



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9
p: 250.561.7600 | www.princegeorge.ca

UBCM Member Communities

September 2, 2025

RE: 2025 UBCM Resolutions

To our fellow UBCM members,

We write to share five (5) resolution items the City of Prince George has submitted to the annual convention, three (3) through the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) and two (2) through direct submission to UBCM. This year, we have again resolved to look at items that are not only of interest to our region but that also impact those across the province.

We hope we can count on you to support these items when the time comes and have included full text of each resolution with the background below for consideration.

If you would like to be involved in future advocacy, separate from the UBCM process, please reach out and our staff will work to coordinate interest with any emerging opportunities.

The items we are hoping we can work together to advocate for are:

- Adequate funding, offices and staffing of the BC Conservation Service;
- Construction of a regional secure psychiatric facility in the Prince George area;
- Increased core provincial funding for Public Libraries;
- Declaration of human trafficking, gender-based violence & intimate partner violence as an epidemic in BC and for an updated BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking; and
- Finalization of agreements between municipalities and BC Ambulance Service including a funding component to compensate local governments providing emergency medical services for related costs.

These are items we feel are a benefit to us all. We look forward to discussing these resolutions, and meeting at the UBCM Convention in a few weeks!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mayor Simon Yu
City of Prince George

Union of BC Municipalities - 2025 Resolution Submissions

Resolution #1: Conservation Officer Advocacy

UBCM reference: RR22 (refer to EB35)

Resolution Background:

A provincial government webpage, last updated in 2023, on Conservation Officer career information states, “there are over 69,000 law enforcement officers in Canada, and only 150 of them can be B.C. Conservation Officers”. Having only 150 officers on the front lines of environmental law enforcement in British Columbia does not meet the need our vast geography requires. We believe further investment is needed to ensure British Columbia’s treasured environment is well looked after.

Draft Resolution:

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for managing the conservation service, with few officers covering a geographically vast region, which has a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service needs additional resources to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, off road vehicle enforcement, illegal dumping, human wildlife conflicts prevention, and respond to wildlife human conflict:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocates that the provincial government be required to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing conservation services.

Resolution #2: Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility

UBCM reference: Not included (this item was determined to be regional in scope and is not included in the UBCM resolution package).

Resolution Background:

The Province of British Columbia has committed to taking action to ensure people with long-term concurrent mental-health and addiction challenges get secure and dignified care by opening highly secure facilities for people under the Mental Health Act throughout the province. Prince George is well positioned to host such a facility for the region and seeks NCLGAs support in advocating for the expedient establishment of such resources.

Draft resolution:

WHEREAS the provincial government has stated an interest in establishing, throughout the province, beds under the Mental Health Act at highly secure regional facilities, where people will receive long term care and housing that is secure, safe and dignified, and as the City of Prince George recognizes its role as a regional service hub for these types of facilities.

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has stated they are working on legislation, supported by expert consultation, that would support involuntary admittance to these specialized, compassionate care facilities with a coordinated plan for both treatment and post care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocates to the Provincial Government for the construction of a standalone secure psychiatric care facility, to serve the region, in Prince George.

Resolution #3: Provincial Funding for Public Libraries

UBCM reference: RR25 (refer to SR3)

Resolution background:

The City of Prince George encourages NCLGA members to support the BC Public Library Partners and the Association of BC Public Library Directors in requesting the provincial government provide sustainable funding increases for public libraries. In support of this campaign the below resolution language, modeled after language shared by the BC Public Library Partners, is presented.

Draft resolution:

WHEREAS core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, despite BC's population growing 29%, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

AND WHEREAS the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA call on the provincial government to increase core funding for public libraries on a yearly basis in line with inflation and immediately increases annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million as requested by the BC Public Library Partners and recommended by the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

Resolution #4: Human Trafficking, Gender Based & Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic

UBCM reference: NR57

Resolution background:

Gender-based violence is defined as violence or abuse perpetrated against a woman, girl or gender-diverse individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. Intimate partner violence is a prevalent form of gender-based violence, referring to multiple forms of harm caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse in public, private and/or online.

BC Prosecution Service began releasing statistics about intimate partner violence files in its 2022 annual report. The 2023/2024 BC Prosecution Service report indicates that while the 5-year trend for Reports to Crown Counsel (RCCs) received under the four main categories (crimes against the person, property crimes, administration of justice, and other offences) have seen substantive decreases, crimes against the person has remained largely stable. Of these crimes against the person RCCs, the proportion of intimate partner violence RCCs have increased from 18.6% to 21.6% between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024.

Additionally, intimate partner violence and human trafficking are often related to one another. Statistics Canada reports that approximately one third (1/3) of survivors/victims of human trafficking were trafficked by an intimate partner.

Draft resolution:

WHEREAS reported cases of gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking are increasing across British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking has not been updated since its publication in 2013;

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM petition the province to declare gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking an epidemic in British Columbia and update BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Resolution #5: BC Ambulance Service

UBCM reference: EB7

Resolution background:

In 2023, the City of Prince George endorsed a resolution asking the provincial government to develop a funding model to compensate local governments providing emergency medical services and pre-hospital care through their fire and rescue services. The provincial response emphasized the voluntary nature of the agreements between BCEHS and the municipality, advising that costs may be managed by scaling back participation in providing lifesaving emergency medical services and pre-hospital care by fire and rescue services. The City feels this is an inappropriate and impractical response to our genuine concern.

Draft Resolution:

WHEREAS agreements between BC municipalities and BCEHS regarding municipal fire services providing pre-hospital care lapsed in 2010; and

WHEREAS provincial investment and staffing have not kept pace with the growing demand for emergency medical services and pre-hospital care causing municipalities to increasingly become involved through their fire rescue services;

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM petition the province to finalize agreements with BC municipalities as soon as possible and include a funding component to compensate local governments providing emergency medical services and pre-hospital care through their fire and rescue services for related costs including, but not limited to, medical supplies and training.