A. COMMENCEMENT

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

C.1 Adoption of minutes from the Intergovernmental Resolutions Committee meeting held January 9, 2020.

D. NEW BUSINESS


D.2 Consideration of other resolutions for submission to the 2020 North Central Local Government Association Convention and/or UBCM Convention.

E. ADJOURNMENT
STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTIONS

Minutes of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall, 1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Kyle Sampson (Acting Chair); and Councillor Susan Scott

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Maureen Connelly, Manager of Legislative Services/Staff Liaison

A. COMMENCEMENT

The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the agenda for the January 9, 2020 Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions meeting, be amended by adding new item D.3 regarding a proposed resolution regarding Revenue Sharing from Class Action Lawsuit under the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act, and that the agenda BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried Unanimously

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

C.1 Minutes of the Intergovernmental Resolutions Committee Meeting held June 14, 2019

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that the minutes of the meeting held June 14, 2019 for the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions, BE ADOPTED.

Carried Unanimously

D. NEW BUSINESS


Ms. Connelly provided an overview of the draft Committee Report to Council and deadlines for submitting resolutions to the 2020 North Central Local Government Association and UBCM Conventions.

Discussion commenced.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Scott, that the Committee RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the draft Committee Report to Council titled “Update on 2019 Union of BC Municipalities Convention Resolutions” as attached to the January 9, 2020 agenda of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions.

Carried Unanimously


Discussion commenced.

D.3 Proposed Resolution for Consideration regarding Revenue Sharing from Class Action Lawsuit under the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act.

Councillor Sampson spoke relative to a proposed resolution put forward by Councillor Cori Ramsay for the Committee’s review and consideration regarding Revenue Sharing from Class Action Lawsuit under the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act.

Discussion commenced. Agenda Item D.3 was deferred to next meeting of the Committee.
E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Sampson, that there being no further business, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions BE ADJOURNED. 

Carried Unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

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Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair

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Certified Correct
DATE: February 19, 2020

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions

SUBJECT: Update on 2019 Union of BC Municipalities Convention Resolutions & Proposed 2020 Resolution for Consideration

ATTACHMENT: Schedule “A” - City of Prince George UBCM Resolutions regarding Sharing Payments from Opioid Class Action Lawsuit

RECOMMENDATION:


PURPOSE:
For Council consideration and decision.

BACKGROUND & DISCUSSION:
The Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions held meetings in the months of May and June 2019. At their meeting held on June 14, 2019, the Committee recommended two resolutions that were approved and forwarded by Council for consideration at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) September 2019 Convention.

An update on the 2019 recommendations and comments of the UBCM Resolutions Committee is outlined below, along with information on the Standing Committee’s proposed resolution for the 2020 UBCM convention for Council’s consideration.

a. Update on 2019 UBCM Convention Resolutions
Resolution One:

Whereas the provision of police services places a significant financial burden on local government;

And whereas the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Crime Remediation Grant Program funds community crime reduction and crime prevention activities, but does not address local government policing costs, including expenditures related to investigations and police work that result in seizures of proceeds of crime:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Province share seizures of proceeds of crime with local governments to help address protective services costs.

Resolution one was endorsed by the UBCM Resolutions Committee with a note that local governments, First Nations, police agencies and community groups may apply for a portion of these funds through a provincial grant program.

Resolution Two:

Whereas the low barrier distribution of harm reduction supplies, including syringes and other safe injection supplies, in communities across BC poses a significant safety and cleanliness concern;

And whereas local governments, businesses and residents are bearing the escalating cost of cleaning up needles and drug paraphernalia in public spaces:

Therefore, be it resolved that UBCM request ongoing provincial funding to local governments to cover the cost of cleaning up needles and drug paraphernalia in their communities.

With respect to resolution two, the UBCM Resolutions Committee did not have a recommendation. They noted that the proposed resolution seeks to address the clean-up associated with harm reduction strategies previously endorsed by the UBCM. They also referred to their previous support of resolutions requesting access to medicines for harm reduction.

Coincidentally the Province introduced a grant program for a one-year period addressing the concerns raised in the resolution regarding the “Clean Up of Needles and Other Harm Reduction Paraphernalia”. As it relates to Resolution 2, the City of Prince George applied for a one-time grant in the amount of $50,000 to fund the continued operation of the Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC) homeless service hub for an additional six month period. It was submitted in mid November 2019 to the Province and no decision has yet been received.

For all 2019 UBCM resolutions, it is expected that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will provide a formal provincial response in February 2020.

b. Proposed 2020 Resolution for Consideration

This year, the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions held meetings on January 9th and February 3rd. At their last meeting, the Committee considered the attached resolution regarding “Sharing Payments from Opioid Class Action Lawsuit” and recommends that it be submitted for debate at the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) Convention.

The proposed resolution highlights an important issue that local governments face considerable financial burdens in working to address root causes of the drug and opioid crisis through various programs and services, reducing harm and supporting people struggling with mental health and addiction. The Province sharing proceeds of any damages recovered under the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act with local governments would assist considerably with the funding of City programs and services.
For resolutions this year, the NCLGA Convention is scheduled for May 13 to 15, 2020 in Prince George. The Association has requested resolutions be submitted before Friday, March 13th. UBCM encourages all members to submit resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions endorsed by Area Associations at their annual meetings are submitted automatically to UBCM for consideration.

The next UBCM Convention is scheduled for September 21 to 25, 2020 in Victoria. The deadline for submitting resolutions is June 30th.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The report summarizes the response from the UBCM Resolutions Committee regarding their consideration of the resolutions put forward by the City in 2019 and recommends the attached resolution regarding “Sharing Payments from Opioid Class Action Lawsuit” be advanced to the NCLGA 2020 Convention for consideration.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Councillor Brian Skakun, Chair
Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Resolutions

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2020
Whereas under the Opioid Damages and Health Care Costs Recovery Act (the “Act”) the provincial government may sue a manufacturer or wholesaler of an opioid product to recover the costs of health care benefits on an aggregate basis, for a population of persons who have suffered damage caused or contributed to by the use of or exposure to an opioid product;

And whereas pursuant to the Act and other legislation, the provincial government has launched a class action lawsuit on behalf of all federal, provincial and territorial governments to recover the costs of health care benefits from manufacturers and wholesalers of opioid products, whose marketing practices have had devastating impacts on the lives of thousands of British Columbians;

And whereas the definition of “health care benefits” under the Act includes “other expenditures by the government, made directly or through one or more agents or other intermediate bodies, for programs, services, benefits or similar matters associated with disease, injury or illness” and local governments have faced substantial “health care benefits” costs due to the opioid crisis;

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share any recovery of damages from the class action lawsuit with local governments, to further enable local governments to continue offering services and support programs that aim to reduce harm and stigma, address the root causes of the opioid crisis, and support people struggling with mental health and addiction.