



CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF POUCE COUPE

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August 29, 2024

ATT: Union of BC Municipalities

RE: Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

Dear Mayor Cumming and the Council

During the Village of Pouce Coupe's Regular Council Meeting held on August 21, 2024, Council voted unanimously to formally oppose the UBCM Resolution regarding the Elimination of Fossil Fuel Funding of UBCM.

The resolution to eliminate funding from fossil-fuel industries is not realistic for many. In 2023 costs related to local and federal government conferences, such as UBCM and FCM, were highlighted during a Global News report made by Catherine Urquhart. Her report highlighted a networking event hosted by Metro Vancouver during the FCM Conference in Toronto. Through an FOI request Catherine learned that this event held on Saturday, May 27, 2023, cost the taxpayers a whopping \$64,000.00. Daniel Fontaine, a New Westminster Council member, found the expensing of this event "jaw-dropping and speaks to a problem of cost control."

Without UBCM funding received from the fossil-fuel industry, the cost of these conferences would add an even greater burden to taxpayers.

Vilifying the very economic drivers of the economy in many parts of the Province, brings forth the very issues that our industry leaders in Northern BC are facing from those further south. Many small rural communities in the North are reliant on these industries, not only for community growth and support, but also to help function as a society in the extreme climate which is normal in the northern parts of the province.

What is often misunderstood, is the positive impact that the fossil-fuel industry has had on solar, wind, and resource reclamation in the past decade. Without the investments and support of large fossil-fuel producers, much of this technology would be years behind the mark, not to mention that without the use of fossil-fuels, transition energy supplies would be unavailable, such as solar panels, wind turbines and blades and much more.

The oil and gas industry is also a large supporter of communities. Investing millions of dollars into urban and rural communities throughout the province. By investing in community enhancements, public safety, and recreation, as well as supporting many non-profits such as women's shelters, food banks, and more, the fossil-fuel industry has been able to support communities big and small.

It is for that reason that the Village of Pouce Coupe will be unable to support your UBCM Resolution at this year's 2024 UBCM Conference.

Kind Regards

Danielle Veach
Mayor of Pouce Coupe



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

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File: 0360-20-27

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 30, 2024

To British Columbia Municipalities

via email

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

At it's Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2024, City of Vernon Council passed the following motion:

"THAT the City of Vernon request that SILGA and UBCM no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups at meetings and conventions;

AND FURTHER, that the City of Vernon submit the following resolution to the 2024 SILGA and UBCM conventions:

'WHEREAS burning carbon-based fuel causes climate warming with harmful socio-economic and environmental consequences; and in response Canada and B.C. have developed legislation, targets and incentive programs to rapidly decarbonize the economy; and local governments must assist in achieving these goals, and have developed Climate Action Plans and decarbonization programs to do so;

AND WHEREAS the fossil-fuel industry funds conventions and meetings of local government associations, which benefits the industry while the rising costs of delay are borne by governments and society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) will no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.'

This resolution has been submitted to UBCM for consideration at the 2024 UBCM Convention. You will find background information enclosed.

Sincerely,

Victor I. Cumming
Mayor

Copy: City of Vernon Council

Enclosure

Vernon background for resolution submission to UBCM:

Throughout our province we are all living with the devastating impacts of fires and floods, which are made worse by climate change. Burning fossil fuels is the major cause of climate change. Today we are all reliant on gasoline, diesel, and natural gas. However, the transition to a low or zero-carbon future is underway, led by higher levels of government in Canada and around the world. This transition will take several years, and there will be challenges to overcome along the way. The transition will be costly, but less costly than the ongoing and worsening impacts of climate change, and it will require sustained leadership from all levels of government.

In B.C. we have a better alternative to burning fossil fuels. BC Hydro produces much cleaner renewable electricity and has plans to accommodate the additional demand that will result from broad-based electrification. The fossil fuel industry is competing against electrification. Their best efforts to become "sustainable" will not substantially reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Their primary objective is self-preservation, rather than helping us prepare for the future. Their messaging at our conventions promotes complacency among us. This messaging is not helpful – instead we need to be acting boldly and doing more to prepare for the electrified future. The City of Vernon respectfully requests SILGA and UBCM members' consideration of this resolution.