



UBCM Member Municipalities
Via Email

August 8, 2025

Dear Mayors and Councillors,

Re: Request for Support and Endorsement – UBCM Resolution on Emergency Water Treatment Plants

On behalf of the Council of the Village of Lions Bay, we are seeking your support and endorsement for an important resolution that will be presented at the upcoming Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention. This resolution advocates for provincial investment in emergency portable water treatment plants to safeguard the drinking water of small communities facing wildfire-related contamination.

Background

Communities adjacent to forests, that rely on a watershed for drinking water, such as Lions Bay are particularly vulnerable to the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires. These fires introduce ash, sediment, and other pollutants into watersheds, often rendering drinking water sources unsafe for extended periods. Unfortunately, the infrastructure required to address such contamination—advanced filtration and treatment systems—is prohibitively expensive for small municipalities to construct and maintain. As a result, small communities affected by wildfires may face prolonged disruptions to their water supply, posing serious public health and sustainability risks.

To mitigate this growing threat, the Village of Lions Bay is calling on the Province of British Columbia to acquire and maintain one to three skid-mounted, 500,000-gallon-per-day (GPD) portable potable water treatment plants. These units would be held in reserve and deployed as needed to communities experiencing significant water contamination following a wildfire or other disasters. This proactive measure would provide critical emergency response capacity and ensure that small communities are not left struggling to restore safe drinking water in the wake of a crisis.

UBCM Resolution

The following resolution will be presented at UBCM, and we respectfully request your Council's support and endorsement:



WHEREAS forested-watershed communities face increasing risks of wildfire-related contamination of their drinking water sources due to the increasing impacts associated with climate change, with wildfires introducing ash, sediment, and other pollutants that can render water supplies unusable for extended periods;

AND WHEREAS the cost of advanced water treatment infrastructure required to address such contamination far exceeds the financial capacity of small communities, leaving them vulnerable to prolonged water supply disruptions that pose significant public health and community sustainability risks:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) request that the Province of British Columbia acquire and maintain one to three skid-mounted, 500,000-gallon-per-day (GPD) portable water treatment plants to be held in reserve for emergency deployment to communities experiencing significant wildfire-related water contamination, ensuring rapid response and long-term water security for vulnerable communities.

Request for Support

We kindly ask your municipality to consider endorsing this resolution and lending your voice to this urgent issue. Your formal support will strengthen our collective advocacy efforts and help demonstrate to the Province the widespread need for proactive emergency water treatment solutions in British Columbia.

If your Council passes a resolution of endorsement, please notify us at office@lionsbay.ca so we can include your municipality in our advocacy efforts leading up to the UBCM Convention.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in ensuring that small communities across B.C. have the resources necessary to maintain safe drinking water in the face of growing wildfire risks.

Sincerely,
Councillor Neville Abbott, Infrastructure Committee Chair,
On behalf of Village of Lions Bay Council
council@lionsbay.ca
(604) 921-9333