

# Association of Vancouver Island & Coastal Communities 75th Annual General Meeting & Convention

April 12-14, 2024 – Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria



## PROGRAM Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

- 8:00 am Registration Desk Opens ([Upstairs Lobby](#))
- 8:30 am – 11:30 am Tour: Saanich Forestry Centre Tour ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 8:30 am – 12:30 am Tour: Metchosin Farm-to-Table Tour ([meet at Registration Desk](#))
- 9:00 am – 11:30 am Workshop: housing, Housing, HOUSING! ([Carson Hall C](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Chiefs, Mayors and Chairs Forum and Lunch ([Sidney Room](#))
- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Electoral Area Forum and Lunch ([Colwood Room](#))
- 1:00 pm Trade Show Opens ([Upstairs Lobby and Carson Hall A](#))

### AGM & CONVENTION MAIN PROGRAM – Carson Hall B & C

- 2:00 pm Convention Welcome & Opening Remarks: President Penny Cote  
Indigenous Territorial Welcome  
Lekwungen Dancers  
Welcome from Host: Mayor Marianne Alto
- 2:20 pm Nominating Committee Report: Past President Ian Morrison
- 2:25 pm Provincial Address: Hon. Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs
- 2:40 pm Keynote Address: Diane Kalen-Sukra  
*Civic Leaders Unite: Addressing Culture Risk, Fostering Social Cohesion*
- 3:40 pm – 4:05 pm Refreshment Break ([Carson Hall A](#))
- 4:05 pm Nominations from the Floor for Table Officers or Directors at Large
- 4:10 pm Island Health Update: Leah Hollins, Chair, Island Health Board of Directors
- 4:20 pm Connie Watts, Artist Statement
- 4:25 pm Plenary Session: *The TRC Calls to Action: A Roadmap to Right Relationships*
- 5:30 pm Final Comments and Wrap-Up, Door Prize Draw, Adjourn
- 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Welcome Reception ([Upstairs Lobby and Carson Hall A](#))
- 5:30 pm Voting for Table Officers or Directors at Large begins ([voting is on-line](#))

DRAFT PROGRAM

# PROGRAM

## Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*The Trade Show is Open from 7:15 – 3:00 pm today*

- 7:00 am Breakfast Service Starts (Upstairs Lobby)
- 7:30 am – 8:25 am Working Breakfast: *Inclusive Regional Governance: Toward Shared Decision-Making on Regional District Boards* (Carson Hall, B & C)
- 8:30 am Convention Day 2 – Opening Remarks (Carson Hall, B & C)
- 8:35 am Address: UBCM President Trish Mandewo, Councillor, City of Coquitlam
- 8:45 am Annual Meeting and President's Address
- Convention Rules and Procedures
  - Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting
  - Annual Report
  - 2023 Audited Financial Statements
- 8:55 am Consideration of Resolutions, Session 1
- 9:50 am Municipal Finance Authority Update
- 9:55 am Island Corridor Foundation Update
- 10:05 am – 10:35 am Refreshment Break (Carson Hall A)
- 10:30 am Voting for Table Officers or Directors at Large closes (voting is on-line)
- 10:35 am Community Energy Association Update
- 10:50 am Consideration of Resolutions, Session 2
- 11:45 am Nominating Committee Report
- Nominations from the Floor for Directors at Large or Electoral Area Representative
- 11:50 am Youth Representative Address
- 11:55 am CREST Emergency Communications Address
- 12:00 pm – 1:25 pm Delegates Lunch – Celebrating AVICC for 75 years!

### CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #1 *Building Wildfire Resiliency in Coastal Communities* (Carson Hall C)
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #2 *First Nations Property Taxation* (Sidney Room)
- 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm #3 *Open & Closed Meetings: Why Should You Care?* (Colwood Room)
- 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Refreshment Break (Carson Hall A)
- 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 *The Future of Energy in BC* (Sidney Room)
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm #5 *Oceans, Oceans, Oceans!* (Colwood Room)
- 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm #6 *Vancouver Island Circular Economy: Turning Goals into Action* (Carson Hall C)

### BANQUET

- 6:30 pm – 11:00 pm Reception and Banquet (Fairmont Empress, Palm Court and Crystal Ballroom)
- 7:30 pm Dinner Service and Remarks
- 9:00 pm Timebenders Experience Band

DRAFT PROGRAM

# PROGRAM

## Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast (Carson Hall B & C, Upper Lobby)
7:30 am	Voting for Directors at Large <b>OR</b> EA Representative closes (voting is online if required)
8:30 am	Convention Day 3 – 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	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update – Director Daniel Arbour
8:45 am	Voting for Electoral Area Representative opens (voting is online if required)
8:50 am	E-Comm 911 Address
8:55 am	Plenary Session: <i>Striking the Balance: Engagement and Respect</i>
9:55 am	Green Party Leader, MLA Sonia Furstenau
10:05 am – 10:30 am	Refreshment Break (Upper Lobby)
10:30 am	Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Fleming, MLA, Victoria-Swan Lake
10:35 am	AVICC Advocacy Update
10:50 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 2025 Convention Announcement Grand Prize Draw – BC Ferries Prize Package – Must Be Present to Win
12:00 pm	Adjourn & Safe Travels

### THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS

Special thanks are extended to the City of Victoria for hosting AVICC's 75<sup>th</sup> AGM & Convention, and to the City of Langford and the Districts of Saanich and Highlands for their contributions. Our hosts helped with many aspects of the planning to make the 2024 Convention a success.

Thank you for making the Convention a great experience!



# 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE LOGO

In honour of our 75<sup>th</sup> year, AVICC has commissioned a commemorative logo, designed by Connie Watts, artist of Nuuchahnulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry. The logo represents how far AVICC has come since 1950, towards inclusive governance, to the benefit of all community members. We are truly grateful for the time and energy spent by AVICC members to better our communities and look forward to a long future of unified advocacy on behalf of local governments as we work together towards true reconciliation.

## ARTIST STATEMENT

*In the first meeting with the President of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, Penny Cote shared the organizations' goals of building and developing inclusion, implementation of the TRC, and fostering First Nations' teachings and knowledge. As we spoke, inspiration filled my mind with images of the eagle and salmon; when these two creatures prosper it is a reflection of a balanced and healthy environment.*

*As I worked with the flow of the design, the eagle and salmon imagery complemented AVICC's logo of the mountains and water. My mind opened to my mom's lessons on how everyone has their gifts, and sharing of your gifts makes our communities stronger and wiser. This open way of seeing human beings, and the celebration of perspectives and inclusion brought the rainbow symbol into the design to honour the strength and ingenuity of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.*

*As I developed the artistic logo design for the AVICC's 75th anniversary, I reminisced of the many stories I heard as I grew up. The stories of the eagle's great knowledge and strength and the lessons he had to learn of humility and respect. Our people remembering when the salmon, during spawning season, filling our rivers so much that you could walk across. All of these were the foundation of this design that represents a renewed hope of working towards true reconciliation.*

## CONNIE WATTS BIOGRAPHY

Connie Watts is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, curator, educator and designer of Nuuchahnulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry. Born and raised in Campbell River, Connie has a Bachelor of Interior Design from the University of Manitoba, and a MFA from Emily Carr University (ECU). She continues to run her successful creative company, Chims Studios and for the last four years, has been the Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs, at ECU.

Her award-winning work is often rooted in forms and knowledge drawn from First Nations cultures, while her sculptural objects incorporate modern fabrication and design techniques. She has shown nationally and internationally. Connie's Interior Design and Management projects include the interior of the Songhees Wellness Centre and managing the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympics' Aboriginal Art Program. Connie has been affiliated with YVR Arts Foundation Board, Emily Carr Board of Governors, the British Columbia Arts Council, the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Vancouver Foundation and the Contemporary Art Gallery, among other institutions.



# TRADE SHOW

## HOURS

Friday 1:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Saturday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

## EXHIBITORS

BC Assessment

BC General Employees Union

BC Hydro

BC Lottery Corporation

BC Transit

CREST Emergency Communications

CUPE 8911 – Emergency Communications Professionals of BC

CUPE Vancouver Island

Disability Alliance BC

Firesmart BC/ BC Wildfire Service

FortisBC Energy

ICBC

Island Health & Health Networks

Managed Forest Council

Mosaic Forest Management

Private Forest Landowners Association

Rogers Communications

Stewardship Centre for BC

TELUS

Transport Canada – Oceans Protection Plan

Trans Mountain – **TRADESHOW SPONSOR**

Vancouver Island Economic Alliance

Victoria Residential Builders Association

Western Canada Marine Response Corporation

Western Forest Products

DRAFT PROGRAM

# SPONSORS

**We wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions toward the 2024 AVICC Convention:**

## **Banquet Entertainment**

BC Lottery Corporation

## **Municipal Finance Authority**

Keynote Speaker

## **Banquet Dinner**

Young Anderson

## **Saturday Delegates Lunch**

CREST Emergency Communications

## **Banquet Reception**

Fortis BC

## **Chiefs, Mayors & Chairs Forum**

Lidstone & Company Law Corporation

## **Sunday Morning Breakfast**

ICBC

## **Program**

BC Assessment

## **Friday Afternoon Refreshment Break**

Private Forest Landowners Association

## **Saturday Morning Refreshment Break**

Telus

## **Grand Prize**

BC Ferry Services

## **Speaker Gifts**

CUPE 8911 – Emergency Communications  
Professionals of BC

## **Friday Welcome Reception**

CUPE BC

## **Friday Opening Session**

Island Health

## **Saturday Morning Breakfast**

Municipal Insurance Association of BC

## **Sunday Morning Plenary Session**

E-Comm 911

## **Saturday Afternoon Sessions**

BC Hydro

## **Trade Show**

Trans Mountain

## **Friday Morning Session**

BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI)

## **Registration Services**

Western Forest Products

## **Communications**

Rogers Communications

## **Saturday Afternoon Refreshment Break**

BC General Employees Union

## **Sunday Morning Refreshment Break**

CUPE VI

## **Transportation**

BC Transit



# SPEAKER GIFT DONATION

Historically, AVICC has provided gifts to our speakers to thank them for their participation in our convention. In 2022 and 2023, the AVICC Executive determined that rather than purchase gifts, that we donate to a local charitable organization that benefits the residents in our region.

This practice is being continued for 2024, and a donation will be made to The Mustard Seed Street Church, and to the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness in lieu of Speakers Gifts. Please visit their websites to learn more about how these organizations benefit our communities.



The Mustard Seed Street Church has been essential in fighting hunger and restoring faith to people living in greater Victoria since 1975. Our operations include the region's largest and most accessible [Food Bank](#), the [Food Security Distribution Centre](#) that distributes over 2.4 million pounds of rescued and donated food, beverages and hygiene products via our food bank and 70+ local social support organizations. We also offer [Back-to-School](#) and [Christmas supports](#) for families, [Hospitality programs](#), services at [Hope Farm Healing Centre](#) near Duncan, and [Church services](#). Scan their QR code to make a personal donation to support the work they do.



The [Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society](#) (ACEHS) is a non-profit and registered charitable organization whose sole focus is to support Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness. The work of the ACEHS is centered on the voices of Aboriginal peoples who have shared their immediate needs, lived experiences, and perspectives on solutions. Through building partnerships locally and island-wide, the ACEHS works to identify and address systemic and structural barriers, share information, resources, and lessons learned, while also providing cultural supports, connections, and housing stability. The role of the ACEHS is critical because there is not another Indigenous led organization on Vancouver Island that has ending Indigenous homelessness as its sole focus. The ACEHS has a vision to lead long-term systemic change to better meet the needs of our people living away from home and experiencing homelessness.

Our way is to care for all our people, from the youngest to the oldest. We are all one. Some of our people living away from home are suffering, isolated, and homeless. We stand together to end homelessness.

Visit <https://acehsociety.com/donate/> to donate.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DIANE KALEN-SUKRA

**Civic Leaders Unite: Addressing Culture Risk, Fostering Social Cohesion**  
Friday, 2:25 pm

Toxic culture is eroding our sense of belonging, community and well-being. Our capacity to collaborate and innovate together is also being undermined by the rising incivility and divisiveness. This poses a risk to our local governments and communities. We need each other to address the complex challenges facing our communities. To thrive, our local democracies depend on our ability to revive the art of living and working well together.



**What unique role do civic leaders play in renewing civic culture?** How can we do our part to foster social cohesion and rebuild the social fabric, ensuring our communities have the resilience to thrive in these turbulent times?

Diane Kalen-Sukra takes us on an inspiring journey, applying ancient wisdom and modern research to today's civic culture challenges. She empowers civic leaders to unite in rising above the toxic fog to foster the type of culture that supports good governance, sustainable community building and human well-being.

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Diane is an acclaimed author, speaker, and culture transformation expert, sharing insights from over two decades of senior leadership, including national CBC television producer, public sector executive and her award-winning tenure as city manager. Diane's published works include *Save Your City* and *Civic Resilience*, as well as regular columns in *Municipal World* and *Public Sector Digest*. Her most popular book, [Save Your City: How Toxic Culture Kills Community and What to Do About It](#) calls for a revival of civic values and civic education as key to fostering the type of culture that can sustain us, our democracy and our planet.

She is the founder of Kalen Academy, which offers online training for civic leaders. Her newsletter [Civic Wisdom](#), shares timeless principles and modern insights for current and aspiring leaders. Diane is an educator and certified culture transformation consultant, certified Emotional Intelligence EQ-i 2.0 practitioner and certified compassionate integrity facilitator. She has municipal law and administration training from the University of Victoria and is a Certified Municipal Clerk with the International Association of Municipal Clerks. Diane is a political science graduate of University of Toronto's Trinity College and earned a master's degree in political science from York University.

Diane was born with the gift of encouragement and desire for everyone to thrive and meet their potential. Her core belief is that as social beings, we flourish in healthy sustainable communities where good governance, servant leadership and compassionate culture support the well-being of all.

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**Diane Kalen-Sukra** will be available after her address to meet you and sign book copies. A limited number of copies of *Save Your City* are available. If you have your own book copy and would like it signed, please bring it with you. Watch the [book trailer](#) (1 min).

Delegates are invited to learn more about Diane's civility tour of local governments in her recent article [Enough is enough: Say no to abuse of elected officials and staff](#).

Join Diane Kalen-Sukra on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) or her website: [DianeKalenSukra.com](#)



# FRIDAY PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP

## **Housing, Housing, HOUSING!**

**Friday, 9:00am**

**Cost: \$30**

The housing crisis in BC is urgent and demands substantive actions. Local governments across the Province are taking concrete steps to address the crisis and are collaborating for meaningful, focused partnerships with other levels of government, and public and private sector organizations to increase the housing supply in BC. This session, moderated by City of Duncan Mayor Michelle Staples and City of Courtenay Mayor Bob Wells, will cover a variety of housing related topics, highlighting the challenges and successes when addressing this crisis for all BC residents. The conversation will include insights for all local governments, from small, remote, rural and recreational communities to large urban centres, and everything in between.

The Ministry of Housing will provide an overview of the objectives and execution of the [\*Short-Term Rental Accommodations Act\*](#), with a particular focus on key considerations and implications for local governments. We will hear from Strathcona Regional District Director, Mark Vonesh, representing Area B – Cortes Island, who this year is to be the first community in BC to use the MRDT tax entirely for housing and who serves on the Strathcona RD who are in the midst of forming their own Housing Service. The Victoria Residential Builders Association (VRBA) will present the perspective of a panel of builders who will discuss the challenges and solutions for building new housing including the “missing middle” (townhomes, and small multi-family). Mayors Staples and Wells will then highlight successes to our housing and homelessness challenges as a result of deep levels of collaboration.

Join us for a solutions-based and multi-perspective discussion on how all local governments can take collaborative action to improve the housing supply in our region to the benefit of all BC residents!

### **MODERATORS:**

**Michelle Staples**, Mayor, City of Duncan

**Bob Wells**, Mayor, City of Courtenay

### **PRESENTERS:**

**Hannah Rabinovitch**, Director, Housing Policy Branch, Ministry of Housing, Province of BC

**Mark Vonesch**, Director, Strathcona Regional District, Area B – Cortes Island

**Casey Edge**, Executive Director, Victoria Residential Builders Association

**Mike Dalton**, President, CITTA Construction Ltd & President, Victoria Residential Builders Association

**Dusty Delain**, Owner, Amity Construction & Past President, Victoria Residential Builders Association

**Michelle Staples**, Mayor, City of Duncan

**Bob Wells**, Mayor, City of Courtenay

Other Panelists To Be Confirmed

# FRIDAY PLENARY SESSION

## The TRC Calls to Action: A Roadmap to Right Relationships

Friday, 4:20 pm

Relationships between Indigenous communities and local governments have never been more important. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, developed in 2015 by residential school survivors, provide a roadmap to creating right relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities – local governments have a critical role in implementing them.

Women Transforming Cities recently published a report "[The TRC Calls to Action in BC Municipalities: Progress, Barriers, and Opportunities to Accelerate Implementation](#)." In this session, one of the report authors will share key findings from this research. Panelists representing legal, local government, and First Nations perspectives will share insights including success stories, lessons learned, how the TRC Calls to Action relate to UNDRIP, how local governments can implement them, and how the Calls to Action can provide a framework for navigating the complexities of Indigenous-government relations.

### INTRODUCTION

**Gundaynuvx Travis Hall**, AVICC Director at Large, Director, Central Coast Regional District

### MODERATOR & PRESENTER

**Clara Prager**, Campaign Lead for WTC, is from a small town in Syilx Okanagan territory but now calls Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories home. She has been interested in how local governments work from a young age. Clara brings a decade of experience in policy analysis, research, communications, community engagement, and grassroots organizing to her role at WTC. Her interdisciplinary BA from UBC focused on Canadian policy, history, and Indigenous studies. She is grateful for the many Indigenous peers who contributed to her learning by sharing knowledge with her throughout her degree and her work with government and Indigenous non-profits.

### PANELISTS

**John Alan Jack, Sayaač̓ath̓**, has served as Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) since 2016 and is the elected Chief Councillor for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN). His community is a party to the Maa-nulth Final Agreement (Treaty) 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.

**Trina Isakson**, Councillor, City of Powell River, grew up in Secwépemc territory (Salmon Arm, BC), moved to łaʔamin (Tlaʔamin) territory in 2018. Previously, she helped facilitate public engagement related to a possible name change for Powell River. Her professional work is as a facilitator with community groups on strategic planning, implementing changes, or dealing with conflict. Trina has taught a variety of university courses and she holds an MBA in community economic development.

**Reece Harding**, partner at Young, Anderson, has practiced local government law for over 30 years. His practice includes judicial review, administrative, Aboriginal, assessment and taxation law, natural hazard risk avoidance, governance, and codes of conduct. He has appeared on behalf of local governments at all levels of court. Reece was appointed by the City of Surrey in 2020 as BC's first local government ethics commissioner pursuing his ongoing interest in governance, conflict resolution and ethical conduct.

*[Women Transforming Cities](#) is dedicated to advancing equity within local communities. For over ten years they have worked alongside people and movements who have historically been excluded to create communities where everyone can belong, participate, and thrive. WTC provides accessible civic literacy training, promotes equitable community engagement, conducts research into barriers to participation, and collaborates with local governments to advance inclusive policies.*

# SATURDAY PLENARY SESSION

## **Inclusive Regional Governance: Toward Shared Decision-Making on Regional District Boards** Saturday, 7:30am

There are several successful examples of First Nations Governments participating in regional governance as part of regional district boards, but these are either pursuant to modern treaties or by special legislation outside of the *Local Government Act* (the 'Act'). The Act, other than one antiquated and unused section, narrows participation of First Nations Governments to those with treaty provisions allowing them to participate. This session will describe how this is a lost opportunity and what is being done to explore options to include First Nations Governments whose predecessors practiced sophisticated governance for thousands of years prior to and for a significant time after contact.

In March 2023, as part of the Province's Action Plan under the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs awarded 5 regional districts a grant to engage with First Nations to explore how to enable First Nations to join regional boards as voting members, outside the treaty process. The intent is that these discussions will identify key themes, interests and questions that will assist in the development of legislation to meet the varied needs of First Nations and regional governments. This panel discussion will explore the background of the inclusive regional governance initiative in B.C., discuss progress made so far, and envision opportunities for better governance models in the future.

### **PRESENTERS:**

**John Alan Jack** has served as Chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) since 2016 and is the elected Chief Councillor for the Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN). His community is a party to the Maa-nulth Final Agreement (Treaty) 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.

**Douglas Holmes** joined the Regional District of Nanaimo as CAO in 2021. He started in local government in 1995 and has served both 'RDs' and Municipalities. He has participated on several panels and working groups, including in relation to amendments in legislation and inclusive governance. Mr. Holmes is a CPA and has a business degree from SFU. He currently serves as Vice President on the Board of the Local Government Management Association of BC.

**Carolyn Kamper** was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division in July 2023. Prior to this position, she held two different ADM roles in the Ministry of Children and Family Development: ADM, Strategic Integration, Policy and Legislation Division (2020 to 2023) and ADM of the Strategic Priorities division (2017 to 2020). Carolyn has worked in both the private and public sectors. During her 20-plus year career with the BC Public Service, Carolyn provided leadership on several large transformational initiatives across the social, health and resource sectors.

# SUNDAY PLENARY SESSION

## **Striking the Balance: Engagement and Respect**

**Sunday, 8:55 am**

This session is designed for elected officials (and those that support them), exploring strategies aimed at enhancing community engagement and fostering a culture of respect. Through a blend of interactive discussions, and expert led discussions this session will equip attendees with actionable tools to balance effective public communication, conflict resolution, and collaborative community efforts. It underscores the importance of establishing clear boundaries to secure respectful interactions and mitigate potential violent scenarios, crucial for both personal safety and the integrity of the democratic process.

### **PRESENTER:**

**Tracey Lorenson**, award-winning speaker, is known for her humour and candour in helping her clients manage difficult situations. Her warm, energetic style combines her leadership experience, practical advice and real-life examples that resonate with audiences of all levels. With a keen interest in problem solving, Tracey has developed a series of proven techniques that help organizations identify their issues and take action to improve their dynamics and decision making.

Tracey has worked with local governments in a variety of capacities for more than 25 years. After 6 years of practicing workplace law in the public sector, Tracey served as Executive Vice President of E-Comm, provider of 911 fire, police and ambulance services for local governments in southern BC. In her current role as the Principal in the management consulting firm Paragon Strategic Services Ltd, and CivicExcellence Tracey improves her clients' ability to perform by working with both elected and staff on areas that include conflict resolution, strategic planning, and leadership training.

In the past three years alone Tracey has facilitated more than 25 strategic plans for local governments throughout Canada and worked with individuals from more than 150 communities.

A sought-after facilitator and lecturer, Tracey has spoken extensively on a variety of topics including leadership, strategic planning, human resources, governance, and developing regional strategies. In addition, she has lectured at UBC's Faculty of Law, Royal Roads University, Capilano University, the Justice Institute of BC, the Local Government Leadership Academy and is a member of the faculty for BC's Local Government Management Association's MATI programs.

Tracey has partnered with the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) and BC's Local Government Management Association (LGMA) to develop and deliver an ongoing series of more than 25 different web trainings for local government professionals nationwide. Most recently Tracey has partnered with other industry experts to launch CivicExcellence an online collaboration and E-learning community for local government elected and staff across Canada

# PLENARY UPDATE SESSIONS

## **Island Corridor Foundation Update**

**Saturday, 9:55 am**

Daniel Arbour will provide an update on the Corridor visioning initiative supported by the Province of BC. The ICF, which is a partnership between 5 regional districts and 14 First Nations, owns the 290km rail corridor linking Victoria to Port Alberni and Courtenay.

### **PRESENTER**

**Daniel Arbour**, Co-Chair, Island Corridor Foundation, Director, Comox Valley RD, Area A

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## **Community Energy Association Update**

**Saturday, 10:35 am**

Local governments are facing increasing impacts and costs associated with climate change, and collaborative approaches are more important than ever. The Community Energy Association (CEA) is a non-profit that accelerates bold action by local governments and Indigenous communities related to climate and energy. CEA is the secretariat to the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Leadership (VICC-CL) Steering Committee, which aims to connect local elected officials and staff from diverse communities in the VICC region and empower them to accelerate their work on climate change and meet their goals by sharing best practices, collaborating on problem solving and advocating to other orders of government. Together, CEA and VICC-CL are launching an inaugural virtual VICC Climate Summit in May 2024 that will bring together local government staff and elected officials from across the region to share, learn, and collaborate on regional climate solutions.

### **PRESENTER**

**Katherine Pearce**, Climate Collaboration Coordinator, Community Energy Association

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## **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Update**

**Sunday, 8:40 am**

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is the national voice of local governments in Ottawa. This update will touch on new FCM programs secured in the past year and include a brief update on the future of federally-supported local government infrastructure programs.

### **PRESENTER**

**Daniel Arbour**, FCM Director at Large, Director, Comox Valley RD, Area A

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## **AVICC Advocacy Update**

**Sunday, 10:35 am**

The primary function of AVICC is to advocate on behalf of, and for our members. After holding a strategic planning session in 2021, your Executive presented the results at the 2022 Convention, and membership endorsed an AVICC Advocacy Policy. This direction and the resolutions each year inform AVICC's advocacy priorities. Hear from members of the AVICC Executive with an update on the actions taken by AVICC towards advocacy, and the advocacy plans for the future.

### **PRESENTERS**

**Penny Cote**, Director, Alberni-Clayoquot RD, AVICC President

**Ben Geselbracht**, Councillor, City of Nanaimo, AVICC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Open and Closed Meetings – Why Should You Care?**

**Saturday, 1:30 pm**

The most important and powerful duties and functions of a local government must be performed and exercised by its council or board, and an act or proceeding of the council or board is not valid unless it is authorized or adopted by a resolution or bylaw at a meeting. For these reasons, understanding what constitutes a meeting, whether a meeting must be open or closed, what may transpire at a meeting, and where and when the meeting can be held, are extremely important.

This session will explore these rules, which apply to municipalities, regional districts and the Islands Trust, as well as committees, commissions, boards of variance, parcel tax roll review panels, and other bodies set out in local government legislation.

### **PRESENTER**

**Joseph Scafe**, Partner, Young Anderson Barristers & Solicitors

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## **First Nation Property Taxation & Assessment**

**Saturday, 1:30 pm**

For the last forty-five years, First Nations in Canada have been developing property tax jurisdiction on their lands, and has witnessed remarkable growth in the past three decades.

This growth has been coupled by increased commercial and residential development, especially in urban areas where there is often a shortage of developable land. Development and tax jurisdiction provides a significant economic and fiscal benefit for First Nation communities and adjacent jurisdictions. The growth in First Nation property taxation is largely attributable to the work of First Nations leadership that are leading the way in expanding jurisdiction, the First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC), which has provided leadership and regulatory support, and the involvement of key regional assessment service providers such as BC Assessment.

This joint presentation between BC Assessment and the FNTC is designed to provide information on real estate development occurring on First Nation Land and the regulatory frameworks that support First Nation taxation. Special focus will be provided on the BC experience which has over 100 taxing First Nations.

### **PRESENTERS**

**Bill Dawson**, Manager, First Nations Customers, BC Assessment

**Trenton Paul**, Director of First Nation Engagement and Law Review, First Nations Tax Commission



# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Building Wildfire Resiliency in Coastal Communities**

**Saturday, 1:30 pm**

British Columbia is experiencing a serious and sustained increase in extreme wildfire behaviour and fire events particularly in the wildland-urban interface. More human activity and development is taking place in or near forests, creating greater consequences for the socioeconomic health and safety of citizens and visitors. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are increasing, fire size and severity are increasing, and fire seasons are becoming longer.

Prevention is more than stopping new, human-caused fires. FireSmart is based on the premise of shared responsibility and on promoting the integration and collaboration of wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts. All partners and stakeholders have a role to play.

This session will provide an overview of the resources and information available to governments, First Nations, businesses, and individuals to help prepare communities for the potential of wildland-urban interface fire.

### **MODERATOR**

**Sarah Fowler**, Councillor, Village of Tahsis, AVICC Director at Large

### **PRESENTERS**

**Alan Berry**, Senior Wildfire Officer Prevention, BC Wildfire Service – Coastal Fire Centre

**Jessica Hawksworth**, Wildfire Prevention Officer, BC Wildfire Service – Coastal Fire Centre

**Jonathan Reimer**, Manager, Emergency Programs, Protective Services, Capital Regional District

**Willow Bloomquist**, Fire Prevention Officer, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department

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## **The Future of Energy in BC**

**Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

As BC municipalities grapple with the challenges of rapid population growth, critical economic development, and ambitious climate targets, the need for reliable decarbonized energy has never been greater. Join this session where executives from BC's largest energy utilities will discuss their shared commitments to delivering low-carbon affordable energy to achieve the province's CleanBC Roadmap to 2030.

### **MODERATOR**

**Bruce Williams**, President, Victoria Chamber of Commerce

### **PRESENTERS**

**Diana Stephenson**, Senior Vice-President of Customer & Corporate Affairs, BC Hydro

**Doug Slater**, Vice-President External Relations & Regulatory Affairs, Fortis BC

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Oceans, Oceans, Oceans!**

**Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

With so many British Columbians living in coastal communities, there is a lot at stake in protecting our oceans and coasts. We rely on our oceans for food, jobs, clean air and much more. Our stewardship of this important natural resource is part of our social fabric and is woven into the vast history of maritime and Indigenous traditions. This session will highlight some of the organizations working tirelessly to provide us with resources and solutions to help keep our oceans sustainable into the future.

Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan (OPP) is a national, whole-of-government plan to protect our oceans and coastlines. The session will first provide an overview of the Renewed Oceans Protection Plan including the Salish Sea Strategy. It will then explore in more detail actions to address wrecked, abandoned, or hazardous vessels on the coast, including the *Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act*.

The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) / University of British Columbia's Strait of Georgia Data Centre collates and visualizes nearshore and marine data. For coastal municipalities, this means greater access to important information for decision making. This clinic will spotlight the Marine Reference Guide (MRG), an interactive data visualization tool, as well as data from the Resilient Coasts for Salmon project that will show the extent of coastal modification across the east coast of Vancouver Island. Join us to explore the MRG's many layers of ecological, anthropogenic, and oceanographic data, and how these data can inform our interactions with the sea.

The BC Seafood Alliance will share information about the Northern Shelf Bioregion Network Action Plan (NSB NAP) that was endorsed by the Minister of Fisheries in February 2023. The NSB stretches from Campbell River to the Alaska Border. The current NSB Plan will have severe social and economic impacts on coastal communities that may be irreversible. This session aims to highlight the issue and the solutions the sector is proposing to ensure vibrant and sustainable coastal economies for generations to come.

### **MODERATOR**

**Vanessa Craig**, Chair, RD Nanaimo, AVICC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

### **PRESENTERS**

**Lauren Lavigne**, Manager, Ocean Protection Plan Engagement Hub, Transport Canada

**Ryan Greville**, Manager, Navigable Waters Protection Program, Transport Canada

**Kyla Sheehan**, Project Manager, Resilient Coasts for Salmon, Pacific Salmon Foundation

**Ben Skinner**, GIS Specialist, Marine Science Program, Pacific Salmon Foundation

**Grant Dovey**, Vice President, BC Seafood Alliance

**Mike Atkins**, Treasurer, BC Seafood Alliance

# SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

## **Vancouver Island Circular Economy: Turning Goals into Action**

**Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

The [Circular Economy Accelerator Program](#) concluded its pilot program in the summer of 2023 spurring the transition to a sustainable, resilient economy and positioning Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast as leaders in the circular economy. The program – the first of its kind in Canada – was designed to support businesses who seek to adopt circular economy principles, reduce waste and emissions, and develop innovative practices while increasing revenue and reducing operational costs.

The program was delivered by the Vancouver Island Coast Economic Developers Association (VICEDA) in partnership with the Synergy Foundation with support from Island Coastal Economic Trust and VICEDA regional partners, including the City of Campbell River, City of Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Gabriola Island Chamber of Commerce, Municipality of North Cowichan, City of Port Alberni, and Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Organization.

A panel discussion will provide highlights from pilot, share the perspective of local government economic development officers, the private sector and non-profit partners, as well as highlighting the cumulative reductions in waste and emissions. The Synergy Foundation and VICEDA are currently exploring opportunities for Phase 2 of the Circular Economy Accelerator Program.

### **MODERATOR**

**Jill Doucette**, Executive Director, Synergy Foundation

### **PRESENTERS & PANELISTS**

**Georgia Lavender**, Director, Program Operations, Synergy Foundation

**Amrit Manhas**, Economic Development Officer, City of Nanaimo

**Tom Kinnear**, Manager, Duncan Paving Co.

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