

B1 AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH SPRINKLER BYLAWS

WHEREAS the *Community Charter* states that the provincial government recognizes that local governments require adequate powers and discretion to address existing and future community needs;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government, withheld approval of a local government Fire Services Bylaw due to sprinkler requirements that exceeded the minimum provisions set forth in the British Columbia *Building Code*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government grant authority to local governments to establish sprinkler bylaws to increase life safety to occupants and to minimize property damage caused by .re.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that in 1998 the UBCM membership considered and endorsed resolution B31, requesting a legislative amendment "to allow Council, by bylaw, to require the installation of sprinkler systems and...establish standards and specifications for required sprinkler systems and their installation."

The Province declined to support this resolution as it was, at that time, in the process of establishing a uniform, province-wide Building Code and was proposing a revision to the Municipal Act to define the scope of local government building bylaws as dealing only with matters not already regulated by the BC Building Code.

The sponsor of this resolution advises that the Province recently denied a proposed sprinkler section of a .re service bylaw in the interest of maintaining consistent building regulations throughout BC.

This matter is considered a concurrent regulatory authority under the Community Charter, which is why Ministry approval is required if there is not an order allowing local government to regulate. The Ministry is in the process of establishing a committee to provide recommendations on a number of local government sprinkler bylaws.

*Conference decision: **ENDORSED***

B14 ENABLING MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE BLANKET SPEED ZONES

WHEREAS the speed limit in cities and municipalities in BC is "50 km/h unless otherwise posted", with no differentiation between major roads and local streets;

AND WHEREAS lower speeds can decrease the severity and incidence of car crashes, benefit livability and safety of neighbourhoods, improve drivers' respect for neighbourhoods, and improve cyclist and pedestrian safety;

AND WHEREAS in 1999 the Union of BC Municipalities passed a resolution supporting blanket speed zones in residential areas, however, removing the words "in residential areas" from the original resolution would simplify the process of amending the *Motor Vehicle Act*:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities request that the Minister of Transportation and Highways consider an amendment to the *Motor Vehicle Act* that would allow incorporated municipalities to institute blanket speed zones.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that resolutions requesting that municipalities be given the authority to establish blanket speed zones have been considered previously and endorsed by the UBCM membership (2003-LR9; 1999-B44).

The provincial government has indicated in the past that blanket speed zones are not feasible for legal, technical and safety reasons.

*Conference decision: **ENDORSED***

B30 MILK CONTAINERS

WHEREAS beverage containers for milk, milk substitutes and meal replacements are not included in the deposit-refund beverage container stewardship program, require extensive space in municipal blue boxes and collection vehicles, and contribute to garbage and litter throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the deposit-refund beverage container stewardship program is the most effective and environmentally responsible way to divert these containers from disposal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government designate milk, milk substitute and meal replacement beverage containers in the beverage container product category in the Recycling Regulation.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership most recently requested that "ready-to-serve milk containers be included in the provincial beverage container deposit/return system" in 2004 (B14). The inclusion of milk containers in the Beverage Container Stewardship Program Regulation has been endorsed by the membership several times in the past (1999 Environment Action Plan; 1991-B9; 1990-A15).

*Conference decision: **ENDORSED***

B63 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DEFINE LAW ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES

WHEREAS the property tax, being the principal source of municipal revenue, is a regressive tax, and provincial and federal governments have access to a range of progressive tax revenue options;
AND WHEREAS municipalities bear the full cost of enforcing the laws enacted by municipal councils, and provincial and federal governments should raise the revenue required to enforce laws enacted by the Legislature and Parliament from their tax sources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM request that the Government of British Columbia amend the RCMP police services contract as it concerns municipalities to enable municipal councils to define law enforcement priorities for the RCMP in municipalities commensurate with the share of policing costs paid from municipal sources.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Not Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that, at one time, UBCM did suggest the direction outlined in this resolution. However, there is a broader range of issues that must be considered and that is the overall need for a standard set of laws to ensure public safety.

The Committee would suggest that the resolution is problematic as it attempts to combine two very different issues. One issue is the way in which law enforcement priorities are determined and the second is who pays for the delivery of police services. In addition, the resolution requests that the Province amend the RCMP contract, which it does not have the ability to do as the contract is a federal / provincial agreement that requires the approval of both parties in order to make changes.

The Committee would point that it is important that we have laws, such as the Criminal Code federally or the Motor Vehicle Act provincially, that apply nationally and provincially, not separate laws for each municipality. The fact that there are federal and provincial laws makes sense and shouldn't be the basis for apportioning police costs. The federal and provincial government should share in police costs on the basis of a shared interest in ensuring public safety.

Local government involvement in policing should be based on the need to ensure public safety in the community. Local government should have the ability to influence local policing priorities and this should not be limited to the local bylaws, as suggested in the resolution, but needs to include the broad range of concerns which affect the community - youth violence, gangs, drugs, etc.

Conference decision: *NOT ENDORSED*

B74 ELECTORAL REFORM - VOTER IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS electoral reform is needed to improve democracy and decrease voter fraud in local elections:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that provincial legislation be amended to require electors to produce identification at voting stations, regardless of whether the elector is on the list of registered electors.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Not Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a request that would require electors to produce identification at voting stations, regardless of whether or not they are already on the list of registered electors.

In 1997, UBCM delegates considered resolution B24, which requested that the provincial government amend the Municipal Act to require "proof of Canadian citizenship, municipal residence, age, and identification" before an application to register as an elector will be accepted. The rationale for the request was that citizens may not realize which local government they actually live in and, for something as important as civic elections and exercising one's democratic rights, it is not an undue burden to require proof of elector qualification.

UBCM members chose not to endorse this resolution.

Currently, under Section 57(2) of the Local Government Act, when registering immediately before voting, an individual may either:

(a) produce to the election official at least two documents that provide evidence of the applicant's identity and place of residence, at least one of which must contain the applicant's signature, or

(b) produce to the election official at least two documents that provide evidence of the applicant's identity, at least one of which must contain the applicant's signature, and make a solemn declaration as to the applicant's place of residence within the meaning of Section 52 [rules for determining residence].

According to Section 57(3), these documents must either fall under those prescribed as acceptable under Section 156 or "provide evidence satisfactory to the election official respecting the matter."

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B75 CIVIC ELECTION VOTING AGE IN BC

WHEREAS a significant level of voter apathy is evident at all levels of Canadian elections, and earlier voting behaviour might increase the electorate's lifetime involvement and interest in our democratic process;

AND WHEREAS sixteen year olds are deemed mature enough to drive and have reached the age of consent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities ask the provincial government to decrease the civic election voting age to 16.

NOT ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that this resolution was originally submitted as 2005-LR19 and, since it did not meet the criteria for emergency debate, was automatically referred to the 2006 resolutions cycle.

The Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that the civic election voting age be reduced to 16 years.

It should be noted that lowering the local government voting age to 16 would create inconsistency in relation to the current provincial and federal minimum voting age, which is 18 years.

Conference decision: **NOT ENDORSED**

B81 PROPERTY PURCHASE TAX

WHEREAS the Government charges property purchase tax on all transfers, including local government;

AND WHEREAS local government housing corporations may purchase projects for affordable housing, including those held by other non profit societies:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that local government housing corporations be exempt from the property purchase tax.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that non profit housing entities be exempt from the property purchase tax in support of their role in providing affordable housing in BC communities.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution requesting that local government housing corporations be exempt from the property purchase tax.

However, in 2004, members did endorse resolution A8, which requested that the Province "provide a redistribution of a portion of the property transfer tax to local governments (on a municipal and/or regional basis), with the funds collected to be directed to housing trusts dedicated to the provision of affordable housing."

The amendment is proposed to generalize the applicability of the resolution to all non profit housing entities and to specify that the exemption would be provided to them in support of their role in developing affordable housing.

Conference decision: **ENDORSED AS AMENDED**

B100 RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment has legislated that local governments implement the Riparian Areas Regulation on March 31, 2006;

AND WHEREAS some municipalities and regional districts will not be able to meet the Riparian Areas Regulation obligations by March 31, 2006:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the Ministry of Environment to **seek a two-year extension to the deadline of the application of the Riparian Areas Regulation.**

ENDORSED BY THE OKANAGAN MAINLINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse**

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution specifically requesting a two-year extension to the deadline of the application of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR).

However, the UBCM membership did reject a similar motion calling for the RAR to be indefinitely postponed (2005-B117).

The Committee notes that the RAR took effect on April 1st, 2006 for all local governments affected by the Regulation. While the Regulation technically took effect March 31st, 2005, those local governments that were not in compliance on that date were granted two additional extensions to implement the RAR. These extensions arose after UBCM conducted assessments of local government readiness to implement the Regulation.

UBCM has actively worked with the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to ensure that the implementation tools required by local governments to effectively implement the Regulation were completed in a timely manner. Significant progress was made on the completion of the implementation tools prior to the Regulation taking effect on April 1st. All implementation tools required by local governments to effectively implement the Regulation have now been completed. While there remain some outstanding implementation issues, it is anticipated that they will be resolved shortly. UBCM continues to work with the senior agencies and local governments to address implementation issues as they arise.

Conference decision: **NOT ENDORSED**

B101 RIPARIAN AREAS REGULATION

WHEREAS the Riparian Areas Regulation has come into force as of April 1, 2006;

AND WHEREAS the Riparian Areas Regulation has not taken into consideration the impact the Riparian Areas Regulation will have on normal operations of local governments in the areas of utilities, water, sanitary and storm lines that may be adjacent to or under a creek/river bed, road maintenance and forest fires and flooding in emergency circumstances and, in order to mitigate the environmental impact or damage to properties, mitigation must be undertaken immediately, without the benefit of an environmental assessment under the Riparian Areas Regulation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial and federal governments review and amend the legislation and regulations in order that local governments can carry out their function and not be subject to legal action by the provincial or federal government, in those circumstances where emergency situations occur.

ENDORSED BY THE OKANAGAN MAINLINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee would point out that it is not clear what legislation or regulations would need to be reviewed to address the concerns identified by the sponsor, many of which would be activities in and about a stream, which require provincial approval under the Water Act or federal approval under the Fisheries Act.

*Conference decision: **NOT ENDORSED***

B108 PRODUCER PAY RECYCLING

WHEREAS the government of the Province of British Columbia has stated a goal of leading the world in sustainable environmental management;

AND WHEREAS other Canadian legislation, such as Quebec's Bill 102 and Ontario's Blue Box Program Plan and *Waste Diversion Act*, has brought about programs which require producers to pay for 50% of recycling costs for containers and packaging, written media and printed matter:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities request that the provincial government adopt producer pay mechanisms for municipal compensation for waste, such as those adopted in Ontario and Quebec.

NOT ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Not Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not previously endorsed any resolutions specifically advocating an Ontario type producer pay mechanism for local government waste stream management. However, UBCM has endorsed several resolutions supporting the introduction of industry product stewardship programs that would shift the responsibility for waste management from local governments to producers and consumers on such products as electronic waste, batteries, tires, used oil and plastics (2005-B23; 2005-B24; 2004-B15; 2002-LR13; 1997-B11). The UBCM membership has also endorsed the principle that industry should be fully funding product stewardship programs, in which industry assumes the costs of marketing, collecting, transporting and processing materials (2002 Environment Action Plan).

The provincial Ministry of Environment has been receptive to local government's desire to shift to extended producer responsibility programs that would see producers be responsible for their product from the "cradle to the grave". The Ministry of Environment's current Industry Product Stewardship philosophy is designed to shift responsibility away from the taxpayer and local government to a user pay and brand-owner/producer responsibility waste management system. This shift should, in concept, reduce the local government waste management burden.

The producer pay mechanisms, such as Ontario's Blue Box Program, have not necessarily encouraged industries to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover products. These mechanisms have acted as substitutes to environmental levies and deposit-return systems, the latter of which have had higher product recovery rates that have reduced the financial pressure on local government waste management. In addition, producer pay systems that have capped industry financial contributions have resulted in local governments absorbing cost overruns for recycling programs.

*Conference decision: **NOT ENDORSED***

B109 SOLID FUEL BURNING/AIR QUALITY

WHEREAS the cost of fossil fuels continues to rise and, with many homeowners looking for economic alternative heating sources, the use of solid fuel burning appliances is increasing;
AND WHEREAS in many communities, poor air quality causes health problems for many residents due to smoke with particulates that are extremely detrimental to their health:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities appeal to the senior levels of government to immediately establish a province-wide rebate program to assist homeowners to replace non-compliant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-rated solid fuel burning appliances with EPA-rated ones with controlled emissions.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling for the establishment of a province-wide rebate program to assist homeowners in replacing non-compliant EPA-rated solid fuel burning appliances. However, UBCM has endorsed a resolution calling on the Province to adopt standards for new wood burning appliances equivalent to the U.S. EPA standards (1993-B63). UBCM has also called on the provincial government to establish standards for regulating outdoor solid fuel burning boilers (2005-B114).

In 1994, British Columbia became the .rst Canadian jurisdiction to require that new woodstoves and .replace inserts meet stringent emission standards set by the U.S. EPA by enacting the Solid Wood Burning Domestic Appliance Regulation. However, this regulatory requirement does not cover outdoor solid fuel burning appliances as the Regulation came into effect before such appliances were made available on the market and is not retroactive. The Province is now working with the federal government to develop a national regulation that will cover all types of wood burning appliances, including outdoor boilers.

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B112 LAND STABILIZATION FUNDING

WHEREAS many communities in all areas of British Columbia contain land that is subject to land slippage or movement and local governments in many of these communities have experienced, or are experiencing, problems caused by land slippage or potential for land slippage;

AND WHEREAS land slippage issues are a threat to transportation, utilities, municipal infrastructure, and public safety, and impact property values as well as the local government tax base;

AND WHEREAS the costs for mapping, investigation and remediation of land slippage areas and potential land slippage areas is frequently beyond the financial ability of local government taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the Province of BC has provided technical and financial assistance to a number of communities on an ad hoc basis for addressing land slippage issues and has ensured financial support after disasters occur:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to allocate funding in the Ministry of Community Services base budget to assist local government to address land slippage issues and that such funding be available to local governments for mapping, investigation and, where practical, remediation of land slippage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial government to assist local governments and property owners with the cost of repairs to buildings and infrastructure damaged by land slippage.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has previously endorsed a resolution (1994-B8) requesting that municipalities be exempted from liability for land slippage claims resulting from subdivisions approved by the Ministry of Highways prior to boundary expansions.

Other past related resolutions deal with flooding risk and have requested geotechnical mapping assistance (1990-B57) and protection works (2000-B24). The provincial government may currently provide assistance in the case of catastrophic events.

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B114 PARKLAND DEDICATION

WHEREAS Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* requires owners of land being subdivided, at their option, to dedicate parkland not exceeding 5% or cash-in-lieu of land;

AND WHEREAS the demands for public park space are increasing and municipalities' abilities to acquire parkland are diminished by the impacts of failing infrastructure, future transfer of provincial services and increasing land values:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities support a change to the legislation contained within the *Local Government Act* to allow local governments the option of either requiring cash-in-lieu for parks or the dedication of land;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the park dedication be increased to an amount not exceeding 10% of the land being subdivided or cash-in-lieu for parkland.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that, while UBCM members have not considered a similar resolution in past, there have been resolutions that call for action to address the need for acquisition of more public park space (2005B123; 1999-B15; 1998-B18; 1997-B13).

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B118 AUTHORITY TO WAIVE OR REDUCE DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES

WHEREAS pursuant to Division 10, the Development Costs Recovery part of the *Local Government Act* and, more specifically, in respect of Section 933(12), granting authority whereby a local government may provide assistance by waiving or reducing a charge under this section for not for profit rental housing, including supportive living housing;

AND WHEREAS innovative development standards, such as "green" infrastructure and buildings can result in lower impact solutions to the economic, social and ecological impacts of buildings and infrastructure that cost municipalities, residents, and businesses much less over the long term:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 933(12) of the *Local Government Act* be expanded to provide for the waiving or reducing of a charge in support of building construction incorporating LEED Canada NC Rating System or acceptable equivalent that might apply to single family development.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution asking for the power to waive or reduce DCC costs for a specific type of building. The current provision in Section 933(12) to allow the reduction or waiving of DCCs is a result of previous resolutions, including 2000-B77, which is the only time the power to reduce or waive development cost charges has been requested in previous years.

"The Costs and Financial Benefits of Green Buildings: A Report to California's Sustainable Building Task Force" found that green buildings can reduce the impact of buildings on infrastructure -they use 30% less energy and water than regular buildings and reduce construction waste by 50-75%. Green buildings also place less stress on sewer systems. In addition, there are many other benefits to green buildings in emission reductions, low building vacancy rates, higher employee wellness rates and productivity.

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B119 AUTHORITY TO WAIVE/REDUCE DCCs FOR ADAPTABLE HOUSING STANDARDS

WHEREAS pursuant to Division 10, the Development Costs Recovery part of the *Local Government Act* and, more specifically, in respect of Section 933(12), granting authority whereby a local government may provide assistance by waiving or reducing a charge under this section for not for profit rental housing, including supportive living housing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 933(12) of the *Local Government Act* be expanded to provide for the waiving or reducing of a charge in support of residential building construction incorporating adaptable housing standards.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have not previously considered a resolution asking for the power to waive or reduce DCC costs for a specific type of building. The current provision in Section 933(12) to allow the reduction or waiving of DCCs is a result of previous resolutions, including 2000-B77, which is the only time the power to reduce or waive development cost charges has been requested in previous years.

Adaptable housing means that homes are designed using "universal design" principles, including barrier-free access to all suites and amenity areas, wider doorways, manoeuvring room at suite entries and corridors, access to a main-floor bathroom, reinforcement of bathroom walls for future installation of grab bars, and accessible door handles, switches, and outlets. It means the homes are accessible to everyone who might visit or live there, including the growing population of seniors. Adaptable housing features are visually unnoticeable, and allow increased flexibility in selling or renting homes. Including these features at the design stage is inexpensive, in the order of \$1,000 for an apartment, and greatly reduces the cost of renovation in the future.

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B135 SALE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY

WHEREAS school district boards are selling properties that are often situated in prime locations and important to communities in a variety of ways;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government requires that these properties can only be disposed of at "fair market value":

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities be requested to work with the provincial government to establish policy that will permit school boards to give adequate time and opportunity to local governments and other public bodies to acquire such properties at less than "fair market value" for "civic purposes".

NOT PRESENTED TO THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Endorse*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that members have not previously considered a resolution calling for a policy to permit school boards to allow local governments and other public bodies to acquire properties no longer needed by the school board at less than fair market value. Members have endorsed a resolution calling for the review of the legislation, policies and funding formulas that pertain to school closures and the future use of school property or in regard to the development of a post-closure plan (2003-B109). Members have also endorsed a resolution asking that any provincially owned lands or buildings that are no longer required be offered first to the local governments for community use at a reduced rate (2005-B1). Members have also endorsed resolutions calling for the provision of free Crown land grants to local government for community purposes (2003-A2) and seeking the transfer of ownership and administration of Crown lands to local government for community benefit (1996-A13).

Conference decision: *ENDORSED*

B144 PLASTAX ON PLASTIC BAGS FOR A "GREEN FUND"

WHEREAS plastic bag use has mushroomed in North America and Western Europe with four to five trillion of them produced in 2002, ranging from large trash bags to thick shopping totes to flimsy grocery sacks;

AND WHEREAS after being discarded, many plastic bags litter our environment and end up in waterways and, ultimately, the ocean where they impact the health of marine life;

AND WHEREAS every year more than 6 million tons of rubbish is dumped into the world's oceans and it is estimated that there are over 46,000 pieces of plastic in every square mile of the ocean;

AND WHEREAS in March 2002, the Government of Ireland imposed a 15 cent tax on each bag to control the country's consumption of 1.2 billion plastic shopping bags per year (The consumer was charged at check out and behaviour changed immediately.) and the tax resulted in a 90 to 95 percent drop in consumption and more than a billion fewer bags consumed annually;

AND WHEREAS the so called "PlasTax" also raised 9.6 million dollars in its final year that the Irish Government earmarked for a "green fund" for waste management and environmental initiatives (Retailers in Ireland, many of whom are now selling reusable bags, are also happy since they were spending \$50 million a year on single-use bags before the tax.);

AND WHEREAS more dramatically, approximately 18 million litres of oil have been saved due to reduced production of plastic bags (These bags start as crude oil, natural gas or other petrochemical derivatives. They are transformed into chains of hydrogen and carbon molecules known as polymers or polymer resin. After being heated, shaped and cooled, the plastic is ready to be flattened, sealed, punched or printed on):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities petition the provincial and federal governments to impose a PlasTax on plastic bags similar to the Government of Ireland.

ENDORSED BY THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: *Refer to UBCM Executive*

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the provincial and federal governments to impose a tax on plastic bags. However, the UBCM membership has called on the provincial and federal governments to consider charges on materials that are hard to dispose of, such as plastics (1990-A15).

The Province has imposed consumer environmental levies and taxes on such products as tires and batteries to assist with end of product life management in the past. However, with the enactment of the Recycling Regulation in 2004, the Province has shifted away from the first generation recycling programs based on provincial environmental levies toward extended producer responsibility programs. Such programs would see producers be responsible for their product from the "cradle to the grave," and leave it up to industry as to how it would fund end of life product management.

The Ministry of Environment's current Industry Product Stewardship philosophy is designed to shift responsibility away from the taxpayer and local government to a user pay and brand-owner/producer responsibility waste management system. This shift should, in concept, reduce the local government waste management burden.

Imposing such a tax may add a value to plastic bags, thereby prompting further reduction and reuse of plastic bags. However, calling on the Province to impose a tax on plastics may not correspond with the Province's shift to industry regulation of end of life product management.

The Resolutions Committee notes that it may be advisable to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of the Plastax initiative at the Executive level prior to requesting the imposition of a provincial and/or federal tax.

See also resolutions C29 and C30.

Conference decision: REFERRED TO UBCM EXECUTIVE

B147 PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SERVICES

WHEREAS the City of Port Moody supports universal access to clean, safe water for all generations, now and throughout the future, by supporting publicly and cooperatively controlled water services that have genuine community participation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Government of Canada to implement measures in federal bilateral and multilateral agreements and policies that prevent the privatization of water services.

NOT PRESENTED TO THE LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse with Proposed Amendment***

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities call on the Government of Canada to implement measures in federal bilateral and multilateral agreements and policies that prevent the bulk export of water resources.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has not considered a resolution specifically calling on the Government of Canada to implement measures in federal bilateral and multilateral agreements and policies that prevent the privatization of water services. UBCM has only called on the Province to enact legislation that would prohibit bulk water from being sold internationally (1999-LR2). It has also called on the provincial government to negotiate a federal-provincial accord on fresh water to prevent the bulk export of fresh water resources (2003-B31).

The Committee would note, however, that it is unclear whether this resolution deals exclusively with bulk water export. The resolution appears to address the two potentially exclusive issues of 1) bulk water export; and 2) privatization of local water services and associated health concerns with said privatization in communities.

The Committee is proposing an amendment that is consistent with past UBCM policy opposing the bulk export of water resources, and which rejects the jurisdiction of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

*Conference decision: **ENDORSED AS AMENDED***