

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**TO:** Corporate Services Committee

**FROM:** J. Zaffino, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** November 21, 2024

**RE:** **Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA)  
Call for Resolutions**

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**Purpose:**

To discuss issues for resolutions to be forwarded for consideration at the 2024 Annual General Meeting of SILGA.

**Reference:**

- 2024 RDOS SILGA Resolutions (Appendix A)
- UBCM Meeting Requests Policy

**Background:**

The Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) is comprised of elected officials from 37 cities, towns, villages, districts, and regional districts in South Central British Columbia. SILGA works to connect, educate, and advocate on behalf of elected officials.

The SILGA 2025 Annual General Meeting and Convention is scheduled to be held in Merritt from April 29 to May 2, 2024, with registration due to open in mid February. Rooms have been booked at the Ramada Limited Merritt for Electoral Area Directors who have indicated they would like to attend. Directors who no longer wish to attend should advise Legislative Services prior to March 1, 2025, in order to avoid cancellation charges.

The deadline for SILGA resolutions is February 28, 2024. Resolutions not received by this date will be considered late and must go through a late resolution procedure at the Annual General Meeting.

Resolutions must be endorsed by the Board and should be relative to regional issues and should not pertain to a finite local interest. All resolutions should be ratified by the Board at the January 16, 2025 Board meeting to ensure they meet the SILGA deadline.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*“Natalie Sime”*

N. Sime, Legislative Services Clerk

*“Christy Malden”*

C. Malden, Corporate Officer

## Appendix A

### 2024 RDOS SILGA Resolutions

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

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

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.

#### **Complex Care Facilities**

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

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; 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.

#### **BC Homeowners Solar Power Incentive Program**

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

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.

#### **Increased Funding for the Implementation of New Provincial Housing Development Requirements**

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas the Province provided funding in January 2024 for local governments to implement the requirements of new housing legislation; And whereas the actual expected costs of implementation have been estimated by

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multiple local government speakers at the UBCM Housing Summit to be two to three times the amount of the provided funding: Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM request of the provincial government that the initial funding to support the implementation of new housing development requirements be increased to reflect actual costs.

### **Allow Regional Districts to Become Taxing Authorities**

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

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.

### **Volunteer Firefighter and Search and Rescue Members Income Tax Credit (Bill C-310)**

Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Whereas Bill C-310, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act (volunteer fire fighting and search and rescue volunteer tax credit), was introduced and passed first reading on December 8, 2022, sitting 144, and has since stalled; And whereas it is becoming more and more difficult to attract and maintain volunteer firefighters and search and rescue members to rural detachments: Therefore be it resolved that UBCM petition the provincial government in supporting and requesting that Bill C-310 be expedited through the House of Commons and the Senate as an emergency situation. Rescinded