

October 22, 2025

Mayor Nathan Pachal
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

RECEIVED

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ADMINISTRATION DEPT.
CITY OF LANGLEY

Dear Mayor Pachal:

Re: Provincial Response to 2024 Resolutions

UBCM has received the Province's response to your Council resolution(s) from 2024. Please find the enclosed resolution(s) and their provincial response(s).

All responses from the Province have been posted to the UBCM web site under Resolutions & Policy.

Please feel free to contact Jamee Justason, Resolutions and Policy Analyst, if you have any questions about this process.

Tel: 604.270.8226 ext. 100 Email: jjustason@ubcm.ca

With gratitude,



Councillor Cori Ramsay
UBCM President

Enclosure

**2024 EB24 Expansion of Homeless Response and Shelter Support
(Heart and Hearth)**

Langley City

Whereas the BC 2023 Homeless Point-in-Time count recorded the largest measured increase of individuals experiencing homelessness since 2005 (Metro Vancouver Regional District and Fraser Valley Regional District); with individuals experiencing homelessness for longer periods of time, and with more individuals in unsheltered environments due to insufficient permanent, temporary shelter or emergency beds throughout the regions;

And whereas the provincial government, having outlined the strategic plan “Belonging in BC: A collaborative plan to prevent and reduce homelessness”, has invested over 2 billion dollars since 2022 outlining commitments to “prioritized” communities, based on provincial qualifying assessments of local government homeless encampment impacts, to address immediate supports and shelter needs in those selected local governments:

Therefore be it resolved that the UBCM call on the provincial government to accelerate and expand its commitment beyond the qualifying limitations identified in “Belonging in BC” by including access for every community and expanding permanent, temporary shelters and associated program supports in all BC local governments.

Convention Decision: Endorsed

Provincial Response

Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs

The Province recognizes that encampments and experiences of homelessness continue to increase, despite significant government investment.

In the absence of accessible indoor options people may find shelter or community in encampments, but encampments are not a safe or suitable form of permanent housing for the people sheltering in them, or for the larger community. Encampments are best resolved and prevented by offering people a pathway out of homelessness. The Province is working across ministries, with all levels of government, Indigenous partners, and communities to support people sheltering in encampments to stay safe and connected to supports while options to move indoors are fast-tracked.

The Province continues to implement the Homeless Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) and Homeless Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) initiatives to provide rapid and coordinated frontline responses to homeless encampments and interim shelter options; and the development of an Encampment Resource Guide to support local partners to respond to encampments within a timely, dignified approach.

Budget 2025 includes new and expanded commitments to support housing affordability for BC residents and communities, including \$90 million more over three years to expand HEART and HEARTH to more communities. The Cooperation and Responsible Government Accord 2025 between the BC NDP and BC Green Party affirms government’s commitment to expanding HEART and HEARTH.

Whereas gaps in service within the Provincial Courts continues to deny timely and equitable access to justice services for all British Columbians and will only be exacerbated by rapid population growth; thus, resulting in harms by prolonging closure for individuals awaiting court judgements, inefficient use of police time for travel, and greater challenges for those with limited access to public transit or transportation;

And whereas although recent investments made by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) have increased capacity at specific courthouses, the investments have not facilitated equitable access for all British Columbians or met service level requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM direct the Province of BC to identify and address current gaps in service in the Provincial Courts; and further, release an updated Courthouse Capital Asset Management Plan (CAMP) which reflects new growth projections and future service level needs.

Convention Decision: Endorsed

Provincial Response

Ministry of Attorney General

The Province recognizes the need to continue to improve service gaps in the courts. In 2018, an extensive review was completed on the courthouse facilities across the province to assess the condition of each location and what would be required to ensure they can support demand from the period of 2018 to 2028. Since that review, several initiatives have been completed or are in progress to improve access to justice.

Examples include:

- The new Abbotsford Law Courts was opened in 2020, which significantly increased court capacity in the Fraser Valley, as well as adding Supreme Court functions.*
- A new Ahousaht Circuit Court was established in 2024.*
- The courthouse Wi-Fi/cabling upgrade project, which aims to increase capacity for court proceedings to be conducted by video conference and provides Courts' participants access to the internet. Since 2021, courtroom cabling was improved in 10 sites, and Wi-Fi expanded in 56 locations.*
- Expansion of the bail process to be completely virtual via technology, which allows both video and audio interaction for court users in courthouses, police departments/RCMP detachments and correctional centres. 102 RCMP Detachments and Police Departments and 29 courthouse locations have been upgraded since 2021.*
- The Early Resolution Program has been implemented in six court locations, providing additional resources for participants involved in family-related disputes and assists with resolving matters outside of court. Implementation in five additional court locations is planned for later in 2025.*
- The creation of a new Indigenous courtroom is in progress at the New Westminster Law Courts, with anticipated completion in early 2026.*
- The Port Coquitlam Law Courts renovation will add two new Supreme Court courtrooms, a registry counter and ancillary spaces, with anticipated completion in Winter 2026.*

Projection modelling for Court needs is updated regularly, accounting for changes in population, demographics, as well as internal and external justice system measures. The projections are assessed in conjunction with courthouse renovations, expansions, and new builds to fully inform those projects through ensuring they are guided by long-term planning.

Equal access to justice is paramount to fostering trust and confidence in British Columbia's justice system. Ensuring that all British Columbians, regardless of location or circumstance, can engage with a fair and accessible system is a cornerstone of the ministry's mission. While there are numerous opportunities for innovation and areas where we can continually enhance our efforts, the Ministry of Attorney General has made it a priority to expand modern, user-centered services across the province. This reflects Government's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our communities and strengthening the justice system as a whole.

With the guidance of the CSB Digital Transformation Strategy (most recently updated in 2024), modernized service offerings include the introduction of guided pathways and electronic form submission, which streamline processes for users 24/7, as well as the significant adoption of virtual proceedings to reduce barriers to participation. Additionally, virtual counter service and on-demand access to materials provide

greater flexibility and convenience, ensuring that individuals can connect with the resources they need, when they need them. These advances represent just a few of the ways the ministry is working to deliver meaningful, province-wide impact.