

MAR 08 2023

Referred To mes/Chair

March 6, 2023

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

Dear Chair Wagner:

Re: Provincial Response to 2022 Resolutions

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Board resolution(s) from 2022.
Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

All responses from the Province have been posted to the UBCM web site under
Convention & Resolutions, then under Resolutions & Responses.

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

Sincerely,

JCFord

Jen Ford
UBCM President

Enclosure

Whereas Section 125(7) of the *Community Charter* and Section 204(2) of the *Local Government Act* exempt elected officials from disqualification due to absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled board or council meetings, if the absence is due to illness or injury or is with the leave of the council or board, but does not provide an exemption for new parents;

And whereas it is recognized that it is important for new parents to have adequate time and energy to spend with their child:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the provincial government to give its urgent attention to the matter of amending the *Community Charter* and *Local Government Act*, to include parental leave provisions that would grant elected officials who are new parents an exemption from being disqualified from office for absences of 60 consecutive days or 4 consecutive regular scheduled council or board meetings.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The province recognizes that parental leave is an important action to support gender inclusion and diversity in local governments and has been actively monitoring the issue for several years now.

In previous responses to similar resolutions in 2016 (2016-B99) and 2021 (2021-NR1), the province has noted the complex policy considerations in relation to establishing provincially legislated statutory minimum maternity and parental leave for local elected officials. These considerations include the existing legal and policy rules around employee leave; whether elected officials can be considered employees under the Employee Standards Act for these purposes, and other implications that could flow from elected officials being considered "employees" given their collective status (as councils and boards) as "Employers."

Under the existing legislation, local governments have full authority to grant leave for a wide variety of reasons to elected officials seeking this option. This authority includes the establishment of policies for such leave including handling of appointments (such as to boards and committees), and other duties during the leave and upon return. Furthermore, council members who have received approval for their absence from council attendance will not be at risk of disqualification for non-attendance at council meetings. The existing authority allows individual communities to design leave policies that reflect considerations for their unique circumstances for various types of leave.

The province continues to observe an increase in the number of local governments that have adopted their own specific policies to allow elected officials to go on maternity or parental leave. The province will continue to favour an approach that allows individual communities to determine policies related to various types of leave under existing local government legislation, just as local governments determine remuneration and other benefits for local elected officials. Local governments are best placed to continue to develop policies that best account for circumstances in their communities.

2022 EB88 Stable Funding for the Forest Enhancement Society

Cariboo RD

Whereas the Forest Enhancement Society of BC is committed to supporting projects that reduce greenhouse gases, protect communities from wildfire, improve wildlife habitat and create jobs;

And whereas uncertainty in funding and resource availability is limiting the Society's ability to plan, support and complete long-term projects that would benefit British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM lobby the provincial government for long-term sustainable funding for the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Forests

Forest Enhancement Society of BC has been a proven partner in the delivery of projects that contribute to the Province's key commitments of managing for climate change, sustainability and reconciliation; leading to continued benefits for BC's forests, Indigenous peoples, and communities.

In fiscal year 2022/23, the province provided \$25 million to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to support community projects that reduce the risk of wildfires over the next two years. To date, over 20 community forestry projects have been allocated funding. Project application is on-going until all the funding has been allocated.

Government is currently reviewing the feasibility of additional funding to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.