

FOR: COUNCIL MEETING

MEETING DATE: January 19, 2026

DEPARTMENT: CAO'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: **2026 ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES RESOLUTIONS**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek Council direction on the proposed resolutions for the 2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual General Meeting and Convention.

Recommendation

1. That Council direct Staff to submit the following resolutions to AVICC for consideration at its 2026 Annual Convention:
 - a. The resolution titled "Streamlining the MRDT Renewal Process" as presented in the report titled "2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions".
 - b. The resolution titled "Updates to the BC Motor Vehicle Act" as presented in the report titled "2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions".
2. That Council provide direction regarding the following:
 - a. The resolution titled "Raw Log Exports" as presented in the report titled "2026 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Resolutions".
 - b. The Mayor sending a letter, on behalf of Council, to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs requesting immediate action be taken to implement the requests outlined in the resolution "SR3 – Increased Library Funding from the Province is Overdue" which was endorsed at the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention.

BACKGROUND

This year's Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention will be held in Victoria from April 24-26, 2026. The Convention provides an opportunity for local governments and First Nations to advocate on important topics with other levels of government and agencies. Resolutions endorsed at the AVICC Convention are submitted to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for consideration at its 2026 Annual

Convention held in the fall. The deadline for submitting resolutions to AVICC is February 12, 2026.

Starting this year, each AVICC member local government or First Nation may submit a maximum of three resolutions. Additionally, UBCM's bylaws were recently updated to reflect changes endorsed at last year's UBCM Convention, intended to streamline the resolutions process (see Attachment A). As part of these changes, resolutions that are existing UBCM policy (as set by the membership endorsing or not endorsing a previous resolution or policy paper) will be excluded from consideration by the membership at the UBCM Convention.

Since the start of this Council's term, beginning with Conventions held in 2023:

- Nine resolutions were submitted to AVICC for consideration
- Two resolutions were submitted to UBCM directly

Of the resolutions submitted:

- Eight were endorsed by AVICC membership
- Eight were endorsed by UBCM membership or executive
- Two were not admitted for debate due to similar resolutions proposed which were then endorsed by UBCM's membership

Attachment B summarizes the City's resolutions submitted during this time and any responses received by the Province.

DISCUSSION

A call for resolutions was distributed by staff in the Legislative Services department in early November. This year, one resolution is being proposed by a member of Council, and two resolutions are being proposed by Staff for Council's consideration.

Councillor Manly has submitted the following resolution for consideration:

Raw Log Exports

WHEREAS the lack of adequate and affordable fiber supply has been identified as a key factor in the continued curtailment or permanent closure of BC's sawmills and pulp mills, causing loss of employment and tax income for resource-based and resource-dependent communities;

AND WHEREAS from 2.8 to 3.5 million cubic meters of raw logs have been exported from BC annually over the last five years, in addition to lumber cant exports not included in those statistics:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government and federal governments to ban the export of raw logs and lumber cants from BC to ensure that forests harvested in BC from crown land and private managed forest lands are processed in BC, encouraging value-added manufacturing in BC and supporting employment in BC's forest industry, and that BC mills are supported in a transition to utilize a full spectrum of marketable tree species.

Background information related to Councillor Manly's proposed resolution is attached to this report (Attachment C).

The following resolutions are brought forward by Staff for Council's consideration:

STREAMLINING THE MRDT RENEWAL PROCESS

WHEREAS the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) Program was created to assist municipalities, regional districts and eligible entities in funding local tourism marketing, programs and projects to grow visitation and provide economic benefits for communities;

AND WHEREAS in order for an application to be renewed under the current MRDT program, demonstrated support from the accommodation sector is required, despite the fact that the program is already established in the community and the funding collected benefits many sectors of the tourism industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM advocate for the Province to amend the MRDT program requirements to remove the requirement for an Accommodation Sector in Support of MRDT Form when applications are being renewed, given the impact that MRDT funding has across numerous sectors in a community and the increased risk to established programs and projects should accommodation sector support not be obtained during the renewal process.

The requirements for the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program are outlined in the document prepared by the provincial government titled "Municipal and Regional District Tax Program Requirements" (link: <https://www.destinationbc.ca/content/uploads/2022/12/MRDT-Program-Requirements-September-2021-1.pdf>). Once the MRDT has been established in a community, it is implemented for a period of five years. To renew the MRDT for an additional five-year period, the designated recipient must re-apply. There is no restriction on the number of times an application can be renewed.

The Province expanded the program in 2018 to allow revenue received from online accommodation platforms to be used to fund affordable housing initiatives, helping to address local housing needs. In terms of general MRDT revenues, which this resolution speaks to, the funding received through the MRDT program may be used for tourism marketing, programs and projects with the intended purpose of increasing local tourism revenue, visitation and economic benefits. This provides a positive benefit across all tourism sectors.

As part of the application process, applicants must provide evidence that there is sufficient support from accommodation providers. At least 51% of the number of establishments that would collect the tax within the municipality/region representing at least 51% of the total number of rooms must complete and return an Accommodation Sector in Support of MRDT Form. Under the MRDT program, application requirements are the same for new applications, rate changes and renewal applications. The proposed resolution advocates that once a MRDT program is established in a community (which requires approval from accommodation providers), renewal applications should be streamlined to remove the requirement for reconfirming support from the accommodation sector.

MRDT funding serves to provide economic benefit to all tourism sectors. By requiring approval from accommodation providers each time an application is renewed, established programs and projects that serve to benefit all tourism sectors are at an increased risk should approval from the accommodation sector not be obtained.

UPDATES TO THE BC MOTOR VEHICLE ACT

WHEREAS communities across the Province are tasked with designing and implementing transportation options which support more affordable, accessible and sustainable forms of transportation;

AND WHEREAS the BC Active Transportation Design Guidelines issued by the Province, as well as other emerging industry best practices, establish new expectations and recommendations, some of which are not supported by the BC Motor Vehicle Act:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AVICC and UBCM advocate for the provincial government to update the BC Motor Vehicle Act and associated regulations and design guidelines to include design standards and regulation which align with the BC Active Transportation Design Guide and best practices;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provincial government consult with municipalities as part of the update process, providing the opportunity to bring forward suggestions for additional improvements based on current challenges, community needs and public input.

Staff provided an update to the Governance and Priorities Committee on November 24, 2025 regarding options for school zone regulation. The report brought forward to that meeting aimed to establish a framework to address several school zone signs in Nanaimo that do not comply with Section 147(1) of the provincial Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) and were therefore unenforceable. In researching options for addressing these discrepancies, Staff identified a number of areas where BC Active Transportation Design Guidelines issued by the Province, as well as other emerging industry best practices, were not supported by the MVA.

Communities across the Province continue to invest in active transportation to ensure that transportation options which are affordable, accessible and sustainable are available to meet their needs. Having the MVA and associated regulations and design guidelines updated to include design standards and regulation which align with the BC Active Transportation Design Guide and best practices would provide clarity to local governments and consistency in design standards across communities.

If the provincial government undertakes an update to the MVA, ensuring that consultation with municipalities takes place would provide the opportunity for additional areas of concern to be identified and addressed based on their understanding of community needs and current challenges. |

ADDITIONAL ACTION REQUESTED

In response to the call for AVICC resolutions, Councillor Hemmens indicated interest in bringing forward a resolution calling for action to implement the steps outlined in the special resolution passed at the 2025 UBCM convention "SR3 – Increased Library Funding From the Province is

Overdue” (See Attachment D). Despite the passing of the special resolution last year calling for increased provincial investment in libraries, no additional funding has been provided and libraries continue to shoulder growing expectations without the necessary provincial support.

Given the recent changes to UBCM’s bylaws mentioned earlier in this report, a resolution related to existing UBCM policy would not be considered if it had previously been endorsed. The recommendation from City staff, in consultation with staff at AVICC, would be to send a letter to the Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, under whose purview public libraries fall, urging action be taken, and copying UBCM and AVICC in the correspondence.

NEXT STEPS

Resolutions endorsed by Council will be submitted to AVICC, along with supporting backgrounders, in advance of the February 12, 2026 deadline. Resolutions endorsed at AVICC are submitted to UBCM for consideration at its 2026 Annual Convention held in the fall.

OPTIONS

Option 1:

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 - The advantages of this option: If approved by Council, these resolutions could assist in advocating for changes to better support local government initiatives.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified
 - Financial Implications: None identified

Option 2: That Council provide alternate direction.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities Annual Convention will be held from April 24-26, 2026, and provides an opportunity for local governments to advocate on important topics with other levels of government and agencies.
- The deadline to submit resolutions is February 12, 2026.
- One resolution has been proposed by a member of Council and two resolutions have been brought forward by Staff for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT A: 2025 Update to UBCM Bylaws (Resolution ER1)
ATTACHMENT B: Summary of AVICC and UBCM Resolutions Submitted (2023-2025)
ATTACHMENT C: Backgrounder re: Raw Log Exports
ATTACHMENT D: UBCM resolution SR3 – Increased Library Funding From the Province is Overdue

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