

April 15, 2021

Mayor Robert Vagramov
City of Port Moody
100 Newport Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3

Dear Mayor Vagramov:

Re: Provincial Response to 2020 Resolutions

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Council resolution(s) from 2020. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

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

Yours truly,



Brian Frenkel
UBCM President

Enclosure

**2020 EB34 Request to the Government of BC for Dedication of
One Percent of PST to Local Governments**

Port Moody

Whereas due to downloading of responsibilities, local governments are increasingly reliant on granting systems that are not reliable in the long term and unequitable due to staff resources for small local governments compared to larger local governments;

And whereas increased predictable revenue sharing arrangement reflects shared interests between local governments and the Province, including policing, recreation, transit, and the environment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the BC government to allocate an amount equivalent to 1 percent of BC's Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to local governments across British Columbia as part of ongoing cost-sharing agreements.

Convention Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Finance

The financial viability of local governments is of great importance to the Provincial Government, especially the viability of smaller local governments. To achieve this, the Province provides local governments with broad revenue tools, including: property value tax, parcel tax, user-fees, Development Cost Charges, agreements, and others. Additionally, through the pooled and Triple-A borrowing authority of the Municipal Finance Authority of British Columbia, even the smallest municipalities have access to inexpensive long-term borrowing.

These financial tools are further complemented by provincial and federal grants for planning, services, and infrastructure. In particular, the Province provides over \$100 million annually in unconditional grant funding to local governments across British Columbia. Unconditional grants are highly flexible as there are few or no constraints on how the money is spent. They are primarily operating grants for good governance and service provision.

The Provincial Sales Tax (PST), like all provincial taxes, is paid into the consolidated revenue fund. Putting 100 per cent of provincial tax dollars directly into the consolidated revenue fund ensures that the government is best positioned to respond to constantly changing needs across B.C., whether those have to do with the current COVID-19 crisis, wildfires or flooding, overdoses, housing, local infrastructure and services, increasing pressures on the healthcare and education systems, climate change, or other priorities.

UBCM is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its 2013 report entitled "Strong Fiscal Futures: A Blueprint for Strengthening BC Local Governments' Finance System". The Province is willing to engage and collaborate with UBCM as it develops its report and recommendations.

Whereas anticoagulant rodenticides are highly toxic, persistent and bioaccumulative compounds used to eliminate rodent populations that pose serious threats to BC wildlife (including raptors, songbirds, coyotes, snakes, raccoons, owls) and the environment (including aquatic ecosystems) through primary and secondary poisoning of non-target species placing owls and raptors are at a particularly high risk of secondary poisoning because of their dependence on rodents as a food source;

And whereas anticoagulant rodenticides are an ineffective and counterproductive means of controlling rodent populations long-term because they fail to address the root of the infestation problems (ie access to food, shelter and other attractants) and kill predators that serve as natural and chemical-free methods of pest control (eg. a single owl eats around 1,000 rats per year);

And whereas local governments have passed motions to ban the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on city-owned property and have petitioned the BC government to implement a province-wide ban because existing risk mitigation measures implemented by federal and provincial governments are inadequately addressing the threats that anticoagulant rodenticides pose to the environment, wildlife and human health:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that the Province implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides, and call for the Minister of Health to initiate a special review of the regulation of anticoagulant rodenticides.

Convention Decision: **Not Considered - Automatic Referral to Executive**

Executive Decision: **Endorsed**

Provincial Response

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and Ministry of Health

The Province jointly regulates pesticide use with Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to ensure pesticides pose minimal risks to people and the environment. The PMRA evaluates pesticides for their potential impacts, establishes restrictions to mitigate unreasonable risks, and approves their sale for use in Canada. The PMRA periodically re-evaluates their assessment and ensures recent scientific findings are considered. The PMRA also chairs a Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Pest Management where BC can ensure environmental and public health concerns are considered.

In addition to the regular re-evaluations, the PMRA can also initiate a Special Review of a pesticide if there is enough new scientific evidence to suggest that an approved pesticide presents a significant health or environmental risk. The Province is able to participate in these re-evaluations.

The Province further regulates pesticide use through the Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation (IPMR) which aims to protect human health and the environment. The IPMR is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV), and defines which pesticide uses require an authorization, establishes additional environmental and human health protection standards, and sets minimum training requirements for pesticide users.

The ENV understands that managing rodent populations is important for several reasons, including public health and safety (e.g., disease transmission, electrical hazards) and environmental protection. The IPMR currently requires all authorization holders to use pesticides only within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. A key principle of rodent IPM is the focus on long-term solutions with an emphasis on prevention methods such as removal of rodent attractants. If these measures are not sufficient to reduce pest populations, control measures, including rodenticides and alternatives to pesticides, may be warranted.

ENV maintains a commitment to protect wildlife from adverse impacts resulting from pesticide use. ENV staff are aware of recent reports of wildlife poisoning and are currently taking action to address risks associated with the use of these products. This includes increasing compliance verification of current IPMR requirements; raising awareness with rodenticide users on the impacts of misusing rodenticides; coordinating with provincial wildlife experts and Canadian Wildlife Service staff to share information and collaborate on joint solutions; and developing education materials for the public and pest control operators to better manage rodents within an IPM system. ENV staff are also investigating whether the increased incidence of wildlife poisoning is being caused by the misuse of these products or if the use is compliant with the federally approved label. Next steps will also include the identification of improvements to how rodenticides may be regulated in B.C, with a particular consideration of targeted or general ban