



Regional District of Nanaimo & City of Nanaimo

2023 AGM & Convention

April 14 - 16

PHOTO CREDIT: GORD MCKENNA

## WELCOME FROM AVICC PRESIDENT PENNY COTE



This year the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities is excited to be back in Nanaimo – the Harbour City – for our 2023 AGM and Convention. AVICC would like to thank the Snuneymuxw First Nation, the Qualicum First Nation, and the Snaw-naw-as (Nanoose) First Nation for welcoming our members to their territories for our event. The Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo are our joint hosts, and as President of the AVICC, I would like to thank both organizations for all their support in welcoming our members to their community.

The Convention’s business and social sessions will be held in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC) in downtown Nanaimo. The VICC is a spacious and comfortable facility that suits our convention well. We appreciate the support of our host communities in making the conference centre available to us, as well as the tours, sessions and entertainment they have worked hard to set up for the delegates.

The AVICC Executive is excited about the range of sessions available at this year’s Convention. I am very happy to announce our keynote speaker, Tomson Highway. Some background on Tomson is included below, and we look forward to having him share his fascinating story with us at the Convention opening.

Details on the pre-Convention Friday tours and sessions are also included in this brochure, as are highlights of the business sessions that will be offered during the regular Convention.

Delegates can register online at <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2023/AVICC>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: TOMSON HIGHWAY



Tomson Highway was born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic, the eleventh of twelve 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’s an acclaimed artist making an international impact as a playwright, author, musician, and multilingual speaker (Cree, French and English).

Highway has also found time to 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. He then decided it was time to put all his artistic training and his 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 across the country to this day. He’s been Writer-in-Residence at many universities and is the 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.

## PROGRAM IN BRIEF

### Friday, April 14, 2023

- 8:30 am Tour – Nanaimo Community Amenity Tour
- 9:00 am Tour – Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre
- 9:30 am Workshop on Legislative Reform Initiative
- 11:30 am Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch
- 11:30 am Electoral Area Directors Forum and Lunch
- 2:00 pm Official Opening  
Keynote Address
- 4:00 pm Provincial Address  
Plenary Session
- 5:30 pm Welcome Reception

### Saturday, April 15, 2023

- 7:30 am Breakfast Presentation
- 8:30 am AGM & Resolutions  
UBCM President’s Address  
UBCM CCBF Update
- Noon Delegates Lunch
- 1:30 pm 1st Concurrent Workshop Sessions
- 3:00 pm 2nd Concurrent Workshop Sessions
- 6:30 pm Pre-Banquet Reception
- 7:30 pm Dinner & Band

### Sunday, April 16, 2023

- 7:30 am Networking Breakfast
- 8:30 am Resolutions & Late Resolutions  
Address by Provincial Representatives  
Installation of New Executive  
Grand Prize Award
- Noon Adjourn

Visit [www.avicc.ca](http://www.avicc.ca) for program updates



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## FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

### Study Tour: 'Nanaimo Community Amenity Tour'

8:30-11:30, Friday, April 14, 2023

Cost: \$40

The City of Nanaimo has put together a guided bus tour that will give delegates the opportunity to visit five sites the City has developed to benefit the community. The tour will visit:



#### Five Acre Farm

A partnership with local non-profit Nanaimo Foodshare to continue providing community food and farming education programs at the last remaining, historic Five Acre Farm site in Harewood.



#### Harewood Centennial Park

Harewood Centennial Park – An inner-city park revitalized to become a community gathering place for all ages through enhanced amenities, including a kids' water park, covered sports court, improved pathways, accessible playground, a skateboard park and two artificial turf fields to be built in 2023.



#### Te'tuxwtun

Te'tuxwtun – A vision that integrates affordable housing, parks and culture, education, childcare and health services, Te'tuxwtun is the result of collaboration between the City of Nanaimo, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools and BC Housing.

#### Nanaimo Stadium District

Next door to Vancouver Island University and NDSS high school, this prime location for Nanaimo's key sports facilities includes an aquatic centre, ice rink, baseball stadium, track and field complex, multi-use trails and the Q'unq'inuqstuxw Stadium (named at the 2022 Truth and Reconciliation Day).



#### Steve Smith Bike Park

Built in 2017 to honour the memory of beloved local mountain bike champion Steve Smith. The bike park is host to top international competitions and is enjoyed by bike enthusiasts of all ages and abilities in the community. The area also include a skills development area and a BMX Track that will be improved in 2023.

## THANK YOU

to the **City of Nanaimo &  
the Regional District of  
Nanaimo**

The host communities for the 2023 AGM & Convention are the Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo. Mayor Leonard Krog and Council, and Chair Vanessa Craig and the Regional District Board are thanked for their generous hospitality.

City and Regional District staff have been involved in the planning of the 2023 Convention. Special thanks to Donna Stennes and Rebecca Taylor for their enthusiasm and assistance.

All local contributors are thanked for their support in making the 2023 AGM & Convention a terrific experience for all.





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## FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

### Study Tour: 'Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Tour'

9:00-11:30, Friday, April 14, 2023

Cost: \$40



The Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre (GNPCC) is the largest of four wastewater treatment facilities owned and operated by the RDN and currently serves 100,000 residents and businesses in the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and on Snuneymuxw First Nation land. The facility also treats septage from residential onsite septic systems and wastewater from pump-and-haul properties.

The GNPCC Secondary Treatment Upgrade Project was completed in the spring of 2021. With over 10 billion litres of wastewater treated annually, the facility upgrade was needed to increase capacity for our growing communities and to achieve a number of objectives under the RDN's Liquid Waste Management Plan. Primary treatment (settling tanks and gravity) and secondary treatment (beneficial micro-organisms to consume organic matter) together remove more than 90 per cent of the solids from the wastewater before treated effluent is discharged to the ocean. Regionally, over 99 per cent of the wastewater treated by the RDN receives secondary treatment. The \$82 million upgrade is the largest capital expenditure in the RDN's history. A \$6 million federal Gas Tax Fund grant helped fund the project.

The GNPCC is in north Nanaimo. It is a neighbour to parks, a creek, an elementary school, community trails and a residential area. Join us on this tour to see the innovative features firsthand and learn more about the positive impact the facility has on the region and the environment. For example:

- Blast rock from the site was used to create stone columns that will stabilize the soils in the event of an earthquake.
- Odours captured around the plant are removed by the new biofilter and carbon filters, improving air quality for neighbouring residents.
- Solids that are extracted during the treatment process are treated further and used to enrich forest soils and reclaim industrial sites. These biosolids meet the quality criteria outlined in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation.
- Biogas produced during the extraction process is used to heat the plant.
- A heat exchanger on the wastewater outfall heats a local elementary school.
- It operates under an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System.
- Follows an asset management program.





## FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM CONT'D

### Legislative Reform Initiative: Building the Case

**Cost** Included in member registration

**Time** Runs from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

In June 2021, the Regional District of Nanaimo, 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.

### Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum and Lunch

**Cost** Cost is \$45

**Time** Runs from noon to 1:30 pm

The Forum will be an opportunity to discuss challenges of ensuring that affordable housing is available in our areas. Bring your success story (no matter how small) to share so we can learn from each other! This Forum is open to Chiefs, Mayors, and Regional District Chairs. Lunch will be provided from 11:30am.

### Electoral Area Forum and Lunch

**Cost** Cost is \$45

**Time** Runs from noon to 1:30 pm

The Electoral Area Forum became a regular session at the AVICC Convention in 2016. The Forum provides an excellent opportunity to discuss issues that are common to many electoral areas. As an Electoral Area Director, we may often feel that we are unique in the challenges we might have in our area, but by attending the Forum soon realize that there are many shared issues. What is most important from the Forum is that we can identify paths to advocate to senior governments to effect change and turn our collaboration into action. A louder voice is better heard.

This forum is designed for Electoral Area Directors and Regional District staff. Lunch will be provided from 11:30 am.



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## CONVENTION PROGRAM

### The Program Format

The 2023 program will integrate the regular business of the annual general meeting, debate on resolutions and holding of elections with a variety of presentations and workshops on topical issues, addresses by key political speakers and opportunities for networking.

Invitations have been extended to BC Premier, David Eby; Leader of the Official Opposition, Kevin Falcon; Leader of the BC Green Party, Sonia Furstenuau; Minister Municipal Affairs, Anne Kang; and UBCM President, Jen Ford.

A draft of the detailed program is expected to be available by early March on the AVICC website. In order to accommodate emergent issues, the program does not become final until just prior to the AGM & Convention.

Some program highlights that have been confirmed include:

- Indigenous Relationships with Local Governments
- Emergency Management: The Increasing Impact on Our Communities
- Traditional and Social Media Tips and Tricks for Electeds
- Regional Collaboration in the Decade of Climate Action
- Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today
- The Evolving Role of Municipalities in Community Health
- Canada Community-Building Fund Update from UBCM
- Growing Farmers & Food Resilience in Cowichan Valley
- Fully Booked. Why our Libraries are Booming (No Shhh@t - libraries do that?!)
- Attainable Housing Inspiration from Vancouver Island Communities
- Property Assessment Overview

There are some other sessions under development that will be detailed when the program is announced



## RESOLUTIONS PROCESS

UBCM urges members to submit resolutions first to Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions received prior to the **February 9, 2023** deadline will be processed and included in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Book* that will be emailed to members in late March.

Resolutions received after the deadline are considered to be “**Late Resolutions**” and will be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer up until noon, **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**.

Members are reminded that, to be admitted for debate, a late resolution must be deemed to be of an urgent or emergency nature and should address an issue that has arisen after the February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline date.

The Resolutions Committee will review all late resolutions and prepare a report for the Convention including a recommendation as to whether the resolution meets the criteria and should be admitted for debate.

Members can also propose a resolution from the floor of the Convention on Sunday, April 16, and members will vote on whether to admit the resolution for debate. See the convention rules around resolutions in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Book* that has guidelines for distributing printed materials to delegates for off-the-floor resolutions.

### Reminder

**Late Resolutions Deadline**  
**April 12, 2023**  
**Noon**

See [www.avicc.ca](http://www.avicc.ca) for details



## NETWORKING & SOCIAL EVENTS

A key objective of the AVICC Convention is providing delegates with the opportunity to connect with colleagues and develop new relationships. Members can share experiences and learnings to take back to their communities. There will be several opportunities to break bread with each other at the breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday morning, the morning and afternoon refreshment breaks, Saturday's Delegates Lunch, the Friday evening reception and the Saturday evening Annual Banquet.

### 2023 Welcome Reception

The Welcome Reception will be held from 5:30-7:30 pm Friday evening in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre just outside the main ballroom. The Trade Show will be open for delegates to peruse while enjoying refreshments. Admission for delegates is already included in the delegate registration fee. Additional tickets may be purchased for guests through the on-line registration form on CivicInfo BC.

### Annual Banquet

The Banquet will be held in the main ballroom of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre that will be transformed for the night. There will be entertainment from "Time Well Wasted" that will get us up and dancing after the 3-course meal. "Time Well Wasted" is a 13-piece, horn-driven funk, soul, rock, rhythm & blues band from Vancouver Island. They are a high energy dance and party band, playing the very best disco, funk, soul, rock, rhythm and blues ... with attitude!! With two powerhouse female vocalists, 5 horns, and a locomotive rhythm section, Time Well Wasted performs all the dance-crazy radio hits you love, including Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Tori Kelly, Tower of Power, Earth, Wind & Fire, Bruno Mars, Doobie Brothers, Kool and the Gang, The Bee Gees, Toto, Powder Blues, Chicago, Little Feat, Steely Dan, Santana, Aretha Franklin ... and many, many more.

### Island Good

The Vancouver Island Economic Alliance (VIEA) is a collaborative partnership spearheading regional economic development for the Vancouver Island region. VIEA has established the **Island Good** brand with its range of products sourced from local suppliers that is increasing sales and market share for Vancouver Island and Gulf Island products.

Created by VIEA in 2018, Island Good achieved an astounding 16.4% sales lift over 6 months in 45 grocery stores. In 2018, VIEA established that henceforth, all food and beverage served at its annual **Economic Summit** would be Island Good. AVICC has followed this lead at our AGM & Convention.

### Trade Show

As in past years, AVICC will host a Trade Show adjacent to the main meeting room. Many of our sponsors will be staffing information booths – please thank them for supporting our Convention and allowing us to keep our fees the lowest of all the area associations.

The Trade Show will be open Friday afternoon and during the Welcome Reception, and then from breakfast on Saturday through to a 3:00 pm close after the Saturday afternoon networking break.

## ELECTIONS PROCESS

AVICC members elect the AVICC Executive during the AGM & Convention each year to ensure the directions set by the general membership are carried forward. The Executive also provides direction to AVICC between Conventions.

The following positions are open for nomination:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Director at Large (3 positions)
- Electoral Area Representative

The deadline for nominations to be included in the Report on Nominations was February 9, 2023. However, nominations are still accepted at Convention from the floor. Candidate speeches will be delivered online. Candidates who will be nominated from the floor will be given the opportunity to record a speech for AVICC staff to post online during the convention.

For further information on the elections process, please email [avicc@ubcm.ca](mailto:avicc@ubcm.ca) or visit [www.avicc.ca](http://www.avicc.ca).





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## REGISTRATION

Online registration is available through CivicInfo at:

<https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/event/2023/AVICC>

### Fees

Register early to take advantage of the early bird discounted rates. Please note the cancellation deadline of March 31.

	Early Bird (by Mar 22)	Late (after Mar 22)
Member	\$ 370	\$ 425
Non-Member	\$ 445	\$ 510
Welcome Reception	\$ 45	\$ 55
Annual Banquet	\$ 85	\$ 95

The Welcome Reception is included with delegate registration. Tickets are available for guests and must be purchased ahead of time to ensure availability.

### Cancellation Policy

Full Refund: cancellations by March 31 at 4:30 pm  
No Refunds: cancellations after March 31 at 4:30 pm

Cancellations must be emailed to [avicc@ubcm.ca](mailto:avicc@ubcm.ca).

*Delegates who need to cancel due to illness (including experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID) immediately prior to the Convention (April 12 and April 13) will receive a refund for registration fees less a \$75 administration fee to help defray costs to AVICC.*



## LOGISTICS

### Convention Venue

All business sessions will be held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre at 101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo.

### Parking

Parking is available for a fee at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre.

### Internet

The Vancouver Island Conference Centre has complimentary WiFi for delegates.

### Accommodations

Several hotels have been identified as accommodation providers for Convention delegates. Visit the AVICC website for [hotel booking information](#).

## TOURISM

Tourism Nanaimo will have a booth on-site right next to the registration booth. The Tourism booth will be staffed by locals who can make recommendations on places to visit, shop and eat in the region.

There is also a great deal of information on their website at [Tourism Nanaimo](#) if you'd like to do some planning before you arrive. Take a look and you may decide to extend your visit to Nanaimo to see all that the region has to offer.

## MORE INFORMATION

The most current information will be posted on the [AVICC website](#). Please check back regularly for updates.

For specific questions, please contact:

Theresa Dennison, AVICC Secretary-Treasurer  
[avicc@ubcm.ca](mailto:avicc@ubcm.ca)  
640-270-8226, ext 221



## CODE OF CONDUCT

In keeping with practice at the UBCM Convention, AVICC will again have a Code of Conduct for this year's AVICC Convention. The online registration form is linked to a form outlining the Code. By registering, delegates are acknowledging that they are aware that they are expected to adhere to the 2023 Code of Conduct.

### ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES CONVENTION CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 2023 Convention

The AVICC Executive has implemented a code of conduct for convention participants based on the following principles.

1. The primary purpose of the annual AVICC Convention is to provide the membership with an opportunity to set the Association's policy direction for the year ahead.
2. The Convention also provides delegates with an opportunity to learn, share and meet with other local, provincial and federal government officials in addition to other associations that are interested in engaging with local governments.
3. All delegates and convention participants have the right to a safe, fun and enjoyable experience. AVICC will not tolerate any communication or behaviour that demeans, threatens, or harasses anyone at its events.
4. All participants at the Convention, regardless of their employer, their position, their perspectives or priorities will treat others, and be treated, in a respectful, understanding and cooperative manner and behave in a manner that is respectful to other participants and their guests, and will not do anything that threatens the health, safety, security, or dignity of other participants or their guests.
5. Only local elected officials who are AVICC members are entitled to speak and vote on matters put forward to the membership. However, the annual Convention is open to the public, and anyone may attend the Convention so long as they register.
6. All AVICC members are viewed as equal regardless of their population, location, or their ability to attend the annual convention.
7. Participants are expected to adhere to this Code of Conduct at AVICC and other non-AVICC organized events associated with the Convention; and will be required to sign a confirmation that they have read, understood, and agree to this Code of Conduct at time of registration.
8. Breaches of the code of conduct will be addressed by the AVICC Executive.