

ATTACHMENT B

Summary of AVICC and UBCM Resolutions and Responses (2023-2025)

Year	Resolution title	AVICC Decision	UBCM Decision
2023	Extreme Weather Response	Endorsed as Amended (R10)	Endorsed (EB18)
2023	Flexibility for Agricultural Land Reserve Housing Rules	Not endorsed	n/a
2024	Provincial Housing Coordinator	Endorsed (R8)	Endorsed (NR26)
2024	Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code and BC Fire Code	Endorsed (R9)	Endorsed (NR28)
2024	Mental Health Liaison Officers	Endorsed (R30)	Endorsed (EB2)
2024	Investment in Complex Care Beds	Endorsed (R31)	Endorsed (EB6)
2024	Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries	Endorsed (R39)	Endorsed as Amended (NR67)
2024	Strengthening the Legislation for Alternative Approval Processes	n/a	Endorsed by UBCM Executive (NR88)
2025	Infrastructure and Capital Projects Requiring Elector Approval	Endorsed (R38)	Not admitted for debate <i>(referred to "similar resolution" SR5 Infrastructure Funding - endorsed)</i>
2025	Payment in Lieu of Works and Services for Land Development	Endorsed (R43)	Endorsed by UBCM Executive (NR105)
2025	Housing as a Human Right	n/a	Not admitted for debate <i>(referred to "similar resolution" NR17 Declaring Housing as a Human Right – endorsed)</i>

Provincial Responses (note: 2025 responses not yet available)

Extreme Weather Response (2023)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Extreme weather events, including extreme heat or cold, are becoming more frequent, and projected to become more severe, due to climate change.

The province has made historic investments to support communities in preparing for the risk of natural disasters related to climate change, including contributing \$180 million to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund in 2023 – for a total of \$369 million.

This funding can support our common goal of mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events.

For example, this fund supported the City of Kelowna’s response plan for extreme cold weather, which is primarily focused on risks to vulnerable populations. Kelowna is using this fund to develop a collaborative approach with community service providers and those with lived experience to mitigate the related health and safety risks.

Additionally, the province provides guidance and incremental funding for local authorities to proactively open cooling and warming centres to keep people safe. Communities may request an Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) Task number when Environment Canada issues a Weather Notification, or when a community activates their extreme weather emergency plan.

The supports through EMCR are intended to provide additional mechanisms to support a community response to extreme weather events. These supports are not intended to be ongoing program supports, such as the shelter programs that are supported through BC Housing including the Extreme Weather Response program that complements permanent and temporary shelters during the winter season.

In the absence of a community extreme weather emergency plan, incremental funding support is provided following the parameters as listed under the Assistance to Shelter Regulation.

A warming centre is a place for people to go to warm up and get information on how to safely stay warm where they reside, they are not a substitute for overnight shelters.

Community-based mental health and substance use services are provided by regional health authorities and available to people who require support. Examples include:

- *New teams to keep people connected to services and treatment:* Sixteen substance-use teams throughout the province help people stay connected to health-care services, treatment and recovery. Services are tailored to each community, provided by a range of professionals, including nurses, counsellors, social workers and peers. Teams support adults, including 34 young adults, in communities throughout B.C., including Vancouver, Abbotsford, Kelowna, Prince George and Nanaimo.
- *24/7 support for people living with serious mental-health challenges:* People living with severe mental-health challenges have access to 32 Assertive Community Treatment teams throughout B.C. that provide 24/7 supports. Teams are in every health authority in B.C.

including Kelowna, Kamloops, Vancouver, Surrey, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Prince George. Services include crisis assessment and intervention, psychiatric or psychological treatment, medication management and more.

Provincial Housing Coordinator (2024)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

The Province recognizes that different housing environments are necessary to meet diverse community needs and support resident choice in their housing based on their individual wellness goals. The Province supports a housing first approach which is a proven international evidence-based housing model that recognizes people are better able to improve their wellbeing if they are first housed. Housing is one part of a multifaceted approach to supporting those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

To improve systems coordination by streamlining access to services, the Province is working in partnership with local communities, the Federal government, and BC Housing (BCH) to implement a Coordinated Access system which will better match individuals with suitable housing and help relieve the burden on the individual to navigate services and systems.

The Province, through BCH, funds outreach and support services through the Homeless Outreach Program and Homeless Encampment Action Response Teams. Through these programs, outreach workers meet their clients in both urban and rural regions of B.C. to determine housing needs, connect people to required services, and try to connect them with housing that is appropriate and available.

The Province, through BCH, also provides portable rent supplements aimed at reducing and preventing homelessness for families (Rental Assistance Program), seniors (Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters), and individuals (Homeless Prevention Program, Supported Rent Supplement Program [SRSP] and Canada BC Housing Benefit programs) to access rental housing in the private (non-subsidized) housing market. SRSP provides both a rent supplement as well as support services to help individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness to access health and social supports to improve housing stability.

Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code and BC Fire Code (2024)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs / Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province recognizes there is a growing and pressing need for shelter spaces throughout B.C., especially during the winter months. Shelters play a key role in homelessness prevention and response by providing people experiencing homelessness a safe place to stay overnight and address basic needs. For many, shelters are a key pathway out of homelessness through assessment and connection to housing options that best meet individual needs. Through BC Housing (BCH), the Province continues to work to expand the offering of shelters across the Province so that all people in B.C. have access to these essential services. This includes working with local governments,

communities, and operators on appropriate sites and addressing community concerns related to shelters.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner administers and enforces the Fire Safety Act and its regulations (BC Fire Code). Development of the BC Fire Code is managed by the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs, within the Construction Standards and Digital Solutions Branch.

Fire safety plan requirements, developed in cooperation with the local fire department and other applicable regulatory authorities, must be adhered to in emergency shelters. This can be achieved by either calling on local fire services that provide fire inspections to advise on fire safety planning for the facility, or by requesting the support of the Office of the Fire Commissioner during times of emergency.

The BC Building Code and BC Fire Code regulations provide flexibility to allow for activities like emergency sheltering in non-residential buildings or facilities that were not originally designed for this activity.

The BC Building Code is not intended to be applied unless there is permanent change to the occupancy of a building because the BC Fire Code and Fire Safety Act can be used to manage activities in buildings like emergency sheltering.

As not all local government fire departments provide the same response times, service levels, or type of fire suppression service, buildings providing emergency accommodation must be evaluated by the building owner on a site-specific basis to determine if additional safety measures are needed as part of the fire safety plan. For example, if persons are sleeping in a building that was not designed to provide sleeping accommodation, the installation of additional smoke alarms and/or a fire watch by trained staff for the duration of the activity can be considered as part of the fire safety plan.

Mental Health Liaison Officers (2024)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Province is committed to working with local governments to better understand the complexities of their social environments and community safety needs. In recognition of the interconnectedness of social issues and corresponding police response, in 2024 a Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services was appointed. Additionally, the Cabinet Committee on Community Safety was established to ensure an integrated government response to community safety issues.

Bill 17 – *Police Amendment Act, 2024* established a new type of officer under the Police Act known as a safety officer. Within the local government context, safety officers are intended to support police and local governments along the law enforcement continuum. Establishing a variety of categories of safety officers may help alleviate the challenges police services experience and enable communities to customize their response in alignment with their specific community safety needs. Amendments related to safety officers are not yet in force but are intended to be implemented in the next two years.

Under the *Police Act*, municipalities over 5,000 population are responsible for the provision of policing and law enforcement services within their municipal boundaries. Should a local government wish to have dedicated RCMP Municipal Police resources assigned to specialized positions or a team, they can work with their local detachment to do so. Municipalities seeking to increase the authorized strength of their Municipal Policing Unit should follow the established process outlined under Article 6.0 of the Municipal Policing Unit Agreement.

Investment in Complex Care Beds (2024)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Health

Complex Care Housing (CCH) is designed for people with significant health needs who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Residents may have mental health or addiction challenges, brain injuries, intellectual or developmental disabilities, chronic illnesses, and/or mobility issues.

As of April 1, 2025, CCH services are in place for more than 570 people across the province, and an additional 240 units are in development. Abbotsford, Burnaby, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Prince George, Sechelt, Surrey, Vancouver, and Victoria have all been selected to receive a portion of 200 new purpose-built units. The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs are working closely with BC Housing, regional health authorities, municipal partners, non-profit operators, and other interested and impacted parties to identify and advance development opportunities. The remaining 40 units will be Indigenous-led. The Province is working closely with Indigenous groups to identify partners and priority communities.

Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries (2024)

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

The ministry appreciates the desire to discuss – in a roundtable fashion – the ways in which the roles and contexts are changing for public libraries, and to engage with all funders on the resultant resourcing needs. While government is not prepared to establish an Advisory Body under the *Library Act* as requested at this time, a review could be effectively achieved through existing partnerships with library and local government sector stakeholders.

The ministry values the contributions of local governments and library partners, acknowledging their critical role in library support, and that experiences, complexities, and needs of communities and their libraries vary across the province. The ministry will continue to engage in dialogue with the library and local government stakeholders on sustainable funding, focusing on modern, responsive solutions aligned with provincial objectives.

Strengthening the Legislation for Alternative Approval Processes

RESPONSE: Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

The Province is not considering amending the Alternative Approval Process (AAP) legislation at this time. An AAP is not a vote and, as such, is not subject to the same legislative rules as required for elections or assent voting. The AAP legislation gives local governments the flexibility to develop

their own procedures in a manner that best suits their community, while keeping within an overall legislative framework.

Councils/boards are responsible for determining the method of acceptable elector response forms and can do so in the manner that best balances their capacity and community expectations. It is recommended that local governments adopt an AAP policy so that procedures are consistently applied and understood by staff and electors.

As most of the province now has access to reliable internet and most British Columbians use email and expect to have online options, many local governments are choosing to allow emailed elector response forms.

The ministry has developed resources to support local governments when making decisions related to an AAP, including the Alternative Approval Process webpage, the Alternative Approval Process: A Guide for Local Governments in B.C., and the Public Notice Guidance Materials: For B.C. Local Governments.

Note: Provincial responses for 2025 are not yet available.