

June 19, 2020

Chair Margo Wagner  
Cariboo Regional District  
180 North 3rd Avenue, Suite D  
Williams Lake, BC V2G 2A4

Cariboo Regional District  
File No. 400-50-01

JUN 24 2020

Referred To CAO/Chair  
Board Consent Calendar

Dear Chair Wagner:

**Re: Provincial Response to 2019 Resolutions**

UBCM has received the Province's response(s) to your Board resolution(s) from 2019. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

Responses received from the Province have been posted to the UBCM web site under Resolutions & Policy.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst at 604.270.8226 ext. 100 or [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

Yours truly,



Maja Tait  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

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 UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase funding to those fire centres that are experiencing substantial increased wildfire activity in their areas.

**Convention Decision:**                      **Endorsed**

#### Provincial Response

##### **Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**

*In the wake of the unprecedented 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons, the B.C. Government invested heavily in wildfire prevention and preparedness initiatives to help keep British Columbians safe and protect the province's natural resources and infrastructure.*

*The BC Government allocated \$101 million for Direct Fire costs in the 2019-20 wildfire season, representing a 58 percent increase over the previous year's firefighting budget. This is helping the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) improve its fire response capabilities by adding more crews, enhancing aircraft capacity and spending more on fire prevention activities.*

*More than 1,700 firefighters and support staff are in place for the 2020 wildfire season. The BCWS allocates firefighting resources to all six fire centres and relocates those highly mobile resources as needed throughout the fire season to respond to varying levels of fire risk and fire activity throughout the province. This year, BCWS is hiring an additional two initial attack crews in the McKenzie Zone, three initial attack crews and one Crew Supervisor Cariboo Fire Centre, one initial attack crew in the North Island Mid Coast Zone and one initial attack crew in the Pemberton Zone. We are also hiring three para-attack crews. All these crews consist of three firefighters each.*

*Volunteer and composite fire departments throughout BC have received a \$5-million boost for equipment and training through the Province's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, distributed through the Union of B.C. Municipalities. This money is part of a newly established funding stream to help eligible applicants in local government and First Nations communities build resiliency with firefighter training and new or replacement firefighting equipment.*

*The use of the industry equipment task force model continues to be expanded throughout the province to support initial attack efforts. These task forces are a combination of heavy equipment, operators and line locator personnel that can be quickly deployed in response situations. BCWS held joint training workshops with forest industry licensees in spring 2019 and spring 2020 to enhance wildfire response throughout the province.*

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 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.

**Convention Decision:** Not Considered - Automatic Referral to Executive

**Executive Decision:** Endorsed

#### Provincial Response

##### ***Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training***

*The Provincial Government supports local governments in their goal of ensuring winter recreational facilities, such as ice rinks and curling rinks, are safe for public use. This includes increasing certification requirements for any person operating an ammonia refrigeration system and the implementation of an equipment integrity management program to ensure ammonia refrigeration plant equipment will function properly throughout its lifespan.*

*Technical certification for any person operating an ammonia refrigeration system is administered through Technical Safety British Columbia (TSBC). Currently, regulations do not require a worker to have refrigeration and mechanical certification administered through the ITA. Training to prepare for the TSBC certification exam is available at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), through a distance learning course. Certification exams can be written at TSBC offices across the province, including locations in Prince George and Fort St. John.*

*Through consultations with Industry, the Provincial Government may determine that additional training programs are required to address labour shortages in this area. For additional information, please contact TSBC.*



## 2019 B198 More Small Aircraft Pilot Training Needed

Cariboo RD

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 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.~~

**Convention Decision:** **Not Considered - Automatic Referral to Executive**

**Executive Decision:** **Endorsed as Amended**

### Provincial Response

#### **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

*Aviation falls under Federal jurisdiction. The Ministry has brought the issues of pilot shortages and the lack of pilot training schools and access to Federal Student Loans to the attention of the Federal government on numerous occasions.*

*The Ministry also chairs a Cross-Ministry Aviation Working Group which includes staff from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (AEST) which would have the provincial lead on skills training. AEST is also aware of these issues and has communicated them to the Federal government.*

*AEST has previously funded two projects with the Aerospace Industry Association of Canada related to these issues:*

- 2016 – An engagement project to establish a steering committee to address labour market issues in BC's aviation sector.*
- 2017/18 – A labour market research project to collect data on labour market conditions, and identified challenges faced by the sector in BC including the high cost and limited availability of pilot training.*

*The Ministry will work with our colleagues at the Ministry of Education and AEST to encourage more small aircraft training opportunities in rural and northern post-secondary institutions. Pilot training hours are regulated under strict legislation that ensures pilots acquire both the knowledge and experience necessary to fly the public in a safe manner – while the Ministry is aware of pilot shortages, limiting training hours is not something we would be comfortable with recommending to the Federal government.*