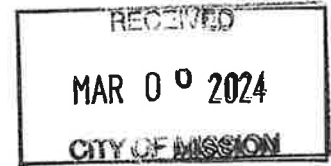


February 29, 2024

Mayor Paul Horn
City of Mission
Box 20
Mission, BC V2V 4L9



Dear Mayor Horn:

Re: Provincial Response to 2023 Resolutions

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Council resolution(s) from 2023. 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

Sincerely,

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

Councillor Trish Mandewo
UBCM President

Enclosure

2023 EB71 Review of Stumpage Rate for Community Managed Forest Tenures

Mission

Whereas the Province assesses the same stumpage rates against small Tree Farm Licences as it does for large industrial forest tenures;

And whereas smaller tenures near urban centres must manage for multiple resource users at higher costs and typically invest surplus funds within the community for the benefit of the general public and province:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider new allowances to reduce market stumpage rates that account for the higher management costs required to effectively manage forest resources for municipally held Tree Farm Licences in urban interface areas.

Convention Decision: Endorsed as Amended

Provincial Response

Ministry of Forests

The Ministry of Forests continues to explore ways to support local governments and expand opportunities for communities to benefit from the forest sector.

Stumpage is the fee collected by the government when it sells trees to a licensee. The fees go to general revenue where it is used to fund critical programs like healthcare and education. Overall, stumpage supports the services all British Columbians depend on, and contributes to communities across the province.

As part of the Modernizing Forest Policy - Intentions Paper project, government is looking at harmonizing stumpage with respect to area-based tenures.

2023 NR4 Review of Benefits for People with Disabilities

Mission

Whereas a single person with a disability receives \$1,358 per month in disability assistance from the provincial government;

And whereas the cost of living has increased substantially making it very challenging for a person with a disability to make ends meet:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask that the provincial government review the current assistance rates and increase the assistance amount to no less than \$1,800 per month for a single person and that the rate be reviewed annually to keep pace with cost of living increases.

Convention Decision:

Endorsed

Provincial Response

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (SDPR) is committed to assisting persons with disabilities in gaining greater independence and security of income, enhancing well-being, and increasing participation in the community.

Cost of living increases and global inflation have disproportionately impacted persons with disabilities, and improving affordability for recipients of income and disability assistance continues to be a priority for the ministry.

SDPR is currently leading the cross-government work to update TogetherBC, BC's first poverty reduction strategy, by Spring 2024. As part of this update, the ministry has also undertaken a comprehensive review of our income and disability assistance legislation. This review is an important part of the ministry's ongoing work to improve the BC Employment and Assistance (BCEA) program to better support British Columbians in need. This work builds on improvements already accomplished over the past six years, including five increases to income and disability rates, raising the total rate for a single on income assistance by \$450 and a single on disability assistance by \$502 per month. This means we have increased rates for a single person on income assistance by 74% and a single person on disability assistance by 51%.

2023 NR14 Provincial Funding for Municipal Medic Trucks

Mission

Whereas the provincial investments in the BC Ambulance Service have not kept pace with growth and inflation in BC municipalities;

And whereas municipal fire and rescue services are often the first responders to calls for medical service causing elevated wear and tear on fire apparatus and are unable to leave the scene until an ambulance arrives thus putting the community fire protection services at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to consider funding the capital and operating costs of medic trucks in ~~municipalities~~ **local governments** to ensure that an adequate level of fire protection is maintained in the community and the cost of providing purely medical services, a provincial responsibility, are not unfairly burdening ~~municipalities~~ **local governments**.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed as Amended**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Health

The support provided by First Responders (FRs) during medical emergencies is an essential part of the delivery of pre-hospital emergency health services to the people of British Columbia. BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Province value the role that FRs play in pre-hospital emergency care. The Ministry of Health appreciates the City of Mission's ongoing concern for fiscal accountability, as you continue to determine how to best allocate your funding and resources for responding to urgent and routine calls.

BCEHS notifies first responder agencies who have agreements with BCEHS of time critical calls. Establishing an agreement with BCEHS is voluntary and each municipality, including the City of Mission, can determine the extent of their participation and the calls they respond to. This approach provides municipalities with the ability to directly manage all costs associated with their participation in pre-hospital care. Some municipalities have chosen to have FRs continue to attend both urgent and routine non-emergency calls, while others have elected to have first responders attend only urgent medical calls where a patient's condition will benefit from initial care.

Through continued and increased investment, the BC government is supporting BCEHS to take targeted action to improve emergency health services throughout the province. Between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, BCEHS announced 800+ new hires across BCEHS paramedics, dispatch, and support services into existing vacancies and new positions – the largest expansion of staffing in BCEHS history. BCEHS has also increased ground and air ambulances coverage throughout the province, implemented a more efficient 9-1-1 system, increased training for paramedics and provided funding to support the mental health and wellness of BCEHS employees.

In addition, to improve ambulance services in 60 rural and remote communities, a new staffing model has launched to provide consistent and reliable community-based out of hospital care which adds 271 new full time paramedic positions to the province. As part of this new approach, 55.2 stand alone, full-time community paramedic positions will be dedicated to providing community-based care and community outreach through the new model.