

Date: January 9, 2024
File No: 0390-20-AVICC

RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention

Pre-Hospital Care | Demands on Local Governments

City of Port Alberni

WHEREAS the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services OR alternatively, that the Province Of British Columbia take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.

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RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention Pre-Hospital Care | Demands on Local Governments

In alignment with Council's *2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan* and the goals of "fostering a complete community that is safe, healthy and inclusive" and ensuring the "provision and maintenance of quality services" Council for the City of Port Alberni is submitting the attached resolution for consideration.

The provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia. Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care. However, the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments. This pressure arises from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing. As pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government, it is crucial to address the challenges faced by Fire Departments and ensure the provision of adequate resources and support.

1. **Increasing Workload:** Fire Departments are experiencing a sharp increase in their workload related to pre-hospital care. The demand for medical first responder services has risen significantly, leading to an increased number of emergency calls. This surge in call volume has stretched the resources of Fire Departments, making it difficult for them to meet the growing demands effectively.
2. **Financial Burden on Local Governments:** The increased workload in pre-hospital care has resulted in additional operating costs for local governments. These costs include training programs for firefighters, fuel expenses for emergency vehicles, maintenance of vehicles and equipment, consumables such as medical supplies, and the need for additional staffing. The financial burden on local governments is becoming unsustainable, as they struggle to allocate sufficient funds to support the growing demands of pre-hospital care.
3. **Provincial Responsibility:** Pre-hospital care is a crucial aspect of healthcare and falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government. As such, it is the responsibility of the provincial government to ensure the provision of adequate resources and support for pre-hospital care services. By doing so, the provincial government can ensure the effective and efficient delivery of emergency medical services to the public.

In light of the challenges faced by Fire Departments and the financial burden on local governments, it is imperative to urgently appeal to the provincial government for action as follows:

1. **Autonomy of Pre-Hospital Care:** The provincial government should take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously. By assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, the provincial government can alleviate the burden on local governments and ensure the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services.

2. Funding for Fire Department First Responder Programs: Alternatively, if the provincial government is unable to operate pre-hospital care autonomously, it should provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs. This funding would help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.

The increasing workload in pre-hospital care and the financial burden on local governments necessitate urgent action from the provincial government. The proposed resolution requests that AVICC and UBCM appeal to the provincial government to either assume full responsibility for pre-hospital care or provide immediate and adequate funding to support Fire Department First Responder programs. By addressing these concerns, the provincial government can ensure the provision of high-quality emergency medical services and relieve the strain on local governments.

Attachments:

Appendix 'A' | Port Alberni Fire Call Volume Categories Graph

Appendix 'B' | Fire Responder Call Volume Table

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

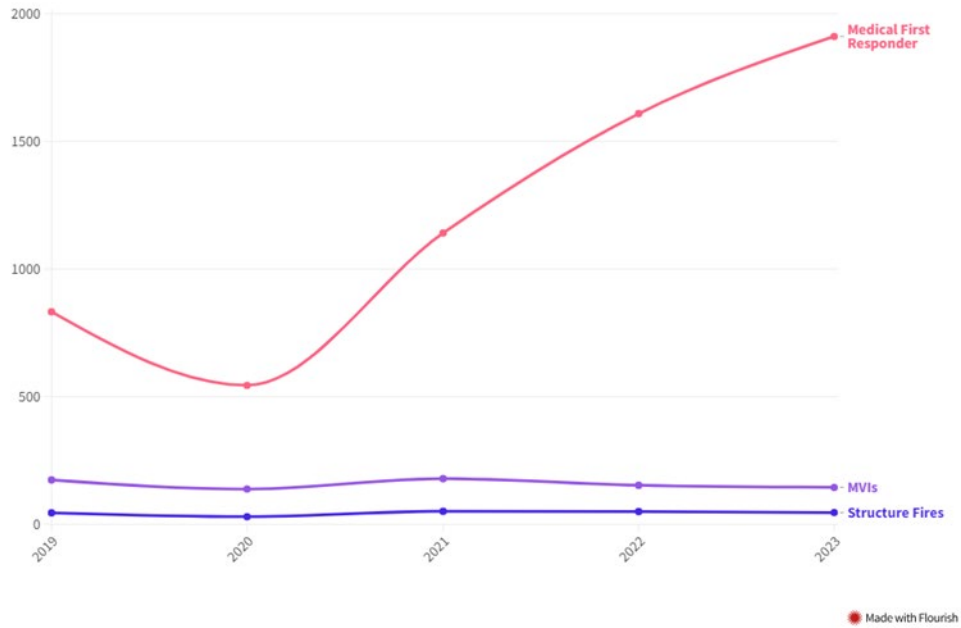


Sharie Minions
Mayor

c: City Council
M. Fox, CAO
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
UBCM Member Municipalities

Appendix 'A'

Port Alberni Fire call volume categories



Appendix 'B'

	First Responder	Total PAFD Calls	% Calls
2005	456	1140	40
2006	576	1307	44
2007	534	1140	47
2008	548	1193	46
2009	535	1162	46
2010	574	1197	48
2011	596	1186	50
2012	560	1162	48
2013	544	1137	48
2014	631	1272	50
2015	563	1186	47
2016	671	1325	51
2017	786	1492	53
2018	872	1605	54
2019	832	1572	53
2020	544*	1281*	42
2021	1141	1989	57
2022	1609	2459	65
2023	1912	2823	68

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RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention

Enhancing Communications for Municipal Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents

City of Port Alberni

WHEREAS fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and that both EMCR and the municipality have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders;

AND WHEREAS one of the significant challenges faced by municipal fire departments is the lack of adequate [or any] communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other agencies and hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

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RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention
Enhancing Communications for Municipal Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents

In alignment with Council's *2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan* and the goals of "fostering a complete community that is safe, healthy and inclusive" and ensuring the "provision and maintenance of quality services" Council for the City of Port Alberni is submitting the attached resolution for consideration.

Municipal fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. However, many of the areas where these incidents occur lack adequate communications infrastructure, posing significant challenges to the safety and effectiveness of responders. This backgrounder aims to support the resolution proposed urging the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies.

1. **Municipal Fire Department Response:** Municipal fire departments are often called upon to respond to motor vehicle incidents outside of their fire protection boundaries. These incidents may occur in remote or rural areas where specialized resources and expertise are required. Municipal firefighters are trained and equipped to handle these situations, ensuring the safety of individuals involved and minimizing the potential risks.
2. **Inadequate Communications Infrastructure:** One of the significant challenges faced by municipal fire departments is the lack of adequate communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to. In some cases, there may be no communications at all, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other agencies. This lack of communication hampers the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public.
3. **Responsibility for Health and Safety:** Both Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the municipality have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders. It is essential to provide responders with the necessary tools and resources to carry out their duties effectively and safely. Reliable communications play a vital role in ensuring the well-being of responders, enabling them to communicate critical information, coordinate their actions, and request assistance when needed.

To address the challenges posed by inadequate communications infrastructure, the City of Port Alberni proposes the following:

1. **Provision of Modern, Reliable Communications:** That AVICC and UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the province's behalf. Starlink, a satellite internet service, offers high-speed and reliable connectivity, even in remote and underserved areas. By

providing this technology to responding agencies, the provincial government can ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders.

2. Collaboration with Telecommunication Providers: In addition to the provision of Starlink, the Province of British Columbia should collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently. This collaboration can involve expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

The lack of adequate communications infrastructure in areas where municipal fire departments respond to motor vehicle incidents poses significant challenges to the safety and effectiveness of responders. The proposed resolution requests that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as Starlink, to responding agencies. By doing so, the provincial government can enhance the safety and efficiency of response operations, ensuring the well-being of responders and the effective management of motor vehicle incidents.

Attachments:

Appendix 'A' | Telus Coverage Map in BC

Appendix 'B' | Rogers Coverage Map on Vancouver Island

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

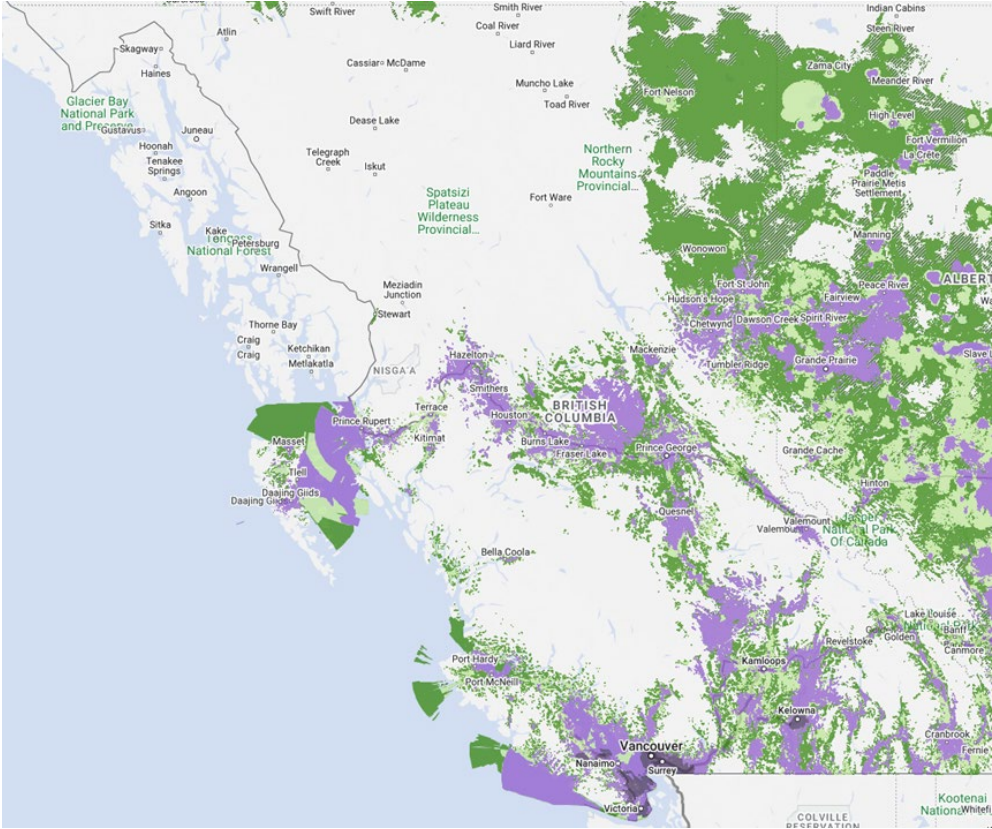


Sharie Minions
Mayor

c: City Council
M. Fox, CAO
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
UBCM Member Municipalities

Appendix 'A'

Telus Coverage Map in BC



Appendix 'B'

Rogers Coverage Map on Vancouver Island



Date: January 16, 2024
File No: 0390-20-AVICC

RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention

Equitable Funding of Police Services

City of Port Alberni

WHEREAS the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other municipalities in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS systemic social issues outside of a municipality's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a municipality's mandate.

Date: January 16, 2024
File No: 0390-20-AVICC

RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention Equitable Funding of Police Services

In alignment with Council's *2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan* and the goals of "fostering a complete community that is safe, healthy and inclusive" and ensuring the "provision and maintenance of quality services" Council for the City of Port Alberni is submitting the attached resolution for consideration.

The City of Port Alberni, located in the Alberni Valley, faces significant challenges in funding its police services. The current Police Services funding model in British Columbia does not consider the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction, leading to inequitable distribution of costs. Furthermore, systemic social issues such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges contribute to increased demands on police services, placing an additional burden on the City of Port Alberni. The resolution urges the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program that considers the financial capacity, population size, and the impact of systemic social issues on police services for all municipalities and regional districts in the province.

- 1. Financial Disparity:**
The City of Port Alberni funds the highest number of RCMP members in the Alberni Valley and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other municipalities in the region. This financial burden places a significant strain on the city's taxpayers, who bear the brunt of the costs. The current funding model does not take into account the financial capacity of each jurisdiction, leading to an unfair distribution of costs and an unsustainable financial situation for the City of Port Alberni.
- 2. Impact of Systemic Social Issues:**
Systemic social issues such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges have a direct impact on the demands placed on police services. While these issues are outside the mandate of municipalities, they contribute to increased call volumes and the need for police intervention. The City of Port Alberni, like many other communities, faces the challenge of responding to and managing the impacts of these issues, further increasing the demands on its police services. Without adequate funding to address these systemic social issues, the burden falls on the City of Port Alberni and its taxpayers.
- 3. Equitable Funding:**
To ensure fairness and sustainability in funding police services, it is crucial to develop an equitable funding program that considers the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction. The current funding model fails to account for these factors, resulting in disparities in funding and placing an unfair burden on certain municipalities. By developing an equitable funding program, the Province of British Columbia can ensure that all municipalities and regional districts have access to the necessary resources to provide effective and efficient police services.

The City of Port Alberni's high police services costs, exacerbated by the impact of systemic social issues, have placed a significant burden on its taxpayers. It is imperative that the Province of British Columbia takes immediate action to develop an equitable Police Services funding program that considers the financial capacity, population size, and the impact of systemic social issues on police services for all municipalities and regional districts in the province. By doing so, the province can ensure fairness, sustainability, and effective community safety measures for all communities in British Columbia.

Attachments:

Appendix 'A' | Policing costs for Representative Residential Properties in the Alberni Valley for 2023

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sharie Minions', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharie Minions
Mayor

c: City Council
M. Fox, CAO
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
UBCM Member Municipalities

Appendix ‘A’

Policing costs for Representative Residential Properties in the Alberni Valley for 2023

Area	Property Value	Police Tax rate	Police tax on ARPV
Area B – Beaufort	736,937	0.1096	\$ 80.77
Area D – Sproat Lake	807,187	0.0550	\$ 44.40
Area E – Beaver Creek	687,640	0.1244	\$ 85.54
Area F – Cherry Creek	568,942	0.1216	\$ 69.18
City of Port Alberni	530,609	1.3364	\$ 709.09

- The ACRD uses the Average Residential Property Value, whereas the City use the Average Single-Family Residential property when comparing.
- City Police costs are net of all revenue received from RCMP

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RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention

Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services

City of Port Alberni

WHEREAS public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

AND WHEREAS public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province ensures that BC libraries receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

Date: January 16, 2024

File No: 0390-20-AVICC

RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services

In alignment with Council's *2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan* and the goals of "fostering a complete community that is safe, healthy and inclusive" and ensuring the "provision and maintenance of quality services" Council for the City of Port Alberni is submitting the attached resolution for consideration.

Public libraries are essential institutions that play a vital role in communities across British Columbia. They provide access to resources, promote literacy, support job seekers and small businesses, advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promote equity and inclusion. However, public libraries in British Columbia face significant funding challenges. The current funding model which relies primarily on levies paid by local governments, while provincial funding for libraries remains drastically low in comparison, places a significant burden on its taxpayers.

1. Importance of Public Libraries:

Public libraries serve as community hubs, offering a wide range of services and resources that benefit individuals of all ages and backgrounds. They provide access to books, digital materials, educational programs, and technology, fostering a love for reading and learning. Public libraries also support job seekers by offering resources for career development, resume building, and job search assistance. Additionally, libraries play a crucial role in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by providing access to Indigenous literature, supporting Indigenous language revitalization efforts, and promoting cultural understanding.

2. Funding Challenges:

The current funding model for public libraries in British Columbia relies heavily on levies paid by local governments. This model has resulted in stagnant provincial funding, which fails to keep pace with the increasing costs of delivering library services and the growing demand from communities. Libraries face rising costs for materials, technology, staff salaries, and maintaining and upgrading facilities. Without sustainable funding, libraries struggle to meet the evolving needs of their communities and provide the necessary resources and services.

3. Increasing Demand for Library Services:

Over time, the demand for library services has increased exponentially. Libraries are no longer just repositories of books but have become dynamic community spaces that offer a wide range of programs and services. They provide access to digital resources, e-books, and online databases, catering to the changing needs of library users. Libraries also play a crucial role in promoting digital literacy and bridging the digital divide by offering technology training and internet access to those who may not have it at home. The increasing demand for these services requires adequate funding to ensure that libraries can continue to meet the needs of their communities.

4. Long-Term Sustainable Funding:

To ensure the continued success and impact of public libraries in British Columbia, it is essential to provide long-term sustainable funding. This funding should consider the increasing costs of delivering library services, the evolving needs of communities, and the role of libraries in promoting literacy, supporting job seekers, advancing reconciliation, and promoting equity and inclusion. By providing sustainable funding, the Province of British Columbia can support the growth and development of public libraries, ensuring that they remain vibrant and accessible community resources for generations to come.

Public libraries in British Columbia play a vital role in promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation, and promoting equity and inclusion. However, the current funding model has resulted in stagnant provincial funding, hindering the ability of libraries to meet the growing demands of their communities and placing a significant burden on its taxpayers as library costs continue to increase exponentially.

It is crucial for the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries and ensure regular increases in provincial government funding in subsequent years. By doing so, the province can invest in knowledge, support community development, and ensure that public libraries continue to be valuable resources for all British Columbians.

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI



Sharie Minions
Mayor

c: City Council
M. Fox, CAO
D. Monteith, Director of Corporate Services
UBCM Member Municipalities

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RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention

Increased Funding for [Rural] Colleges

City of Port Alberni

WHEREAS colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province, including a closer to home education for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability; and that they face increasing demands and challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs;

AND WHEREAS adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries; colleges in rural British Columbia are challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC & UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services and develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.

Date: January 16, 2024

File No: 0390-20-AVICC

RESOLUTION for Consideration by Delegates at the AVICC 2024 AGM & Convention Increased Funding for Rural Colleges

In alignment with Council's *2023-2027 Corporate Strategic Plan* and the goals of "fostering a complete community that is safe, healthy and inclusive" and ensuring the "provision and maintenance of quality services" Council for the City of Port Alberni is submitting the attached resolution for consideration.

Colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province. These institutions serve as vital resources for individuals who may not have access to training or education in more urban areas. However, rural colleges face unique challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs. Adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries.

- 1. Accessibility and Proximity:**
Rural colleges in British Columbia provide education and training opportunities closer to home for individuals who may not have the means or ability to access training in more heavily populated areas. These colleges serve as a lifeline for students in rural communities, allowing them to pursue post-secondary education without the need to relocate. By increasing funding for rural colleges, the Province of British Columbia can ensure that individuals in these areas have equal access to quality education and training, regardless of their geographical location.
- 2. Meeting Unique Challenges:**
Rural colleges face specific challenges that differ from their counterparts in more urban areas. Distance and smaller student populations make it more difficult for rural colleges to meet the same requirements and standards as colleges in heavily populated areas. Adequate funding is necessary to address these challenges and ensure that rural colleges have the resources and support they need to provide high-quality education and training. By increasing funding, the Province of British Columbia can help bridge the gap between rural and urban colleges, ensuring that all students have access to the same opportunities.
- 3. Adapting to Changing Industry Needs:**
Industries are constantly evolving, and colleges must adapt their programs and curriculum to meet the changing demands of the job market. Rural colleges play a crucial role in providing training and education that aligns with the specific needs of industries in their regions. However, adapting to these changing needs requires adequate funding to update programs, invest in modern equipment and technology, and provide professional development opportunities for faculty. By increasing funding for rural colleges, the Province of British Columbia can ensure that students in these areas receive the training and education necessary to succeed in their local job markets.

4. **Supporting Economic Development:**
Investing in rural colleges has a significant impact on the economic development of rural communities. By providing accessible education and training, rural colleges contribute to the development of a skilled workforce, attracting investment and driving economic growth. Additionally, these colleges often collaborate with local businesses and industries, fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. By increasing funding for rural colleges, the Province of British Columbia can support the economic development of rural communities and ensure their long-term sustainability.

Rural colleges in British Columbia play a vital role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students in rural communities. However, these colleges face unique challenges and require increased funding to meet the evolving needs of students and industries. By increasing funding for rural colleges and developing a standard of college funding that reflects the real costs of providing training and education in rural British Columbia, the Province of British Columbia can ensure that all students have equal access to quality education, support student success, and contribute to the economic development of rural communities.

Yours truly,
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI



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