



Committee Report to Council

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Date: May 29, 2025

To: Mayor and Council

Name and title: Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Subject: 2025 UBCM Resolution Recommendation

Attachment(s): N/A

Recommendation(s):

That Council ENDORSES the resolution as proposed in the report dated May 29, 2025, from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled “2025 UBCM Resolution Recommendation”.

Purpose:

This report supports Council conversation on draft Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) resolution submissions and communicates committee support of the proposed resolution. The deadline for direct submission of resolutions is June 15, 2025.

Background:

The 2025 UBCM Convention will take place September 22-26, 2025, in Victoria, BC.

One resolution is being referred to Council following discussion and recommendation by the committee.

Human Trafficking, Gender-Based & Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic

Resolution background: Gender-based violence is defined as violence or abuse perpetrated against a woman, girl or gender-diverse individual because of their gender, gender expression, gender identity or perceived gender. Intimate partner violence is a prevalent form of gender-based violence, referring to multiple forms of harm caused by a current or former intimate partner or spouse in public, private and/or online.

BC Prosecution Service began releasing statistics about intimate partner violence files in its 2022 annual report. The 2023/2024 BC Prosecution Service report indicates that while the 5-year trend for Reports to Crown Counsel (RCCs) received under the four main categories

(crimes against the person, property crimes, administration of justice, and other offences) have seen substantive decreases, crimes against the person has remained largely stable. Of these crimes against the person RCCs, the proportion of intimate partner violence RCCs have increased from 18.6% to 21.6% between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024.

Additionally, intimate partner violence and human trafficking are often related to one another. Statistics Canada reports that approximately one third (1/3) of survivors/victims of human trafficking were trafficked by an intimate partner.

Draft resolution:

WHEREAS reported cases of gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking are increasing across British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking has not been updated since its publication in 2013;

THEREFORE be it resolved that UBCM petition the province to declare gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, and human trafficking an epidemic in British Columbia and update BC's Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Summary and conclusion:

This report provides draft content to aid conversation and communicates committee level endorsement for a 2025 UBCM direct submission resolution.

Respectfully submitted:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Prepared by Catharine Sikobe, Senior Advisor, Intergovernmental Relations

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2025/06/09