

LMLGA 2026 Resolution Submission Drafts

Resolution #1: Mandatory Governance Education and Testing for Local Elected Officials

Sponsor: White Rock

WHEREAS local government elected officials make policy decisions that affect both current and future residents, and therefore require knowledge of governance, financial management, legal responsibilities, and the difference between the roles of elected officials and staff;

AND WHEREAS there ought to be adequate and effective training to enhance decision making, policy creation and over arching policy development (such as the ongoing housing crisis);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LMLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to establish a mandatory, standardized, online governance training program and test for all newly elected and re-elected municipal and regional officials to be completed within six months of assuming office;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province provide all elected officials with a standardized guidebook covering key governance principles, municipal financial literacy, codes of conduct, conflict of interest rules, and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of Council and staff as part of this mandatory training.

Rationale for Resolution 1: Mandatory Governance Education and Testing for Local Elected Officials

Background:

Elected officials are responsible for making critical decisions on budgets, infrastructure, land use, housing policy, and more. However, British Columbia currently does not require any formal governance training or testing for elected officials. While optional training programs exist through UBCM and LGLA, attendance is not mandatory and those most in need of this training often choose not to attend.

Why This Matters:

- The lack of basic governance understanding among some elected officials can lead to inefficient councils, uninformed decision-making, and resistance to long-term planning.
- The housing crisis is one example of decades of policy delay, often influenced by loud minority opposition and short-term political thinking.
- This resolution seeks to create a baseline of knowledge, much like the citizenship test required for new Canadians, ensuring all elected officials understand their fiduciary duty, governance roles, and basic financial literacy.
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Proposed Outcome:

A provincially mandated, online training program with a standardized guidebook and test to be completed within the first six months of an elected term. This would improve council function and accountability province wide.

Resolution #2: Authorization for Municipal Use of CCTV Cameras for Public Safety Surveillance

Sponsor: White Rock

WHEREAS local governments in British Columbia are increasingly seeking to implement closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems to enhance public safety, deter crime, and support law enforcement investigations and the current interpretation and enforcement of privacy legislation by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) restrict the deployment of municipal CCTV systems, even when intended for clearly defined public safety purposes;

AND WHEREAS these privacy-related barriers prevent local governments from proactively using modern surveillance tools that can assist in crime deterrence, improve community safety, and provide evidence in criminal investigations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LMLGA and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to enact clear enabling legislation that authorizes local governments to implement and operate CCTV camera systems for public safety purposes, including crime prevention and investigation, subject to strict guidelines;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation include province-wide standards and oversight mechanisms addressing transparency, data retention limits, access controls, signage and notification, and regular privacy impact assessments to ensure a balanced approach between public safety and individual privacy rights.

Rationale for Resolution 2: Authorization for Municipal Use of CCTV Cameras for Public Safety Surveillance

Background:

Local governments are increasingly expected to address public safety concerns such as vandalism, theft, and violence in public spaces. CCTV is a proven tool to support these efforts, but BC's privacy legislation — as interpreted by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) — severely limits municipalities' ability to install cameras for public safety purposes.

Why This Matters:

- Current privacy law interpretation restricts municipalities from using CCTV, even when there is clear public demand and a well-defined purpose (e.g., crime deterrence or investigations).
- Local governments need tools to protect public safety in parks, business districts, and civic buildings, particularly as some incidents go unreported or unaddressed.
- Without legal clarity and support from the Province, municipalities risk violating privacy rules or abandoning effective safety measures entirely.

Proposed Outcome:

This resolution calls on the Province to enact enabling legislation that authorizes

municipal CCTV use under strict public safety criteria, including oversight, data retention rules, signage requirements, and regular privacy impact assessments.