



PROGRAM

Friday, April 14th, 2023

74th Annual General Meeting & Convention

Vancouver Island Conference Centre, 101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

- 8:00 am Registration Desk Opens ([Newcastle Island Lobby](#))
- 8:30 am – 11:30 am Study Tour: Nanaimo Community Amenity Tour ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 9:00 am – 11:30 am Study Tour: Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Tour ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 9:30 am – 11:30 am Workshop: Legislative Reform Initiative: Building the Case ([Shaw Auditorium](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch (Session at noon) ([Nanaimo River Room](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Electoral Area Directors Forum and Lunch (Session at noon) ([Departure Bay Room](#))
- 1:00 pm Trade Show Opens ([Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B](#))

THE TRADE SHOW IS OPEN FROM 1:00 PM – 7:45 PM TODAY

AGM & CONVENTION MAIN PROGRAM – Mt. Benson Ballroom C/D

- 2:00 pm Convention Welcome & Opening Remarks: AVICC President Penny Cote
Blessing: Honoured Elder Lolly Good
O' Canada
Welcome from Snuneymuxw Nation: Chief Michael Wyse
Welcome from Hosts: RDN Chair Vanessa Craig and Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog
Video Greetings from Minister of Municipal Affairs, Anne Kang
Convention Program Overview: AVICC President Penny Cote
- 2:25 pm Nominating Committee Report: AVICC Past President Ian Morrison
- 2:30 pm Keynote Address: Tomson Highway
Permanent Astonishment- Lessons in a Life Story
- 3:30 pm – 3:50 pm Refreshment Break
- 3:50 pm Nominations from the Floor for Table Officers **OR** Directors at Large
- 3:55 pm Island Health Update: Leah Hollins, Chair, Island Health Board of Directors
- 4:05 pm Provincial Address:
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, Social Development and Poverty Reduction and MLA Nanaimo
- 4:15 pm Plenary Session:
Managing Emergencies- the Increasing Impact on our Communities
- 5:45 pm Final Comments and Wrap-Up, Adjourn
- 5:45 pm – 7:45 pm Welcome Reception ([Newcastle Lobby & Mt. Benson Ballroom A/B](#))
- 5:45 pm Voting for Table Officers **OR** Directors at Large begins ([voting is online](#))

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 15th, 2023

THE TRADE SHOW IS OPEN FROM 7:15 – 3:00 PM TODAY

7:15 am	Breakfast Service Starts (Newcastle Lobby)
7:30 am – 8:25 am	Working Breakfast – <i>Traditional and Social Media Tips and Tricks for Electeds</i> (Mt Benson Ballroom C/D)
8:30 am	Opening Remarks (Mt Benson Ballroom C/D)
8:35 am	Address: UBCM President Jen Ford, Chair, Squamish-Lillooet RD & Councillor, Whistler
8:50 am	Annual Meeting and President's Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Convention Rules and Procedures○ Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting○ 2022 Annual Report○ 2022 Audited Financial Statements
9:00 am	Consideration of Resolutions, First Session
9:45 am	BC Assessment: <i>Overview of Property Assessment & 2023 Assessment Roll</i>
10:00 am – 10:25 am	Refreshment Break
10:25 am	Municipal Finance Authority Update
10:30 am	UBCM: <i>Canada Community-Building Fund Renewal Update</i>
10:30 am	Voting for Table Officers OR Directors at Large closes (voting is online)
11:00 am	Consideration of Resolutions, Second Session
11:45 am	Nominating Committee Report Nominations from the Floor for Directors at Large OR EA Representative
11:55 am	BC Lottery Corporation Address
12:00 pm – 1:25 pm	Delegates Lunch

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#1 <i>The Evolving Role of Municipalities in Community Health</i> (Nanaimo River)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#2 <i>Regional Collaboration in the Decade of Climate Action</i> (Dodd Narrows)
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	#3 <i>Fully Booked. Why our Libraries are Booming</i> (<i>No Shhh@t – libraries do that?!</i>) (Shaw Auditorium)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Refreshment Break
3:00 pm	Voting for Directors at Large OR EA Representative opens (voting is online if required)
3:00 pm	Trade Show closes
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	#4 <i>Growing Farmers & Food Resilience in Cowichan Valley</i> (Shaw Auditorium)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#5 <i>Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today</i> (Nanaimo River)
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	#6 <i>Attainable Housing Inspiration from Vancouver Island Communities</i> (Dodd Narrows)

BANQUET

6:30 pm – 11:30 pm	Reception and Banquet (Mt. Benson Ballroom)
6:30 pm	Banquet Reception
7:30 pm	Dinner and Remarks
9:00 pm	"Time Well Wasted" Band

PROGRAM

Sunday, April 16th, 2023

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast (Mt. Benson Ballroom)
7:30 am	Voting for Directors at Large OR EA Representative closes (voting is online if required)
8:30 am	Opening Remarks Nominating Committee Report (if required) Nominations from the Floor for Electoral Area Representative (if required)
8:35 am	Municipal Insurance Association of BC Update- President Penny Cote
8:40 am	Green Party Leader, MLA Sonia Furstenau
8:55 am	Plenary Session: <i>RECONCILI-ACTION: Developing Meaningful Relationships in our Communities</i>
9:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative opens (voting is online if required)
10:10 am – 10:35 am	Refreshment Break
10:35 am	Consideration of Resolutions and Late Resolutions, Third Session
11:00 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative closes (voting is online if required)
11:45 am	Nominating Committee Report (as required) Installation of New AVICC Executive Remarks by President-Elect 2024 Convention Announcement Grand Prize Draw- BC Ferries Prize Package– <i>Must Be Present to Win</i>
12:00 pm	Adjourn & Safe Travels

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS

Special thanks are extended to the City of Nanaimo and to the Regional District of Nanaimo for hosting the 2023 AGM & Convention. Our hosts helped in so many areas including supplying the facilities, decorating for the banquet, organizing the Friday morning sessions, providing local contacts, and suggesting speaker gifts.

Thank you for making the Convention a great experience!



TRADE SHOW

HOURS

Friday 1:00 pm – 7:45 pm

Saturday 7:15 am – 3:00 pm

EXHIBITORS

BC Lottery Corporation

CUPE BC

Community Health Networks/ Island Health

BC Assessment

ICBC

FortisBC Energy

BC Hydro

Private Forest Landowners Association

BC Dairy Association

Western Forest Products

BC Transit

Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund

Trans Mountain

Rogers Communications

Union of BC Municipalities

Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island Regional Libraries

BC Crisis Line Network/ Vancouver Island Crisis Society

Managed Forest Council

CUPE Local 8911: Emergency Communications Professionals of BC

Western Canada Marine Response

City of Victoria/Destination Greater Victoria

Canada Post

Oceans Protection Plan

SPONSORS

We wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions toward the 2023 AVICC Convention:

Saturday Delegates Lunch

BC Lottery Corporation

Keynote Speaker

Municipal Finance Authority of BC

Banquet Dinner

Young Anderson

Banquet Reception

Fortis BC

Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum

Lidstone & Company Law Corporation

Sunday Morning Breakfast

ICBC

Program

BC Assessment

Speaker Gifts

Ship Source Oil Pollution Fund

Friday Afternoon Refreshment Break

BC Dairy Association

Saturday Morning Refreshment Break

Private Forest Landowners Association

Friday Welcome Reception

CUPE BC

Friday Opening Session

Island Health

Saturday Morning Breakfast

Municipal Insurance Association of BC

Saturday Afternoon Refreshment Break

BC Hydro

Trade Show

Trans Mountain

Friday Morning Session

BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)

Registration Services

Western Forest Products

Communications

Rogers Communications

Sunday Morning Refreshment Break

CUPE VI

Transportation

BC Transit

Grand Prize

BC Ferry Services

SPEAKER GIFT DONATION

Historically, AVICC has provided gifts to our speakers to thank them for their participation in our convention. Last year, the AVICC Executive determined that rather than purchase gifts, that we make a donation to a local charitable organization that benefits the residents in our region. This practice is being continued for 2023, and a donation will be made by the host communities on behalf of AVICC to Loaves & Fishes Food Bank.



Loaves & Fishes Food Bank works to solve the crisis of food insecurity by using the problem of food waste to benefit people in need across Vancouver Island, serving individuals from Nanaimo to Port Hardy and providing food to over 100 other charities, food banks, schools and Indigenous communities across Vancouver Island. In 2022 over \$6.9 million worth of food was provided for people in need, reaching over 30 communities across Vancouver Island.

Visit <https://nanaimoloavesandfishes.org/donate> to learn more or to make a donation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TOMSON HIGHWAY

Permanent Astonishment-Lessons in a Life Story

Friday, 2:30 pm

Tomson Highway was born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic, the eleventh of 12 children in a nomadic, caribou-hunting Cree family. When Tomson was six, he was flown south by float plane to attend a residential school. He lived through the residential school system, faced prejudice, and struggled to have his work recognized. Along the way, he relied on music and art to heal and inspire himself and others around him. He has overcome incredible obstacles to find himself where he is today.



He's an acclaimed artist making international impact as a playwright, author, musician, and multilingual speaker (Cree, French, and English). Highway has also found time to complement these great accomplishments with his work as a social worker, Native artistic director, adjunct professor, and world traveller.

For years he immersed himself in the field of Native social work, working on reserves and in urban centres across Canada. At the age of 30, he decided it was time to put all this extraordinary artistic training and extraordinary Native social work experience together – he started writing music, plays, and, later, novels. He achieved international recognition with his multi-award-winning plays *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* which was the first Canadian play to receive a full production and extended run at Toronto's legendary Royal Alexandra Theatre.

His artistic groundwork gave birth to a nation-wide Native literary movement that continues to play a fundamental role in the advancement of Aboriginal literacy and education across the country. He's been Writer-in-Residence at many universities, and is author of many bestselling books, including *Permanent Astonishment: Growing Up in the Land of Snow and Sky*, for which he won the Writers' Trust Award for Non-Fiction. Several film and television documentaries on both his work and his background have been produced for the international market over the years.

A member of the Order of Canada and the recipient of at least 10 honorary doctorates, Highway has shaped the development of Aboriginal theatre in both Canada and around the world. He is one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal and creative voices.

FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Legislative Reform Initiative: Building the Case

Friday, 9:30 am

In June 2021, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), with Don Lidstone, Q.C., hosted a session with regional district Chairs and CAOs to explore the possibility of mobilizing a collaborative effort to modernize the *Local Government Act*. Subsequently, at the April 2022 AVICC convention, the RDN and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) hosted a workshop to continue the conversation and confirm support for this important initiative, hear from local governments about aspects of the legislation in need of reform, and focus forward momentum and interjurisdictional collaboration. An RDN resolution, endorsed at the September 2022 UBCM Convention, proposed that UBCM work with the Ministry and local governments to further this initiative. In September 2022, the RDN and ACRD met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and a subsequent meeting to discuss specifics is anticipated.

Concerns with this dated legislation include restrictions on taxation and revenue sources, complexities in establishing services, and the lack of provisions in comparison with Section 8 of the *Community Charter* which gives municipalities powers to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements by bylaw without provincial approval or establishing bylaws. Regional districts are limited in their legislative authority in comparison with municipalities in several key areas such as business licensing authority, subdivision approval, regulation of fireworks discharge, parking enforcement, tree management, and taxation and funding models. Further, social, political and economic environments that local governments operate within continue to evolve in areas such as climate change, environmental stewardship and a recognition of the importance of First Nations' participation in regional governance. These realities should be reflected in a modernized legislative framework.

This interactive, discussion-based session will build on the momentum and ideas from last year's AVICC workshop. The goal will be to gather from attendees specific examples of areas that need refreshing and modernizing, to build the narrative. The session will be of interest to municipal officials as well as regional district officials, since many aspects of municipal operations are contained in the *Local Government Act*.

PRESENTERS:

Vanessa Craig, was re-elected as the Electoral Area B Director in October 2022 and was elected Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors in November 2022. She previously served as Vice-Chair and Acting Chair of the Nanaimo Regional Hospital District Board. She is currently Second Vice President on the AVICC Executive.

John Alan Jack, has served as Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) since 2016 and is an elected Member of Council for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN). His community is a party to the Maa-nulth Final Agreement which grants the HFN a seat on the ACRD Board. Chair Jack was first elected to the HFN in 2009 and was re-elected in 2011 shortly after the effective date of the Treaty.

Tyler Brown, was elected Vice-Chair of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors in November 2022, having served as Chair of the RDN Board for the previous two years. He has also been a Councillor with the City of Nanaimo since 2018, having been re-elected in October 2022.

Don Lidstone, K.C., is Managing Partner of Lidstone & Company. He practices in local government law, focusing on governance, finance and taxation, land use, environmental law, Indigenous law, and legislative drafting. Mr. Lidstone speaks regularly at conferences and has chaired many local government review panels, and the Municipal Law Section of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

SESSIONS & SPEAKERS: PLENARY

FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION

Managing Emergencies- The Increasing Impact on our Communities

Friday, 4:20 pm

In 1993, the Emergency Program Act (EPA) was introduced by the Province of BC, requiring local governments to develop and implement emergency management plans and maintain emergency management organizations. No one predicted how many emergencies there would be; some regions of BC have experienced multiple and sometimes overlapping Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) activations in recent years. These escalating emergencies have placed a heavy burden on local government, diverting staff resources away from regular services and even causing occupational burn-out.

Developing strong collaborative relationships with Indigenous communities is paramount to successful emergency planning and management by local governments. Different regions have taken on different models of emergency management. Some regional districts have full responsibility for managing emergencies; in others, the municipalities may take on the majority of the funding and staff support.

The Province has been working towards the repeal and replacement of the EPA over the past 5 years, with the new legislation scheduled to replace the EPA in Spring 2023. The exact impact on local governments is not yet known, but an increase in accountability for delivery of services is anticipated. In Fall of 2022 the Premier announced the creation of a standalone Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR).

MODERATOR: **Donna McMahon**, AVICC EA Representative and Director, Sunshine Coast Regional District

PRESENTERS:

Ryan Wainwright, Senior Manager, Emergency Management Cowichan, formerly Senior Regional Manager, Vancouver Island Coastal Region, Emergency Management BC. Ryan has had the opportunity to work at local, provincial, and federal levels developing his skills as an emergency management practitioner. Prior to joining EMBC in 2019, Ryan enjoyed almost 10 years at the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District as the Emergency Program Coordinator.

Tihmtimut Samuel Schooner, Chief Councillor, Nuxalk Nation, has served eight years as an elected Nuxalk Council member and previously served eight years as a Director with the Central Coast Regional District, three of those as its Chair.

Corey Anderson, A/Senior Regional Manager, Vancouver Island Coastal Region, of the Ministry of EMCRC, supports a team of Regional Managers, Emergency Management Technicians and administrative support staff. The VIC team works with First Nations and local authorities to plan for, mitigate against, respond to, and recovery from emergencies. Corey and his partner acknowledge that are visitors upon the traditional territory of the people of the WSÁNEĆ Nations: Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tseycum and Tsawout.

Katie Olthuis, Director of the Policy and Legislation, EMCRC, has experience leading climate risk initiatives with the provincial government at the Climate Action Secretariat and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. She was also the lead author of Managing Climate Change Risks, an audit of government's approach to climate adaptation in her 6 years at the Office of the Auditor General of BC.

Mark Brown, Former CAO, Town of Qualicum Beach, currently Acting General Manager, Infrastructure Services at the Sunshine Coast Regional District, after being recently contracted to be the Director of the Emergency Operations Centre during the water shortage State of Local Emergency. He has also worked with several communities in BC and Alberta including High River as the Director of Renewal, aiding in flood recovery and in Zeballos as Recovery Manager during the landslide threat evacuation.

SESSIONS & SPEAKERS: PLENARY

SATURDAY PLENARY SESSIONS

Traditional and Social Media Tips and Tricks for Electeds

Saturday, 7:45 am

This session will provide a breakdown of how to do effective radio, newspaper web, and television interviews, including interview prep, camera and microphone usage and placement, interviewee techniques, traps to avoid, and how to get the message across that you want. We will dive into Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, how to use them effectively, and when to run for your life. Mayor Merlin Blackwell will provide real life examples from his political career, as well as examples from other leaders. Many of these tips will translate to better communication in council chambers and will shape up your skills as a public speaker.

PRESENTER:

Mayor Merlin Blackwell, District of Clearwater, will draw from his diploma in Broadcasting from BCIT, 5+ years as a writer in radio and magazines, 3+ terms on Council, and as one of the most interviewed small-town Mayors in Canada.

Overview of Property Assessment & 2023 Assessment Roll

Saturday, 9:45 am

This session will take a brief look at property assessment in British Columbia, including the products and services BC Assessment offers, and the role BC Assessment plays in supporting the development of vibrant communities in British Columbia. This session will also include area-specific highlights of the 2023 assessment roll.

PRESENTER:

Graham Held, Manager Local Government Relations, BC Assessment, has been with BC Assessment since graduating from UBC with a B.Com. in 1993. Most recently, Graham has been the Manager – Assessment Appeals from 2019 to 2022. Graham has spent over a decade as a member of the Board of Directors of the Appraisal Institute of Canada - British Columbia, including two years as the President.

Canada Community-Building Fund Renewal Update

Saturday, 10:30 am

The current 10-year Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) program – which includes the Community Works Fund and Strategic Priorities Fund programs – is set to expire in March 2024. UBCM, as the administrator of the program in BC will be engaging with local governments in advance of renegotiating a long-term renewed agreement with the Government of Canada and the Province of BC. This session will provide delegates with an overview of the CCBF program and provide an update on the current status of renegotiations, including seeking input on elements of future programming that would best serve local communities in BC. The session will also review a survey UBCM has launched requesting feedback on the CCBF program.

PRESENTERS:

Glen Brown, General Manager, Union of BC Municipalities

Brant Felker, Canada Community-Building Fund Manager, Union of BC Municipalities

SESSIONS & SPEAKERS: PLENARY

SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION

RECONCILI-ACTION:

Developing Meaningful Relationships in our Communities

Sunday, 8:55 am

The Province of BC passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) into law in November 2019, to establish the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) recently endorsed a resolution resolving that the provincial and federal governments legislate requirements for municipalities to implement the UN Declaration, to strengthen relationships between municipalities. Relationships are central to reconciliation. Building trust requires time and patience.

In this session, we will provide a brief background on First Nations governance, the UN Declaration, and DRIPA. Our panelists will provide their insights on how local governments should start the conversation with their Indigenous neighbours on the subject of reconciliation and UNDRIP/DRIPA implementation, and advance relationship building within their communities. We will speak about options on how reconciliation can be financed, and how smaller communities can offer services to the Indigenous communities within their region. Our panelists will provide examples of positive relationships between municipal governments and Indigenous communities, to inspire local governments to create these opportunities for collaboration to advance and action DRIPA within their own communities.

MODERATOR: Gundaynuxv Travis Hall, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District

PRESENTERS:

Tlhmtimut Samuel Schooner, Chief Councillor, Nuxalk Nation, has served eight years as an elected Nuxalk Council member and previously served eight years as a Director with the Central Coast Regional District, three of those as its Chair.

John Jack, Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) is in his fourth term for HFN, and has served as HFN's representative to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board of Directors since 2012, and has been its Chair since December, 2016. He has served as Director for HFN for the Maa-nulth Treaty Society, has extensive experience in tribal government and has helped set up and govern Huu-ay-aht's economic development wing.

Brent Mueller, Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, was born, and has been fortunate to have lived, worked, and played on various traditional territories, in British Columbia. Last year he celebrated over 25-years working for the Province in areas including regional planning, intergovernmental relations, rural community development, dispute resolution, climate change and for the last several years Local Government-First Nation relations. He has a BA from SFU and an MA from UVIC both in political science. His interests include soccer, gardening, and spending quality time with his wonderful daughter Mackenzie, who is studying marine biology at UVIC, and his dog Koda.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

The Evolving Role of Municipalities in Community Health

Saturday, 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm

Community Health Networks (CHN) across Vancouver Island work with local communities to identify and address complex social issues. CHN's convene and facilitate multidisciplinary networks, identify and translate data associated with community health, and assist in the implementation of initiatives targeted at improving health and equity for all community members. This work is most effective when done in collaboration with local government. As our societal issues become more pressing local government is faced with more responsibility to address these complex social issues.

Join a team of Community Health Network facilitators to learn how municipalities have supported efforts to address transportation, housing, service access and poverty reduction through the health network model. Our CHN facilitators will provide a brief intro into the basics of our shared collective impact framework, highlight case studies of success and the great municipal partnerships that moved initiatives forward. We will then work with participants to host open-space discussions to explore ways local government can support social development initiatives and partnerships in their region.

PRESENTERS:

Marcie DeWitt is the Coordinator for the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network. For more than a decade, Marcie has worked with collaborative, multi-stakeholder networks to address the social determinants of health in the Alberni-Clayoquot region. Housing, transportation, poverty reduction, food security and healthy community development have been focuses of Marcie's work.

Cindy Lise has been working in community development for over 18 years and for the past 11 years Cowichan Communities Health Network. Her expertise in bringing together diverse partners to resolve complex challenges have resulted in numerous collective impact initiatives for the Cowichan Region. Working with local governments on key initiatives such as the Airshed Roundtable, The Village Housing project and Physical Literacy (Play Cowichan) has had great success.

Angela Smith has had the honour of working as the coordinator of the Mount Waddington Health Network (MWHN) since 2018. In coordination of the Network, Angela has been able to draw on the knowledge and experience of Vancouver Island's oldest health network and couple it with the power of digital communication. She continues to explore avenues to better represent the membership and the underserved in community.

Kirsten Mah stepped into her role with the Capital Regional Community Health Network in January 2022, and has worked to expand the network to include more diverse groups and has implemented structures that strengthen the backbone of the network. She has spent the past seven years working in social services within government and non-profit sectors. Her work has largely focused on program evaluation.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

Regional Collaboration in the Decade of Climate Action

Saturday, 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm

In this 'decade of climate action', visionary local climate leadership is more essential than ever. Local governments are working hard to implement strategies to meet ambitious emissions reductions targets and build resilient communities, yet climate projects and impacts don't end at community borders. For this reason, regional-scale climate mitigation and adaptation planning is not only possible, but also critical.

In 2019, over 50 local elected officials met to discuss the threat of climate change to our local governments, communities, and First Nations, asking the question "What would it take to create a climate action plan for our entire region?". From this initial meeting, the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership Plan (VICC-CLP) Steering Committee was launched. At the same time as planning has emerged at the broader regional scale, existing cross community partnerships continue to demonstrate the benefits of regional collaboration. Staff from the Comox Valley and Nanaimo regional districts will showcase an example of collaboration on coastal flood mitigation and climate resiliency, describing how intergovernmental coordination can empower and enable local adaptation.

This interactive session will provide an opportunity for participants to get an update on VICC-CLP and the work completed to date. Participants will hear from those involved in collaborative climate planning work in the region and learn from the panel and each other about the opportunities and challenges involved in regional collaboration.

PRESENTERS:

Michelle Staples is serving her fourth term in the City of Duncan and this is her second term as Mayor. She has been involved in community development for over 20 years, and is co-chair of the VICC-CLP steering committee. She believes that once we decide to work together we can achieve what we cannot yet imagine.

Maya Chorobik is the Director of Climate Leadership with the Community Energy Association (CEA), where she leads CEA's Capacity Building and Leadership Development service area. Maya is the facilitator for the BC Municipal Climate Leadership Council (BCMCLC), which provides education, coaching and peer learning to locally elected officials committed to climate action in their communities.

Katherine Pearce works as a Climate Collaboration Coordinator with the CEA, supporting networks of staff and elected officials to enable collaborative implementation of climate action at the regional level. Her graduate work explores the potential for regional scale collaboration to catalyze local government climate action, with a focus on VICC-CLP as a case study.

Jamai Schile is a Senior Planner with the Regional District of Nanaimo. She has 10-years' experience in planning for and creating sustainable and resilient communities, with special expertise in growth management, risk-based planning and project management.

Robyn Holme is the Manager of Long-Range Planning and Sustainability at the Comox Valley Regional District. She has been a professional planner for 15 years, with experience in both municipal and regional government. Robyn is passionate about collaborative and innovative approaches to tackling complex regional planning.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

Fully Booked. Why our Libraries are Booming (No Shhh@t –libraries do that?!)

Saturday, 1:30 pm- 2:30 pm

While many are nostalgic about the role of public libraries, and the services they offer, new library board trustees are often surprised to learn about the diverse and dynamic services offered, and the nature of the work performed in libraries today.

This Q&A style session will be co-convened by two AVICC library Board Chairs, interviewing three public library leaders. In this session, you will learn how public libraries within the AVICC region are responding to traditional and changing expectations, and the opportunities and challenges ahead.

PRESENTERS:

Co-Convenors

Erin Hemmens is Chair of the Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL), and a second-term Councillor with the City of Nanaimo.

Andrew Appleton is Chair of the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL), and a second-term Councillor with the District of Oak Bay.

Panelists

Ben Hyman is the Executive Director, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL). He was previously the University Librarian at Vancouver Island University, the founding Executive Director of BC Libraries Cooperative, and he held a variety of portfolios within the BC Public Service. An award-winning community infrastructure architect, digital strategist and library leader, Ben's work strengthens collaborative, innovative communities.

Rebecca Burbank is the Chief Librarian of the Powell River Public Library (PRPL). With a background in community development (University of Vermont) she is interested in how libraries can be a space and force for connection, growth and encouraging curious minds. She took her Masters in Library and Information Studies at McGill University and has worked in special libraries as well as public. She proudly supported PRPL to develop and transition into a new municipal facility in 2017 and has worked to grow the visibility of library services as well as share the stories that make her coastal community unique.

Maureen Sawa is the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) which serves more than 380,000 residents in 10 member municipalities. Throughout her career, Maureen has been recognized for her collaborative and non-traditional approach to library service and cross-sector partnerships. A recipient of the United Way of Greater Victoria Award for Collaboration & Partnership, she is a past Chair of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and the Association of B.C. Public Library Directors. Maureen continues to represent public library interests on a variety of national, provincial and local working and advisory groups.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

Growing Farmers & Food Resilience in Cowichan Valley

Saturday, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has been working to grow local food resilience through partnership with organizations to increase farming in the region and food distribution. Young Agrarians and Cowichan Green work to strengthen the region's access to local foods. Food systems are a cornerstone of our local communities and are essential for economic development and resilience.

Young Agrarians provides land matching services in the CVRD and Vancouver Island through the B.C. Land Matching Program. By bringing together partnerships between landholders and land seekers, this program provides a pathway to agricultural succession and rural revitalization. Cowichan Green runs a number of initiatives to increase local food access including the Cow-Op, which allows customers to purchase local foods that are then delivered or can be picked up. This helps to increase the local food economy, creating a food hub that distributes products from the region out to customers.

PRESENTERS:

Sara Dent, Executive Director, Young Agrarians has worked over the past decade to grow a farmer2farmer educational resource network for new and young farmers in B.C. and Canada. Young Agrarians supports the next generation to access land, mentorship, business supports, on-farm training in regenerative agriculture, peer networks, and online resources. Sara has 20 years of experience in agriculture and food systems in the charitable sector developing programs, fundraising, farming, building community, and acting as an agent for change.

Barry O’Riordan, Manager, Economic Development, Cowichan Valley RD, has lived in the Cowichan Valley since 2016, and began in the role of Manager with Economic Development Cowichan (CVRD) in 2019. Barry has a broad base of experience in local government, industry, and non-profit sectors. Barry is responsible for the implementation of the Economic Development Cowichan (EDC) Strategic Plan, which includes sector development in Tech, Film, and Agriculture.

Judy Stafford, Executive Director, Cowichan Green Community (CGC) was born in Vancouver, and has lived in a variety of places, before locating in Cowichan in 2006. Judy acquired over 25 years’ experience in financial institutions, managing several bank branches and back-office administration functions. Judy joined CGC in September 2007, and has been involved in a wide range of environmental sustainability and agricultural initiatives. She has strong ties with local business and social organizations, and draws on decades of experience in facilitation, collaboration and communication to make good things happen in the Cowichan Region.

Darcy Smith, B.C. Land Matching Program (BCLMP) Manager, Young Agrarians, has spent the last decade working to support farmers and food systems. As the first Land Matcher in B.C. and now as BCLMP Manager, she’s worked with many new entrants, seasoned farmers and farmland holders across the province, who all share a vision to help the next generation of farmers get on the land and to see the land producing food into the future.

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

Attainable Housing Inspiration from Vancouver Island Communities

Saturday, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Wiser Projects, in collaboration with BC Housing and CMHC, will present examples of innovative affordable and attainable housing projects from across Vancouver Island. This session will cover both the relationship- and community-building that organizations are working on to build capacity within the sector and cover three project examples on Vancouver Island that brought all levels of government to the table. The focus will be on key opportunities for municipalities to participate in and collaborate on projects with the public, non-profit and private sectors.

PRESENTERS:

Kaeley Wiseman, Director, Wiser Projects has supported clients in environmental, social, and financial planning and approvals for their development projects for over a decade. She has formal partnerships with a number of local and regional organizations who provide additional technical expertise when needed, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous project work. She has worked for and with multinational organizations and small, local non-profits to create their vision and design a plan of implementation. Specifically, Kaeley's background in Project Management has allowed her to share and apply cross-sector learnings with her partners, especially adding financial, governance and project development perspectives to the non-profit and charitable realm.

Jordan Brietzke, Planner and Project Lead, Wiser Projects, holds a master's degree in Community Planning from VIU and a bachelor's degree in Ecotourism and Outdoor Leadership. He has worked as a development consultant with public, private non-profit and Indigenous clients. Jordan also has experience working in local government and policy development. Jordan has a keen professional interest in affordable housing, climate change adaptation, sustainable practices and writing meaningful policy to help support these strategies.

Sarah Smith, Director, Regional Development | Vancouver Island Development & Asset Strategies, BC Housing has over 13 years' experience in various roles at BC Housing, most recently leading the Vancouver Island Development team. Previously she was a Senior Development Manager at the HousingHub and brings this experience of collaborating between public, private and non-profit sectors to her Director role.

Elizabeth Tang, Specialist, Outreach and Project Development, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is focused on engaging with professionals in the housing industry, academics and provincial and municipal governments to ensure access to the latest and most relevant housing information from CMHC. She has been with CMHC since 2006. Prior to working at CMHC, Elizabeth was Trade Commissioner, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. She is a LEED Green Associate, and holds a MBA from University of British Columbia with a specialization in sustainability and business strategic management.

SESSIONS & SPEAKERS: CONCURRENT

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOP

Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today

Saturday, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

At its core, risk management is people coming together to respond to a crisis and resolve a problem, which is precisely what community leaders do. It is crucial for effective decision making, establishing policy, and accomplishing the goals and objectives set out in the strategic plans for each community.

In this session, the MIABC will provide an overview of three emerging risks affecting every local government. Elected officials will have the opportunity to discuss these risks and participate in problem solving activities, allowing them to learn practical and sustainable strategies that can help their local governments successfully plan for, prevent, and manage these risks.

This presentation is designed to help elected officials gain a basic understanding the role risk management plays in effective decision making. Being aware of new and emerging risks helps elected officials make informed decisions when it comes to establishing policy and achieving strategic and operational goals.

PRESENTER:

Sandra Mayo, Manager of Risk Management Services at the Municipal Insurance Association of British Columbia (MIABC) joined the MIABC in March 2020 bringing experience in local government from her previous risk management roles with a large B.C. city and well-established non-profit association. Sandra has several professional designations including the Canadian Risk Management (CRM) and the RIMS-Certified Risk Management Professional (RIMS-CRMP) designations along with Certified Business Continuity Professional (CBCP) designation. Sandra uses her skills to assist members with a variety of risk management, education, and loss control challenges. She also provides our members with specialized support in the areas of business continuity.

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