

September 21, 2021

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

SEP 24 2021  
Referred To CAO/Chair

Dear Chair Wagner:

**Re: Provincial Response to 2020 Resolutions**

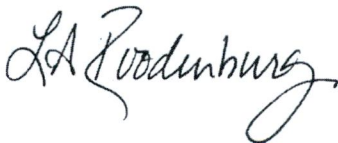
UBCM has received the Province's response to your Board resolution(s) from 2020. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

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

Please feel free to contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst, if you have any questions about this process.

Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 100 Email: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

Sincerely,



Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

Whereas the RCMP are overworked and understaffed when it comes to rural and remote communities;

And whereas, many rural BC residents are frustrated with the level of services that the RCMP is currently able to offer:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government provide regular, ongoing and sustainable funding to support the development and growth of rural safety and crime reduction/prevention groups.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

#### Provincial Response

##### **Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General**

*The provincial government has made significant investments in the British Columbia RCMP Provincial Services, and specifically in the Cariboo Chilcotin Crime Reduction Unit (CC-CRU), also known as the Special Project Team (SPT). This six-member team has been financially supported, on an annual basis, by the provincial government since 2017/18 and provides both municipal and rural policing services in the region. As part of Budget 2021, government provided permanent funding of \$1M for the continuation of the CC-CRU.*

*The three areas of response for this team are: Organized Crime and Gang-Involved Offenders, Chronic Offender Management and, Illicit Drug Trafficking and the Opioid Epidemic. These resources are primarily focused on multijurisdictional prolific offenders, particularly those with connections to gang activity and organized crime.*

*In addition, to address resource pressures across all areas of provincial policing responsibility in the province, government continues to work closely with the RCMP to identify high risk priority communities to secure funding for resource requirements.*

*Lastly, it is important to consider in the delivery of policing services, the RCMP must respect the distinction of municipal and provincial policing responsibilities as defined by the Police Act. Encroachment on municipal or provincial responsibilities, whether front-line General Duty, specialized functions, or resourcing dedicated to crime prevention initiatives, will directly impact the respective partner's resources and budgets. It is imperative that provincial resource levels are commensurate to the workload generated by provincial areas.*



Whereas all of our communities rely on a safe, stable, and reliable electrical power grid;

And whereas we are seeing and experiencing an increase in violent storms that bring down trees and branches on power lines, interrupting power supply and frequently travel:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to ensure that utility companies have the mandate and resources to effectively manage vegetation along power lines to ensure a safe, stable and reliable electrical power supply.

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

**Executive Decision:** **Endorsed**

#### Provincial Response

##### **Ministry of Energy Mines & Low Carbon Innovation**

*Since 2007, the United States and other Canadian provinces have enacted legislation to adopt mandatory and enforceable reliability standards for the interconnected electricity grid. Mandatory reliability standards (MRS) are one of the key recommendations resulting from the 2003 blackout in north-eastern North America. British Columbia adopted MRS in 2009 with an amendment to the Utilities Commission Act (UCA) that gave the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) jurisdiction to adopt reliability standards for application in BC. Vegetation management is included as part of MRS. Utilities and other transmission line operators are required to manage vegetation located on transmission rights of way (ROW) and minimize encroachments from vegetation located adjacent to the ROW to ensure reliability. BC Hydro, FortisBC and other transmission owners are subject to the BCUC 's oversight of MRS.*

*More than half of all power outages in BC are caused by trees and adverse weather. Tall, diseased, or flawed trees can fall or grow into power lines and are a safety hazard. BC Hydro spends more than \$50 million each year on vegetation maintenance to prevent outages along 79,000 kilometres of overhead power lines. In its 2022 Revenue Requirements Application to the BC Utilities Commission, BC Hydro has requested additional operational funding of \$25 million for vegetation management, bringing the total budget to \$74.4 million. BC Hydro's vegetation management team regularly inspects trees and other tall vegetation growing under or adjacent to transmission and distribution power lines to identify potential problems. Minimizing service interruptions and the duration of outages are performance measures tracked by BC Hydro as part of its annual service plan.*

*BC Hydro is currently in the process of finalizing long term contracts, of two to seven years, for distribution voltage vegetation maintenance across the province. The successful vegetation management contractors will be assigned work in their contract areas throughout the year. A dedicated contractor working in the region throughout the year will result in quicker response times for customer and emergency work and during storm events, when vegetation crews are required. The northern interior region of the province will have five separate contract areas. The Cariboo region (70 Mile House, 100 Mile House, Williams Lake, west to Bella Coola) is one of the contract areas that will be assigned a distribution vegetation management contractor.*



Whereas many grants and public sector planning activities look largely at the population of an area as a determining factor in the grant amount, grant eligibility, and public service availability and levels;

And whereas many communities in rural British Columbia experience a great increase in seasonal population, which puts a strain on existing public services:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of British Columbia to begin enumerating the seasonal populations of rural communities to better understand and address the impact on infrastructure and the delivery of services during seasonal increases in population of rural communities.

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

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

Provincial Response

***Ministry of Municipal Affairs***

*The Ministry of Municipal Affairs recognizes that the seasonal influx of people during specific times of year, for tourism and other purposes, may add additional pressure on existing public services, and that this pressure can be more acutely felt in rural communities. The Province is not considering enumerating the seasonal fluctuation of rural populations at this time.*

*With respect to infrastructure grants, population base is not a standard metric or policy tool for evaluating applications. Local governments are responsible for planning service design and delivery based on known population and expected seasonal fluctuations, and are best placed to evaluate seasonal population changes and assess specific service pressures.*

*For unconditional grants, any change in the way that a local government population is calculated would represent a significant shift in provincial policy, requiring considerable research and consultation into possible implications.*