collection mechanisms for unpaid property taxes, and current permitted 'special fees' are in place;

**AND WHEREAS** the available fine collection mechanisms available are time-consuming, costly and onerous for local governments to undertake.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Provincial Government to amend the legislation to allow the addition of unpaid municipal fines related to a specific property to the permitted 'special fees [...that...] may be collected as property taxes', including through eventual tax sale property auction;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Provincial Government to streamline the current court online filing system for municipal fines, and investigate other efficiencies and mechanisms for collection, including any necessary corresponding legislative changes.



### **3.4 Next Steps**

Pending approval by Council, these three proposed new resolutions will be forwarded to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Annual General Meeting (2018 May 9 – 11) for discussion. Endorsed resolutions from this meeting will be forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) annual Convention (2018 September 10 – 14) for further discussion and endorsement.

While not recommended by the UBCM, any submitted resolutions that are not endorsed at the LMLGA AGM can be forwarded directly to the UBCM for secondary consideration should Council wish. The deadline for any resolutions submitted directly to the UBCM is 2018 June 30.

## **4.0 STATUS OF ACTIVE 2017 RESOLUTIONS**

### **4.1 Resolution: Maintaining Tax-free Status of Employer-provided Health Benefit Plans**

On 2017 April 3, Council received a report regarding the Federal Government's consideration of amendments to the *Federal Income Tax Act* that would result in Canadians being taxed on employer-provided health benefit plans.

Many middle class and lower income Canadians rely on employer-provided health benefits to sustain their health. Should this benefit be taxed, more employees may opt out of coverage due to increased costs or lose their coverage due to the inability of employers to provide affordable plans. Middle and lower income employees could also see a reduction in their take-home pay due to increased taxation. The experience in Quebec, where employer-provided health benefit plans are taxable, suggests that fewer people will obtain replacement coverage and the number of uninsured Canadians will rise, shifting cost pressures onto the emergency health care system.

Given these concerns, at its meeting of 2017 May 29, Council passed a resolution urging the Federal Government to maintain the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefit plans. The resolution was endorsed by the UBCM at the 2017 Convention.

With the release of the 2017 Federal Budget, the Federal Government announced that it had no plans to pursue these amendments. However, the Federal Government also indicated that the current tax exempt status of employer-provided health benefits is being scrutinized as part of a sweeping review of tax credits with the goal of achieving greater tax equity (though not as a revenue generating action). While not included in the 2017 budget, concern still exists that this measure may be revisited in the future. Staff will keep Council apprised of any further developments.

### **4.2 Resolution: Provincial Compensation for Delinquent Municipal Property Taxes on Properties not Subject to Tax Sale**

On 2017 February 22, Council received a memo outlining an instance whereby the City was unable to pursue the courses of action outlined in the *Community Charter* and the *Local Government Act* to resolve delinquent taxes on a water lot leased by a third party from Port Metro

Vancouver. This matter highlights the complex, time consuming, and inadequate provisions available to local governments to recover lost revenue for properties not subject to tax sale, such as any property or water lot belonging to the Crown or Crown entity that is held under lease or licence.

Accordingly, at its meeting of 2017 May 29, Council approved a resolution requesting that the Provincial Government repeal *Division 13, Section 257(6)* of the *Community Charter* and add a provision that makes the Province the final guarantor of taxes payable to a municipality in all cases when taxes are unrecoverable on Crown land held under lease or licence, or other property not subject to Tax Sale under *Section 254* of the *Charter*.

The resolution was endorsed at the 2017 UBCM Convention. In response to this resolution, the Provincial Government at the time stated that local governments could apply the legal remedy of 'distress', in accordance with *Section 252* of the *Community Charter*. The Province indicated that local governments could use this mechanism to 'collect on outstanding taxes before they become delinquent', thereby providing an opportunity to collect prior to provincial cancellation of a Crown lease. No further response has been received. Staff will keep Council updated of any further communication from the Province.

## **5.0 STATUS OF ACTIVE 2016 RESOLUTIONS**

### **5.1 Resolution: Renewed Call for a National Housing Strategy**

Burnaby has a long history of advocating for renewed and sufficient levels of support from senior levels of government to support a full continuum of non-market, affordable housing including independent social housing (e.g. cooperatives) and transition, supportive and assisted living housing arrangements.

In total, the City has submitted six housing-related resolutions to the UBCM with the first in 1990, stretching to 2014 and 2016. Only incomplete responses outlining current, often declining, levels of support have been received in response.

However, in 2017 the Federal Government released a National Housing Strategy. The plan contains broad spending commitments including:

- \$15.9 billion for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, that will support investment in new housing and repair of existing affordable and community housing;
- \$4 billion for the Canada Housing Benefit, that will deliver approximately \$2,500 per year in rent supports to recipient households, and will be co-developed and delivered with provinces and territories;
- \$2.2 billion for the Homeless Partnering Strategy, a redesigned successor to the existing program that will draw on input from an Advisory Committee on Homelessness; and
- \$4.3 billion for a new Community Housing Initiative, to maintain affordability for approximately 330,000 households in cooperative housing.

The strategy also includes targets to:

- create 100,000 new housing units;
- repair and renew 300,000 existing housing units; and,
- reduce the number of chronically homeless shelter users by 50 percent.

Most of the funding indicated in the Strategy was already announced in the 2017 Federal budget. The exception is the \$4 billion Canada Housing Benefit, which will provide rent subsidies to eligible families on an annual basis beginning after the next federal election, initiating in April 2020 and concluding in 2028.

Most bodies, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Union of BC Municipalities, and the Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada, are supportive of the intent of the document, as it signals Federal involvement in the housing sector after an absence of more than twenty years. However, these same bodies have also raised some questions and critiques of the Strategy. These include:

- Lack of data-based assessment regarding Canada's current housing system;
- Confusion over the timing and process for accessing funds;
- Concern that the Housing Benefit will not commence until after the next federal election;
- The extent to which the Strategy relies on matching funding from Provinces and Territories;
- The near exclusive focus on the needs of vulnerable populations, though needed, while failing to address the needs of middle class Canadians priced out of unaffordable markets; and,
- How/if the strategy will leverage municipal expertise in decision-making on housing development to match local needs with the best possible solutions.

On 2018 February 01, the UBCM 'Housing Special Committee' released its Housing Strategy Report with further recommendations for action. In an initial review by staff, many of the suggested provisions are positive, including a request (which cites a resolution submitted by Burnaby in 2007) to provide local governments with the legislative authority to create zoning for affordable rental housing. The Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario have recently undertaken such action, and it is recommended that British Columbia follow suit.

Recently, the Province also set out its intention to increase its investment and involvement in affordable housing. On February 20, 2018, it released *Homes for B.C.: A 30-Point Plan for Housing Affordability* in British Columbia as a companion background document to the 2018 B.C. Budget. In this plan, the Province set out its goals of stabilizing demand, examining the tax structures to prevent tax evasion, building more affordable housing supply, and working with partners to build new housing. In the plan, the Province has committed a total \$6.6 billion in affordable housing, and intends to direct the funds to rental units for the "missing middle" (skilled workforce housing), to housing for women and children affected by violence, student housing, and to maintain the existing housing stock already built.



Staff will continue to monitor progress of this issue at the senior government level and to leverage opportunities to secure additional affordable and supportive housing for Burnaby.

## **5.2 Resolution: Processing of Section 107 Road Dedications**

In 2011, Council was apprised of staff concerns regarding the practice of *Section 107* land title filings by the Province being accepted by the Land Title and Survey Authority of British Columbia (LTSA), New Westminster Land Titles Office (LTO) without the signature and approval of the local Approving Officer. This practice occurs despite the prevailing legislation (*Land Title Act, Section 91.1*) which requires the signature of an Approving Officer. These occurrences can result in the creation of municipal streets without the awareness of the Approving Officer. This creates a number of concerns for the City, including any environmental contamination associated with new road allowance that are a potential civic risk and liability.

Given these concerns, at its meeting of 2016 February 22, Council passed a resolution calling for a review of the process for *Section 107* road dedications. The resolution was subsequently endorsed by the LMLGA. The UBCM Resolutions Committee provided no recommendation at the 2016 Convention due to a lack of unified member policy direction on this issue. The resolution was subsequently endorsed by UBCM at its 2016 September Convention.

The Province responded that it supports transportation infrastructure being developed in a way that reflects the current legislation requirements and is open to discussion with UBCM on this topic. No further communication from either the UBCM or the Province has been received. Staff will continue to monitor progress on this matter.

## **5.3 Resolution: Standardize Provincial Approach to Tenant Assistance**

At its meeting of 2015 May 04, Council approved a Tenant Assistance Policy for implementation as part of the City's rezoning development approval process. Residential tenancy law in British Columbia is primarily governed by the *Residential Tenancy Act*, which provides the rights and obligations of tenants and landlords in the province and prescribes the current tenant termination requirements. The *Act* also provides authority to local governments to adopt supplementary policies to encourage or require that the minimum legislated requirements be exceeded when existing tenants need to relocate. The Burnaby Tenant Assistance Policy provides information to applicants and tenants on the City's expectations in this regard.

Since implementation of the policy, staff have noted that the policy has often resulted in better outcomes for tenants than would have been achieved under the *Act*, such as longer notice periods and increased financial compensation. In addition to Burnaby, other local governments in the region including the City of New Westminster, the City of Coquitlam, the City of North Vancouver and the City of Vancouver also have approved tenant assistance policies. The experiences of these local governments have further demonstrated that tenant assistance policies, even when applied voluntarily, often result in better outcomes for the tenants than just those the *Act* would have provided.

Given these observations, at its meeting of 2016 February 22, Council passed a resolution calling for the Provincial approach to tenant assistance to be improved and standardized, in order to create equal expectations across the province in relation to tenant notice and support.

The resolution was subsequently endorsed by the LMLGA and the UBCM. The Province stated in early 2017 that it had no plans to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act*. More recently, however, with the change in the provincial government, the Province has taken steps to increase resources for the Residential Tenancy Branch and engage in further review of tenancy legislation and policy.

#### **5.4 Resolution: Provincial Homeowner Grant Program**

The Provincial Home Owner Grant (HOG) program reduces the amount of property tax homeowners pay for their principal residence. The Provincial government determines the amount of grant qualified property owners receive based upon where in the province they live and whether they are a senior or person with a disability. Property owners living within Metro Vancouver, the Capital Regional District and the Fraser Valley Regional District are entitled to claim lower Basic Grants and Seniors/Persons with Disabilities Supplemental Grants than eligible property owners living in northern and rural areas.

The number of Burnaby homeowners eligible for the HOG has steadily declined in recent years from a high of 92.5% in 2012 to a low of 77% in 2017, well below the Provincial target of 91% of homeowners. This decline is attributable to the significant increase in residential property values within Metro Vancouver, and the Capital and Fraser Valley Regional Districts, as compared to other areas. However, homeowners in other regional districts across the province who have not experienced a significant increase in real estate values are still able to participate in the HOG program, and with higher Basic and Supplemental grant amount levels. As such, the current practice of establishing one assessment threshold value for such disparate catchment areas inadequately adjusts for regional disparities in real estate values across British Columbia.

Given this concern, at its meeting on 2016 April 4, Council passed a resolution requesting a Provincial review of the HOG Program to determine if a more equitable distribution of the grant across all regions could be achieved. Upon submission to the UBCM, the Resolutions Committee questioned whether amending the HOG Program, which it equated with amending the property tax system, was an appropriate mechanism to address perceived inequities within the carbon tax system, which it identified as the source of the Northern and Rural benefit. As such, the resolution was subsequently not endorsed at the 2016 UBCM Conference.

On 2018 January 3, the homeowner grant threshold was raised by the Province to \$1.65 million to take into account continuing rising real estate prices. Based on this increase, staff estimate that 80% of Burnaby homeowners will be eligible for the HOG. Additionally, as part of the 2018 BC Budget, the Province introduced a number of policy goals and programs to support home affordability for British Columbians. As detailed in the budget companion document, *Homes for B.C.*, the Province will examine the HOG in order to implement a similar affordability support for renters while also working with the Federal Government to cross-reference HOG applications with income tax information to 'catch' inappropriate or fraudulent applications. Specific

modifications to reflect regional differences in the housing market were not referenced, however, these may be identified later as part of the program review.

## **5.5 Resolution: Asbestos and Hazardous Materials Removal**

The handling and safe removal and disposal of asbestos and other hazardous materials during building renovation or demolition can be hazardous to those working in the construction industry and, if not disposed of properly, to the general public as well. WorkSafeBC regulates handling and disposal of asbestos and other hazardous materials through the *Workers Compensation Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*. Via the *Act*, monetary fines can be issued on employers who commit health and safety violations. Incident investigations are conducted when WorkSafeBC is informed of an incident by an employer, employee or other member of the public. However, companies that do not follow proper procedures for the removal and disposal of asbestos and other hazardous materials may not self-report their infractions, resulting in their practices not being investigated.

Given this concern, Council, at its meeting on 2016 June 13, passed a resolution requesting that the Provincial government require mandatory licensing, certification and enforceable compliance in safely handling asbestos and other hazardous material for all demolition, renovation and environmental remediation contractors. The resolution was similar to one submitted by the City of Vancouver. Due to time constraints the resolution was not debated at the 2016 UBCM Conference, but was referred to the UBCM Executive for its consideration. The UBCM Executive endorsed the resolution at its meeting on 2017 February 23. No response from the Province has yet been received.

## **5.6 Resolution: Investing in Post-secondary Education**

In 2014 December, the Provincial government announced a \$6.9 million funding cut to Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Learning (ELL) programming in British Columbia and introduced provisions to allow post-secondary institutions to charge tuition fees for these services to make up for the funding shortfall. The introduction of tuition fees negatively impacted adult learners including those needing to improve English language skills, as well as basic literacy and numeracy.

In response to these concerns, Council endorsed a resolution at its meeting of 2016 June 20 in support of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators' "Open the Doors" campaign. The campaign called for a restoration of full funding to B.C.'s public post-secondary system, including free tuition for ABE and ELL programs. The resolution was similar to ones put forward by the Town of Port McNeill, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, and the Town of Qualicum Beach. Due to time constraints, the resolution was not discussed at the 2016 September Convention and was referred to the UBCM Executive. At its meeting on 2017 April 20, the UBCM Executive endorsed the Qualicum Beach resolution.

In 2017 August, the Provincial government announced that it was eliminating tuition fees on ABE and ELL programming, and that any students who had already paid for fall courses would receive a refund.

## 6.0 CANADA POST RESOLUTION: UPDATE

At its meeting of 2014 February 17, Council approved a motion contained in a report regarding the suspension of Canada Post's home delivery service. This report provided, for Council's information, a broad overview of the major identified issues and impacts of the Canada Post service delivery change and its specific implications for the City of Burnaby and other local governments. The submitted resolution was endorsed by the UBCM and submitted to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). On 2014 March 9, FCM's National Board of Directors met to discuss the organization's perspective on the matter and directed its concerns in written correspondence to Canada Post.


On 2015 October 26, after the most recent federal election, Canada Post announced that it was temporarily suspending the conversions of door-to-door delivery to community mailboxes. Since that time, the proposed conversion has been under review. On 2018 January 24, Federal Public Services Minister Carla Qualtrough announced that the conversions would formally be ceased. However, those addresses that had already undergone a mailbox conversion would not return to door-to-door delivery because of 'de-conversion' costs and complexities. In order to address the accessibility requirements of individuals who already receive mail via community mailboxes, a national advisory panel will be struck. Staff will continue to advise on any further developments.

## 7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This report proposes three new resolutions for submission to the 2018 UBCM Convention. The report also provides an update on resolutions submitted in 2017 and 2016.

It is recommended that Council endorse the three new resolutions, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report, for submission to the 2018 LMLGA AGM and to the 2018 UBCM Convention. It is also recommended that staff be authorized to forward a copy of this report, accompanied by any supporting background reports and information, to the UBCM. Finally, it is recommended that a copy of this report be circulated to Burnaby MLAs and MPs for information.

Any additional resolutions which may come forward subsequent to this report, and prior to the 2018 June 30 UBCM deadline, may be submitted directly to the UBCM for possible consideration at the 2018 UBCM Convention.



Lou Pelletier, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM:sla:sa

cc: Director Corporate Services  
Director Engineering  
Director Finance  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Director Public Safety and Community Services  
City Clerk

Fire Chief  
Chief Building Inspector  
Chief Librarian  
City Solicitor  
OIC – RCMP