

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: June 6, 2022	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: Bob Payette, CAO
Re: UBCM Resolutions – 2022 Convention	

Background:

The deadline for UBCM Resolution submissions is June 30th. At the previous Council Meeting on May 24, 2022, Council expressed a desire to resubmit a resolution the Council at the time presented to both the 2013 SILGA and UBCM Conventions. The resolution was fully endorsed by both entities, however, the Provincial response at the time was not favorable.

Discussion:

The submitted and endorsed resolution was as follows:

“WHEREAS Municipal Fire Departments in communities that have a major highway(s) passing through them respond to highway incidents; and,

WHEREAS the cost of attending these highway incidents is borne solely by the taxpayers within the taxing jurisdiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial government be requested to develop a program with ICBC to reimburse Fire Departments that respond to highway incidents which involve non-residents/non-property owners from within the Fire Department’s taxing jurisdiction”.

In addition, at the previous Council meeting, Council expressed a desire to submit a resolution calling for the Province to address the rural ambulance crisis. Suggested wording is as follows:

“WHEREAS it is generally recognized that ambulance service in BC is heavily urban focused; however increasing the number of other first responder service calls to make up for the BCES staffing shortfall, should not come at the expense of a reasonable level of BC Ambulance service in rural communities;

AND WHEREAS there has been little or no increase in provincial funds to independent First Responder Societies, municipal fire/rescue departments and rural RCMP staffing increases over the past several years, compromising these

rural emergency response service levels in many rural communities throughout BC;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of BC review its rural BC Ambulance resourcing models to ensure that adequate resources are available to properly service rural communities.”

Reviewed by: Bob Payette, CAO