

February 26, 2026

City of Prince George NCLGA Resolutions

1. Additional Resource Allocation for BC Crown Counsel

Resolution Background: The BC Crown Counsel Association delegation presented to Council requesting that additional resources such as increasing the number of Crown prosecutors to deal with the disclosure of evidence from body-worn cameras be allocated to the BC Crown Counsel to meet demands within the justice system. The justice system is experiencing growing pressures, including increased caseload volumes, complex prosecutions, evolving legal requirements, and heightened public expectations surrounding safety, victim support, and timely case processing.

WHEREAS BC Crown Counsel plays a critical role in ensuring the fair, timely, and effective administration of justice across the province; and

WHEREAS

Insufficient staffing levels, workload pressures, and resource limitations within BC Crown Counsel services have resulted in delays, increased adjournments, burnout risk among prosecutors, and challenges ensuring timely access to justice for victims, accused persons, and communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That NCLGA advocate to the Province to allocate additional and sustained funding, staffing, and operational resources to the BC Crown Counsel Service to ensure it can adequately meet current and future demands within the justice system.

2. Creation of Indigenous-led housing alliance

Resolution Background: The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AMHA) met with the Standing Committee for Intergovernmental Affairs to ask for support in the Province creating an Indigenous led, cross-sector housing alliance. Indigenous people represent approximately 40 per cent of British Columbia's homeless population, despite comprising a much smaller share of the total provincial population, demonstrating the urgent need for coordinated Indigenous- led housing responses. Strengthening culturally grounded, proactive tenant- support systems has been shown to greatly reduce eviction risk, particularly when service providers are resourced to intervene early and meaningfully. The Committee encourages active provincial participation in the alliance to ensure coordinated action, improved data- sharing, and strengthened eviction- prevention strategies for Indigenous tenants across British Columbia.

WHEREAS

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) has requested provincial support to create an Indigenous- led, cross- sector housing alliance to improve collaboration, strengthen service integration, and shape long- term housing strategies rooted in Indigenous knowledge and self- determination;

WHEREAS

Indigenous- serving housing providers across British Columbia are required to address increasingly complex social issues—such as life- skills development, tenancy stabilization, and responses to tenancy breaches—despite not receiving adequate, sustained funding to support these services; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That NCLGA advocates to the Province to support the creation and identify appropriate funding mechanisms for an Indigenous-led, cross-sector housing alliance, to be convened and guided by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA).

3. Federal Minister of Forests

Resolution Background: Canada is the world's second-largest exporter of wood products. All Canadian provinces and territories produce forestry products and numerous municipalities across Canada rely heavily on the forestry sector for economic stability including jobs in in-forest activities, pulp and paper product manufacturing, and wood product manufacturing wherein loss of this industry would have catastrophic impacts to the municipality; and

WHEREAS tariffs and other international market challenges have created uncertainty across the forestry sector and duties and tariffs combine to exceed 45% on Canadian lumber entering the US market making our forest sector less competitive and endangering jobs; and

WHEREAS wildfire and other climate change related challenges are increasingly threatening the health and sustainability of Canadian forests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That NCLGA urges the Federal Government to appoint a federal minister to actively support the Canadian forestry sector through resolving the softwood lumber dispute, procurement policies requiring companies contracting with the federal government to source Canadian lumber first and aggressively increase work to open new markets to Canadian forest products with all international partners.



March 10, 2026
City of Prince George NCLGA Resolutions

Review and repeal of the closure allowance for major industrial and electrical properties

Resolution Background: The Depreciation of Industrial and Electrical Power Generating Facility Improvements Regulation (B.C. Reg. 53/2016) was introduced in 2016. Under this regulation, BC Assessment may apply a closure allowance that reduces the assessed value of permanently closed major industrial and electrical power-generating properties to 10 percent of their original cost or 90 per cent depreciation. While intended to reflect reduced operational value, the resulting impact is sudden, substantial losses in municipal tax revenue. In communities where these facilities formed a major portion of the tax base, the resulting revenue shortfall is redistributed to remaining taxpayers, particularly small and medium-sized businesses. This shift places additional pressure on businesses already affected by economic downturns stemming from major industrial closures. Major industrial and electrical properties often serve as economic anchors for rural and resource-dependent communities. Their operations contribute significantly to local employment, economic activity, and municipal tax revenues. When a major facility closes, communities face immediate challenges, including job losses, population declines, and reduced demand for local goods and services.

WHEREAS the Depreciation of Industrial and Electrical Power Generating Facility Improvements Regulation closure allowances create an imbalance within the property assessment system by providing significant relief to large industrial property owners after closure, while transferring financial responsibility to local businesses and residents who had no role in the closure decision and lack the capacity to absorb additional costs;

AND WHEREAS this imbalance undermines fairness and limits a community's ability to stabilize and recover economically;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA lobby the Province to have the Assessment Act amended, and associated regulations, to eliminate or substantially revise the closure allowance framework so that property assessment practices do not shift the fiscal impacts of major industrial closures onto small and medium-sized businesses, residents, and local governments, and instead support municipal fiscal stability and community economic recovery.

Preservation and Revitalization of Strategic Provincial Rail Corridor

Resolution Background: CN announced plans to discontinue its lease of the former BC Rail line from milepost 43 at Squamish to milepost 257 at 100 Mile House in its 2025 Three-Year Rail Network Plan. The company must follow the terms and conditions contained in the 2004 BC Rail Revitalization Agreement. The line would be returned to BC Rail Co., a provincial Crown corporation. Starting July 2026, interested parties may apply to assume operations for existing or new train services. Should no party come forward, the corridor could be sold for net salvage value.

WHEREAS the loss of the Squamish–Cariboo rail line, which may ensue from CN Rail's plans announced in July 2025 to terminate its lease, would result in shippers being forced to use higher-cost truck transport, increased public highway maintenance costs, loss of passenger (tourist or commuter) rail opportunity, higher GHG emissions, loss of transportation corridor redundancy affecting Western Canada, and constrained regional economic development;

AND WHEREAS rail discontinuance policies applying to the former BC Rail line do not necessarily account for regional and long-term transportation needs and priorities, and may undermine the economic viability of potential new short-line operators, while infrastructure funding solutions for maintaining this valuable rail line remain lacking;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the provincial and federal governments be encouraged to consider establishing a new regional authority or ownership structure including First Nations and to support a transition to a short-line operator model to strengthen regional enterprise while maintaining the strategic redundancy of the line, and further be encouraged to explore potential public-private funding solutions for ongoing rail line maintenance.