

October 22, 2025

Chair Lara Beckett  
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George  
155 George Street  
Prince George, BC V2L 1P8

Dear Chair Beckett:

**Re: Provincial Response to 2024 Resolutions**

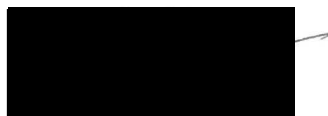
UBCM has received the Province's response to your Board resolution(s) from 2024. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

All 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](mailto:jjustason@ubcm.ca)

With gratitude,



Councillor Cori Ramsay  
UBCM President

*Enclosure*

Whereas British Columbia currently has no legislation restricting foreign ownership of agricultural land in the province, resulting in concern among British Columbians that unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land in British Columbia may cause speculation in land prices and compromise the security and sustainability of food production in British Columbia;

And whereas additional concerns resulting from unrestricted foreign ownership of agricultural land include: pressures on the limited protected agricultural land in BC; unmanaged lands with no local oversight leading to invasive species issues; whether the tax rate on non-resident ALR ownership should be different; and whether foreign ownership of ALR lands is in the long-term interest of the agricultural industry in British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM support Recommendation 24 of the Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission Report, December 2018 and lobby the provincial government to adopt policies restricting foreign ownership of ALR land in British Columbia, similar to those of other Canadian jurisdictions.

**Convention Decision:**                      **Endorsed**

### Provincial Response

#### **Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

*In Canada, owners of farmland must adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, and bylaws set by federal, provincial, local, and First Nations governments, irrespective of their residency.*

*British Columbia (BC) protects farmland for agricultural use through the Agricultural Land Commission Act and the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), rather than through controlling ownership. In addition, the Province, through the Property Transfer Tax Act, imposes an additional property transfer tax of 20 percent (also known as the foreign buyers' tax) on foreign nationals, foreign corporations and taxable trustees who purchase residential properties in specified areas in the province. Taxing foreign owners may help address housing affordability in BC by reducing foreign demand and curbing speculation in the residential property market.*

*In January 2023, the federal government enabled the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act (Foreign Buyer Ban), which banned non-Canadians from purchasing residential property in Canada for two years starting in January 2023. The ban applies to Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations as defined by Statistics Canada. The federal government recently extended the ban to January 1, 2027.*

*Property transfer tax data from the Ministry of Finance shows that foreign investment has declined steadily from 3 percent of annual transactions in 2017 to 1 percent in 2024 in BC's real estate market since the implementation of the foreign buyers' tax.*

*Any exploration of policies restricting foreign ownership of ALR land in BC would need to be undertaken in collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Ministry of Attorney General and the Ministry of Finance.*

Whereas the lack of cellular service along many highways throughout British Columbia poses significant safety concerns, impeding the ability of motorists to communicate in emergencies, access navigation services, or contact roadside assistance; and hampers economic development by limiting opportunities for businesses and travelers to stay connected and conduct transactions while on the move;

And whereas advancements in cellular and satellite technology have made it increasingly feasible to extend coverage to previously underserved areas, including highways, through the deployment of new cell towers and signal booster infrastructure:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province of BC to advance the installation of new cellular infrastructure along sections of Highway 16 East from Prince George to the Alberta border, and other British Columbia highways, without adequate cell service, prioritizing the safety, connectivity, and economic well-being of our citizens and travelers, and to work collaboratively with telecommunications companies, government agencies, rail transportation sectors and other stakeholders to identify optimal locations for new cellular infrastructure, ensuring efficient deployment and minimal disruption to surrounding communities.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

### Provincial Response

#### ***Ministry of Citizens' Services***

*Cellular connectivity along highways improves public safety and access to emergency services – especially along rural and remote stretches. BC has about 15,000 kilometres of primary and secondary highways, with approximately 4,200 kilometres lacking cellular coverage. Of the sections with no cellular coverage, only 1,100 kilometres have access to available power which is necessary for cell towers to operate.*

*Telecommunications are regulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. While the Province cannot direct service providers as to where and when they expand their networks, the provincial government has conveyed the need to expand cellular service in BC so that emergency services like 9-1-1 can be accessed anywhere.*

*Since 2017, the Government of BC has allocated \$90 million to incentivize expanding cell service across BC. The Province is working with telecommunication service providers to identify opportunities for investment, as well as providing support for permitting associated with cellular projects.*

*The Cellular Expansion Fund, administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust, offers financial support to service providers for installing new towers and expanding cellular services along primary and secondary highways, benefiting communities along these routes. Northern Development Initiative Trust will continue to accept Cellular Expansion Fund project applications until funding has been fully allocated.*

*The Province is committed to working with regional, local and First Nation governments, and service providers to increase mobile connectivity – and is also closely monitoring emergency communications technologies that will expand mobile connectivity across the province, including satellite to cellular capabilities under development by multiple service providers. Newer iPhones are able to call 9-1-1 using satellite SOS technology today.*

**2024 NR52 Availability of Replacement Parts for Agricultural Equipment Leased and Sold in BC**

**Fraser-Fort George RD**

Whereas the increasing cost of agriculture equipment has lead to agricultural producers having to finance and utilize equipment over longer periods of time, resulting in replacement parts no longer being available even before the lease or loan is paid off;

And whereas there are currently limited legislative standards in only a few provinces that have legislation in place requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment to have replacement parts available for a 10-year period, and this is placing increased financial hardship and, in many cases, affecting the overall financial viability of producers' operations:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the provincial government to enact legislation requiring manufacturers of agriculture equipment leased or sold in BC to be required to have replacement parts available for a 20-year period.

**Convention Decision:                      Endorsed**

Provincial Response

**Ministry of Agriculture and Food**

*The government knows how important technologies can be to lower costs, increase productivity, and improve overall agricultural quality, competitiveness, and sustainability.*

*The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has heard from some businesses that they cannot access replacement parts for their equipment, and that businesses will resort to retaining inoperable equipment for future spare parts as a result. Another issue heard via anecdotal reports is of difficulty accessing mechanics for on-farm work in a timely manner particularly for operations further from large communities and dealerships.*

*In January 2025, the ministry engaged with the federal government and provincial partners on the topic of right to repair, a topic that can include the availability of equipment parts for a defined period of time as well as other types of initiatives to support consumers.*

*The Ministry of Agriculture and Food will confer again with federal and provincial governments on replacement part availability legislation and initiatives plans and existing outcomes in order to support BC's agricultural sector and businesses.*