



Mayor
Ross Siemens

Councillors
Les Barkman
Kelly Chahal
Patricia Driessen
Simon Gibson
Dave Loewen
Patricia Ross
Dave Sidhu
Mark Warkentin

March 3, 2026

File: 0530-003/0400-60

Via Email

UBCM Member Municipalities and Regional Districts

Dear UBCM Members:

Re: Request for Support – 2026 Proposed UBCM Resolutions

I am writing on behalf of Abbotsford City Council to respectfully request your favourable consideration and support for two proposed UBCM resolutions that will be brought forward for consideration at the 2026 Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) Convention, in advance of the UBCM Convention.

At a recent Council meeting, Abbotsford City Council approved the submission of the following proposed resolutions:

1. Engagement on Pipeline Valuation Changes
2. Exempting Local Governments from Expanded Provincial Sales Tax Requirements

Both resolutions speak to issues of province-wide significance and reflect growing concerns shared by local governments and regional districts across British Columbia regarding financial sustainability, predictability, and intergovernmental fairness.

The first resolution calls on the Province to ensure that any future changes to the valuation methodology for gathering and transmission pipelines, or other major regulated utility properties, are preceded by a robust and transparent engagement process with local governments and regional districts, through UBCM. Stable and predictable assessment practices are essential for long-term financial planning, and changes of this magnitude have the potential to significantly affect taxation equity and local government budgets across the province.

The second resolution addresses the expanded application of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to professional and related services relied upon by local governments to deliver essential infrastructure and community services. As public-sector entities with limited revenue tools, local governments are already facing significant cost pressures. The application of expanded PST requirements represents a cost shift within the public sector that further constrains local government fiscal capacity without increasing service value.

Abbotsford believes these resolutions align with shared interests across local governments in advocating for meaningful consultation, fiscal fairness, and sustainable service delivery. We respectfully request your support for these resolutions as they move forward through the UBCM resolution process.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and leadership. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together on these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ross Siemens".

Ross Siemens
Mayor

cc: Council members
Peter Sparanese, City Manager

Attachments:

- 2026 Proposed Resolution – Engagement on Pipeline Valuation Changes
- 2026 Proposed Resolution – Exempting Local Governments from Expanded Provincial Sales Tax Requirements



**ENGAGEMENT ON PIPELINE
VALUATION CHANGES**

City of Abbotsford

WHEREAS in December 2025, the Province directed BC Assessment to postpone implementation of significant changes to the valuation methodology for Gathering and Transmission Pipelines, which would have resulted in substantial shifts in the tax burden from pipeline operators to residential and business property classes, creating financial impacts for local governments, and;

AND WHEREAS local governments rely on stable, predictable assessment practices for long-term financial planning, and any future changes to regulated rate property valuation methodologies (particularly within the Utilities Tax Class), will have province-wide implications for local government taxation, budgeting, and equity among property classes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Province of British Columbia to direct BC Assessment to undertake a robust and fulsome engagement process with local governments and regional districts, through UBCM, prior to advancing any future changes to the valuation methodology for Gathering and Transmission Pipelines or other major regulated utility properties, including sufficient notice, clear disclosure of financial impacts, and opportunities for local government input before decisions are finalized.



**EXEMPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM
EXPANDED PROVINCIAL SALES TAX**

City of Abbotsford

WHEREAS the Government of British Columbia's 2026 Budget expands the application of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) to a broader range of services, including professional services such as engineering, architectural, and related advisory services that are routinely required by local governments to deliver core infrastructure and services;

AND WHEREAS local governments have limited revenue tools and are already facing significant financial pressures related to infrastructure renewal, climate adaptation, housing delivery, and regulatory compliance, and unmitigated application of the expanded PST further constrains local government fiscal capacity;

AND WHEREAS local governments are public-sector entities that deliver provincially mandated and community-essential services, and the application of PST to local government purchases represents a cost shift within the public sector that does not increase service value but places additional pressure on local government operating and capital budgets;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities urge the Government of British Columbia to exempt or eliminate the impact to local governments from the application of the expanded Provincial Sales Tax requirements introduced in the 2026 Budget, including PST applied to professional and related services, to avoid intergovernmental cost downloading and to protect local government financial sustainability and local affordability.