



December 5, 2024

To: All SILGA Members

**Call for Resolutions for 2025 Convention**

The SILGA Annual General Meeting and Convention is scheduled to be held in Merritt between April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 2nd, 2025. The SILGA Constitution requires that resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting are to be received by the Secretary-Treasurer no later than 60 days prior to this meeting. Friday, February 21, 2025 will be the deadline for receipt of resolutions.

If your local government wishes to submit a resolution for consideration at the 2025 SILGA Convention, please forward by email your resolution to [info@silga.ca](mailto:info@silga.ca). Any background information on the resolution would be helpful. Please be discerning when you submit a resolution as the volume of resolutions received becomes difficult to properly debate. Each resolution should be endorsed by the sponsoring Member's Municipal Council or Regional Board. The resolution should be relative to regional issues and should not pertain to a finite local interest.

- 1. If you do not receive a confirmation email regarding your resolution, please contact the SILGA office at 250 851 6653.**
- 2. Please note it is the responsibility of the local government to follow up with the appropriate ministry on the recommendation from the resolution after it has been endorsed by both SILGA and UBCM.**
- 3. The earlier you can submit a resolution, the better. In the past over 50% of the resolutions are received less than three days prior to the deadline. SILGA has a very short deadline to get the resolutions to UBCM.**

For information on how to properly write a resolution please refer to the UBCM website below.

<http://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/resolutions/resolutions/resolutions-procedures.html>

or go to the resolutions page on the SILGA website at

<http://www.silga.ca/convention/resolutions/>



Resolutions not received by February 21, 2025 will be considered late resolutions and must go through the following procedures to be considered at the AGM.

#### Late Resolutions

- (1) Resolutions submitted following the expiry of the regular deadline noted in section 10.4 shall be considered "Late Resolutions" and shall comply with all other submission requirements, except that a copy of the resolution shall be provided to SILGA by noon on the Friday preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting. The resolutions committee will meet on the Tuesday preceding the Annual General Meeting to provide recommendations as to whether the late resolution(s) should be brought to the Members for inclusion in the resolution debate. All late resolutions must be adopted by a Special Resolution of the Member Representatives in attendance at the Annual General Meeting to be included in the discussion.
- (2) Late resolutions will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee prior to the Meeting and only those of a subject matter which could not have been submitted by the normal deadline date outlined in section 10.4 will be considered.
- (3) Late Resolutions shall be available for discussion after resolutions printed in the resolutions book have been considered.
- (4) Late Resolutions admitted for plenary discussion shall be dealt with in the order presented in the Late Resolutions report.
- (5) In the event that a late resolution is recommended to be admitted for discussion, the sponsoring member of the late resolution shall produce sufficient copies for distribution to the Members at the Annual General Meeting.
- (6) The Late Resolution will, after reading, be properly before the meeting, and the regular procedures for handling resolutions will apply.

Alison Slater  
General Manager, SILGA

September 25, 2024

Heather Wood  
Deputy Minister of Finance  
Secretary to Treasury Board  
PO Box 9417 Stn. Prov. Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Deputy Minister Wood,

**RE: Burden of Delinquent Taxes**

On behalf of the City of Merritt Council I am writing to highlight the impact of the *Community Charter* allowance for taxpayers to become delinquent on their property taxes over a period of three years.

Property tax arrears significantly impact the operating capability of small municipalities, which are then forced to significantly increase taxes or limit essential services.

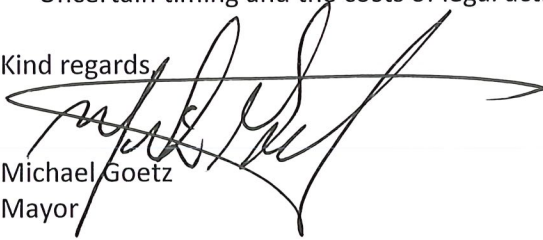
During our meeting with the Minister and staff at UBCM, it was expressed that the ministry was unaware that property owners use the strategy of paying off one year of arrears to remove the property from the tax sale and that they do this year after year to avoid paying the total outstanding amount. To help broaden the ministries understanding of this issue and the impact it has on communities, we have polled other communities and heard from over 20 municipalities across the province including, Burnaby, Prince Rupert, Township of Langley, Hope, Metchosin, Comox, Mission, Golden and Rossland. These communities all report a similar systemic issue of repeat offenders who carry balances owing on their property taxes to the detriment of the greater community. Small municipalities like the City of Merritt cannot continue to subsidize non-payment of property taxes. At year end 2023, the City of Merritt was owed \$893,711 in outstanding taxes and penalties, this equates to 8% on our tax levy. The cost to a community is compounded when you factor in the 100's of hours of staff time required to contact property owners, conduct follow up calls and serve notice of the tax sale by small Finance departments that are often operating with minimal staff and limited resources. This impact will increase significantly with the upcoming implementation of enhanced requirements for notice of tax sales that will require municipalities to bare the cost of bailiff services without the ability to recover full costs.

We request that the Provincial government review and revise the *Community Charter* to relieve this unfair burden. Following are three potential tactics:

1. Reduce the number of years a property can be in arrears on their property tax or allow municipalities to run a deficit.

2. Assign a dedicated contact for municipalities to assist in dealing with properties that have escheated to the Crown and help remove them from property tax rolls expeditiously. Currently they linger on the rolls, accumulating tax levies that will ultimately have to be written off by the Ministry.
3. Implement a province-wide, cost-effective solution for municipalities to recover taxes owed by mobile homes. While we place liens through the registry, the property still needs to be sold or moved legally. Uncertain timing and the costs of legal action make future net recovery uncertain and challenging

Kind regards,



Michael Goetz  
Mayor

