

## 2022-2023 UBCM Resolutions

### 2023 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

#### 1. **Resolution: Expanding Property Transfer Tax Exemptions**

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to review the Property Transfer Tax and other provincial legislation to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax to all not-for-profit societies, co-operatives or corporations incorporated and in good standing under the BC Societies Act, Cooperative Association Act, or the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act who are leasing municipal lands for the development of affordable housing from payment of Property Transfer Tax to eliminate this financial burden on the creation of non-market housing.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership had not previously considered a resolution asking the province to expand the exemption from payment of Property Transfer Tax as described above. However, the membership endorsed a resolution in 2022 to develop a provincial acquisition strategy and grant program that would allow non-profit housing providers to purchase and repair aging rental stock for the purposes of maintaining existing affordable housing. This resolution included reference to a statement by the Expert Panel on Housing Supply that "...BC government should exempt non-profit organizations from the property transfer tax for building acquisitions that will be used to provide affordable housing". The Committee further noted that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions over the years that requested that the provincial government allocate a portion of revenues from the Property Transfer Tax to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

#### 2. **Resolution: Exemptions for Elections Workers**

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to provide to local governments an exemption from Part 4 (Hours of Work and Overtime) of the Employment Standards Act, except Section 39 which refers to excessive hours of work, as it would relate to temporary election workers during the local government elections and by-elections.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership had not previously considered a resolution asking the province to provide local governments with an exemption from Part 4 (Hours of Work and Overtime) of the Employment Standards Act as explained above. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

### **3. Resolution: Extending Election Nomination Period**

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to amend the *Local Government Act* to begin the nomination period for local government elections at least three weeks earlier than currently legislated and allow for a three-week nomination period.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership had not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the *Local Government Act* with respect to the nomination period for local government elections. However, the Committee noted that the membership endorsed a resolution in 2016 which sought an amendment to the *Local Government Act* to increase the time between the end of the candidate nomination period and the beginning of the election period, to facilitate the administration of the mail ballot process and provide greater voting opportunities for citizens. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

### **4. Resolution: Creating More Equitable Municipalities**

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to provide resources, including funding and training, as well as policy direction on equity to enable municipalities to implement said processes across municipal capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives and to adopt said processes to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership endorsed a nearly identical resolution in 2022, which asked “all relevant Ministries to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, including the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, provide resources and policy direction to enable local governments to implement analytical process for the assessment of systemic inequalities (i.e. Gender-Based Analysis Plus) across local government capital investments, operations and strategic initiatives to ensure all citizens can participate fully in civic life and to make measurable progress towards dismantling systemic inequality in our communities.” No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

### **5. Resolution: Supporting Non-Profit Ownership of Non-Marketing Housing in Air Space Parcels**

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to amend the *Land Title Act* to enable lot line adjustments for air space parcels, to allow non-profit organizations to obtain title and financing on a provisional air space parcel which may then be further subdivided prior to occupancy to align with the building's elevations as constructed.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership had not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the *Land Title Act* for the above noted purposes. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

**6. *Resolution: Municipal Authority for Empty Homes Tax***

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to amend the Community Charter to enable municipalities to administer a specific property tax on unoccupied Class 1 Residential properties, with net revenues to be used by the municipality towards affordable housing projects.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership endorsed a number of resolutions over the years which asked the Province to empower local governments to collect a levy on vacant residential properties. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

**7. *Resolution: eGaming Revenue Distribution***

At its meeting on February 27, 2023, Council approved a resolution urging the provincial government to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues based on per capita or eGaming revenue earned from each municipal resident spend.

***Response: The Resolution was endorsed at the 2023 Convention.***

UBCM membership had not considered a resolution asking the Province to allocate a portion of BCLC's online revenues as described above. However, the membership has endorsed resolutions requesting that BCLC eGaming revenues be used to fund a Community Gaming Grant program to financially support non-host communities with populations of less than 25,000 and that 10 percent of net revenue from online gambling be shared with local governments on the basis of population. Further, the membership has endorsed resolutions to share a portion of lottery revenue with either all BC local governments, communities under 10,000 and/or host communities who should receive an increased percentage return. No further updates have been received at this time. Staff will update Council should a response from the Provincial government be received.

## 2022 UBCM RESOLUTIONS

### 1. **Resolution: Increase Funding for Public Libraries in the BC Provincial Budget 2023**

At its meeting on March 7, 2022, Council approved a resolution urging the Provincial government to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries and ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial government funding in subsequent years.

#### **Response: Ministry of Municipal Affairs**

This resolution was not admitted for debate at the 2022 Convention. However, an identical resolution that was submitted by the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District was endorsed at the Convention.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs provided a response to the resolution that was submitted by the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District in February 2023. Libraries were on the forefront of supporting people during the pandemic through print and digital resources, barrier-free community spaces and reliable internet access. Libraries, library federations and services partners received \$8 million in 2022 to support COVID-19 relief and recovery. These funds will help libraries fill some of the gaps and additional costs incurred during the pandemic and support recovery. The funds are available to help libraries expand digital collections, upgrade connectivity, offer different programs, improve their technological infrastructure, and help make libraries a safe, comfortable place of refuge in times of emergency. The 2020 Strategic Plan for Public Library Service in British Columbia identified the need to address challenges with the current funding distribution framework. The Ministry remains committed to working with library stakeholders to revise the grant system so provincial library funding is more transparent, flexible, sustainable and equitable.

### 2. **Resolution: Expanding the Child Care Sector Workforce**

At its meeting on March 7, 2022, Council approved a resolution urging the Provincial government to accelerate its Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy, including implementation of a publicly funded, competitive and equitable wage grid for Early Childhood Educators (ECEs).

#### **Response: Ministry of Education and Child Care**

This resolution was endorsed at the 2022 Convention. The Ministry of Education and Childcare provided a response to this resolution in February 2023. In 2018, the Province launched the Early Care and Learning Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Since that time, the Province has advanced its goals under this strategy by committing almost \$620M through to the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year towards workforce initiatives. This includes supports for education and training, wage enhancements, reducing barriers to ECEs trained in other jurisdictions, and support for ongoing professional development. A key goal under the ChildCareBC Plan is addressing long-standing issues around compensation in the sector. Through a partnership with the Government of Canada, the Province has committed to develop and implement a wage grid for ECEs in British Columbia. This work

will take time. Recognizing that wage pressures for ECEs are immediate, the Province has increased the existing ECE Wage Enhancement to \$4 per hour and expanded eligibility to include all ECEs directly employed by and working in licensed child care facilities. The wage enhancement serves as an integral step towards ensuring ECEs are recognized as professionals and fairly compensated for their important work.

### **3. Resolution: Expedited Provincial Regulation of Single-Use Plastics**

At its meeting on February 28, 2022 Council approved a resolution urging the Provincial government to expedite the development of single-use plastic regulations by the end of 2022.

#### ***Response: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy***

This resolution was endorsed at the 2022 Convention. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy provided a response to this resolution in February 2023 with no further updates provided since this time.

The February 2023 update established that the phase out of single-use plastics is a provincial priority and the Province is taking a range of actions to reduce plastic waste and pollution through the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan.

The Province has proposed a new regulation that will reduce single-use plastic waste by limiting or banning a range of items, providing a consistent provincial approach. Ministry staff are currently reviewing comments on the proposed regulation, including feedback from local governments. A What We Heard report was published in spring 2023, with a new regulation announced in December 2023. The Province will continue to work with local governments.

The federal regulations came into force at the end of December 2022 to ban the manufacture and import of items, with bans on the sale of items effective December 2023. This aligned with the Province's timeline for proposed bans on the sale of specific plastic items.

The provincial regulation is intended to complement and expand on municipal and federal actions, to transition to more sustainable and reusable alternatives, including proposed fees for alternatives like paper bags. The Province will continue work to harmonize with the federal regulation where possible.