

Board  
Corresp.



May 9, 2023

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

Dear Chair Pendergraft:

**Re: 2023 SILGA Resolution(s)**

UBCM is in receipt of the attached resolution(s) endorsed by your Board. Your resolution(s) received endorsement at the 2023 SILGA Spring Convention.

As such, the resolution(s) will be included in UBCM Resolutions Book for the 2023 UBCM Convention in September.

Please contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst, if you have any questions about this process, email: [jjustason@ubcm.ca](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JCFord".

Jen Ford  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

***Cannabis Control and Licensing Act***

**Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas Section 33(1) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* indicates that the British Columbia Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) must not issue or amend a cannabis license without a positive recommendation of the affected local government or Indigenous nation;

And whereas the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* does not require the LCRB to receive a positive recommendation from an affected local government in order to issue or amend a liquor license;

And whereas the public consultation requirements under Section 33(3) of the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* are seen to result in lengthy referral processing times:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to amend the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act* to allow local governments the ability to “opt-out” of providing comment to the BC Liquor and Cannabis Branch with respect to applications for cannabis licenses.

**Convention Decision:**

## **BC Transit Share of Expenses on Rural Routes**

**Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas BC Transit works in partnership with 59 local governments to provide transit service;

And whereas regional transit system budgets are controlled by BC Transit and approved each year by local governments;

And whereas BC Transit pays 46.69% of expenses for both urban and rural areas;

And whereas rural areas have a higher costs than urban areas for operations, repairs, salary, and fuel as routes are longer and have less revenue due to lower ridership:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Transit's share of the expenses be increased for rural routes.

**Convention Decision:**

**Rural Fire Department Compensation for Attendance at Traffic Incidents Okanagan-Similkameen RD**

Whereas there is an increasing need for fire departments to attend traffic incidents;

And whereas this is unfairly increasing the tax load on rural residents;

And whereas continued downloading on volunteer fire departments is adding to the potential failure of these small departments as taxation costs are starting to overtake house insurance benefits:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to require ICBC to compensate rural fire departments for first responder attendance at traffic incidents at a per call out rate plus use of expendables/consumables.

**Convention Decision:**

**Invasive Species – Amendment to the *Weed Control Act* Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas the *Weed Control Act* [RSBC 1996] Chapter 487 provides that an occupier must control noxious weeds growing or located on land and premises, and on any other property located on land and premises, occupied by that person;

And whereas the proliferation of invasive plants has grown exponentially throughout British Columbia;

And whereas invasive plants continue to be sold commercially to uninformed property owners and landscapers;

And whereas S. 4(1) of the *Weed Control Regulation* provides that no person shall transport, keep for sale, offer to buy or sell, or buy or sell any screenings containing seeds of a noxious weed, it says nothing about plants:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province amend the *Weed Control Act* to restrict the commercial sale of plants identified in Schedule A, Part 1 & 2, of the *Weed Control Regulation*.

**Convention Decision:**

**Agricultural Land Commission Expansion of Non-Farm Usage on Farmlands**

**Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas corporate and non-food crop farming on agricultural land has resulted in a decrease in crop diversity and increased stress on smaller/family-owned farms which produce tree fruit, vegetable, and berry crops;

And whereas smaller/family-owned farms are in need of additional sources of income from non-farm usage of their land (bistros, restaurants, etc.):

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Agricultural Land Commission to allow for expanded non-farm usage on farmlands through a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) system.

**Convention Decision:**

## Protection of Trees

Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD

Whereas regional districts currently have no regulatory authority to prevent tree cutting except as it relates to areas affected by flooding or other hazards;

And whereas municipalities have broad powers to regulate tree protection under Section 8(3)(c) and Division 7 of the *Community Charter*, including bylaws for protection, removal, replanting, and replacement of trees;

And whereas some regional districts, particularly regional districts experiencing development pressure, share similar concerns as municipalities with respect to protecting trees:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the provincial government to provide regional districts authority over tree cutting/tree protection that is equal to the regulatory power municipalities have for tree protection.

**Convention Decision:**

## **Primary Care Clinic Funding**

**Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas the investment in primary care is consistent with the strategic direction of the Ministry of Health and supports a team-based primary care model;

And whereas new physicians are choosing team based health and provincial incentives are targeting new graduates who want to work with teams of other clinicians;

And whereas the approval of new Rural Growth Plans and expansion of their Primary Care Networks includes capital funding to help streamline access to primary care for patients and families:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide additional funding, according to regionally defined needs, for expansion of existing Primary Care Networks to address regular health care needs closer to home.

**Convention Decision:**



**Funding for Rural and Remote Volunteer Fire  
Department First Responder Programs**

**Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD**

Whereas in rural and remote areas ambulances are not able to get to medical calls in a timely manner because of distances travelled and members of community fire departments are able to arrive on scene much more quickly;

And whereas when first on scene first responders of community fire departments can assist the ambulance team by accessing the patient, gathering information, taking vitals and packaging the patient prior to the ambulance's arrival;

And whereas community fire departments are funded through local government taxes while BC Emergency Health Services are funded through provincial monies:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for pre-hospital care equipment, training, and call out pay for rural and remote volunteer fire department first responder programs.

**Convention Decision:**

## 1.0 Hectare Policy/Guidelines

Okanagan-Similkameen  
RD

Whereas the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline, which prevents the construction of additional housing on properties of less than one hectare without attaching to a community sewerage system, is nearly twenty years old;

And whereas technology and construction standards for septic systems has advanced since the policy/guideline was put into place;

And whereas there are many rural area small holding properties that lend themselves to densification without harming the delicate agricultural balance, which in time could assist to reduce the critical housing shortage;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to amend the 1.0 hectare policy/guideline to allow for additional housing on small holding properties with suitable septic systems.

**Convention Decision:**