



**Date:** 17/02/2026

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Kat Chatten, Manager of Communications

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Feb27\_2026

**File:** 400-50-02

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## Short Summary:

NCLGA – Resolution - Rural Post-Secondary and Skilled Trades Training - Backgrounder

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

Director Oakes has brought forward a proposed resolution for submission to the upcoming North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention regarding provincial support for rural post-secondary and skilled trades training.

Rural and northern communities within the Cariboo Regional District continue to experience labour shortages, particularly in health care, as well as in skilled trades and other essential services. Locally delivered post-secondary training plays a critical role in addressing these shortages. However, smaller population bases can make enrollment minimums difficult to meet, resulting in programs being delayed or cancelled.

A similar resolution addressing rural post-secondary access was previously considered at an NCLGA Convention. The proposed resolution builds on that discussion with a particular emphasis on stable, long-term provincial funding models that recognize the realities of rural delivery and support health care workforce recruitment and retention.

The proposed resolution aligns with provincial priorities related to workforce development, economic resilience, and regional equity. It seeks to ensure that rural and northern communities have continued access to locally delivered training opportunities necessary to meet labour market demands.

## Attachments:

NCLGA – Resolution - Rural Post-Secondary and Skilled Trades Training - Backgrounder

## Financial Implications:

None

## Policy Implications:

None

## Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Infrastructure and Asset Management:** To establish a systematic, predictable approach to managing the regional district's assets and infrastructure that builds on current asset management data and condition assessments.
- Enhanced Communications and Engagement:** To build trust and credibility of the regional district by enhancing our communications and engagement with citizens, stakeholders, and volunteers.
- Effective and Responsive Land Use Planning and Development:** To ensure our land use planning and development is responsive to future growth and housing needs, anticipates risks and hazards associated with climate change and provides efficient and consistent processes for landowners and developers.
- Relationships with First Nations:** To foster a healthy and inclusive region by building and strengthening our relationships with First Nations and embracing the principles of reconciliation.

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## Options:

1. Endorse recommendation;
2. Propose an alternative resolution;
3. Other action.

## Recommendation:

That the following resolution be approved for submission to NCLGA convention:

### Rural Post-Secondary and Skilled Trades Training

WHEREAS rural and northern communities in the Cariboo North Central region face significant labour market shortages across multiple sectors, including healthcare, education, skilled trades, and emerging natural resource industries;

AND WHEREAS the region has experienced substantial economic disruption due to mill closures and contraction within the forest sector, increasing the need for retraining and workforce transition opportunities;

AND WHEREAS access to locally delivered post-secondary and skilled trades training is essential to workforce development, economic resilience, and the long-term sustainability of rural and northern communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) advocate to the Province of British Columbia to prioritize and fund the delivery of post-secondary

and skilled trades training in rural and northern communities to address regional labour shortages and support economic resilience.