



2021 VIRTUAL AGM & CONVENTION

RESOLUTIONS NOTICE REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

The AVICC Executive is calling for resolutions to be considered at the 2021 virtual convention. The Executive is considering options for the 2021 convention's format and timing. The usual resolutions procedures followed at the convention may need to be adapted with the move to a virtual format. Pending finalization of the procedures, members are now asked to submit resolutions with the requirements outlined in the following pages.

DEADLINE FOR RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions must be received in the AVICC office by: **Friday, February 26, 2021**

It is uncertain whether late resolutions or off-the-floor resolutions can be accommodated at the virtual convention. Members are strongly encouraged to submit resolutions by the deadline so they may be considered. Resolutions that emerge after Friday, February 26th may need to be submitted directly to UBCM.

IMPORTANT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a resolution to the AVICC for consideration please send:

1. One copy as a **word document** by email to avicc@ubcm.ca by the deadline; AND
2. One copy of the resolution by regular mail that may be received after the deadline to:
AVICC, 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC V8V 0A8

Detailed guidelines for preparing a resolution follow, but the basic requirements are:

- Resolutions are only accepted from AVICC member local governments, and must have been endorsed by the board or council.
- Members are responsible for submitting accurate resolutions. AVICC recommends that local government staff assist in drafting the resolutions, check the accuracy of legislative references, and be able to answer questions from AVICC & UBCM about each resolution. Contact AVICC & UBCM for assistance.
- Each resolution **must include a separate backgrounder** that is a maximum of 3 pages and specific to a single resolution. Do not submit backgrounders for multiple resolutions. The backgrounder may include links to other information sources and reports.
- Sponsors should be prepared to speak to their resolutions.
- Resolutions must be relevant to other local governments within AVICC rather than specific to a single member government.
- The resolution must have at least one "whereas" clause and should not contain more than two "whereas" clauses. Each whereas clause must only have **one sentence**.

AVICC GOLD STAR RESOLUTIONS

The AVICC Executive will recognize members who submit the best resolutions with an award for Gold Star or Honourable Mention status. The goal of the awards is to encourage excellence in resolutions drafting. Resolutions should provide clear policy direction so that AVICC and UBCM can advocate effectively on the policy priorities of our members with the provincial and federal governments.

To be recognized for an award, a resolution must meet the standards of excellence established in the Gold Star Resolutions Criteria:

1. Resolution must be properly titled.
2. Resolution must employ clear, simple language.
3. Resolution must clearly identify problem, reason and solution.
4. Resolution must have two or fewer recital (WHEREAS) clauses.
5. Resolution must have a short, clear, stand-alone enactment (THEREFORE) clause.

UBCM RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

UBCM urges members to submit resolutions to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions endorsed at Area Association annual meetings are submitted automatically to UBCM for consideration and do not need to be re-submitted to UBCM by the sponsor.

UBCM and its member local governments have observed that submitting resolutions first to Area Associations results in better quality resolutions overall. If absolutely necessary, however, local governments may submit council or board endorsed resolutions directly to UBCM prior to June 30. Should this be necessary, detailed instructions are available on the UBCM website.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

1. Members submit resolutions to their Area Association for debate.
2. The Area Association submits resolutions endorsed at its Convention to UBCM.
3. The UBCM Resolutions Committee reviews the resolutions for submission to its Convention.
4. Resolutions endorsed at the UBCM Convention are submitted to the appropriate level of government for response.
5. UBCM will forward the response to the resolution sponsor for review.

UBCM RESOLUTIONS GUIDELINES

The Construction of a Resolution:

All resolutions contain a preamble – the whereas clause(s) – and an enactment clause. The preamble describes **the issue** and the enactment clause outlines **the action** being requested of AVICC and/or UBCM. A resolution should answer the following three questions:

- a) **What is the problem?**
- b) **What is causing the problem?**
- c) **What is the best way to solve the problem?**

Preamble:

The preamble begins with "WHEREAS", and is a concise paragraph about the nature of the problem or the reason for the request. It answers questions (a) and (b) above, stating the problem and its cause, and should explain, clearly and briefly, the reasons for the resolution.

The preamble should contain no more than two "WHEREAS" clauses. Supporting background documents can describe the problem more fully if necessary. Do not add extra clauses.

Only one sentence per WHEREAS clause.

Enactment Clause:

The enactment clause begins with the phrase "Therefore be it resolved", and is a concise sentence that answers question (c) above, suggesting the best way to solve the problem. **The enactment should propose a specific action by AVICC and/or UBCM.**

Keep the enactment clause as short as possible, and clearly describe the action being requested. The wording should leave no doubt about the proposed action.

HOW TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION

1. Address one specific subject in the text of the resolution.

Since your community seeks to influence attitudes and inspire action, limit the scope of a resolution to one specific subject or issue. Delegates will not support a resolution if it is unclear or too complex for them to understand quickly. If there are multiple topics in a resolution, the resolution may be sent back to the sponsor to rework and resubmit, and may end up as a Late Resolution not admitted for debate.

2. For resolutions to be debated at UBCM, focus on issues that are province-wide.

The issue identified in the resolution should be relevant to other local governments across BC. This will support productive debate and assist UBCM to represent your concern effectively to the provincial or federal government on behalf of all BC municipalities and regional districts. Regionally specific resolutions may be referred back to the AVICC, and may not be entered for debate during the UBCM Convention.

3. Use simple, action-oriented language and avoid ambiguous terms.

Explain the background briefly and state the desired action clearly. Delegates can then debate the resolution without having to try to interpret complicated text or vague concepts.

4. Check legislative references for accuracy.

Research the legislation on the subject so the resolution is accurate. Where necessary, identify:

- the correct jurisdictional responsibility (responsible ministry or department, and whether provincial or federal government); and
- the correct legislation, including the title of the act or regulation.

5. Provide factual background information.

Even a carefully written resolution may not be able to convey the full scope of the problem or the action being requested. Provide factual background information to ensure that the resolution is understood fully so that members understand what they are debating and UBCM can advocate effectively with other levels of government and agencies.

Each resolution **must include a separate backgrounder** that is a maximum of 3 pages and specific to a single resolution. Do not submit backgrounders that relate to multiple resolutions. The backgrounder may include links to other information sources and reports.

The backgrounder should outline what led to the presentation and adoption of the resolution by the local government, and can link to the report presented to the council or board along with the resolution. Resolutions submitted without background information **will not be considered** until the sponsor has provided adequate background information. This could result in the resolution being returned and having to be resubmitted as a late resolution.

6. Construct a brief, descriptive title.

A title identifies the intent of the resolution and helps eliminate the possibility of misinterpretation. It is usually drawn from the "enactment clause" of the resolution. For ease of printing in the Annual Report and Resolutions Book and for clarity, a title should be no more than three or four words.

TEMPLATE FOR A RESOLUTION

Whereas << *this is the area to include an issue statement that outlines the nature of the problem or the reason for the request* >> ;

And whereas << *if more information is useful to answer the questions - what is the problem? what is causing the problem?>> :*

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC & UBCM << *specify here the action(s) that AVICC & UBCM are being asked to take on, and what government agency the associations should be contacting to solve the problem identified in the whereas clauses* >>.

If absolutely necessary, there can be a second enactment clause (the “therefore” clause that specifies the action requested) with the following format:

And be it further resolved that << *specify any additional actions needed to address the problem identified in the whereas clauses* >>.