



Date: 08/08/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Aug23_2019

File: 400-50-01

Short Summary:

CRD UBCM Resolutions 2019

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

The Chair has requested that the Board review the resolutions that it has submitted to UBCM for the upcoming convention, to establish who will speak to them. Below are the resolutions:

1) CANNABIS REVENUE SHARING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS only the federal and provincial governments are receiving tax revenue from the recently legalized sale of recreational cannabis, despite local governments encountering increased costs of the associated implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed a resolution (SR1) calling for a principled approach to guide the negotiation of a cannabis excise tax revenue sharing agreement with the Government of British Columbia, and recommending that BC local governments receive 40% of the projected excise tax revenue in the short term, which has not received any response from the Province:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM urge the provincial government to expedite a fair provincial-local government excise tax revenue sharing agreement regarding the sale of recreational cannabis.

2) CONSISTENCY IN ACCESS TO EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES

WHEREAS during the 2017 wildfires, evacuees ended up in several different locations;

AND WHEREAS evacuees unfairly received varying degrees of Emergency Social Services supports depending on the location/provider/day, which caused confusion, additional stress and resentment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Provincial Government to take over management of Emergency Social Services during all Level III Provincial State of Emergencies to ensure consistency in the allocation of resources to evacuees and modernization of the ESS registration process.

3) MORE SMALL AIRCRAFT PILOT TRAINING NEEDED

WHEREAS small aircraft flights serve rural and northern airports in areas that depend on the economic and socio-economic benefits that air travel provides;

AND WHEREAS a significant percentage of trained pilots are retiring, and many small aircraft pilots are now being hired to fly bigger aircraft serving large urban areas;

AND WHEREAS flights into small rural and northern airports are at risk of being discontinued due to a lack of trained small aircraft pilots:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM urge the Province to lobby for more small aircraft training opportunities in rural and northern post secondary institutions, as well as urge the Federal Government to take the small aircraft pilot shortage into consideration when establishing mandatory pilot hours.

4) FIRE CENTRE FUNDING

WHEREAS the Provincial Government provides funding for support staff at fire centres throughout the province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the Cariboo Fire Centre experienced record-breaking wildfires in 2017, and more wildfires are predicted in this area:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to increase funding to those fire centres that are experiencing substantial increased wildfire activity in their areas.

5) FIRE MITIGATION ON TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS safe access/egress are vital to human safety during the ever-increasing wildfire events British Columbians are experiencing;

AND WHEREAS transportation corridors have been left with dry, combustible brush after clearing the side of roadways, increasing the risk of wildfires:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to establish a multi-agency approach to fire-smarting transportation corridors in the Province in partnership with BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

6) PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE SERVICES ACT & REGULATIONS

WHEREAS the Union of British Columbia Municipalities endorsed a resolution in 2015 (A3) calling for the provincial government to provide the resources necessary to inspect and enforce provincial safety regulations, including the *Fire Services Act* and its regulations, through either the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than downloading the responsibility for local governments to enforce Provincial rules;

AND WHEREAS no decision has been made by the Province despite significant opposition, particularly by regional districts, regarding the proposed changes to the *Fire Safety Act* that would require enforcement by local governments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM lobby the Provincial Government to expedite the enactment of legislation requiring provincial safety regulations to be enforced by the Office of the Fire Commissioner or the BC Safety Authority rather than pursuing options to download the responsibility for inspections and enforcement of provincial regulations on local governments.

7) EFFECTS OF NEW AMMONIA REGULATIONS

WHEREAS new regulations introduced for ammonia safety have resulted in significant operating cost increases, and increased staff certifications required for operating arenas;

AND WHEREAS communities in the Central and Northern regions of the province have limited financial and human resources, and difficulty accessing the costly training required to meet these new staffing regulations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NCLGA and UBCM request that the Province of BC work with post-secondary institutions and other providers to increase the availability of technical certificates and programs to address this critical trade shortage, and that additional funding for, or creation of new programs, such as apprenticeship programs in affected communities, be funded to allow arena staff to access training that is currently cost prohibitive and mostly only available in the Lower Mainland.

8) RESOURCING A COLLABORATIVE SYSTEM OF DATA SHARING IN THE PROVINCE OF BC

WHEREAS natural disasters pose an increasing risk to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of British Columbians;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government is taking action to improve resilience by strengthening disaster preparedness and disaster risk governance in the context of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the sharing of integrated asset data, information, and knowledge across all sectors is key to improving emergency management and resiliency planning in BC:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of British Columbia be urged to take a strong leadership role and provide long-term sufficient funding and resources to increase the coordination, assembly, and access of asset data, information, and knowledge across multiple levels and sectors of government and stakeholders (including First Nations, local governments, provincial and federal government agencies, qualified professionals, and industry sectors).

9) ACCESS TO PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNDING FOR INDEPENDENT FIRE SERVICES

WHEREAS independent fire department, fire brigade and fire cache societies provide an invaluable service for the unincorporated communities in regional districts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to change either its policy or legislative framework to ensure that independent fire, fire brigade or fire cache societies can apply directly to the Province for provincially administered emergency preparedness funding programs to support their training or capital requirements, similar to existing BC Gaming Grant programs.

Attachments:

None

Financial Implications:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- ☐ Building on our Relationships
- ☐ Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- ☒ Focusing on Being Well Governed

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1) Endorse recommendation;
- 2) Receipt and other action.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated August 8, 2019, regarding the CRD's resolution submissions to the 2019 UBCM Convention, be received. Further, that it be determined which Director(s) will speak to the resolutions.