

① MA - to Board  
② Post - DS



March 3, 2022

Chair Karla Kozakevich  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
101 Martin Street  
Penticton, BC V2A 5J9

**RECEIVED**  
Regional District

MAR - 7 2022

101 Martin Street  
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

Dear Chair Kozakevich:

**Re: Provincial Response to 2021 Resolutions**

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Board resolution(s) from 2021. 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LA Roodenburg".

Councillor Laurey-Anne Roodenburg  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

Whereas current funding programs for flood mitigation requires 1/3 of project funding from local government as well as requiring that the local government assume ownership of the works for a period of 10 years, in some cases resulting in an unrealistic burden on affected taxpayers;

And whereas the financial inability of residents to meet the requirements of the current funding program often precludes a planned proactive approach to known flood issues to minimize environmental impacts associated with mitigative works and instead results in a reactive approach when an imminent threat occurs, resulting in greater costs and greater environmental damage, in addition to the traumatic and sometimes devastating impacts on affected residents:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to develop programs that take a proactive approach to flood mitigation rather than continuing to try to download additional responsibilities on local governments that are ill-equipped and lacking in financial capacity to address these situations in a proactive manner that best respects the residents and the environment.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

### Provincial Response

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

*The Province, led by Emergency Management BC, continues to partner with the federal government on flood mitigation funding programs such as the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) and Adaptation, Resilience, & Disaster Mitigation (ARDM) program. In addition, through EMBC, the Province has funded the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), a program administered by UBCM that includes funding for flood risk assessments, mapping, mitigation planning and structural mitigation.*

*Since 2017, Emergency Management BC has provided \$123 million in Provincial funds to 342 local government and First Nation flood mitigation projects. These programs have also leveraged an additional \$92.8 million in federal funding, for total government investment of over \$215 million in BC. These provincial programs have not required any local financial contribution.*

*Emergency Management BC continues to work with the federal government on new and expanded flood mitigation and climate adaptation funding programs that consider an equitable approach capacity for smaller local governments and First Nations to reduce flood risk.*

*Municipalities and Regional Districts are best positioned to own and maintain these assets, and to incorporate them into existing asset management programs. This can support an integrated hazard and emergency management program for the community. Local government ownership also allows for increased access to senior government funding, greater legal access, more coordinated land use planning and development approval, and amalgamation with other services. This local ownership requirement is consistent across all Provincial grant programs and is not limited to flood mitigation.*

Whereas statistics indicate an increased number of identified abandoned 911 calls;

And whereas the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) do not have access to current personal information to respond effectively to abandoned 911 calls;

And whereas the RCMP response to abandoned 911 calls is labour intensive:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Ministry of Justice work with the Federal Government of Canada to make available current personal information collected by provincial and national telecommunication carriers to police communications centres and 911 public safety answering points within British Columbia to assist with tracking dropped 911 calls.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

### Provincial Response

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

*Government recognizes the importance of 9-1-1 emergency communications to public safety. While 9-1-1 call taking and dispatching is a local government responsibility, the ministry supports efforts to establish and improve 9-1-1 services in the province.*

*For example, the ministry recently provided \$155,000 to E-Comm 911, which answers over 99% of the province's primary 9-1-1 calls, to develop a strategic plan and roadmap that describes when and how to best introduce Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) services in British Columbia. NG9-1-1 is a modernization of the 9-1-1 system that will support increased capabilities, including data and information sharing about a call such as the caller and their location.*

*The ministry has also worked with the Chair of the Emergency Services [9-1-1] Working Group (ESWG), a national group composed of Telecommunication Service Providers, Public Safety Answering Points, and 9-1-1 Industry specialists that develops reports and recommendations to the Canadian Radio-television Telecommunications Commission related to the provisioning of 9-1-1 services. The ministry will further engage the Chair to better understand the work of the ESWG and seek opportunities to advocate the importance of caller information in public safety and emergency response.*

### Other Response

#### ***RCMP***

*We expect that the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) community across Canada including E-Comm 911, RCMP Operational Communication Centres (OCC), and regional fire dispatch centres to participate and provide input in terms of what the 'additional data about the call, the caller, and the location can be provided to assist with emergency call handling and dispatch. I understand that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) Emergency Services Working Group will have a report available by spring 2022. However, this report will **not** include subscriber data, primarily because the majority of calls are wireless and the carriers only store billing information. The CRTC has already ruled that they do not have to provide this data with the call as subscriber data is already delivered with wireline calls.*

Whereas enforcement of abandoned vehicles on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way and road dedications may involve a number of agencies but little coordinated action;

And whereas members of the public have difficulty knowing who to contact to initiate a complaint of an apparent abandoned vehicle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province designate one Ministry or coordinating body to be responsible for abandoned vehicle complaints on Crown Land, Provincial rights of way, and road dedications.

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

Provincial Response

**Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure**

*Members of the public can report abandoned vehicles to the RCMP, Maintenance Contractors, or Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure District staff. The Ministry works with local governments and the RCMP in determining locations for No Parking signs.*

*The Ministry is focused on public safety and making sure that all provincial highways and roads are safe for people to travel on. If an abandoned vehicle is in a lane, blocking traffic, or in the way of snow removal equipment, it's a hazard and it will be towed immediately. If an abandoned vehicle is off to the side of the road, ministry staff work closely with the maintenance contractor and RCMP in all efforts to find the vehicle's owners so that they may remove their vehicle.*

*The RCMP can ticket vehicle owners for illegal parking where the vehicle is in violation of the Motor Vehicle Act or if there are signs restricting parking in the area. However, if a vehicle is legally licenced and insured, the driver is allowed to park off of the travelled lanes except for on major highways.*

Whereas rural area property taxes are collected from the Province's Surveyor of taxes on behalf of Regional Districts;

And whereas the Province of British Columbia charges a 5.25 percent administration fee on the taxes collected which the property owner pays as part of their property taxes, and this increases the tax burden on electoral area residence:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia reduce the provincial collection fee on rural area property taxes, so that the tax burden on the rural property owners may be reduced.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

Provincial Response

**Ministry of Finance**

*The Province's Surveyor of Taxes is the tax collector outside of municipal boundaries. The Surveyor of Taxes issues 401,000 annual tax notices each year which include the local service taxes collected on behalf of the regional districts.*

*The Surveyor of Taxes pays the regional district its annual property taxes, as billed, before August 1 of the taxation year, regardless of whether the taxes have been collected. This removes tax collection risk from the regional district. As well, any reductions to the amount of taxes initially billed because of the property assessment appeal processes are a loss to the Province, not to the regional district. This guarantees that the regional district receives its budgeted amount of tax revenue each year.*

*The percentage charged for the fee is subject to occasional review. It has not changed from its initial value of 5.25 percent.*

## 2021 EB22 COVID-19 Funding Allocation Deadline

Okanagan Similkameen RD

Whereas regional districts must fully allocate COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funds to an appropriate regional and local service before December 31, 2021, but municipalities do not have the same allocation deadline requirement;

And whereas regional districts would like the discretion to hold back some COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments funding for allocation to an appropriate regional or local service in a future year:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province provide regional districts the same COVID-19 safe restart grant for local governments allocation and reporting requirements afforded to municipalities.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

### Provincial Response

#### **Ministry of Municipal Affairs**

*The allocation deadline of December 31, 2021 for regional districts recognized the difference between municipalities and regional districts in their structures and provision of services. Regional districts provide a mix of regional, sub-regional, and local services comprising various service partners (i.e. any combination of municipalities and/or electoral areas). Regional district services operate independently of one another, including the legal restriction that services cannot cross-subsidize one another.*

*As a result, it is important to know how the regional district board is allocating the COVID Safe Restart Funds to individual services before that money can be legally spent. This model of reporting regional allocations has been used for other provincial funding programs like the Northern Capital and Planning Grant.*

*The COVID Safe Restart Funds were provided to municipalities and regional districts in November 2020, with additional funds to regional districts in March 2021; that provided significant time to analyze and allocate the funds according to local and regional priorities prior to the allocation deadline of December 31, 2021.*

Whereas legislation does not provide regional districts authority to enforce regulatory bylaws on Crown Land and Road Rights-of-Way in Electoral Areas;

And whereas clarity on responsibility for enforcement in rural areas is required for constituents for issues that may cross federal, provincial, First Nation and/or regional district jurisdiction;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the provincial government to develop a formal multi-jurisdictional process for working in conjunction with lead agencies and governing bodies (including local governments) to resolve outstanding regulatory enforcement issues, by joint cooperation of the various government agencies.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed as Amended**

#### Provincial Response

##### ***Ministry of Municipal Affairs***

*Government recognizes the importance of inter-governmental collaboration to address issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries, in terms of both responsibility and impact. It also recognizes that whenever multiple jurisdictions and agencies are involved, it can be challenging to strike the right balance of coordination.*

*Depending on the specific area of concern, local governments are encouraged to reach out to the relevant ministry and establish the staff-to-staff level relationships that may assist in resolving local issues. Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff continue to be available to assist local governments with connecting to appropriate provincial counterparts on issues of concern.*

*For example, where Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff are made aware of an issue on the Crown land base, they will advise Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR) staff. Staff within FLNR will cooperate with the relevant federal, provincial, First Nation and/or local government counterparts to try to resolve the issue through the most effective forum available.*