



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors

File No.: NCM 1.0

FROM: Jerrilyn Kirk, Director, Electoral Area G

DATE: February 7, 2025

SUBJECT Proposed Resolution for Submission to the North Central Local Government Association

SUMMARY: Purpose: To consider Draft Resolution for Submission

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution and Background - Sustainable Funding for Small Water Systems

Previous Reports: None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report dated February 7, 2025 regarding “Proposed Resolution for Submission to the North Central Local Government Association” be received for information.
2. THAT the Board approves the resolution titled “Sustainable Funding for Small Water Systems”, as attached to the report dated February 7, 2025 to be submitted to the North Central Local Government Association for consideration at the 2025 Convention and Annual General Meeting and subsequently the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities Convention.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

ISSUE(S):

At the January 2025 Board meeting, I introduced a proposed resolution topic regarding sustainable funding for small water systems for the Board’s consideration. The attached resolution advocates for sustainable funding models for small and medium sized water systems and was prepared jointly with a Director on the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board. The CVRD at their January 28 meeting, resolved to submit the attached resolution to the 2025 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Convention and subsequently the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.

The Board is being asked to consider submission of the draft resolution to the North Central Local Government Association 2025 Convention and Annual General Meeting from May 12 – 15, 2025 in Prince Rupert. The deadline for submitting resolutions to the Association is March 14, 2025.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous and Intergovernmental Partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strength and Adaptability | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Community Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness and Engagement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statutory or Routine Business | | |

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

While the Union of BC Municipalities has endorsed similar resolutions in the past, the financial challenges for small water systems continue to escalate, underscoring the need for a stronger commitment to long-term sustainable funding. With food security of most critical importance, the existing funding programs often provide short-term or one-time grants, which do not address the systemic and ongoing nature of the challenges faced.

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendations.
 - the resolution will be submitted to the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) within the required timeframe for consideration at the 2025 Convention and Annual General Meeting

Other Options:

1. Do not approve the draft resolution in its current form and provide suggested amendments.
2. Do not approve the submission of the draft resolution to the NCLGA
3. Postpone consideration and/or request further information.
 - Resolutions received after the submission deadline (March 14, 2025) may not be printed in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book and may only be admitted for debate by special motion during the AGM & Convention.

COMMENTS:

Small water systems in rural BC (defined by the Provincial *Drinking Water Protection Act* regulations as serving fewer than 500 individuals per day) are vital to the sustainability of the communities they serve, providing drinking water for residents, supporting agriculture, and maintaining local ecosystems. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George administers several water systems. These systems, serve limited numbers of homes but face many challenges including food security risks, aging infrastructure, high filtration and treatment costs, disproportionately high maintenance and operational costs and a lack of sustainable funding.

Small water systems are instrumental to rural communities in BC. Without significant and sustained funding, these systems will fail, compromising access to safe drinking water, lessening food security by threatening agricultural productivity, and weakening the resilience of rural areas.

Resolutions submitted to the North Central Local Government Association are forwarded to the Union of BC Municipalities if endorsed by the NCLGA membership. The joint advocacy on this proposed resolution will, if supported by Board lead the call for equitable and sustainable solutions to preserve rural water systems, benefiting all British Columbians and strengthening BC's food security.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerrilyn Kirk, Director
Electoral Area G