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Regional District

OCT 29 2025

101 Martin Street
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

October 22, 2025

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

Dear Chair Wooldridge:

Re: Provincial Response to 2024 Resolutions

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Board resolution(s) from 2024. 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 Resolutions & Policy.

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

With gratitude,



Councillor Cori Ramsay
UBCM President

Enclosure

Whereas the toxic drug crisis continues to surge across the province and the lasting effects of overdose can potentially lead to acquired brain injury which can include organ failure, nerve damage, paralysis, memory loss, mental disorientation, diminished motor skills, reduced physical and cognitive functioning, and behavioural changes;

And whereas communities across the province are implementing many initiatives in support of all residents' safety and wellbeing such as Public Safety and Social Development Frameworks;

And whereas the Province has developed a complex care framework that acknowledges the growing number of people in our communities who require housing and have overlapping health, mental health, trauma and acquired brain injuries; yet there are no established timelines and residents continue to suffer in the interim;

And whereas the Province has appointed Health Authorities as the lead for plan implementation:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the Province provides immediate and clear instruction to Health Authorities, inclusive of timelines and funding, to prioritize implementation of complex care facilities and the integration of complex care supports in existing or new facilities.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Health

Complex Care Housing (CCH) is designed for people with significant health needs who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. Residents may have mental health or addiction challenges, brain injuries, intellectual or developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses, and/or mobility issues.

As of April 1, 2025, CCH services are in place for more than 570 people across the province, and an additional 240 units are in development. Abbotsford, Burnaby, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Prince George, Sechelt, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria have all been selected to receive a portion of 200 new purpose-built units. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs are working closely with BC Housing, regional health authorities, municipal partners, non-profit operators, and other interested and impacted parties to identify and advance development opportunities. The remaining 40 units will be Indigenous-led. The Province is working closely with Indigenous groups to identify partners and priority communities.

It is important to ensure each CCH building is well-designed to meet the needs of residents and the staff who will be working there. Each project has a unique development timeline depending on the location. More information on target completion dates will be provided throughout each project lifecycle.

Whereas meeting the need for additional power sources in BC with industrial scale wind and solar installations is expensive, potentially damaging to environmentally sensitive land, and insufficient;

And whereas private solar installations would reduce these negative economic and environmental impacts;

And whereas solar installation is costly and often beyond the financial ability of many property owners:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province create a Provincial Solar Power Rebate Program for homeowners.

Convention Decision: Endorsed

Provincial Response

Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions

The Province is committed to ensuring that all British Columbians have access to, affordable, clean, and reliable electricity.

In 2024 BC Hydro launched its first Call for Power in over fifteen years, resulting in electricity purchase agreements with nine wind and one solar energy producers. Utility-scale wind and solar generation are currently the most cost-effective clean and renewable energy sources in the province. This Call resulted in an average cost of energy of \$74 per megawatt hour, or 7.4 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) and an 8 percent increase in BC Hydro's electricity supply. In addition, the Site C Dam will also be operating at full capacity this year adding another 8 percent increase to electricity supply. There will be future Calls with regularity, including calls for firm/capacity power, to ensure a clean, affordable, and reliable electricity supply.

The Province is taking action to bring new clean and renewable resources online faster and remains committed to maintaining robust environmental standards during the development of the nine wind farms announced through BC Hydro's Call for Power. While these projects will not undergo environmental assessment processes, each project will still be subject to rigorous permitting requirements through a single-window permitting process for renewable energy projects led by the BC Energy Regulator.

Currently, residential solar power, as measured through net metering, is a higher-cost resource; FortisBC currently providing credits worth 14.96 cents per kWh and BC Hydro credits worth up to 14.08 cents per kWh. BC Hydro also offers rebates up to \$5,000 on eligible grid-connected solar panels and up to an additional \$5,000 for battery storage systems for homeowners who are currently BC Hydro customers, funded through BC Hydro rates and not taxpayer funds.

2024 NR61 Allow Regional Districts to Become Taxing Authorities

Okanagan-Similkameen RD

Whereas regional districts are not taxing authorities and not able to change the tax multipliers, unlike municipalities that are allowed to adjust to swings in assessments between residential and business classes;

And whereas municipalities are able to change the multiplier which creates a consistency in taxes from year to year, while regional districts are not;

And whereas the taxpayers within a regional district are charged by the Province a 5.25% collection fee, which for the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is over \$900,000:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Ministry to allow regional districts, at their discretion, to become a taxing authority.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

As taxing authorities, municipalities, and the Province have responsibilities that are for more than solely levying taxes. They also have the responsibility of, and incur cost for communicating with property owners about outstanding property taxes and completing tax sales or forfeiture processes to ensure the recovery of property tax revenue. Municipalities must also deliberate and set tax rates and justify their tax policy in the annual financial plan bylaw.

The Province distributes tax notices in rural areas for its own property tax collection. The legislation for regional districts relieves them of this burden for each service that has been established. Note however that a regional district has some authority, with approval of the Inspector, to create a variable rate taxation system for certain classes for specified years and services under section 390 of the Local Government Act.