



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

3400 - 30TH STREET VERNON, BRITISH COLUMBIA V1T 5E6

TELEPHONE (250) 545-1361 FAX (250) 545-4048

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 30, 2024

To British Columbia Municipalities

via email

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

Re: Eliminate Fossil Fuel Funding of SILGA and UBCM

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At it's Regular Meeting held on February 26, 2024, City of Vernon Council passed the following motion:

"THAT the City of Vernon request that SILGA and UBCM no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups at meetings and conventions;

AND FURTHER, that the City of Vernon submit the following resolution to the 2024 SILGA and UBCM conventions:

'WHEREAS burning carbon-based fuel causes climate warming with harmful socio-economic and environmental consequences; and in response Canada and B.C. have developed legislation, targets and incentive programs to rapidly decarbonize the economy; and local governments must assist in achieving these goals, and have developed Climate Action Plans and decarbonization programs to do so;

AND WHEREAS the fossil-fuel industry funds conventions and meetings of local government associations, which benefits the industry while the rising costs of delay are borne by governments and society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) and the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) will no longer accept funding from the fossil-fuel industry and its lobby groups in support of conventions and meetings.'

This resolution has been submitted to UBCM for consideration at the 2024 UBCM Convention. You will find background information enclosed.

Sincerely,

Victor I. Cumming  
Mayor

Copy: City of Vernon Council

Enclosure

Vernon background for resolution submission to UBCM:

Throughout our province we are all living with the devastating impacts of fires and floods, which are made worse by climate change. Burning fossil fuels is the major cause of climate change. Today we are all reliant on gasoline, diesel, and natural gas. However, the transition to a low or zero-carbon future is underway, led by higher levels of government in Canada and around the world. This transition will take several years, and there will be challenges to overcome along the way. The transition will be costly, but less costly than the ongoing and worsening impacts of climate change, and it will require sustained leadership from all levels of government.

In B.C. we have a better alternative to burning fossil fuels. BC Hydro produces much cleaner renewable electricity and has plans to accommodate the additional demand that will result from broad-based electrification. The fossil fuel industry is competing against electrification. Their best efforts to become "sustainable" will not substantially reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Their primary objective is self-preservation, rather than helping us prepare for the future. Their messaging at our conventions promotes complacency among us. This messaging is not helpful – instead we need to be acting boldly and doing more to prepare for the electrified future. The City of Vernon respectfully requests SILGA and UBCM members' consideration of this resolution.