

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

[SPONSOR]

WHEREAS municipalities and regional districts are the governments nearest to people and the natural environment, and therefore share a deep concern for the welfare of the natural environment and understand that a healthy environment is inextricably linked to the health of individuals, families, future generations and communities;

AND WHEREAS fostering the environmental well-being of the community is a municipal purpose under section 7(d) of the *Community Charter* and a regional district purpose under section 2(d) of the *Local Government Act*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia enact a provincial environmental bill of rights that:

- a) Recognizes the right of every resident to live in a healthy environment, including the right to clean air, clean water, clean food and vibrant ecosystems;
- b) Provides for public participation in decision-making respecting the environment and access to environmental information;
- c) Provides access to justice when environmental rights are infringed; and
- d) Has whistleblower protection.

Must be accompanied by background information in one of the following two formats:

- **Supplementary Memo**
A brief, one-page memo from the sponsor local government, which outlines the background that led to the adoption of the resolution by the council or board.
- **Council/Board Report**
A report on the subject matter, presented to council or board in conjunction with the resolution. If it is not possible to send the entire report, then extract the essential information and submit it with the resolution.

See UBCM Writing Guidelines for Resolutions

<http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Resolutions~and~Policy/Resolutions/Writing%20Guidelines%20for%20Resolutions.pdf>