grow with us

THE DISTRICT OF
BARRIERE

August 11, 2026

Via Email

Union of BC Municipalities Members

Re: Request for Resolution Support - Revenue Sharing of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods & Services Tax (GST) with Local Governments

Congratulations to those municipalities that were successful in securing funding through the Strategic Priorities Fund. Every community that receives support for important infrastructure projects deserves recognition, and I wish you success as those projects move forward.

Like many communities across British Columbia, the District of Barriere was not successful in this intake. We understand that the program was significantly oversubscribed, which highlights a challenge that extends well beyond any one municipality.

The reality is that there are far more worthy infrastructure projects than there are grant dollars available. Every year, communities invest significant time and resources preparing high-quality applications, yet many critical projects remain unfunded simply because demand exceeds available funding.

This experience reinforces why the District of Barriere brought forward a resolution at this year's Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) convention and why it was supported. The resolution calls for a conversation about establishing a more predictable and sustainable source of municipal infrastructure funding through a share of existing provincial and federal sales tax revenue.

This proposal is not intended to replace grant programs. Grants will always have an important role to play. Rather, it seeks to complement existing programs by providing municipalities with a stable funding source that allows councils to plan for long-term infrastructure renewal instead of relying solely on competitive grant opportunities.

Whether your community was successful this year or not, Council and I hope you will consider supporting this resolution when it comes before delegates at UBCM this fall.

Strong infrastructure benefits every community in British Columbia. By working together, we can advocate for a funding model that provides municipalities with greater certainty while continuing to support strategic provincial investments.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to continuing this conversation at UBCM in September.

Respectfully,

Rob Kerslake
Mayor, District of Barriere

Attachments: District of Barriere Resolution – UBCM 2026

P.O. Box 219, 4936 Barriere Town Road • Barriere, B.C. V0E 1E0 • P: (250) 672-9751 • F: (250) 672-9708 • Toll Free: 1-866-672-9751

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE

2026 UBCM RESOLUTION

Revenue Sharing of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods & Services Tax (GST) with Local Governments

District of Barriere

Whereas local governments across British Columbia face significant infrastructure deficits, with many municipalities and electoral areas unable to meet these needs through property taxation alone;

Whereas many infrastructure funding programs require local governments to compete through application-based grant processes that are unpredictable, resource-intensive, and often resemble a lottery system that creates winners and losers while diverting valuable staff capacity at both local and provincial levels;

Whereas reliance on competitive, application-driven funding programs creates uncertainty in long-term financial planning and delays critical infrastructure, fire smarting, and community resilience projects;

Whereas predictable and sustained funding would enable local governments to plan responsibly, deliver infrastructure upgrades more efficiently, and reduce overall costs to taxpayers;

Whereas in other jurisdictions, such as the United States, local governments retain a share of sales tax revenue, providing a stable funding source for community infrastructure and services;

Therefore be it resolved Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate that the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to establish a revenue-sharing model that allocates a portion of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues collected within municipal boundaries and electoral areas directly back to local governments.

And be it further resolved that this revenue stream be designed to gradually reduce reliance on competitive, application-based infrastructure grant programs, replacing a portion of those programs with predictable, sustained funding, while not affecting statutory or annually allocated grants currently provided to local governments.