



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9  
p: 250.561.7600 | [www.princegeorge.ca](http://www.princegeorge.ca)

NCLGA Member Communities  
North Central British Columbia

March 17, 2025

### RE: 2025 NCLGA Resolutions

To our fellow NCLGA members,

We write to share three resolution items the City of Prince George has submitted to the annual convention. This year, we have again resolved to look at items that are not only of interest to our region but that also impact those across the province.

We hope we can count on you to support these three items when the time comes and have included full text of each resolution with the background below for consideration.

If you would like to be involved in future advocacy, separate from the NCLGA process, please reach out and our staff will work to coordinate interest with any emerging opportunities.

The three items we are hoping we can work together to advocate for are:

- Adequate funding, offices and staffing of the BC Conservation Service;
- Construction of a regional secure psychiatric facility in the Prince George area; and
- Increased core provincial funding for Public Libraries.

These are three items we feel are a benefit to us all. We look forward to discussing these resolutions, and meeting at the NCLGA AGM this May in Prince Rupert!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Mayor Simon Yu  
City of Prince George

## ***North Central Local Government Association - 2025 Resolution Submissions***

### **Resolution #1: Conservation Officer Advocacy**

#### **Resolution Background:**

A provincial government webpage, last updated in 2023, on Conservation Officer career information states, “there are over 69,000 law enforcement officers in Canada, and only 150 of them can be B.C. Conservation Officers”. Having only 150 officers on the front lines of environmental law enforcement in British Columbia does not meet the need our vast geography requires. We believe further investment is needed to ensure British Columbia’s treasured environment is well looked after.

#### **Draft Resolution:**

WHEREAS the provincial government is responsible for managing the conservation service, with few officers covering a geographically vast region, which has a negative impact on the ability of the BC Conservation Officer Service to meet the needs of the communities served;

AND WHEREAS the British Columbia Conservation Officer Service needs additional resources to adequately address public safety, focus on natural resource law enforcement, off road vehicle enforcement, illegal dumping, human wildlife conflicts prevention, and respond to wildlife human conflict:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocates that the provincial government be required to provide adequate funding, offices and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in effectively managing conservation services.

## **Resolution #2: Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility**

### **Resolution Background:**

The Province of British Columbia has committed to taking action to ensure people with long-term concurrent mental-health and addiction challenges get secure and dignified care by opening highly secure facilities for people under the Mental Health Act throughout the province. Prince George is well positioned to host such a facility for the region and seeks NCLGAs support in advocating for the expedient establishment of such resources.

### **Draft resolution:**

WHEREAS the provincial government has stated an interest in establishing, throughout the province, beds under the Mental Health Act at highly secure regional facilities, where people will receive long term care and housing that is secure, safe and dignified, and as the City of Prince George recognizes its role as a regional service hub for these types of facilities.

AND WHEREAS the provincial government has stated they are working on legislation, supported by expert consultation, that would support involuntary admittance to these specialized, compassionate care facilities with a coordinated plan for both treatment and post care.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA advocates to the Provincial Government for the construction of a standalone secure psychiatric care facility, to serve the region, in Prince George.

### **Resolution #3: Provincial Funding for Public Libraries**

#### **Resolution background:**

The City of Prince George encourages NCLGA members to support the BC Public Library Partners and the Association of BC Public Library Directors in requesting the provincial government provide sustainable funding increases for public libraries. In support of this campaign the below resolution language, modeled after language shared by the BC Public Library Partners, is presented.

#### **Draft resolution:**

WHEREAS core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, despite BC's population growing 29%, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

AND WHEREAS the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that NCLGA call on the provincial government to increase core funding for public libraries on a yearly basis in line with inflation and immediately increases annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million as requested by the BC Public Library Partners and recommended by the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

## INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)  
Membership  
**TOPIC:** Conservation Officer Advocacy



### Conservation Officer Advocacy

#### PURPOSE:

To advocate for a provincial government requirement to provide adequate funding, offices, and staffing to fully support the BC Conservation Officer Service to be more active and proactive in managing public safety, natural resource law enforcement, and preventing and responding to wildlife human conflict.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Conservation Officer Service (COS) focuses on natural resource law enforcement and human wildlife conflicts prevention and response. The modern Conservation Officer Service has evolved over the years into a leading natural resource law enforcement agency specializing in public safety as it relates to human/wildlife conflict. Responsibilities include managing complex commercial environmental and industrial investigations and compliance and enforcement services. As an organization the COS is structured in three units; Provincial Operations (uniformed officers), Provincial Investigations Unit (investigations) and program support, and are located in 45 communities throughout British Columbia with a headquarters located in Victoria, BC.

A provincial government webpage, last updated in 2023, on Conservation Officer career information states, "there are over 69,000 law enforcement officers in Canada, and only 150 of them can be B.C. Conservation Officers". Having only 150 officers on the front lines of environmental law enforcement in British Columbia does not meet the need our vast geography requires. For example, in August 2023 alone COS staff received 5,963 calls related to black bears and attended 520 of these calls. This excludes calls relating to any other human/wildlife conflicts, and other COS responsibilities such as environmental and conservation non-compliance investigations, environmental law enforcement, conducting patrols, and education efforts.

We believe further investment is needed to ensure British Columbia's treasured environment is well looked after.

#### Actions requested:

- Endorsing the resolution brought forward by the City of Prince George
- Joint advocacy for increased funding, offices, and staff for the BC Conservation Officer Service

*Submitted by:*

*City of Prince George*

*Mayor Simon Yu*

[mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca)

## INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)  
Membership



**TOPIC:** Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility

### Regional Secure Psychiatric Care Facility

#### **PURPOSE:**

To advocate for the construction of a standalone secure psychiatric care facility in the Prince George area to serve the region.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Province of British Columbia has committed to taking action to ensure people with long-term concurrent mental-health and addiction challenges get secure, safe, and dignified care by opening highly secure facilities for people under the Mental Health Act throughout the province for both voluntary and involuntary admittance.

In alignment with this announcement and Dr. Barbara Kane's petition to the provincial government and Northern Health circulated in August 2024 advocating for such facilities and resources to be hosted in Northern British Columbia, Prince George is well positioned to host such a facility for the region and seeks NCLGAs support in advocating for the expedient establishment of such resources.

#### **Actions requested:**

- Endorsing the resolution brought forward by the City of Prince George
- Joint advocacy for the construction of a standalone secure care facility in the Prince George area to serve the region.

*Submitted by:*

*City of Prince George*

*Mayor Simon Yu*

*mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca*

**Barbara J. Kane, MD, FRCP**  
c/o 1475 Edmonton St.  
Prince George, BC  
V2M 1S2

**Phone: 250-564-1152**  
Fax: 250-612-5176  
drkanereception@gmail.com

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Aug. 7, 2024

Mayor and Council  
1100 Patricia Boulevard  
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Petition for a Psychiatric Hospital in Northern BC

I am writing on behalf of the Spirit Table of Prince George and myself. The Spirit Table (Safety Priority Immediate Response Initiative Team) comprises over 23 community agencies that meet weekly to collaborate with each other in addressing ongoing community safety issues and to increase interagency collaboration, among other things. I am a psychiatrist and have been practicing in Prince George since 1990.

We are writing to inform you about a petition that is circulating in Prince George and northern BC. The petition arose out of concern for the many people who have needs far beyond the capacity of either our hospitals in northern BC or the many community agencies in Prince George and the north.

The abbreviated history regarding the need for a psychiatric hospital began when the only psychiatric hospital in BC, Riverview Hospital in Port Coquitlam, closed in 2012. There were clear indications even before Riverview closed that the community services could not manage the people who needed long-term secure psychiatric care. Homelessness and street crime were starting to escalate even before Riverview closed, as outlined in the Vancouver Police Department report 'Lost in Transition'. That 2008 report recommended that there be a mental health facility that could care for people with chronic and persistent mental illness, four years before Riverview closed!

Since then, governments have added community supports but they are not able to compensate for the services of a psychiatric hospital. As a result, communities have been left 'holding the bag' for services they cannot provide such as long-term secure psychiatric care.

Institutions such as correctional facilities and general hospitals are affected as people are transinstitutionalized due to the lack of appropriate psychiatric facilities.

Many people have come to the conclusion that a psychiatric hospital is an essential component of the health care system. No amount of community services will be able to overcome the issues of severely mentally ill people on the street without treatment, their unfortunate descent into drug use and the resultant homelessness as they become unable to sustain any kind of housing.

This petition asks for the provincial government to work with Northern Health to develop a psychiatric hospital in northern BC. This is not the only thing that needs to be done to rectify the many problems this community and others are facing, but without that level of service, all community services and general hospitals will be overwhelmed by the needs of these people.

We would like to see this letter included on the agenda for the Aug. 19, 2024 Council meeting. We are asking for your support in encouraging people to sign the petition.

Sincerely,

Barbara J. Kane  
Clinical Psychiatrist



## Things to Know about the Petition

This is information about petitions from the government of BC website which people need to know if they are going to help with the petition:

- Petitioners must be residents of the Province of British Columbia and provide their name and address.
- There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.

Petitions presented in original, hard-copy form must comply with the following basic rules:

- All signatures must be original and written directly on the face of the petition, and not pasted or transferred to it. Petitions must be free of erasures or insertions. The petition must be in original form; not a photocopy or printed scan.
- If a petition consists of more than one sheet of signatures, the text of the petition must appear at the top of each sheet.
- Each person petitioning the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia must print their name and address and sign their name under the text of the petition.
- Petitions must be written, typewritten or printed, and it is recommended that the paper be standard letter or legal size.

Petitions can be handed in at Dr. Kane's office, Suite 101-1268 5<sup>th</sup> Ave before Aug. 6 or 825 Vancouver St. after Aug. 6 or the Justice Council 511 George Street. Petitions can also be signed at Dr. Kane's office or the Justice Council. Call ahead to make sure someone is there: Dr. Kane's office 250-564-1152; Justice Council contact is Cheryl Johnson 778-763-4316.

We will be collecting petitions and signatures until Oct. 1, 2024.

Thanks for all your help.

**To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, in  
Legislature Assembled:**

The petition of the undersigned, Barbara J. Kane of Prince George, states that:

There is a complete lack of access for people in northern communities to the highest level of psychiatric care. Without this level of service, the people who need the care, their friends and families, and northern communities including police services and hospitals among others, are left to deal with problems they don't have the resources to manage.

Your petitioners respectfully request that the Honourable House

work with Northern Health to develop long-term secure psychiatric services, such as a psychiatric hospital or equivalent, for people in our communities who need this level of care.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 18th \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ June \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Date	First and Last Name	Address, City and Province	Signature

## INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

**PREPARED FOR:** North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA)  
Membership



**TOPIC:** Provincial Funding for Public Libraries

### Provincial Funding for Public Libraries

#### **Purpose:**

To advocate for a core funding increase from the provincial government for public libraries as requested by the BC Public Library Partners and recommended by the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

#### **Background:**

Public Libraries and Library Federations established under the authority of the Library Act are eligible for provincial funding. The Province provides funding to public libraries to support equitable access to information, programs, and services across the province, greater collaboration between libraries, information technology infrastructure, such as library catalogues and websites, province-wide programs such as BC OneCard, interlibrary loans, and the BC Summer Reading Club as examples.

Despite a 29% increase in BC's population over the past 15 years, core funding for public libraries in BC has remained unchanged since 2009. Public libraries continue to support the economic and social health of communities, by providing information and services to consumers; aiding individuals seeking employment and career enhancement, entrepreneurs and small businesses; and providing refuge during emergencies. This aligns with the province's goals to enhance economic growth, reduce costs for families and make communities safer.

### ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Endorsing the resolution brought forward by the City of Prince George
- Joint advocacy for increased core funding for public libraries

*Submitted by:*

*City of Prince George*

*Mayor Simon Yu*

*[mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca](mailto:mayoradmin@princegeorge.ca)*