

May 17, 2017

Chair Rhona Martin
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Box 978
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin:

Re: 2016 Resolutions

Please find attached the provincial response to the 2016 resolution(s) put forward by your Board and endorsed by the UBCM membership at Convention.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you. Please feel free to contact Reiko Tagami, UBCM Information & Resolutions Coordinator, with any questions.

Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 115 Email: rtagami@ubcm.ca

Sincerely,


Councillor Murry Krause
President

Enclosure

<i>Correspondence</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda <i>June</i>	Ownership:
<input type="checkbox"/> Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Reg Board	File#
<input type="checkbox"/> DS	<input type="checkbox"/> In Camera <i>2017</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fin/Adm	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Mtg	
<i>25</i> MAY 25 2017		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ec Dev	RECEIVED	Ack Sent:
<input type="checkbox"/> IT	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff to Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax
<input type="checkbox"/> Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff to Respond	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail
<input type="checkbox"/> SEP	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff Info Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Email
<input type="checkbox"/> HR	<input type="checkbox"/> Dir Mailbox	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dir Circulate	

*Chair Martin
Via email,
please.
Thank you.
LAShekora*

Whereas first responders are essential in providing emergency medical services;

And whereas an assured source of funding is currently not provided to first responder agencies throughout the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial government be requested to immediately provide budget funds that provide a sustainable, continued source of funding to first responder agencies throughout the province.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Health

First responder services are an important element of pre-hospital care in British Columbia, and the partnership between BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), fire departments and other agencies in responding to emergency events is essential.

The Ministry of Health appreciates your ongoing concern for fiscal accountability, as local governments continue to determine how to best allocate their funding and resources for responding to urgent and routine calls. Some municipalities have chosen to have first responders continue to attend both urgent and routine (non-emergency) calls, but others have elected to have first responders attend only those urgent calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

BCEHS reviews the provision of pre-hospital care to evaluate responses to 911 calls and to determine activities to improve patient care, and to optimize responses and the allocation of resources.

In February 2016, BCEHS released a demand and deployment study on ground resources in the Lower Mainland and Greater Victoria, and an accompanying action plan. The review analyzed over 350,000 incidents in 2014 (including 86,000 in Metro Vancouver, where first responders were dispatched to assist BCEHS paramedics). First responders from 21 municipalities in the Lower Mainland have been working with BCEHS, and provided their own data to assist in the review.

This data will be beneficial as BCEHS analyzes the entire continuum of emergency care, including the role of first responders in responding to medical emergencies. BCEHS has established a working group with 21 Lower Mainland municipalities and their fire departments, to develop effective and collaborative ways to enhance patient care.

Any changes to the BCEHS deployment model based on evidence from the resource review will help reduce first responders' wait time on scene, and the number of times first responders arrive on scene prior to BCEHS.

BCEHS will continue to consult with local governments and first responders throughout the province about the action plan. BCEHS is committed to providing timely, high quality and safe pre-hospital care for patients throughout BC, while using public resources in an effective and efficient manner.

Whereas it is recognized that there is a pressing need to stimulate rural economic development in British Columbia;

And whereas mechanisms that allow rural regions to capture and reinvest some portion of regional economic activity has been identified as a best practice in rural economic revitalization;

And whereas the Community Economic Development Investment Fund (CEDIF) in Nova Scotia and other jurisdictions has proven to be an effective and efficient means to generate investment capital to support small business expansion and creation in rural areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the Ministry of Finance for British Columbia initiate a CEDIF program for BC that would offer British Columbians a tax credit of 35% or more for investing in locally owned and operated corporations, cooperatives and other community economic development initiatives.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Finance

The British Columbia Government is committed to maintaining a competitive tax structure for all businesses, including those in rural regions.

BC already offers a small business venture capital tax credit, which supports investments in small businesses across the Province. The tax credit is worth 30 percent of eligible investments. A portion of this tax credit budget is reserved for corporations whose business activities promote community diversification in a region outside Greater Vancouver or the Capital Regional District.

BC also supports economic development by providing one of North America's most competitive business climates. The general corporate income tax rate has been cut by almost 35 percent since 2001 and is now the lowest in Canada. BC's combined federal-provincial rate is among the lowest in G7 countries. Moreover, Government has increased the small business corporate income tax threshold to \$500,000 and cut the small business corporate income tax rate 44 percent from 4.5 percent to 2.5 percent—one of the lowest rates in the country. BC businesses do not pay provincial capital tax or payroll taxes.

Whereas the Province of BC made the decision to discontinue the BC Hydro Remote Community Extension Program;

And whereas numerous remote and rural communities in British Columbia continue to remain off-grid without electrical power;

And whereas the lack of electrification:

- prevents investment in projects that would foster sustainable economic development creating employment opportunities that would assist families resulting in a stronger community; and
- precludes these remote and rural communities, represented by local governments, to add to, enhance, or adequately improve safe drinking water and sewage disposal systems in accordance with the Province's legislation:

Therefore be it resolved that the minister responsible for BC Hydro take immediate steps to reinstate and adequately fund the BC Hydro Remote Community Electrification program to sustain the economic and social well-being of remote and rural communities throughout BC.

Convention Decision: Endorsed

Provincial Response

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Since 2006, the Province has provided approximately \$11 million in funding towards remote community energy efficiency and clean energy projects through the Remote Community Implementation Program administered by Fraser Basin Council.

In 2013, the Remote Community Electrification (RCE) Program was discontinued as a result of BC Hydro's budget review and the lack of federal funding available to support RCE projects.

British Columbia is a member of the Pan-Canadian Task Force on Reducing Diesel in Remote Communities as part of the Council of the Federation's Canadian Energy Strategy. Currently, the Task Force is preparing a Joint Report to identify opportunities and recommend solutions to reduce or eliminate diesel reliance in remote communities.

In addition, the Ministry of Energy and Mines' Community Energy Leadership Program also provides funding to energy efficiency and clean energy projects in communities across B.C., including remote communities.