

Association of
Vancouver Island and
Coastal Communities



MINUTES OF THE 74th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

Held in Nanaimo, BC
April 14-16, 2023

2022-23 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Director Penny Cote
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Ben Geselbracht
City of Nanaimo

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Director Vanessa Craig
Regional District of Nanaimo

ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Director Donna McMahon
Sunshine Coast Regional District

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Councillor Sarah Fowler
Village of Tahsis

Director Travis Hall
Central Coast Regional District

Councillor Tony St-Pierre
District of Sooke

PAST PRESIDENT

Director Ian Morrison
Cowichan Valley Regional District

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ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

MINUTES OF THE 74TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVICC NANAIMO, BC APRIL 14-16, 2023

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Friday morning pre-convention program ran from 8:30 am to 11:30 am with four tours and a workshop:

- Tour: Nanaimo Community Amenity Tour
- Tour: Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre Tour
- Workshop: Legislative Reform Initiative: Continuing the Discussion

There were two forums from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm:

- Chiefs, Mayors and Chairs Forum
- Electoral Area Directors Forum

CONVENTION OPENING SESSION – FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2023, 2:00 PM

The Convention opened with the AVICC Executive and honoured guests (Snuneymuxw Councillor and Chief Advisor, Erralyn Joseph; Snuneymuxw Elder Lolly Good, Mayor Leonard Krog, City of Nanaimo; Chair Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo) led by Piper, Graham Davidson.

President Penny Cote called the 74th Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order at 2:00 pm on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Elder Lolly Good provided a blessing over the convention and delegates. President Cote then introduced the 2022/23 AVICC Executive Committee members (Donna McMahon, absent).

Delegates rose for the singing of the national anthem by Sofia Swain, daughter of Lantzville Mayor, Mark Swain. President Cote thanked Councillor and Chief Advisor Erralyn Joseph of the Snuneymuxw First Nation for joining us, and invited her to provide a welcome. President Cote thanked the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo for acting as the convention's host communities. She introduced Mayor Krog and Chair Craig who addressed the delegates and welcomed them to Nanaimo. Elder Lolly Good shared a song and blessing with the delegates. President Cote shared regrets from Minister of Municipal Affairs, Anne Kang, who was unable to attend, but sent her greetings by video.

President Cote noted the MLAs and MPs who were registered for the Convention, UBCM President Jen Ford, UBCM Executive representatives from the AVICC region, and AVICC life members in attendance.

President Cote then drew delegates' attention to the final convention program they received at registration on-site as well as the Annual Report and Resolutions Package that had been emailed to delegates in advance of the convention.

Finally, President Cote recognized the importance of the convention sponsors, and advised of the trade show timing and location.

FIRST REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Cote invited Past President Ian Morrison, Chair of the Nominating Committee to present the first report from the Nominating Committee. Past President Morrison referred to the Nominating Committee Report included in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package* that set out nominations received in advance of the February 9th, 2023 deadline as follows:

For President:	Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
For First Vice-President:	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For Director at Large:	Councillor Janet Dorward, District of Port Hardy Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, City of Courtenay Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke Councillor Sean Wood, City of Parksville
For Electoral Area Representative:	Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District

Delegates were directed to the Convention program for times of nominations and elections.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At 2:30 pm Past President Morrison introduced Tomson Highway, playwright, author, musician, and multilingual speaker. He is an award-winning and multi-talented Aboriginal artist. Highway has also found time to complement these great accomplishments with his work as a social worker, native artistic director, adjunct professor, and world traveler. Tomson Highway delivered a one-hour keynote address.

Director Hall thanked Mr. Highway for his presentation, and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

The Convention adjourned for a refreshment break and reconvened for the nominating report.

SECOND REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 4:00 pm Past President Morrison, Chair of the Nominating Committee called for nominations from the floor for the positions of Table Officers in addition to those already placed in nomination. Those nominated at the close of the nominations for Table Officers were:

For President:	Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
For First Vice-President:	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President:	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo

Past President Morrison declared the positions of President, First Vice President and Second Vice President elected by acclamation. Since there was no election for Table Officer positions, Past President called for nominations from the floor for the three Director at Large positions. Those nominated at the close of nominations for Director at Large were:

Councillor Janet Dorward, District of Port Hardy
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, City of Courtenay
Councillor Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke
Councillor Sean Wood, City of Parksville

Past President Morrison declared that the online voting for the three Director at Large positions would open at 5:45 pm and close at 10:30 am on Saturday with results being given at 11:45 am on Saturday.

ISLAND HEALTH UPDATE

Diane Brennan, Island Health Board Director, gave an update to delegates on the work of Island Health.

MINISTER MALCOLMSON ADDRESS TO DELEGATES

First Vice President Geselbracht introduced the Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister Social Development and Poverty Reduction and MLA Nanaimo. The Minister addressed the delegates. Past President Morrison thanked Minister Malcolmson, and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank

MANAGING EMERGENCIES- THE INCREASING IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES

Panelists provided information on how local governments and Indigenous Communities are handling Emergency Management. Representatives from the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) provided an update on the ongoing repeal and Replacement of the Emergency Program Act. The presenters were as follows:

- Donna McMahon (MODERATOR), AVICC EA Representative and Director, Sunshine Coast RD
- Ryan Wainwright, Senior Manager, Emergency Management Cowichan
- Travis Hall, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District and Heiltsuk advisor to Chief Yimas Qai'ait.
- Mark Brown, Former CAO, Town of Qualicum Beach, currently the Acting General Manager of Infrastructure Services at the Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Corey Anderson, A/Senior Regional Manager, Vancouver Island Coastal Region, of the Ministry of EMCR
- Katie Olthuis, Director of the Policy and Legislation branch at EMCR

The session concluded with Q & A from the delegates.

END OF DAY WRAP-UP

President Cote wrapped up the business of the day noting the welcome reception would be held in the trade show area, and the timing for Saturday morning's program including the Annual Meeting followed by an address from the UBCM President and the first Resolutions Session. President Cote held a draw for door prizes donated by the Host Communities.

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception sponsored by CUPE BC took place in the lobby and in the trade show area.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH

TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS AND TRICKS FOR ELECTEDS

Director Fowler introduced Mayor Merlin Blackwell, District of Clearwater, who made a presentation on media tips and tricks. President Cote thanked Mayor Blackwell, and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank

The Convention re-convened at 8:30 am with President Cote welcoming delegates back.

ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT

President Cote introduced UBCM President Jen Ford who addressed the delegates on the policy initiatives and work being carried out by the UBCM.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At 8:50 am, President Cote called the 2023 Annual General Meeting to order. She referred to the President's Report in the Annual Report (attached as Appendix A) and referenced the main activities of the AVICC Executive over the last term, including the association's upcoming organizational transition away from UBCM. She proceeded to the business of the AGM.

ADOPTION OF CONVENTION RULES AND PROCEDURES

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Convention Rules and Procedures as printed in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package* were adopted.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the Minutes of the 73rd Annual General Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Victoria April 1-3, 2022 as electronically posted and distributed, were adopted.

ANNUAL REPORT

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the *Annual Report* was adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Cote presented the Audited Financial Statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities for the year ending December 31, 2022 (Appendix B).

She advised that once again the financial statements include a clean opinion from AVICC's auditors, KPMG.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the statements were received.

2022 BUDGET

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the 2023 budget was received.

FIRST RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The first Resolutions session began at 9:00 am with 1st Vice President Geselbracht reviewing the convention rules and procedures for handling resolutions as printed in the *Annual Report and Resolutions Package*.

The consideration of resolutions commenced with Past President Morrison in the Chair with EA Representative McMahon, Director Hall and Director St-Pierre. Mr. Ian Izard, KC acted as Parliamentarian providing parliamentary procedural support.

PART SR – SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

There were no special resolutions submitted for the 2023 AGM & Convention.

PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions submitted by the AVICC Executive for the 2023 AGM & Convention

PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 9, 2023 resolutions deadline, but are resolutions that are considered regional in nature. Should any of these regionally focused resolutions be endorsed, they will not be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention. Rather these resolutions will remain with AVICC where they may be actioned.

Part 1 - Section "A" – This section contains regionally focused resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse.

HOUSING

R1) Vancouver Island Housing Plan - Responding to the Homelessness Crisis **City of Courtenay**

Whereas the historical gap between the supply and demand for social and supportive housing in Vancouver Island communities has been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in a homelessness crisis;

And whereas in the absence of an overall provincial housing strategy, clear funding guidelines, accessible application processes, and adequate funding, the homelessness crisis continues to increase illness and death amongst our vulnerable homeless population and social disorder throughout Vancouver Island Communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM executive facilitate a meeting between Vancouver Island Mayors, **Chairs, and Chiefs**, and the Premier, the Minister of Housing, and BC Housing officials to demand an immediate action plan to address the homelessness crisis and its impacts on Vancouver Island communities.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R2) Provision of Energy for Commercial Agriculture **City of Parksville**

Whereas many communities are currently using and/or reliant on environmentally harmful forms of energy production such as diesel, propane or coal which produce comparatively high greenhouse gas levels;

And whereas commercial food agriculture and other industries such as aquaculture would benefit significantly from the availability of natural gas and other sustainable energy sources as an economical and more environmentally friendly source of energy for local food production:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request the Province of BC partner with FortisBC, other natural gas and alternative energy providers to create a coordinated infrastructure plan and dedicated subsidies for AVICC members to establish a sufficient supply of alternative cleaner energy sources for increased commercial agricultural opportunities dedicated to growing food on Vancouver Island and in coastal communities.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

Part 1 - Section "B" – This section contains regionally focused resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse.

ENVIRONMENT

R3) Watershed Security Strategy and Fund **Village of Cumberland**

Whereas achieving watershed security on eastern Vancouver Island is made even more complex by the historic land ownership context resulting from the 1884 *Settlement Act* which saw over 2 million acres of unceded land on south eastern Vancouver Island granted by the crown to private owners;

And whereas the legacy of this historic land grant means that rapidly growing communities on eastern Vancouver Island are responsible for providing safe, sustainable drinking water for our communities from privately owned lands, where active forestry is taking place, and over which we have no authority:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request that the Province of BC and the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Management acknowledge this unique context and fund the critical work required to achieve watershed security on eastern Vancouver Island.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R4) E&N Land Grant Biodiversity and Restoration

Nanaimo Regional District

Whereas in 1883, 8,000 sq kilometers of south-east Vancouver Island representing 20% of the island land base was granted to Robert Dunsmuir in exchange for the construction of the E&N Railway, and the E&N Land Grant has impacted Indigenous rights and title, community drinking watersheds, and the ability to protect and conserve biodiversity and sensitive ecosystems;

And whereas the federal and provincial governments have committed to the protection of 30% of the land base by 2030 as part of the provincial, national and international commitments to protect biodiversity:

Therefore be it resolved that on this 140th anniversary of the E&N Land Grant, the AVICC call upon the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to identify areas within the E&N Land Grant as a priority for the protection and conservation of biodiversity for their 2030 targets, and engage with impacted First Nations, local governments and land owners in a process to protect and restore the biodiversity of the southeast region of Vancouver Island with a focus on community watershed catchment areas, riparian areas along fish-bearing rivers and streams, sensitive ecosystems and habitats, and culturally significant areas.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

R5) Recapitalization of Island Coastal Economic Trust

Capital Regional District

Whereas at the January 11, 2023, Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting a motion was passed to urge the province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million;

And whereas ICET has been a vital partner in our efforts to promote economic development and diversification in the rural, electoral areas of the CRD and its contributions have been instrumental in creating jobs, boosting local businesses, and improving the quality of life for our residents:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to recapitalize the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) with a generational investment of \$150 million.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 9, 2023 resolutions deadline. Should any of these resolutions be endorsed, they will be forwarded to UBCM for consideration at their Annual Convention.

Part 2 - Section “A” – This section contains resolutions that offer the recommendation of No Recommendation or Not Endorse and resolutions that offer the recommendation of Endorse with Proposed Amendment.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R6) BC Emergency Health Services/Demands on Local Governments

City of Port Alberni

Whereas medical first responder call volume data taken locally and provincially reflects an upward trajectory year over year;

And whereas this increased trajectory of medical first responder call volume is disproportionately higher for municipal emergency responders than those reported by British Columbia Emergency Health Services [BCEHS];

And whereas BCEHS is responsible for the delivery, co-ordination and governance of emergency health services and can and does consent to other organizations, primarily fire departments, providing these services as part of a co-ordinated response;

And whereas a number of challenges are present in achieving a coordinated approach to the access and provision of emergency health services including that of increased service demands congruent to the varied capacity for fire departments to provide first responder services across the province:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC **and UBCM** urge the Ministry of Health to work with local governments and BCEHS to ensure that BCEHS can implement an improved **improve the** coordinated approach to emergency health services that results in adequate funding and staffing levels so as to not overburden local governments [fire departments].

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R7) BC Health Attraction and Retention

Village of Zeballos

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas rural, remote communities are subject to a loss of services due to position vacancies:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC continue to support ~~Vancouver Island Health~~ **Regional Health Authorities** by increasing the health budget for nursing, and physicians, **and health care professionals** attraction and retention, as well as including opportunities for all other emerging health care providers, such as physician assistants.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

HOUSING

R8) Annual Adjustment of Provincial Home Owner Grant

City of Parksville

Whereas municipal taxes on home owners are expected to increase across the province due to inflation and increased need for services;

And whereas the *BC Home Owner Grant Act* offsets a modest amount of these increasing property taxes for BC residents using provincial revenue sources, some of which increase with inflation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to establish a method by which eligible homeowner grant amounts are adjusted on an annual basis to account for inflation.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R9) Review of the *Homeowner Protection Act*

District of Port Hardy

Whereas the *Homeowner Protection Act* requires that testing requirements be met as part of the application process for building contractors to obtain continuing education units annually to maintain their license, and communities are seeing a reduction in capacity to provide for housing development in rural and remote communities;

And whereas many rural BC communities provide construction oversight through building inspection services to ensure that Owner Builders and Building Contractors are meeting the minimum BC Building Code Part 9 requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to review the residential *Homeowner Protection Act* regulation to ensure that there are no barriers to stimulating housing development in rural communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R10) Extreme Weather Response

City of Nanaimo

Whereas the Province, through BC Housing and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), supports year round emergency shelters and temporary winter shelters (operational from November 1st to March 31st);

And whereas since 2022 extreme weather response warming/cooling centres to support vulnerable populations which often tend to be for those with acute mental health and substance use disorders:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request that BC Housing, EMCR and ~~Island Health~~ **health authorities** ~~enter into an agreement with UBCM~~ to ensure that they support local governments with commitments to provide resourcing for dedicated predetermined long-term locations for warming/cooling centres as well as appropriately qualified professionals experienced in managing community members with high health needs including mental health and substance use disorders.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R11) Planning Tools for Habitat Protection

City of Parksville

Whereas Vancouver Island communities are facing loss of irreplaceable natural habitat that is crucial to the survival of delicate coastal and land ecosystems, including wildlife and plant life;

And whereas in December 2022, the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” (GBF), including four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC ~~UBCM~~ request the provincial government establish a working committee, with local government representation to establish a comprehensive set of urban planning and development guidelines that align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s goals and targets, and recommendations to implement this framework to regulate development at the local level in AVICC ~~UBCM~~ member communities and combat the loss of natural habitat ~~on Vancouver Island~~ **in BC**, with a goal of protecting 30% of natural environment and coastline.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R12) New Contribution Model to Finance Local Governments in the Climate Transition

Comox Valley Regional District

Whereas significant costs for climate mitigation and adaptation are and increasingly will be shouldered by local governments;

And whereas local governments are severely limited to property taxes and grants to fund climate-related costs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and BC Cabinet to establish a new contribution model similar in size and structure to the Canada Community Building Fund in order to accelerate local government climate-related investments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R13) Managed Forest Council Representation

Village of Cumberland

Whereas local governments are required to provide drinking water services to their communities;

And whereas many community watersheds are included in or affected by forest management activities occurring on private managed forests:

Therefore be it resolved that the *Private Managed Forest Land Act* be amended such that the Managed Forest Council must include one member that is knowledgeable in matters relating to source protection of local government drinking water systems

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R14) Control of Scotch Broom

Town of Qualicum Beach

Whereas climate change brings us longer periods of drought and hotter temperatures in which Scotch Broom (*Cytisus Scoparius*), a highly flammable invasive species with high oil content and dry branches, will thrive and act as a volatile flash fuel, increasing the risk of wildfires and specifically Urban Interface Fires;

And whereas Scotch Broom spreads densely and rapidly, inhibiting forests regrowth, and negatively impacting agricultural production and native species, with a 2021 study for the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) designating Scotch broom as the Top Worse Offender - the invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM work with the Province to establish and implement actionable steps to control the aggressive spread of Scotch Broom all across BC, including implementing Broom-free fire breaks along long stretches of broom;

And be it further resolved that local governments are encouraged to use bylaws and policies to control and manage Scotch Broom near and within urban boundaries.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

The first resolutions session concluded and was adjourned to the second resolutions session.

PRESENTATION BY BC ASSESSMENT: OVERVIEW OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND 2023 ASSESSMENT ROLL

Past President Morrison introduced Graham Held, Manager, Local Government Relations, BC Assessment, who provided a presentation. Director St-Pierre thanked Mr. Held, and invited delegates to enjoy a coffee break in the lobby and tradeshow.

UPDATE FROM MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

2nd Vice President Craig Introduced Councillor Melanie McCollum, City of Courtenay, and Municipal Finance Authority Board Trustee, who provided a brief update.

UBCM: CANADA COMMUNITY-BUILDING FUND RENEWAL UPDATE

Director Hall introduced UBCM General Manager, Glen Brown and UBCM Canada Community-Building Fund Manager, Brant Felker, who provided an update on the CCBF renewal process and engagement.

SECOND RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The second Resolutions session began at 11:00 am with President Cote in the Chair with 1st Vice President Geselbracht, 2nd Vice President Craig and Director Fowler.

R15) Protection of Old-Growth Forests

District of Metchosin

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province's independent panel on old growth forests called on government to "Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and

enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.” (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Government of BC protect from logging all remaining old growth forest areas in the province.

And be it further resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

ON MOTIONS, duly moved and seconded:

- 1. To amend the resolution to add the second enactment clause as recommended by the Resolutions Committee;***
- 2. To amend the resolution to add “and First Nations” as proposed by membership; and***
- 3. To sever it into two separate resolutions, each with one of the two parts of the enactment clauses;***

were ENDORSED

R15a) Protection of Old-Growth Forests

District of Metchosin

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province’s independent panel on old growth forests called on government to “Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia’s forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.” (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the Government of BC protect from logging all remaining old growth forest areas in the province.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R15b) Protection of Old-Growth Forests

District of Metchosin

Whereas climate change and the planetary biodiversity crisis are real and, old-growth forests have significant economic, social and environmental value as wildlife habitat, tourism resources, carbon sinks and are vital sites for biodiversity in British Columbia and becoming increasingly rare in the province;

And whereas the Province’s independent panel on old growth forests called on government to “Declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia’s forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors.” (A New Future for Old Forests: A Strategic Review of How British Columbia Manages for Old Forests Within its Ancient Ecosystems):

Therefore be it resolved that the Province engage and consult with local governments and First Nations as it moves forward to implement the 14 recommendations within the Old Growth Review, recognizing that there will be significant impacts and implications for workers and communities that will require economic transition support.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R16) Call for Improvements for Provincial Water Licencing Approvals

District of Sechelt

Whereas the changing climate conditions are creating prolonged water restrictions that impact businesses, limit or stop food production and create other issues for many communities;

And whereas licencing for community drinking water systems may take the Province of British Columbia over two years to approve, even when a state of local emergency is in effect for the applicant:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Substantially increase the resources allocated for the processing of water licence applications; and
2. Prioritize water licence applications to give urgency based on health and safety, particularly in light of the current climate conditions.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R17) Flexibility for Agriculture Land Reserve Housing Rules

City of Nanaimo

Whereas the current Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) housing rules limit permitted housing to three residential dwelling units on a farm;

And whereas increased flexibility in the Agriculture Land Reserve's rules would permit increased food production and training for future farmers:

Therefore be it resolved that the Agricultural Land Commission be requested to seek ways to permit more housing on Agriculture Land Reserve land linked to increased farm activity and food production, subject to control by regulations to guarantee that any new housing could only be occupied by farmers working on the land.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

The Second Resolution Session was then adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.

THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 11:45am, Past President Morrison declared the results of the Election for the three Director at Large positions. He declared that the three Directors at Large elected to the AVICC Executive for the 2023/24 term are:

Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
Councillor Janet Dorward, District of Port Hardy

Past President called for nominations from the floor for the Electoral Area Representative position. The one candidate nominated at the close of nominations for Electoral Area Representative was:

Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District.

Past President Morrison declared the position of Electoral Area Representative elected by acclamation. He declared that the Electoral Area Representative to serve on the AVICC Executive for the 2023/24 term is Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District.

Since no further elections were required, Nominating Committee Chair, Past President Morrison, declared that the 2023 AVICC Elections were complete.

He then invited Kiersten Guiseppi from BC Lottery Corporation to address the delegates before the Delegates Lunch. The Convention adjourned for lunch.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Concurrent workshops were held between 1:30-2:30 pm and then 3:00-4:30 pm with a refreshment break served from 2:30-3:00 pm. The session descriptions and presenters are detailed in the program attached as Appendix C to these minutes.

- #1 The Evolving Role of Municipalities in Community Health
- #2 Regional Collaboration in the Decade of Climate Action
- #3 Fully Booked. Why our Libraries are Booming (No Shhh@t – libraries do that?!)

- #4 Growing Farmers & Food Resilience in Cowichan Valley
- #5 Three Emerging Risks Affecting Every Local Government Today
- #3 Attainable Housing Inspiration from Vancouver Island Communities

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet was held in the Mount Benson Ballroom.

Shortly before 7:30 pm, delegates and guests took their seats. The AVICC Executive Committee members were piped into the banquet where delegates and guests were gathered. President Cote welcomed delegates and guests, and thanked the host community and the sponsors for the evening.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH

The Convention reconvened at 8:30 am with President Cote noting that evaluation forms had been placed on the tables asking for delegates' feedback on the Convention and that the completed evaluation forms would be used for the Grand Prize Award draw just prior to adjournment.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF BC

President Penny Cote spoke as a Board Member of the Municipal Insurance Association of BC.

LEADER OF THE BC GREEN PARTY ADDRESS TO DELEGATES

MLA Sonia Furstenau, Leader of the BC Green Party addressed the delegates.

RECONCILI-ACTION: DEVELOPING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Gundaynuxv Travis Hall, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District and Heiltsuk advisor to Chief Yimas Qai'ait, John Jack, Chair, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN) and Brent Mueller, Director, Governance Relations, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, made a presentation to the delegates regarding reconciliation initiatives and developing relationships between local government and Indigenous communities. The presentation was followed by Q & A from the delegates.

Director Fowler thanked the presenters, and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank. She invited delegates to enjoy the refreshment break in the lobby, and to return at 10:35 am for the final resolutions session.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION

Resolutions resumed at 10:35 am with Past President Morrison in the Chair with 1st Vice President Geselbracht, 2nd Vice President Criag and President Cote.

TAXATION

R18) Deferment Program for Local Government Parcel Taxes and Utility Fees

District of Sechelt

Whereas parcel taxes and utility fees have risen substantially in recent years, adding to the increased cost of living for British Columbians;

And whereas eligible property owners can defer their property taxes under a provincial deferment program:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to expand the existing property tax deferment program to include local government parcel taxes and utility bills.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LEGISLATIVE

R19) Long-Term Vacant Buildings

District of Port Hardy

Whereas long-term vacant buildings generate negative impacts on the vibrancy and safety of businesses and residents, which discourages investment in the municipality, results in decreased property values, negatively affects livability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties, a strain on the capacity of the local governments to manage, and reduced local government property tax revenues;

And whereas current municipal statutory authorities regarding vacant buildings are limited to matters of health, safety, and protection of persons and property, unsightly conditions, and tax incentives, and do not provide specific authority to require the re-use of long-term vacant buildings when other statutory authorities prove ineffective:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to grant local government broader authority to incentivize or compel long-term vacant buildings to be functionally utilized in accordance with the zoning.

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

SELECTED ISSUES

R20) Fossil Fuel Corporate Sponsorship of UBCM and AVICC

City of Courtenay

Whereas the operations of fossil fuel producers have a direct impact on, and significantly contribute to the ongoing climate crisis;

And whereas climate change is creating local effects that are having negative impacts on our infrastructure, buildings, crops, health, and ecosystems increasingly effecting our communities' stability:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM not solicit/accept support or corporate sponsorship from fossil fuel producers in acknowledgment of the inherent contradiction between fossil fuel sponsorship of local government associations and the role local governments play responding to and combating climate change.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R21) Enable Electronic Attendance at Conventions

Town of View Royal

Whereas attendance is critical for participation yet it is increasingly difficult for municipalities and regional districts to meet the in-person requirements at the AVICC and UBCM Conventions due to funding, time, and/or accessibility limitations;

And whereas electronic participation is now commonplace for AVICC, UBCM, and council/regional district meetings, yet electronic participation at AVICC and UBCM conventions is not available but would facilitate remote communities, persons with accessibility issues, and support the collective credibility of attendance, particularly during resolutions debate:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM amend the Convention attendance requirements to enable both in-person and electronic access.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO THE AVICC EXECUTIVE

Part 2 - Section “B” – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

R22) Safe Drug Supply

City of Victoria

Whereas the British Columbia Provincial Government declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016, in response to rapidly escalating fatalities caused by the unregulated and toxic drug supply;

And whereas despite some action by the Provincial Government to mitigate harm linked to the unregulated drug supply, interventions to-date have not been proportionate to the scale and scope of the crisis, with over 11,390 preventable deaths of British Columbians due to accidental overdose linked back to the toxic drug supply between April 2016 and December 31, 2022;

And whereas offering a safe, predictable, and regulated supply of drugs (“safe supply”) is widely recognized by health officials, policy makers, academic researchers, and advocates as a key intervention for addressing the drug poisoning crisis, and structural, policy and legal impediments to a “safe supply” are yet to be resolved:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial and federal governments for increased access to accessible, culturally safe, and reliable safe supply in collaboration with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the provincial and federal governments to work collaboratively with its affiliated members, health and drug policy experts, and other relevant stakeholders to create an educational resource for engaging civic actors on the benefits of safe supply services as part of a continuum of critical health interventions including harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery, enforcement, and housing with the objective of reducing unregulated drug poisoning deaths.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R23) Rural, Remote Paramedic Sustainability

Village of Zeballos

Whereas the Ministry of Health has overall responsibility for ensuring that quality, appropriate, cost-effective, and timely health services are available for all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with budgetary means to sustain full-time paramedic positions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Health invest in full-time paid paramedic positions for small, rural, remote communities across British Columbia to enhance these communities' ability to sustain permanent employment for their skilled residents.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

COMMUNITY SAFETY

R24) Empowering Local Governments to use Traffic Enforcement Cameras

District of Saanich

Whereas local governments, with limited and competing resources, must address traffic safety challenges to ensure the well-being of our residents;

And whereas the enforcement of traffic regulations, such as speed regulations in residential areas, playgrounds, and school zones, is labour intensive and the ability to use traffic enforcement cameras as a deterrent has proven to be effective and efficient in the management of speed and other traffic regulations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to permit local governments to independently implement traffic enforcement cameras, with the focus on changing driver behaviour, on local roads at the local government's request and expense.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ENVIRONMENT

R25) Enhanced Access to Extended Producer Responsibility Programs

Comox Valley Regional District

Whereas reasonable and free consumer access to recycling collection facilities or collection services is the cornerstone of British Columbia's recycling framework;

And whereas the 2021 Accessibility Framework within the Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia's Guidance on Accessibility of Stewardship Programs will not provide for the service levels expected within many remote communities in British Columbia, as Extended Producer Responsibility programs are only provided "where practical";

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government for improved access to recycling for rural and remote communities with tiered and funded solutions based on the remoteness index and developed in collaboration with local governments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R26) Expansion of the Recycling Regulation to Include Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Packaging and Printed Paper Recyclables

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Whereas the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's (BCMOECCS) Recycling Regulation regulates the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for residential packaging and printed paper (PPP), which is managed by Recycle BC;

And whereas PPP recyclables from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sources, is not currently part of the Recycling Regulation, which is allowing the financial burden of diverting this recycling stream from landfilling onto the ICI sector and local governments;

And whereas the Provincial Government has instituted a phased study of ICI PPP recyclables as part of the EPR 5-year Action Plan which will not be completed until 2025:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province expedite the inclusion of ICI PPP recyclables into the Recycling Regulations much sooner than 2025.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R27) Moving the Property Assessed Clean Energy Program Forward

City of Courtenay

Whereas in 2021, 37 local governments from across BC, as well as UBCM, passed resolutions supporting Help Cities Lead, a campaign advocating for the implementation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for residential and commercial buildings;

And whereas the Province has not met its commitment to move forward with next steps on a PACE program in the RoadMap to 2030 climate strategy, which is a form of financing for energy retrofits designed to help building owners save on energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has yet to advance the program:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call upon the provincial government to immediately introduce legislation to support a province-wide PACE program for residential and commercial buildings.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**R28) New Legislation for Protection of Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and
Species at Risk**

Islands Trust

Whereas in 2022 UBCM endorsed resolutions calling on the Province of BC to work in cooperation with First Nations to enact species at risk legislation and to work towards new legislation to protect and restore biological diversity and ecosystem health;

And whereas in November 2022 the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council released the Wild Species 2020: The General Status of Species in Canada Report which documents an increased risk of extinction for 700 species in British Columbia in the last five years;

And whereas in December 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which aims to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss by 2030:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia to urgently proceed with legislation, informed by new agreements and reports, co-developed with First Nations, that enables legal and financial mechanisms for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem health, and species at risk in British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R29) Regional Water Supply Strategies

Regional District of Nanaimo

Whereas in the face of climate change and a rapidly increasing population; fresh water for human consumption, agriculture, industry, and ecological needs has become a precious commodity on Vancouver Island and across British Columbia;

And whereas there are many different purveyors involved in the supply of drinking water including governments and private companies, as well as many agencies responsible for development planning for the growing population;

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship to provide leadership and functional involvement in the creation and management of consistent regional water supply strategies following the watershed map of the province and divided by regional district, with the aim of ensuring that resilient and sustainable drinking water supplies are in place now and for the future.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R30) Reducing Anchorages Outside the Port of Vancouver

District of Metchosin

Whereas the Salish Sea is a sensitive marine ecosystem and critical habitat for many species including endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales, and the use of freighter anchorages outside the Port of Vancouver for ships waiting to be loaded in the Port of Vancouver is extremely detrimental to the marine ecosystem;

And whereas ports in other parts of the world have reduced or eliminated the need for freighter anchorages by upgrading infrastructure, increasing efficiencies, and implementing port call optimization systems:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the federal government and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority take all available actions to immediately reduce the use of freighter anchorages along southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands;

And be it further resolved that Transport Canada expand monitoring and inspection of freighters anchored outside the limits of the Port of Vancouver.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R31) Parking on Ministry of Transportation Rights-of-Way

Regional District of Nanaimo

Whereas regional districts have not been granted the authority to regulate vehicle parking on roadways in rural areas;

And whereas the Province and the RCMP have limited resources to regulate and enforce the increased volume of vehicles parked illegally on roads and rights-of-way that cause congestion and unsafe conditions for other vehicles, pedestrians and emergency first responders:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of British Columbia grant regional districts the authority under the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* to regulate and enforce vehicle parking on provincial roads and rights-of-way with the same authority as municipalities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

FINANCE

R32) Downtown Revitalization Grant Program

District of Port Hardy

Whereas the Province of British Columbia has historically administered a downtown revitalization program that generated incredible long-term benefits and returns to those communities who participated in the program and to the Province through increased commerce, tourism, and tax revenues;

And whereas forestry, fishing, and mining-oriented rural communities have been significantly economically impacted in relation to the economic vitality of these industry sectors:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC request the UBCM to lobby the Province of British Columbia to re-establish a downtown revitalization grant program and to provide adequate financial resources to enable rural resource communities to improve their downtowns for the benefit of residents, businesses, and tourism.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R33) Restoring Provincial Support for Public Libraries

**City of Powell River,
qathet Regional District**

Whereas libraries in British Columbia are largely financed by levies paid by local governments, and where provincial library funding has remained stagnant for the past 10 years;

And whereas public libraries are central to communities, providing equitable access to vital resources including Internet, computers, digital tools and in-person services from expert staff;

And whereas public libraries provide British Columbians with low-barrier services that support job seekers and small businesses, that increase literacy in communities, that advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and that promote equity and inclusion:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Government of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

And be it further resolved that the Province ensure that BC libraries will henceforth receive regular increases to Provincial Government funding in subsequent years.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R34) Property Transfer Tax Sharing for Local Governments

District of Sechelt

Whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased community growth in many areas;

And whereas the revenue from property transfer tax is due in large part to the attractiveness of the local community to homebuyers which is in part the result of local government efforts, as such local governments should benefit from this tax:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to share property transfer tax revenue with local governments in British Columbia for expansion and renewal of community infrastructure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LAND USE

R35) Removal of Racist and Discriminatory Clauses from BC Land Titles City of Courtenay

Whereas there are documents and covenants attached to parcels of land throughout the province that are rooted in racism and discrimination;

And whereas the cost to remove racist documents and covenants from land titles is born by the property owners:

Therefore be it resolved be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request that the Province instruct the Land Titles Office to eliminate any charges to landowners wishing to remove these offensive clauses and restrictions from their titles, and further request the Land Titles Office conduct an audit of land titles and systematically remove racist and discriminatory covenants and documents.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R36) Call for Support to Meet Provincial Archeological Requirements District of Sechelt

Whereas local governments acknowledge the critical importance of archaeology to reclaim the history and heritage of the Indigenous Peoples particularly while undertaking critical local government infrastructure renewal;

And whereas the cost of infrastructure renewal is increasing in British Columbia due to the prevalence of aging municipal assets, inflation and increased archaeological costs, including the cost of project delays:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government to:

1. Considerably increase the provincial government resources for the processing of site alteration permit applications at the BC Archaeology Branch; and
2. Provide local governments with funding to offset archaeological costs, including costs related to project delays due to extended permit processing times.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

TRANSPORTATION

R37) Public Safety and Speed Limits Cowichan Valley Regional District

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards, including the setting and adjustment of speed limits;

And whereas rural areas are experiencing traffic management issues including increasing speeding as development and populations increase in areas shared by vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians; this requires a greater attention to community public safety concerns and necessary safety improvements:

Therefore it be resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Ministry of Transportation review rural speed limits in developing residential areas and commercial or village centers, and direct design improvements to make highways safer in these environments, including speed limit reduction.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R38) Economic Investments and Rural Roads State of Infrastructure

Cowichan Valley Regional District

Whereas rural community roads are managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who oversee the maintenance, service and safety standards and there is continued concern regarding the state of roads in rural communities including poor road surfaces and drainage;

And whereas the provincial government periodically makes economic investment announcements and it is understood that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure may require assessment of impacts to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development, and which may direct improvements to transportation infrastructure resulting from proposed development:

Therefore it be resolved that, AVICC and UBCM request that the Province direct enhanced investment into rural road network improvements in areas where provincial economic investments are made.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LEGISLATIVE

R39) Modernization of the *Local Government Act*

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Whereas a comprehensive review of the legislation governing regional districts has not been done; however, the social, political and economic environments in which local governments operate has dramatically evolved in areas including increased populations living in unincorporated areas, response to climate change, and First Nations' participation in regional governance;

And whereas the accountabilities of regional districts continue to increase, most recently with updates to emergency management legislation, but regional districts lack the tools and authority needed to meet these expanded responsibilities;

And whereas UBCM has endorsed multiple resolutions asking for a review of the *Local Government Act* as it relates to the legislative authority of regional districts; most recently in 2015, 2018, and 2022, and the province has been promising these urgently needed legislative updates for over twenty years:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and regional districts to ensure that a comprehensive review and modernization of the *Local Government Act* is prioritized during the current municipal term of office.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

Late resolutions could be submitted after the February 9th deadline, up until April 12th. Late resolutions are appropriate to be admitted for discussion only if the topic is such that it has arisen since or was not known prior to the February 9th resolutions deadline. There were no resolutions received after February 9th, before the April 12th Late Resolution Deadline.

OFF-THE-FLOOR RESOLUTIONS

Off-the-floor resolutions are submitted after the April 12th Late Resolution deadline. To bring a resolution off the floor, a delegate must put forward a motion on the convention floor. A 60% majority is required before the motion can be put forward for debate. One off-the-floor resolution was brought forward for debate.

LR1) Homes for People Action Plan

Regional District of Nanaimo

Whereas on April 3, 2023, Premier Eby announced that the Province of B.C. is taking action to address the housing shortage by proposing to implement the Homes for People Action Plan that includes provisions to allow up to four homes on a parcel where currently only one home is permitted;

And whereas when the Homes for People Action Plan is implemented through legislation, such legislation, while very appropriate in many urban settings, could, in numerous situations, be in conflict with the ability to service an influx of residents, direct density away from floodplains and other hazards, or protect areas of ecological importance;

Therefore be it resolved that Premier Eby be requested to ensure that legislation to implement the Homes for People Action Plan not apply to local governments until such time that the draft legislation has been developed with input from local governments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE

Past President Morrison thanked the members for attending the AGM and Convention. He announced the full 2023/2024 Executive:

President	Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
First Vice President	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
Second Vice President	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
Electoral Area Representative	Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Directors at Large	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
	Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
	Councillor Janet Dorward, District of Port Hardy
Past President	Director Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley Regional District

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REMARKS

President Elect Cote thanked the assembly for electing her as President, saying she was very honoured and looked forward to working with the Executive Committee. She thanked outgoing Executive member Director Tony St-Pierre, for their service, and thanked President Morrison for his leadership and guidance.

2023 HOST COMMUNITY

President Cote announced the 2024 Convention would be held in Victoria from April 12-14, 2024 at the Victoria Conference Centre. Victoria Councillor Krista Loughton to announce 2024 Convention in Victoria on behalf of Mayor Alto and the City of Victoria who are looking forward to welcoming our delegates to their community.

CONVENTION CLOSING

President Cote then closed the 74th Annual General Meeting at noon.



Theresa Dennison
AVICC Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Coordinator

2023-24 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Director Penny Cote Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	Councillor Ben Geselbracht City of Nanaimo
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	Director Vanessa Craig Regional District of Nanaimo
ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE	Director Donna McMahon Sunshine Coast Regional District
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE	Councillor Sarah Fowler Village of Tahsis Director Travis Hall Central Coast Regional District Councillor Janet Dorward District of Port Hardy
PAST PRESIDENT	Director Ian Morrison Cowichan Valley Regional District



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal
Communities**

2022-2023

Welcome to the 2023 AVICC AGM & Convention in Nanaimo on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation Peoples.

Your AVICC Executive respectfully invites you all to join us in celebrating our coming together this weekend. Last year, we celebrated our first in-person convention since the COVID-19 pandemic, and the members in attendance truly appreciated the opportunity to network and collaborate face-to-face again. This year, I am happy that we can continue meeting in-person, without any of the pandemic-related restrictions that we all faced.

In welcoming all the returning and newly elected Mayors, Chairs, Councilors, Regional District Directors, and First Nations members resulting from the 2022 local government elections, I encourage you to use this convention as an opportunity to meet and network with your colleagues. It is helpful to realize that you are not alone, and that if you have an issue to deal with, or a success to celebrate, that there is someone else that you can reach out to who understands and empathizes with your situation.

Elected to the AVICC Executive in 2016 and having had the honorable privilege of being your elected President for the past year, I reflect on the many valuable friendships and knowledge gained. Attending our members' convention over the past 18 years of local government service has benefited and broadened my personal skillsets to work for my community and yours.

I give many thanks to your 2022-23 Executive who are a skilled, passionate, and hard-working group of individuals with whom I have had the honor to serve with on your AVICC Executive:

- 1st Vice President: Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
- 2nd Vice President: Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
- Director at Large: Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
- Director at Large: Tony St-Pierre, District of Sooke
- Director at Large: Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
- Electoral Area Representative: Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Past President: Ian Morrison, Cowichan Valley Regional District

I want to make special mention of my colleague, Ian Morrison. Ian has been a steady and insightful member of the Executive for several terms and has been a most valuable mentor and friend to me as President.

It is expected that the members of AVICC will benefit from the productivity of the 2022/23 Executive for many years to come through advocacy plans and networking opportunities. At last year's convention, a workshop took place to define the role that AVICC should take with respect

to advocacy. By resolution, AVICC members confirmed that AVICC should continue with its current core advocacy initiatives such as holding an annual convention, providing resolution assistance, letter writing on policy issues on behalf of members, and meeting with ministers and ministry staff on behalf of the membership. In addition, that we continue to provide and expand our role in acting as a 'facilitator' for initiatives that would benefit from more dialogue and education as informed by the membership's requests. It was also determined that AVICC would not take on the roles of lead/organizer for committee work and initiatives, of developing policy papers or managing programs. The AVICC Executive are all very approachable if you would like to hear more about what we do and how we support the organization please pull us aside we would gladly to talk to you.

In June of 2022 our previous employee, Liz Cookson, left AVICC for another employment opportunity with UBCM. At that same time UBCM gave notice to AVICC that they would no longer be holding the AVICC Executive Coordinator's service contract effective August 1st, 2023. AVICC staff has historically been contracted through UBCM as one part time position, but the Executive have identified the growing need to expand to a full-time position. We appreciate the assistance past and in the future that we have received from UBCM, and we would like to acknowledge, with gratitude, the great contribution made by Liz Cookson throughout her time with AVICC.

Theresa Dennison joined the AVICC team as our Executive Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer in November 2022. Her experience in the local Vancouver Island hospitality industry, combined with her experience as a local government administrator makes her a great fit to be our one and only AVICC employee. Her job is to support the AVICC in all manners and she is happy to assist members with any questions you may have about AVICC.

The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) are strong partners of AVICC as they advocate with senior levels of government on your behalf. As President of the AVICC I have the privilege this year of being your representative on the UBCM Executive serving on the Health and Social Development Committee, and the Indigenous Relations Committee. The 2022/2023 UBCM elected Executive also include AVICC Executive members, Ian Morrison, Travis Hall and Sarah Fowler serving on various UBCM Executive Committees. There are also elected AVICC members Maja Tait and Will Cole-Hamilton appointed to the UBCM Executive, giving our membership a strong voice at UBCM.

Another of my AVICC appointments is to the Municipal Insurance Association (MIA) as the AVICC representative. I look forward to reporting out to the membership on MIA 2022/ 2023 activity.

Director Daniel Arbour from the Comox Valley Regional District has represented AVICC on the DFO's Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC) for Shellfish. Thanks to Daniel for keeping the Executive and membership apprised of this group's work.

In your package, you will find the annual audited financial statements, the 2023 budget and member dues, a report from the Nominating Committee for the 2023/24 Term, and the resolutions for consideration at this year's convention.

For the 2023/24 AVICC Election, we will repeat elections being held electronically, and candidate speeches being available online. This year, candidates nominated from the floor will have the opportunity to work with AVICC staff to have their speech posted online while on-site at the convention.

Your Executive has reviewed the revenues and expenses of AVICC during these uncertain and changeable times. AVICC continues to be a low cost and high value area association, with

member dues and convention registrations remaining among the lowest when compared to the other area associations. We have considered our transition away from UBCM in August 2023, and have confirmed that we have the necessary resources already incorporated in our modest budget to ensure a seamless transition.

We are looking forward to a productive, educational, and thought-provoking convention, including the resolutions debate, political speakers, keynote, elections, and perhaps most importantly, networking with colleagues. Your Executive did seriously consider the possibility of a hybrid convention for 2023. When all factors were considered, we decided on the in-person format we have today due to the additional costs and logistical requirements of holding a hybrid convention, as well as the potential impact a hybrid convention would have on the networking opportunities at the convention. The new Executive will revisit the options for hosting a hybrid convention for next year.

The Executive is supporting all members by offering attendance to the Legislative Reform session Friday morning at this convention free to members, both staff and elected officials and Indigenous neighbours within our limited attendance.

On Sunday, you will be asked to complete an annual survey, giving feedback on the various aspects of this convention. I want to strongly encourage you to complete the survey in full. The new Executive reviews your responses to improve next year's convention, and the forms are required to qualify for the grand prize draw. This year's survey includes a question about AVICC's Sponsorship Policy; we appreciate any feedback that you provide.

It has been my great honour to serve you and AVICC as President for 2022-23. I trust you will greatly benefit from the convention lineup for the weekend ahead. I am most looking forward to speaking with you in the meeting rooms and hallways of the conference centre, in person.

I acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous Peoples of the Coast Salish, Nuu-Chah-Nulth and Kwak-Waka'wakw Peoples where our local governments are located. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work, live and play on these beautiful lands, and believe we are all one.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Cote". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "Cote".

Penny Cote, AVICC President

Financial Statements of

**ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER
ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2022



KPMG LLP
St. Andrew's Square II
800-730 View Street
Victoria BC V8W 3Y7
Canada
Tel (250) 480-3500
Fax (250) 480-3539

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022
- the statement of operations and changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2022 and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with Governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.



- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act (British Columbia), we report that, in our opinion, the accounting policies applied in preparing and presenting financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a single horizontal line that starts under the 'K' and ends under the 'P'.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Victoria, Canada

March 17, 2023

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	2022	2021
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	\$ 431,306	\$ 361,666
Prepaid expenses	5,828	2,000
Accounts receivable	1,210	69
	\$ 438,344	\$ 363,735

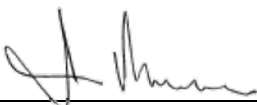
Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 69,703	\$ 36,239
Deferred revenue	-	1,680
Deferred contributions (note 3)	57,039	57,039
	126,742	94,958
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	311,602	268,777
Contractual commitments (note 4)		
	\$ 438,344	\$ 363,735

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:


 Penny Cote, AVICC President


 Ian Morrison, AVICC Past-President

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	2022	2021
Revenue:		
Association dues	\$ 104,857	\$ 97,597
Annual meeting - registration	103,337	16,159
Annual meeting - sponsorships	83,580	58,800
Annual meeting - exhibits	12,600	-
Interest	8,940	947
	<u>313,314</u>	<u>173,503</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	146,935	11,700
Union of BC Municipalities contract fees	83,416	90,124
Executive meetings	24,160	14,297
Professional fees	10,000	6,955
Postage, office and miscellaneous	4,211	395
Communication and staff travel (note 1(f))	1,601	1,223
Consulting fees	-	6,667
Salaries and benefits	166	-
	<u>270,489</u>	<u>131,361</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	42,825	42,142
Net assets, beginning of year	268,777	226,635
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 311,602</u>	<u>\$ 268,777</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2022, with comparative information for 2021

	2022	2021
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 42,825	\$ 42,142
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses	(3,828)	2,625
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	(1,141)	842
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	33,464	26,153
Decrease in deferred revenue	(1,680)	(18,800)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	69,640	52,962
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	361,666	308,704
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 431,306	\$ 361,666

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2022

Nature of operations:

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (the "Association") is registered under the Societies Act (British Columbia) and is exempt from the requirement to pay income taxes. Its purpose is to promote autonomy within local government and to advance the principles of local government. The Association represents the various municipalities and regional districts of Vancouver Island, Powell River and the Sunshine and Central Coasts.

1. Significant accounting policies:

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations ("ASNPO") in Part III of the CPA Canada Handbook. The Association's significant accounting policies are as follows:

(a) Basis of presentation:

These financial statements present the financial position, results of operations and changes in net assets of the Association and, as such, do not include all the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses of the members of the Association.

There is no provision in the accounts for income taxes as the activities of the Association are conducted on a not-for-profit basis.

(b) Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as cash and highly liquid investments consisting of term deposits with original maturities at the date of purchase of three months or less.

(c) Revenue recognition:

The Association follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Annual meeting sponsorships, registration and exhibit revenues are recognized as revenue when the conference takes place.

Association dues are recognized as revenue in the year they are earned and collection is reasonably assured.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2022

1. Significant accounting policies (continued):

(d) Contributed materials and services:

Due to the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

(e) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition and are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Association has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment.

(f) Capital assets:

In accordance with the ASNPO Handbook section 4433, *Tangible Capital Assets held by Not-for-profit Organizations*, and section 4434, *Intangible Assets held by Not-for-profit Organizations*, the Association has met the criteria to be considered a small organization and as such has not capitalized any expenditures. Capital assets and intangible assets owned by the Association but which have not been capitalized under this accounting policy include computer hardware and website costs. During the year, there were no acquisitions of capital assets (2021 - no acquisitions of capital assets or intangible assets).

(g) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2022

2. Cash and cash equivalents:

	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 217,482	\$ 151,902
MFA Money Market Funds	213,824	209,764
	<u>\$ 431,306</u>	<u>\$ 361,666</u>

3. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions include \$44,665 (2021 - \$44,665) of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the Treaty Advisory Committee. The remaining balance will be used for the purposes of continuing and offsetting costs of future reconciliation initiatives.

Also included in deferred contributions is \$12,374 (2021 - \$12,374) in contributions restricted for the activities of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management.

4. Contractual commitments:

The Association has a contract with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for administrative and various support services and has committed to pay a minimum of \$64,894 in 2023 in respect of this contract. The contract term ends on August 1, 2023.

5. Financial risks and concentration of risk:

The Association's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Association believes that it is not exposed to significant interest rate or cash flow risk arising from its financial instruments.

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Association will be unable to fulfil its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Association manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. It prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfil its obligations.

There has been no change to the risk exposures from 2021.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2022

6. Employee and director remuneration:

The BC Societies Act has a requirement for the disclosure in the financial statements of the remuneration of directors, employees and contractors. For the period ending December 31, 2022, eleven directors received remuneration totaling \$15,375, with amounts ranging from \$525 to \$3,000 per director (2021 - nine directors received remuneration totaling \$11,475, with amounts ranging from \$675 to \$1,725 per director).



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 <i>Permanent Astonishment- Lessons in a Life Story</i>
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: <i>Managing Emergencies- the Increasing Impact on our Communities</i>
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) Page 39

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 – 4:30 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.

Gundaynuxv Travis Hall, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District, was born and raised in Heiltsuk territory and carries many responsibilities, including advisor to a high-ranking Chief, Yimas Qai'ait and cultural leader. He holds several positions within the Heiltsuk community in addition to my responsibilities with the CCRD and UBCM.

Corey Anderson, A/Senior Regional Manager, Vancouver Island Coastal Region, of the Ministry of EMCR, 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, EMCR, 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:

Gundaynuxv Travis Hall, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District, was born and raised in Heiltsuk territory and carries many responsibilities, including advisor to a high-ranking Chief, Yimas Qai'ait and cultural leader. He holds several positions within the Heiltsuk community in addition to my responsibilities with the CCRD and UBCM, including Interim Manager for Heiltsuk Fisheries Management Ltd., and Licence Coordinator for the Heiltsuk Nation. Previously, I worked as the Marine Use Planning Coordinator, I have held a seat on Heiltsuk Tribal Council and the Heiltsuk Health Board and I have worked on our Marine portfolio.

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.

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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