

**Association of
Vancouver Island and
Coastal Communities**



MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONVENTION

**Held in Victoria, BC
April 12-14, 2024**

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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

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

MINUTES OF THE 75TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AVICC VICTORIA, BC APRIL 12-14, 2024

PRE-CONVENTION PROGRAM

The Friday morning pre-convention program ran from 8:30 am to 12:30 am with four tours and a workshop:

- Tour: Metchosin Farm-to-Table Tour
- Tour: Saanich Forestry Centre Tour
- Workshop: housing Housing, HOUSING!

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 12th, 2024, 2:00 PM

The Convention opened with the AVICC Executive and honoured guests (Minister Anne Kang, City of Victoria Mayor Alto) led by the Lekwungen Dancers, Drummers and Singers. Christine Sam of the Lekwungen Dancers welcomed delegates to the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

President Penny Cote called the 75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities to order at 2:20 pm on Friday, April 12, 2024. President Cote thanked the Lekwungen Dancers and Drummers, and Christine Sam for joining us and welcoming us.

President Cote then introduced the 2023/24 AVICC Executive Committee members. Delegates rose for the singing of the national anthem. President Cote thanked the City of Victoria acting as the convention's host community, and the City of Langford, Districts of Highlands, Saanich, and Oak Bay and the Township of Esquimalt for contributing to the convention. She introduced Mayor Marianne Alto who addressed the delegates and welcomed them to Victoria.

President Cote noted the Indigenous Chiefs from the AVICC region in attendance, the MLAs and MPs who were registered for the Convention, UBCM President Trish Mandewo, UBCM and FCM Executive representatives from the AVICC region, the Student Delegates, 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 7th, 2024 deadline as follows:

For President: Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President: Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President: Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis
For Director at Large: There were no nominations submitted for Director at Large
For Electoral Area Representative: Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District

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

ADDRESS FROM PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

At 2:35, Past President Morrison introduced Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. Anne Kang, who addressed our delegates. She then introduced Parliamentary Secretary of Rural Development, Roly Russell, who addressed the AVICC delegates. Director Fowler thanked them, and announced that a donation will be made to the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness in lieu of a speakers gift.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

At 2:50pm Director Fowler introduced Diane Kalen-Sukra, 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. Diane Kalen-Sukra delivered a one-hour keynote address.

1st Vice President Geselbracht thanked Ms. Kalen-Sukra for her presentation and advised that a donation had been made in their name to the Mustard Seed.

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

SECOND REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 4:20pm 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: Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
For First Vice-President: Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
For Second Vice-President: Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis

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 Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay

- Councillor Steve Duck, Town of Sidney
- Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
- Councillor Tanille Johnston, City of Campbell River
- Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, City of Courtenay
- Director Levana Mastrangelo, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- Director Jessica Stanley, Regional District of Nanaimo
- Councillor Cindy Solda, City of Port Alberni
- Councillor Kat Thomas, District of Tofino
- Councillor Alton Toth, District of Sechelt

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

ISLAND HEALTH UPDATE

Leah Hollins, Chair of the Island Health Board of Directors, gave an update to delegates on the work of Island Health.

CONNIE WATTS – ARTIST STATEMENT

Connie Watts, interdisciplinary artist, writer, curator, educator and designer of Nuu-chah-nulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry shared her artist statement and background for the logo she designed for AVICC for our 75th AGM.

THE TRC CALLS TO ACTION: A ROADMAP TO RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

Travis Hall introduced Clara Prager, of Women Transforming Cities, who shared information from a recent study they conducted on the TRC Calls to Action as it relates to local government. 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.

The presenters were as follows:

- Clara Prager, Campaign Lead, Women Transforming Cities (MODERATOR)
- John Alan Jack, Sayaaçath, Chair Alberni-Clayoquot RD, Chief Councillor, Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Trina Isakson, Councilor, City of Powell River
- Reece Harding, Partner, Young Anderson

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 local organizations.

WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception sponsored by CUPE BC took place in the trade show area and pre-function space.

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2024

INCLUSIVE REGIONAL GOVERNANCE: TOWARD SHARED DECISION-MAKING ON REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARDS

At 7:30 am, 2nd Vice President Craig introduced the session and the following panelists:

- John Alan Jack, Chair ACRD, Chief Councillor HUU-UY-AHT First Nations
- Douglas Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer, Regional District of Nanaimo
- Carolyn Kamper, Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Negotiations and Regional Operations Division, Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
- Brent Mueller, Director, Ministry of Municipal Affairs

The panelists presented 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 described 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.

President Cote thanked the presenters and announced that a donation to the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness will be made in lieu of speakers' gifts.

The Convention re-convened at 8:35 am with President Cote welcoming delegates back.

ADDRESS BY UBCM PRESIDENT

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At 8:55 am, President Cote called the 2024 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 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 74th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities held in Nanaimo April 14-16, 2023 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, 2023 (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.

2024 BUDGET

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, the 2024 budget was received.

FIRST RESOLUTIONS SESSION

The first Resolutions session began at 9:05 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 Dorward participating. Mr. Ian Izard, KC acted as Parliamentarian providing parliamentary procedural support.

PART 1 – REGIONAL RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 7, 2024 resolutions deadline, and 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.

R1) Bamberton Quarry Expansion Project Adjacent To The Saanich Inlet District of North Saanich

Whereas the BC Provincial Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy decided in late June 2023 that there would be no complete environmental review of this project under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, but rather an “enhanced review” pursuant to the *Mines Act*;

And whereas that given the major industrial nature of the quarry expansion, including the proposal to store soil material; and the highly sensitive nature of the Saanich Inlet with its unique topographical and marine peculiarities, marine and fish life, (including the Goldstream salmon run), this decision will adversely affect the Inlet and its marine life;

And whereas that in Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy of BC, Honourable George Heyman’s response to District of North Saanich Mayor and Council on September 11, 2023, he states in paragraph 3, “I acknowledge that the project as proposed may have potential effects on the environment...”:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC requests that:

1. the BC Provincial Government should not proceed further with this extensive expansion of the Bamberton Quarry, and storage of soil material, unless and until the necessary, full environmental review and oversight is put into motion and accomplished pursuant to the *Environmental Assessment Act*;
2. this resolution be forwarded to the attention of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Federal Department of Environment and Climate Change to review and address without delay this critical environment and urgent marine issue; and
3. the BC Provincial Government inform interested parties, such as First Nations, local governments, and the Saanich Inlet Protection Society of the progress/results of the enhanced permit review process for the project.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R2) Conservation of Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region

City of Parksville

Whereas the UNESCO-designated Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region (MABR) includes five watershed regions and the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic subzone, which is the smallest and most at-risk zone in BC and is of conservation concern;

And whereas habitat loss and fragmentation due to human development and unsustainable consumption and production patterns are among the major causes of diminishing biodiversity within the MABR:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC urge the Province to conserve through purchase thirty percent of lands within the MABR to meet the thirty percent of BC's land by 2030 provincial conservation target;

And be it further resolved that AVICC urge the Province, in accordance with the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation signed between Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), to include land conservation policies within the MABR.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

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

There were no Regional Resolutions submitted by the deadline that support existing policy and are recommend Endorse.

PART 2 – RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received by the February 7, 2024 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, Not Endorse, or No Action Required

R3) Respiratory Syncytial virus (RSV) Vaccine

District of Port Hardy

Whereas in 2024, the availability of Arexvy, a vaccine approved by Health Canada in August for adults aged 60 and over, marks a significant milestone in protecting older adults against the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Arexvy has demonstrated nearly 83 per cent efficacy in preventing lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV and a 94 per cent efficacy in preventing severe RSV-associated illness, according to the FDA's analysis of data;

And whereas the authorization of Arexvy for use in Canada addresses the critical need for preventing RSV in older adults, who may face greater risks of severe outcomes, including hospitalization. The potential overwhelming of the hospital system, as experienced during the pandemic, underscores the importance of safeguarding the health of older adults by preventing RSV infections:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of British Columbia to treat the RSV vaccine as an essential preventative measure, similar to other critical vaccines, and work towards subsidizing its cost to eliminate the burden of a \$300 per full dose on individuals seeking protection against RSV.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R4) Pre-Hospital Care - Demands on Local Governments

City of Port Alberni

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to adequately staff and operate pre-hospital care services autonomously, assuming full responsibility for pre-hospital care, alleviating the burden on local governments and ensuring the provision of efficient and effective emergency medical services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R5) Grants to Named Health Facilities

Comox Valley RD

Whereas regional hospital districts are empowered to direct capital funding grants only to hospitals and hospitals facilities named by the Ministry of Health;

And whereas rural, remote and Indigenous communities often rely upon community health clinics for medical care in the absence of any nearby health-authority owned and operated facilities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC review the *Hospital District Act* to provide enhanced authority to regional hospital districts to direct capital and operational grants to non-profit community health clinics and centres in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

**R6) Addressing the Impact of Provincial Policy on Local Governments,
Taxation Equity, and Interim Policing Cost Support**

City of Langford

Whereas the City of Langford acknowledges the vital role of health care, mental health care, and social services in building a resilient and safe community;

And whereas the Province's failure to meet its commitments in these areas has unfairly burdened local governments, straining local resources and compromising public safety, thus exacerbating social inequity through heightened property taxes:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM strongly urge increased provincial funding and support for health care, mental health care, and comprehensive housing initiatives to alleviate the strain on local government resources and enhance public safety;

And be it further resolved that the AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to demonstrate good faith by covering the heightened share of policing costs, recognizing the provincial responsibility in shifting these public safety costs to local governments due to inadequate provision of social services and health care.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R7) Urging Legal Action for Constitutional Accountability: Addressing Provincial Failures in Healthcare, Criminal Rehabilitation, and Public Safety Responsibilities

City of Langford

Whereas the Province, as outlined in the *Constitution Act, 1867*, bears constitutional responsibilities for essential services, including healthcare, including mental healthcare, and the administration of justice, including the administration of criminal rehabilitation through prisons;

And whereas it is observed that the Province has failed to adequately fulfill these constitutional responsibilities, resulting in an ineffectual and inequitable downshift of the associated responsibilities and costs to municipalities, particularly impacting their ability to address social issues related to healthcare, mental health care, and public safety:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM direct its members to explore the viability of initiating a legal proceeding against the Province to address the failure of the Province to meet its constitutional responsibilities, specifically in the areas of healthcare, mental healthcare, and the administration of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities, leading to an undue burden on municipalities and compromising public safety.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R8) Provincial Housing Coordinator

City of Nanaimo

Whereas the number of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability across the Province has been increasing at an unprecedented rate;

And whereas the Province has invested considerable funds in supportive housing, the majority of which operate as low barrier facilities making it challenging for individuals in recovery to secure housing options that support an addiction-free lifestyle:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to establish a Provincial Housing Coordinator to work directly with those persons who are experiencing homelessness and who are not in need of supports, to find suitable housing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R9) Emergency Shelters and Compliance with BC Building Code and BC Fire Code

City of Nanaimo

Whereas many communities are experiencing a crisis-level influx of homeless individuals and the existence of emergency shelters is critical to addressing the safety of people experiencing homelessness;

And whereas due to the urgent nature of the need and the lack of suitable building stock in many communities, emergency shelters are frequently operating from buildings that do not meet the major occupancy classification requirements of the BC Building Code, nor the requirements of the BC Fire Code, placing local governments at risk of incurring liability if they do not enforce the codes and risking shutting down emergency shelters if they do enforce the codes:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province work with the Building Safety Standards Branch to establish some reasonable variances to the BC Building Code and BC Fire Code to enable emergency shelters to remain open.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R10) Housing Authority Feasibility Study Work

**Comox Valley RD
City of Courtenay**

Whereas non-market housing is in critical need throughout the province, and the provision of such housing is currently severely challenged by supply conditions, lack of adequate funding, and lack of capacity by local governments to support the provision and management of such housing;

And whereas some municipalities and regional districts in British Columbia have created entities, such as housing authorities, which successfully increase the supply of non-market housing by providing and managing such housing, the process of planning and then creating these entities involves significant staff time and other costs:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of BC to provide grant funding for municipalities and regional districts to plan and create entities that provide and manage non-market housing in their communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R11) Development Cost Charges for Affordable Housing

Comox Valley RD

Whereas municipalities and regional districts are able to levy development cost charges (DCC) on new development to help pay for the capital costs of growth-related infrastructure;

And whereas local governments are challenged with both adequately funding infrastructure and providing waivers or exemptions to development cost charges for certain types of supportive and rental housing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the provincial government to further increase funding levels to BC Housing and mandate the inclusion of funding to pay for development costs charges as part of all capital grants for affordable housing projects.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R12) BC Secondary Suite Incentive Program

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC government aims to create more housing in all of BC through the introduction of the pilot Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP);

And whereas eligibility for the Secondary Suite Incentive Program does not include properties within many regional district electoral areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the BC government to expand the Secondary Suite Incentive Program to include all electoral areas thereby reducing inequities and barriers to participation.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R13) Equitable Funding of Police Services

City of Port Alberni

Whereas the City of Port Alberni funds the greatest number of RCMP members and pays significantly higher police costs per capita and per household compared to other local governments in the Alberni Valley, placing a significant burden on its taxpayers under the current Police Services funding model for British Columbia that does not take into account the financial commitment or funding contribution of each jurisdiction;

And whereas systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate, such as poverty, addiction, and mental health challenges, contribute to increased call volumes and demands on police services, creating high

police services costs that are further exacerbated by the need to respond to and manage the impacts of these systemic social issues:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to develop an equitable Police Services funding program for all BC municipalities and regional districts that takes into account the financial capacity and population size of each jurisdiction, as well as the additional demands placed on police services due to systemic social issues outside of a local government's mandate.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

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

UPDATE FROM MUNICIPAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Past President Morrison introduced Chair Barry Pages, North Coast Regional District and Municipal Finance Authority Board Trustee, who provided a brief update.

ISLAND CORRIDOR FOUNDATION UPDATE

Daniel Arbour, Co-Chair, Island Corridor Foundation and Director, Comox Valley Regional District provided 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.

COMMUNITY ENERGY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

After a refreshment break, Director Hall introduced Katherine Pearce, Climate Collaboration Coordinator, Community Energy Association who provided an update on CEA initiatives. President Cote thanked the presenter and announced a donation in lieu of speaker gift to the Mustard Seed.

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.

R14) Modernize the Police Cost Sharing Formulas

Town of View Royal

Whereas inflation, officer burnout, rising equipment costs, and rapidly increasing officer salaries have made the existing cost sharing formulas and RCMP policing costs unsustainable for local governments;

And whereas the Province's housing legislation, including Bill 44 and Bill 47, could potentially lead to increased policing costs, while Bill 46 will allow for police facilities to be funded through development cost charges, but will not help address the issue of police capacity:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM ask the Province to work with local governments to develop a new RCMP funding framework that gradually increases the cost-share rate for local governments at the 5,000, 10,000, 20,000 and 40,000 population thresholds.

And be it further resolved that the above amendments be implemented immediately, prior to the 2026 federal census.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R15) Fail to Appear Charges

City of Duncan

Whereas 100% of Fail to Appear charges at provincial courthouses are assigned to the policing statistics of the local government in which the courthouse is located, having a disproportionate impact on the policing costs assigned to small municipalities with courthouses that serve a much broader area outside their jurisdiction;

And whereas this inflates the Criminal Code case load for all local governments with courthouses within their jurisdiction and results in an unfair burden to the taxpayers of those local governments, especially considering that Fail to Appear cases have no effect on the workload of the local detachment:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM urge the Province of British Columbia to direct that ~~Fail to Appear charges~~ **Criminal Code Section 145(2)- (5) and 732.1(2b) and 3(a)** be excluded from the policing statistics of local governments with courthouses.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R16) Automated Licence Plate Recognition Funding

City of Langford

Whereas the City of Langford recognizes the importance of safety and compliance to the *Motor Vehicle Act* for all road users;

And whereas the discontinuation of vehicle licence plate validation decals in British Columbia has negatively impacted law enforcement officers in their ability to detect and enforce uninsured motor vehicle violations:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM petition to the Province and ICBC to provide local governments and police agencies with the required funds to procure Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) hardware for all law enforcement vehicles in British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R17) Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice

Islands Trust

Whereas there have been barriers to uptake of alternatives to plumbed sewage disposal systems despite their allowance under the Sewerage System Regulation and the 2016 Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice;

And whereas these barriers to uptake may include overly conservative requirements (and their application) for onsite application criteria for residuals in the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of British Columbia's Ministry of Health to review the Manual of Composting Toilet and Greywater Practice to update the onsite application criteria for residuals based on current scientific knowledge; and provide funding for demonstration projects and for practitioners' professional development on composting toilets and greywater practices.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R18) Ban on Rodent Glue Traps

**Town of View Royal
District of Saanich**

Whereas glue traps are an ineffective method for controlling rodents as they fail to address the root causes of an infestation, including access to food and shelter, and they cause fear, pain and distress for captured animals, including rodents and non-target animals like birds, bats, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and household pets;

And whereas most users are not capable of humanely killing trapped animals, leaving them to suffer for hours, and even days, before dying of suffocation, dehydration, starvation, exhaustion, or exposure:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM ask the Province of British Columbia to implement a province-wide ban on the sale, purchase, and use of glue traps.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R19) Amendments to the *Land Title Act*

City of Courtenay

Whereas the BC Government is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16% below 2007 levels by 2025, 40% by 2030, and 80% by 2050;

And whereas the *Land Title Act*, RSBC 1996, c 250, permits the registration of a building scheme that imposes restrictions consistent with a general scheme of development;

And whereas these building schemes have been used to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels;

And whereas such prohibitions or restrictions are a barrier to the generation of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Ministry of Attorney General to consider amendments to the *Land Title Act* similar to its existing section 222 that would prohibit and render void any **portion of** building schemes that purport to prohibit or restrict the installation of roof top solar panels, or any other renewable energy systems.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R20) Ports Prioritization

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the federal government divested government wharves, and the responsibility for maintenance and management of public ports has fallen entirely on local taxpayers and nonprofit groups, and the provincial government does not have a ministry responsible for dealing with for the complex issues involving public ports, especially in unincorporated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that the provincial and federal governments, review BC's marine network as a whole and identify ports that are vulnerable to long-term funding concerns as well as extreme weather events for more sustained public support to maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline to meet the long term economic, social, and emergency needs of coastal residents;

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R21) Ports Maintenance

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas public wharves and docks are critical transportation links for people, supplies, and emergency services in coastal communities, and there is a lack of coordinated provincial and federal priority setting and funding to support and maintain critical connectivity along BC's 25,000 kilometres of coastline;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for maintaining the roads leading to public ports and continues to approve subdivision applications for water-only access residential developments;

And whereas evolving transportation technology and climate change requires a complete reconsideration of the design of small ports to meet future needs:

Therefore, be it resolved that the provincial government fund the creation of engineering best practices for building ports to meet future transportation needs and climate resilience and provide financial support for the primary access ports.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R22) Derelict Vehicles in Remote Communities

North Coast RD

Whereas remote communities in BC are struggling with the accumulation of numerous derelict vehicles;

And whereas disposal facilities in remote communities have limited capacity and a lack of infrastructure to internally manage derelict vehicles or ship to end-markets:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the Province of BC for grant funding to be made available for remote communities to undertake cleanup of derelict vehicles.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R23) Halt Reductions to the Annual Allowable Cut

City of Campbell River

Whereas forestry is, and continues to be, a critical industry across British Columbia, providing not only well-paying jobs to both urban and rural remote communities, including approximately 1200 direct jobs in Campbell River, but significant tax contributions to fund key municipal infrastructure and provincial services;

And whereas value added manufacturing will be unable to thrive unless primary forestry partners can have predictable, sustainable levels of harvesting land base:

Therefore be it resolved that that AVICC and UBCM Executive call on the Ministry of Forests to immediately halt any further reductions to the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) and meet with industry to better understand the impacts of a reduced AAC to the entire forest industry.

ON MOTION, was NOT ENDORSED

R24) Provincial Employee Support

Village of Zeballos

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province provide subject specific provincial employees on a regional level to support local governments with the increased legislative changes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

The Second Resolution Session was then adjourned at approximately 12:00 pm.

THIRD REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At 12:00pm, 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 2024/25 term are:

- Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District
- Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay
- Councillor Tanille Johnston, City of Campbell River

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 2024/25 term is Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District.

Since no further elections were required, Nominating Committee Chair, Past President Morrison, declared that the 2024 AVICC Elections were complete.

He then invited Cael Read, Student Delegate and Youth Advisor with the Town of Gibson to address the delegates for 5 minutes. EA Representative McMahon thanked Mr. Read, and invited Gordon Horth from CREST Emergency Communications 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 Building Wildfire Resiliency in Coastal Communities

#2 First Nations Property Taxation

#3 Open & Closed Meetings: Why Should You Care?

#4 The Future of Energy in BC

#5 Oceans, Oceans, Oceans!

#3 Vancouver Island Circular Economy: Turning Goals into Action

ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet was held in the Crystal Ballroom at the Fairmont Empress

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.

At about 8:50 am, President Cote presented Past President Ian Morrison with an AVICC Life Membership, and thanked him for his years of service to AVICC and to his community. She then invited Marina Andrew with the BC Lottery Corporation to say a few words, and to introduce the band.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2024

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.

FCM UPDATE

President Penny Cote invited Daniel Arbour, Director Comox Valley RD, and representative on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Board to provide an update on FCM.

E-COMM 911 ADDRESS

Director Travis Hall introduced Oliver Grüter-Andrew, President and CEO of E-Comm 911 to address the delegates.

STRIKING THE BALANCE: ENGAGEMENT AND RESPECT

Past President Morrison introduced Tracey Lorensen, of Paragon Solutions, who provided a one-hour facilitated session 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. Director Fowler thanked Ms. Lorensen, and announced that a donation in lieu of a gift would be made to Mustard Seed.

LEADER OF THE BC GREEN PARTY ADDRESS TO DELEGATES

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

EA Representative McMahon thanked Ms. Furstenau and invited delegates to enjoy the refreshment break in the lobby, and to return at 10:35 am for an address by Minister Fleming, and the final resolutions session.

MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION, HON. ROB FLEMING ADDRESS TO DELEGATES

Minister of Transportation and MLA Victoria-Swan Lake, Hon. Rob Fleming addressed the delegates.

FINAL RESOLUTIONS AND LATE RESOLUTIONS SESSION

Resolutions resumed at 10:50 am with Past President Morrison in the Chair with 1st Vice President Geselbracht, 2nd Vice President Craig and President Cote.

R25) Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

District of Saanich

Whereas there currently is no provincial legislation to address the need for strategic foresight by requiring public bodies to plan and take action in pursuit of economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing in their areas and for interconnected objectives;

And whereas short-term thinking, fragmented decision-making, siloed approaches, and a lack of emphasis on the long-term consequences of these decisions have led to the persistence of social, environmental, and economic issues and inequities:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to develop a "Wellbeing of Future Generations Act" that requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R26) UBCM First Nation Membership

Village of Zeballos

Whereas First Nation representation within the Union of BC Municipalities membership are underrepresented;

And whereas the Province of BC has adopted the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM provide an outreach program to British Columbia's First Nations on becoming full UBCM members.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Part 2 - Section "B" – This section contains resolutions that support existing policy and are recommended Endorse or Endorse with Proposed Amendment. The resolutions in this section were considered as a block.

R27) First Responder Calls by Fire Rescue Departments

District of Tofino

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls in support of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do not receive remuneration or funding for their critical support within the BCEHS system:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a remuneration system for BC fire rescue service departments providing medical care in conjunction with the BCEHS system, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, and replacement of consumed supplies.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R28) Provincial Cost Recovery for Emergency Medical Services Provided by Fire Departments

RD of Nanaimo

Whereas BC fire rescue service departments, operating under career, composite, or volunteer models, are experiencing increased demands in emergency medical response calls while there is inadequate funding for the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) system;

And whereas the fire departments that provide these services, authorized under the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) first responder program, currently do so on a community-by-community basis creating an inconsistent provincial approach to emergency medical assistance:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM endorse and advocate to the Province for the establishment of a cohesive financial emergency medical assistant framework, with considerations for the cost of personnel, training, province-wide consistency, and the replacement of consumed supplies for fire rescue service departments, as part of advocacy for a modernized financial framework for local governments in BC.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R29) Pre-Hospital Care – Cover Costs of Local Governments

City of Port Alberni

Whereas the provision of pre-hospital care is a critical aspect of health care in British Columbia and Fire Departments, funded by local governments, have traditionally played a significant role in delivering pre-hospital care and that pre-hospital care falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government;

And whereas the increasing workload related to pre-hospital care, particularly in the area of medical first response, has put significant pressure on local governments arising from the need to allocate additional resources for training, fuel, vehicle maintenance, consumables, and staffing:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently appeal to the Province of British Columbia to take immediate steps to provide adequate funding to local governments to cover the cost of Fire Department First Responder programs to help alleviate the financial strain on local governments and ensure the continued provision of essential pre-hospital care services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R30) Mental Health Liaison Officers

City of Nanaimo

Whereas RCMP members continue to respond to a significant number of calls for service for individuals dealing with mental health challenges and Mental Health Liaison Officers have proven to be an effective resource for assisting vulnerable citizens requiring support;

And whereas local governments are not provided funding to pay for healthcare and social services and there has been no increase in the Provincial funding model to support these officers responding to chronic/crisis mental health calls:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM advocate for the Province to fund RCMP Mental Health Liaison Officers within local detachments.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R31) Investment in Complex Care Beds

City of Nanaimo

Whereas in 2022, the BC Emergency Health Services reported a 75% total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events since the toxic drug crisis was declared a public health emergency in 2016 and the BC Provincial Overdose Cohort reports that brain injury is 15 times more likely among people who had experienced drug poisoning than those who had not;

And whereas the number of supports available for individuals requiring complex care due to health challenges related to substance use disorder has proven grossly inadequate for the ever-increasing demand in communities all across British Columbia:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM lobby the Province to increase investment in complex care beds to address the growing demand from those who have suffered serious health impacts from substance use disorder.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R32) Seniors' Support Assisted Living

District of Saanich

Whereas Statistics Canada reports confirm that both the number and percentage of seniors will grow significantly during the next two decades, both in numbers and overall proportion of the population;

And whereas most serious illnesses requiring either assisted living options and/or hospital care occur later in life and there is a significant shortage of supportive assisted living spaces for seniors, affecting both hospital availability/accessibility and housing options for vulnerable seniors:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM lobby the provincial government to increase the number of supportive assisted living units across British Columbia in a manner aligned with the demographic data to ensure that all seniors can be housed in dignity as they age and to reduce the pressures of the hospital system by so doing.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R33) Implementing Accessibility BC Act Recommendations

City of Parksville

Whereas the *Accessible British Columbia Act* passed by the provincial government in 2021 requires local governments to develop accessibility plans to identify, remove and prevent barriers;

And whereas local governments have limited financial abilities and staff resources to implement accessibility recommendations on an ongoing basis:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province create an annual funding model (accessibility fund) designed to assist local governments to implement accessibility recommendations.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R34) Funding for Seniors Housing in Rural Areas

Village of Gold River

Whereas seniors, in the increasing demographic of those over 65, in rural BC have limited range of options for housing;

And whereas rural BC local municipalities have limited financial resources to support seniors housing options that allow seniors to age in place in their home community due to financial, social, health and housing vulnerabilities experienced by this increasing demographic:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the provincial government to provide BC Housing with additional funding and support to facilitate new affordable seniors' housing in rural areas.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R35) Extreme Weather Response Shelter System

**City of Courtenay
Comox Valley RD
Village of Cumberland
City of Powell River**

Whereas the Extreme Weather Response (EWR) shelter system was developed more than a decade ago to support community organizations in providing life-saving warm, safe places for unhoused community members to sleep in cold and wet weather, the EWR model does not provide any funding for facility rental costs, security, equipment or resource purchases, nor does it provide any funds for these community organizations to plan for, develop, and deliver EWR shelters in their communities;

And whereas since the EWR program was developed the number of community members experiencing homelessness has grown substantially, and the needs of those community members have, often due to

addiction and mental health challenges, become increasingly complex, community organizations in many communities have been unable to provide life-saving EWR shelters with the limited resources available:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to recognize that the EWR program is insufficient to address current social challenges and community capacity to meet those challenges; and that a provincially driven solution be determined in collaboration with community leaders to ensure that:

1. service delivery by existing provincial agencies that are tasked with providing social service supports, including shelter spaces and wrap-around services, is strengthened; and
2. funds are available to rent facilities, provide security and necessary equipment such that the community organizations that are tasked to deliver this program are appropriately resourced.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R36) BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax

North Coast RD

Whereas the BC government implemented a BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax to turn vacant homes into housing for BC residents;

And whereas the BC government continues to expand the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program to include new communities:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM advocate to the provincial government that all BC communities, including electoral areas, be given the option to opt-in to the BC Speculation and Vacancy Tax program.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R37) Development Cost Charges for Fire Protection Facilities

District of Lantzville

Whereas the provincial government has passed Bill 46 *Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act, 2023* amending Section 559, subsection (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act* to include "fire protection facilities" in the collection of Development Cost Charges (DCCs), but does not specifically define "fire protection facilities";

And whereas many smaller local governments have a limited number of brick-and-mortar fire protection buildings, but a large number of other capital expenses related to fire protection, such as vehicles and equipment:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM advocate with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs that "fire protection facilities" be specifically defined in the relevant documentation and/or legislation to include the purchase and maintenance of all capital items related to fire protection including, but not limited to, fire trucks, duty vehicles, hoses, breathing apparatuses, communications equipment and all other capital expenditures that may be required to equip and maintain fire protection services.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R38) Heavy Duty Vehicle Climate Emissions

District of Central Saanich

Whereas many local governments in BC have set Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction targets;

And whereas like other local governments, the District of Central Saanich has made progress in reducing emissions, yet has findings to indicate that heavy-duty truck emissions have increased, while there are few available local government legislative or financial powers to change this trajectory:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province to use its financial and legislative powers to take further action to reduce the emissions from the heavy-duty trucks, which may include requiring a higher mixture of biodiesel, electrification, or further incentives to decarbonize heavy-duty vehicle fleets.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R39) Provincial Core Funding for Evolving Public Libraries

**City of Nanaimo
District of Oak Bay
City of Powell River
qathet RD**

Whereas core funding for public libraries in British Columbia has remained unchanged since 2009, limiting their ability to expand and evolve their programming as demand for their services increases;

And whereas the operational requirements of public libraries increasingly require significant and diverse resources to provide front-line community services, including supporting patrons with mental health and addiction issues as well as barriers to housing, providing critical locations of refuge during extreme weather events, providing services to new Canadians, and supporting the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC call on the provincial government to recognize the evolving and challenging situation for public libraries as well as their unique role as community spaces, and increase annual core funding for libraries to \$30 million in keeping with the request made by the BC Public Library Partners and the recommendation of the province's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services;

And be it further resolved that this increase in core funding be increased on a yearly basis in keeping with cost of living and inflationary pressures.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R40) Sustainable and Equitable Funding of Library Services

City of Port Alberni

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in communities by providing access to resources, promoting literacy, supporting job seekers and small businesses, advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and promoting equity and inclusion;

And whereas public libraries in British Columbia are primarily funded by levies paid by local governments, and provincial funding for libraries has remained stagnant; while the costs to deliver library services and the demand for library services have increased exponentially over time:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to provide long-term sustainable funding for public libraries in BC;

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

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R41) Increased Funding for Local Government Infrastructure

Town of Comox

Whereas local governments across BC are facing infrastructure funding shortfalls to maintain current infrastructure and as a result are implementing significant municipal tax increases;

And whereas continued population growth and housing demand is resulting in the need for local governments to expand their recreation, fire, police, parks, and administration services at a level greater than can be accomplished through the use of the newly introduced Amenity Cost Contribution authority:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM petition the Province of British Columbia to provide increased funding to support capital expansions of local government service infrastructure.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R42) Rethinking Local Government Taxation for Equitable and Effective Crisis Response

City of Langford

Whereas local governments, often on the front lines, bear the brunt of addressing shared crises such as climate issues, housing affordability, inequality, public health, and infrastructure challenges;

And whereas the burden on local governments has intensified due to provincial shortcomings in fulfilling their responsibilities, leaving many local governments grappling with insufficient revenue sources, resulting in an over reliance on regressive property taxation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urge the Province to promptly fulfill its responsibilities in providing health care, including mental health care, as well as social services and the management of criminal rehabilitation through correctional facilities;

And be it further resolved that in the absence of immediate provincial action, the AVICC and UBCM advocate for a comprehensive and immediate review of local government taxation and revenue sources recognizing the pivotal role of local governments, which, despite these being provincial responsibilities, are left to deal with the repercussions without adequate support from the Province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R43) Addressing Shoreline Erosion Concerns in Coastal Communities

North Coast RD

Whereas coastal communities in BC are experiencing the detrimental effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, adverse weather events, and eroding shorelines:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM urge the BC government to dedicate more resources toward mitigating the impacts of climate change and shoreline erosion in coastal communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R44) Drought

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas climate change is causing increasingly unpredictable and extended summer droughts throughout Vancouver Island and the Coastal Region;

And whereas water is a shared resource required by all residents, industry sectors, agriculture and the environment to both sustain life and conduct business:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship conduct a current inventory of surface and groundwater availability, as well as projected future needs, in order to facilitate planning of freshwater storage requirements to supply all residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, Indigenous, emergency and environmental needs to a minimum 50-year threshold.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R45) Groundwater Protection in the Province of British Columbia

District of Metchosin

Whereas over one million British Columbians rely on groundwater for daily use and that groundwater presents significant challenges in terms of monitoring, defining (classifying/characterizing), and demonstrating water viability, including water-use budgets/allocations;

And whereas the impacts of climate change, population growth and industrial activity are intensifying, and all three factors can negatively impact groundwater sustainability and sources:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the provincial government prioritize the following:

1. Renew the work to identify aquifers at risk in terms of productivity and vulnerability to contamination, climate change, population growth and other criteria;
2. Continue to build in the province's groundwater monitoring capacity, including installation of additional observation wells for high risk aquifers;
3. Develop a regular reporting process on the health and viability of high-risk aquifers; and
4. Develop a funding program for local governments to support local monitoring of groundwater resources.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R46) Rainwater Management in Road Rights of Way

Comox Valley RD

Whereas residential development in portions of unincorporated areas designated as suitable for increased dwelling density through regional growth strategies and official community plans will enhance the supply of housing in British Columbia;

And whereas a key constraint in increasing dwelling density in these areas is locating adequately sized green infrastructure such as rain gardens and infiltration swales that protect stream systems and overall watershed health, and reduce risk to downstream property:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province of BC investigate options to permit green infrastructure and low impact development rainwater management measures for private property and public roads within provincial public highway rights of way in alignment with policy direction set out in the March 2023 Intentions Paper for the Watershed Security Strategy.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R47) Highway Active Transportation

District of Central Saanich

Whereas the Province has jurisdiction over provincial highways, many of which are critical active transportation corridors and provide connections to services, workplaces, ferries, parks and recreation areas, and neighbouring communities;

And whereas many provincial highways require new or upgraded active transportation infrastructure to enable local governments to realize comprehensive, interconnected, safe, active transportation networks for residents:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM call on the Province to assess all provincial highways with active transportation corridors in accordance with the British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, and in consultation with municipalities, regional districts, and Indigenous Nations, develop a provincially-funded plan or program to address gaps and shortfalls, and local active transportation priorities on provincial highways.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R48) Active Transportation Within Provincial Highway Rights of Way

City of Langford

Whereas according to CleanBC's Roadmap to 2030, transportation is our largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) which accounts for approximately 40% of our annual total, and to address this the Province has committed to doubling the proportion of trips using active transportation by 2030;

And whereas given the urgency of the climate crises, the fast-approaching 2030 deadline and the fact that safe active transportation infrastructure provides economically accessible transportation for more individuals of all ages and abilities, there is a pressing need for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to provide stronger leadership, accountability, and equitable investment in infrastructure for all modes of transportation:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to take on the responsibility for the development, operation and maintenance of all active transportation infrastructure within provincial highway rights of way to align with active transportation planning of Indigenous and local governments, thus ensuring equitable commitment to active transportation infrastructure commensurate with infrastructure focused on motor vehicles.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R49) Improved Road Design for Vulnerable Road Users

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure road design standards prioritize the efficient movement of motor vehicles over the safety of vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, transit users, and cyclists;

And whereas narrow road rights-of-way and topographic challenges in rural areas often make it impossible for active transportation infrastructure to be built to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's Active Transportation Design Guide of separated paths along road corridors;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will not approve, fund, or maintain any road improvements that don't meet their Active Transportation Design Guide:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province instruct the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to prioritize the safety of vulnerable road users in their road design standards;

And be it further resolved that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure recognize the practical challenges of active transportation in rural areas and approve, fund and maintain minor road improvements that increase safety for vulnerable road users, such as paved shoulders and crosswalks.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R50) Funding for Rural Road Maintenance

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas secondary roads in unincorporated areas of BC are typically maintained on a break/fix basis despite deteriorating conditions and increasing traffic;

And whereas there is no publicly available plan for the upgrade and replacement of rural roads, culverts, and bridges:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to establish a capital asset management plan for secondary road networks across the province.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R51) Emergency Routes

Alberni-Clayoquot RD

Whereas on June 6, 2023, Highway 4 was closed at Cameron Lake Bluff, near Koen Road, due to a wildfire, and that a detour route from Port Alberni through Lake Cowichan via Bamfield, using forest-service and

privately owned industrial roads was established by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) on Wednesday, July 7, 2023, and was actively maintained until August 31, 2023;

And whereas the highway closure that occurred between June 6, 2023, and August 31, 2023, resulted in significant negative impacts on our residents' health, safety, and well-being, and it had devastating economic impacts resulting in the loss of jobs and permanent closure of local businesses, and that similar communities having only one access road in and out of their community experienced similar negative impacts during emergency activations:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness work with communities, that have only one access road in and out of their community, to ensure the permanent establishment and maintenance of alternative or emergency transportation routes for use in the event of an emergency;

And be it further resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, and appropriate local governments to conduct an inventory of active forestry roads that could be maintained for emergency evacuation purposes, and that the roads meeting the criteria for emergency evacuation purposes be maintained for these purposes by the Province in perpetuity.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R52) Engagement with Local Governments with Respect to Road Network Planning

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure lacks the funding, staffing and mandate to plan overall road networks in unincorporated areas and to proactively deal with transportation and development planning issues in the "fringe" interface areas of municipalities and regional districts;

And whereas problems with runoff from roads and development are increasingly severe across the province, and are significantly impacted by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure decisions around subdivision approvals and road infrastructure;

And whereas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not proactively engage with local governments on future planning and maintenance of numbered routes that run through local governments and often through downtown cores:

Therefore be it resolved that the Province direct and fund the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to engage with local governments on overall road network planning and subdivision planning in order to improve decision-making to reduce cumulative negative impacts on communities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R53) Free Transit for Students

Sunshine Coast RD

Whereas the BC Government's fare-free transit program for youth aged 12 and under grade 6 saves families money while offering youth low-carbon transportation that helps the province and municipalities reach carbon neutrality targets;

And whereas expanding eligibility to those in grade 12 and under would promote equitable access to transit despite economic disparity amongst youth and families in BC:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Province to expand the fare-free transit program for youth in grade 12 and under.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R54) Legislative Changes Consultation Process

Village of Zeballos

Whereas the Province of British Columbia implements changes to legislation in anticipation of providing benefit to all British Columbians;

And whereas not all rural, remote communities are provided with capacity to fulfill new legislative requirements:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request that the Province provide a more fulsome consultation process with local governments of all sizes prior to making sweeping legislative changes.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R55) New Assessment Classification for Vacant Residential Lands

Village of Gold River

Whereas there is a housing crisis in British Columbia that affects all local governments in varying degrees;

And whereas there are limited tools to discourage speculation and encourage development of undeveloped property:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM request the Province of British Columbia to create a new assessment classification for undeveloped residential properties to allow local governments to establish a different tax rate for vacant residential land.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

R56) Enhancing Communications for Municipal Fire Departments Responding to Motor Vehicle Incidents

City of Port Alberni

Whereas fire departments play a crucial role in responding to motor vehicle incidents outside of fire protection boundaries on behalf of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) and that both EMCR and the local government have a shared responsibility for the health and safety of responders;

And whereas one of the significant challenges faced by local fire departments is the lack of adequate [or any] communications infrastructure in the areas they respond to, making it difficult for responders to coordinate their efforts, request additional resources, or seek assistance from other agencies and hampering the effectiveness and efficiency of response operations, potentially compromising the safety of both responders and the public:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM urgently request the Province of British Columbia to provide modern and reliable communications, such as ~~Starlink~~ **low-earth orbit satellite internet**, to responding agencies that are handling motor vehicle incidents on the Province's behalf to ensure seamless communication and enhance the safety and effectiveness of responders;

And be it further resolved that the Province of British Columbia collaborate with telecommunication providers to improve overall communications infrastructure in areas where motor vehicle incidents occur frequently including expanding coverage, improving network reliability, and exploring innovative solutions to address communication challenges in remote and underserved areas.

ON MOTION, as amended, was ENDORSED

R57) Increased Funding for Rural Colleges

City of Port Alberni

Whereas colleges in rural British Columbia play a crucial role in providing accessible and high-quality education and training opportunities for students across the province, including a closer to home education for those who otherwise cannot access training or education to provide necessary skills for employability;

And whereas rural colleges face increasing demands and challenges, including rising operating costs, growing student populations, and the need to adapt to changing industry needs;

And whereas adequate funding is essential to ensure that rural colleges can continue to provide quality education, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of students and industries, while being challenged by distance and numbers when trying to meet the same requirements as colleges in more heavily populated areas:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC and UBCM appeal to the Province of British Columbia to increase funding for rural colleges in British Columbia to support their operations, programs, and services and develop a standard of college funding more closely reflecting the real costs of providing required training and education to the population of rural British Columbia.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LATE RESOLUTIONS

The following are the resolutions received after the February 7, 2024 resolutions deadline, and before the April 10th deadline for Late Resolutions. 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 7th resolutions deadline. There were two Late Resolutions that were admitted for debate.

LR1) Advocacy for Brain Injury Awareness

City of Victoria

Whereas Acquired Brain Injury (traumatic and non-traumatic) casts a profound impact on the cognition, personality, and overall well-being of British Columbians, there are over 1.5 million Canadians grappling with this condition. In British Columbia alone, more than 180,000 individuals are affected, with brain injuries often serving as a catalyst for mental health challenges, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, violence, and suicide and a staggering sixty people in British Columbia will acquire a brain injury today:

Therefore be it resolved that the AVICC endorses the content of, and supports, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act; and

That AVICC forward consideration of this resolution to UBCM, urging them to endorse the content of, and support, the federal private member's Bill C-277 – National Strategy on Brain Injuries Act, and encourage other municipalities to endorse the same resolution.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

LR2) Addressing the Needs of Rural Seniors in British Columbia

City of Port Alberni

Whereas rural B.C. has a proportionately larger and faster growing seniors' population than urban B.C., yet has less infrastructure and resources to support its aging population;

And whereas a greater and more focused provincial response to ongoing concerns about inequities in services and supports for seniors in rural B.C. is required to address the inadequacies of current approaches to such issues:

Therefore be it resolved that AVICC & UBCM endorse the recommendations of the Office of the Seniors Advocate's report titled "Challenges Facing B.C.'s Rural Seniors" and dated February 2024, and calls on the Provincial Government to implement said recommendations beginning with establishing a ministry or minister

of state for rural B.C. in recognition of the geographic imbalance of regional representation in the Legislative Assembly;

And be it further resolved that the AVICC request the creation of a rural seniors caucus within the UBCM membership.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

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.

OF1) Addressing the Risk to Wild Salmon

Village of Tahsis

Whereas the AVICC, first nations and our regional sport fishing resorts depend on fishing tourism as a mainstay of our economy;

Whereas fish farms continue to occupy sites along main migration routes in nootka sound and other areas, which are recharged by natural salmon spawning in our rivers and supplemented by both federally-supported and volunteer-run fish hatcheries;

Whereas monitoring has shown that local fish farms are often non-compliant in regard to sea-lice infestations;

Whereas research has shown that wild and hatchery smolts are attracted to the feed in net pens, which leads to infestation by sea lice and high mortality;

Therefore be it resolved, that UBCM ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to do what is in the best interest of local salmon health and the economy of the region, that open-net fish farms either be decommissioned or moved towards closed containment methods that completely eliminate outbreaks of sea lice and other fish pathogens within the natural environment.

ON MOTION, was REFERRED TO THE AVICC EXECUTIVE

PART SR - SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SR 1 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

AVICC Executive

There were no Special Resolutions as defined under the Societies Act submitted for the 2024 AGM & Convention

PART ER – EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

ER 1 Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

AVICC Executive

There were no resolutions submitted by the AVICC Executive for the 2024 AGM & Convention

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE

Past President Morrison thanked the members for attending the AGM and Convention.

On regular motion, duly moved and seconded, that the electronic ballots be destroyed, was carried.

He announced the full 2024/2025 Executive:

President	Councillor Ben Geselbracht, City of Nanaimo
First Vice President	Director Vanessa Craig, Regional District of Nanaimo
Second Vice President	Councillor Sarah Fowler, Village of Tahsis

Electoral Area Representative	Director Donna McMahon, Sunshine Coast Regional District
Directors at Large	Director Travis Hall, Central Coast Regional District Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, City of Courtenay Councillor Tanille Johnston, City of Campbell River
Past President	Director Penny Cote, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REMARKS

President Elect Geselbracht thanked the assembly for acclaiming him as President, saying she was very honoured and looked forward to working with the Executive Committee. He thanked outgoing Executive member Director Janet Dorward for their service, and thanked President Cote and Past President Morrison for their leadership and guidance.

He welcomed City of Victoria Acting Mayor, Councillor Dave Thompson on behalf of Mayor Alto, to thank him and the City of Victoria Council for hosting.

2025 HOST COMMUNITY

President-Elect Geselbracht announced the 2025 Convention would be held in Nanaimo from April 11-13, 2025 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre, with the City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo as our hosts. City of Nanaimo Mayor Leonard Krog, and Regional District of Nanaimo Chair Vanessa Craig were invited to announce 2025 Convention in Nanaimo who are looking forward to welcoming our delegates to their community.

CONVENTION CLOSING

President Cote then closed the 75th Annual General Meeting at 11:55 am.



Theresa Dennison
AVICC Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Coordinator

2024-25 AVICC EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Councillor Ben Geselbracht
City of Nanaimo

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Director Vanessa Craig
Regional District of Nanaimo

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Councillor Sarah Fowler
Village of Tahsis

ELECTORAL AREA REPRESENTATIVE

Director Donna McMahon
Sunshine Coast Regional District

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Director Travis Hall
Central Coast Regional District

Councillor Tanille Johnston
City of Campbell River

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton
City of Courtenay

PAST PRESIDENT

Director Penny Cote
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

2023-2024

Welcome to the 2024 AVICC AGM & Convention in Victoria on the traditional lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. The City of Victoria are our hosts, and the City of Langford and the Districts of Saanich and Highlands have contributed as co-hosts for the event. As President of AVICC I would like to thank these organizations for all their support in welcoming our members to their community.

Your AVICC Executive respectfully invites you all to join us in celebrating our coming together this weekend to celebrate 75 years of unified advocacy on behalf of local governments in our region. We would like to express our deep appreciation for our members and are truly grateful for the vast amount of time and energy spent to the benefit of our communities. We are proud that AVICC members are working towards the goal of building and developing inclusion, supporting the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action, and fostering First Nations' teachings and knowledge. AVICC has come a long way since 1950, and we acknowledge that there is a long way to go, working together towards true reconciliation. To represent the association's work over the past 75 years, and the work we will continue to do in the future, we have commissioned award-winning Indigenous Artist, Connie Watts, to design a special logo for this year's convention.

I encourage all Mayors, Chairs, Councilors, Regional District Directors, and First Nations Leaders 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 two years, I reflect on the many valuable friendships and knowledge gained. Attending our members' convention over the past 19 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 2023-24 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: Janet Dorward, District of Port Hardy
- 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. Ian will be made a Life Member this year, and I am truly grateful for him and his many contributions to AVICC, to local government, and to his community.

It is expected that the members of AVICC will benefit from the productivity of the 2023/24 Executive for many years to come through advocacy plans and networking opportunities. In 2022, 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. We will be providing an update on AVICC Advocacy later this weekend, and we have sent a survey to all members, asking them to let us know the issues in our communities that should be prioritized by the Association for advocacy work.

Your Executive did seriously consider the possibility of a hybrid convention for 2024. 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. In response to the Executive's desire to ensure that as many members as possible benefit from some of the educational sessions at the Convention, we will be video-recording six of these sessions so that all members can access them after Convention close.

In June of 2022 the decision was made that UBCM would no longer provide staffing or operational support for AVICC effective August 1, 2023. Theresa Dennison joined the AVICC team as our full time Executive Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer in October 2022, as a UBCM employee contracted exclusively to AVICC. 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. Immediately following last year's convention, she began work on transitioning AVICC to be a fully independent organization. The AVICC Executive met three times last spring and summer to support the transition, and on August 1, 2023 the transition was successfully completed, and AVICC hired Ms. Dennison to remain on as a full-time employee of AVICC. We would like to thank UBCM for their support throughout the transition.

Through the transition we identified the many administrative services and financial oversight formerly provided by UBCM. To ensure the Association maintained the same level of service and transparency for our members, we contracted retired UBCM Chief Financial Officer, Kathleen Spalek to advise us through the transition and to ensure business continuity. Ms. Spalek has been an incredible resource for the Association, and we are grateful for her support (including volunteering at our registration desk at this year's convention). It was also identified through the transition that the President of the Association would be required to take a more active role in the day-to-day operations. AVICC's President is now responsible for providing oversight and direction to the organization's Executive Coordinator, including, but not limited to, communication approvals, financial approvals, and general operational direction. The AVICC Executive recognized this work by approving a \$500 monthly stipend for the AVICC President. The Executive also amended AVICC's policy on Executive Expenses so that the per diem for virtual meetings is now the same as for in-person meetings in acknowledgement of the work involved

for the Executive. The AVICC Executive hosts one in-person Executive meeting per year outside of convention, with the rest taking place virtually – until 2020, the AVICC Executive only met in-person. This is yet another demonstration of how far we have come in the last 75 years!

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 Environment Committee, and the Indigenous Relations Committee. The 2023/2024 UBCM elected Executive also include AVICC Executive member Councillor Sarah Fowler, who is the Small Communities Representative and AVICC member Councillor Sean Wood was also elected to the UBCM Executive as Director at Large, giving our membership a strong voice at UBCM. We will look forward to hearing from UBCM President Trish Mandewo with an update from UBCM.

AVICC also has a voice at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities table with AVICC members Director Daniel Arbour and Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, who are FCM Board Members. We would like to thank them for advocating on behalf of our region at the federal level. Director Arbour will provide an update on FCM at this year's convention. Director Arbour also represents AVICC on the DFO's Aquaculture Management Advisory Committee (AMAC) for Shellfish and represented AVICC on a panel at the Salish Sea Symposium in January 2024 hosted by Transport Canada's Oceans Protection Plan.

Another of my AVICC appointments is to the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) as the AVICC representative. I look forward to reporting out to the membership on MIABC 2023/2024 activity.

For the 2024/25 AVICC Election, we will repeat elections being held electronically, and candidate speeches being available online. Candidates nominated by the deadline, or from the floor will have the opportunity to work with AVICC staff to have their speech posted online while on-site at the convention. The Executive Election will also be available to all members, and not only the AVICC delegates at the convention this year.

In your package, you will find the annual audited financial statements, the 2024 budget and member dues, a report from the Nominating Committee for the 2024/25 Term, and the resolutions for consideration at this year's 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. Convention costs for this year's convention have increased significantly as compared to last year, and operational costs for the Association have increased as a result of the transition. The AVICC Executive moderately increased the convention registration costs to cover some of these increased expenses. When considering a member dues increase for this year, it was determined that we would maintain the same increase as in past years of 5% as we acknowledge that our members' expenses have also increased significantly. The Executive approved a deficit budget for 2024, rather than a greater increase to members, as upon consideration, the Association has sufficient surplus funds from previous years to cover this relatively modest deficit, and is in a strong financial position to move forward.

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.

It has been my great honour to serve you and AVICC as President for 2023-24, as my final term as President. 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.

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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Penny Cote, AVICC President

Director, Area D – Sproat Lake, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Financial Statements of

**ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER
ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon

Year ended December 31, 2023



KPMG LLP

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Opinion

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

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023
- 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, 2023 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.



Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Page 3

- 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' in a cursive, slanted font. A horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Victoria, Canada

March 15, 2024

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 2)	\$ 383,540	\$ 431,306
Prepaid expenses	6,245	5,828
Accounts receivable	700	1,210
	<u>\$ 390,485</u>	<u>\$ 438,344</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

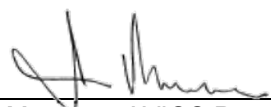
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 23,993	\$ 69,703
Deferred contributions (note 3)	37,567	57,039
	<u>61,560</u>	<u>126,742</u>
Net assets:		
Unrestricted	328,925	311,602
	<u>\$ 390,485</u>	<u>\$ 438,344</u>

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, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue:		
Association dues	\$ 111,663	\$ 104,857
Annual meeting - registration	117,721	103,337
Annual meeting - sponsorships	70,500	83,580
Annual meeting - exhibits	7,200	12,600
Interest	22,076	8,940
Other (note 3)	7,097	-
	<u>336,257</u>	<u>313,314</u>
Expenses:		
Annual meeting	138,422	146,935
Union of BC Municipalities contract fees	66,186	83,416
Salaries and benefits	53,094	166
Executive meetings	20,376	24,160
Postage, office and miscellaneous	13,737	4,211
Professional fees	11,200	10,000
Consulting fees	11,059	-
Communication and staff travel	4,112	1,601
Insurance	748	-
	<u>318,934</u>	<u>270,489</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses	17,323	42,825
Net assets, beginning of year	311,602	268,777
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 328,925</u>	<u>\$ 311,602</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash provided by (used in):		
Operations:		
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 17,323	\$ 42,825
Changes in non-cash operating working capital:		
Increase in prepaid expenses	(417)	(3,828)
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable	510	(1,141)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(45,710)	33,464
Decrease in deferred revenue	-	(1,680)
Decrease in deferred contributions	(19,472)	-
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(47,766)	69,640
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	431,306	361,666
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 383,540	\$ 431,306

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2023

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, 2023

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 (2022 - 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, 2023

2. Cash and cash equivalents:

	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 158,904	\$ 217,482
MFA Money Market Funds	224,636	213,824
	\$ 383,540	\$ 431,306

3. Deferred contributions:

Deferred contributions include \$37,567 (2022 - \$44,665) of provincial grants restricted for the facilitation of the activities of the Treaty Advisory Committee. During the year, \$7,097 (2022 - nil) was spent on initiatives to increase relations and reconciliation between the Association members and our local First Nations. The remaining balance will be used for the purposes of continuing and offsetting costs of future reconciliation initiatives.

Also included in deferred contributions in 2022 was \$12,374 in contributions restricted for the activities of the Special Committee on Solid Waste Management. During the current year, the Executive Committee approved the transfer of the funds to the Regional District of Nanaimo to be held in reserve for use by the new Vancouver Island and Coastal Community Committee on Solid Waste and Circular Economy.

4. Municipal pension plan:

AVICC and its employee contribute to the Municipal Pension Plan (a jointly trustee pension plan). The board of trustees, representing plan members and employers, is responsible for administering the plan, including investment of assets and administration of benefits. The plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan. Basic pension benefits are based on a formula. As at December 31, 2022, the plan has about 240,000 active members and approximately 124,000 retired members. Active members include approximately 43,000 contributors from local governments.

Every three years, an actuarial valuation is performed to assess the financial position of the plan and adequacy of plan funding. The actuary determines an appropriate combined employer and member contribution rate to fund the plan. The actuary's calculated contribution rate is based on the entry-age normal cost method, which produces the long-term rate of member and employer contributions sufficient to provide benefits for average future entrants to the plan. This rate may be adjusted for the amortization of any actuarial funding surplus and will be adjusted for the amortization of any unfunded actuarial liability.

ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

4. Municipal pension plan (continued):

The most recent actuarial valuation for the Municipal Pension Plan as at December 31, 2021, indicated a \$3,761 million funding surplus for basic pension benefits on a going concern basis.

AVICC paid \$3,735 (2022 - \$nil) for employer contributions while employees contributed \$3,454 (2022 - \$nil) to the plan in fiscal 2023.

The next valuation will be as at December 31, 2024, with results available in 2025.

Employers participating in the plan record their pension expense as the amount of employer contributions made during the fiscal year (defined contribution pension plan accounting). This is because the plan records accrued liabilities and accrued assets for the plan in aggregate, resulting in no consistent and reliable basis for allocating the obligation, assets and cost to individual employers participating in the plan.

5. Financial risks and concentration of risk:

The Association's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, 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 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, 2023, nine directors received remuneration totaling \$17,925, with amounts ranging from \$525 to \$6,900 per director (2022 - eleven directors received remuneration totaling \$15,375, with amounts ranging from \$525 to \$3,000 per director).

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 12th, 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	Lekwungen Dancers Convention Welcome & Opening Remarks: President Penny Cote Indigenous Territorial Welcome 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, and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, Roly Russell
2:40 pm	Keynote Address: Diane Kalen-Sukra <i>Civic Leaders Unite: Addressing Culture Risk, Fostering Social Cohesion</i>
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
4:15 pm	Connie Watts, Artist Statement
4:20 pm	Plenary Session: <i>The TRC Calls to Action: A Roadmap to Right Relationships</i>
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)

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 13th, 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
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

PROGRAM

Sunday, April 14th, 2024

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Networking Breakfast (Carson Hall B & C, Upper Lobby)
7:30 am	Voting for Directors at Large OR 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 75th AGM & Convention, and to the City of Langford the Districts of Saanich, Highlands and Oak Bay and the Township of Esquimalt 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!



75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE LOGO

In honour of our 75th year, AVICC has commissioned a commemorative logo, designed by Connie Watts, artist of Nuu-chah-nulth, 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 Nuu-chah-nulth, 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

FINAL 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, 2:40 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. Lisa Helps will present an update on BC Builds from BC Housing. 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

Lisa Helps, Executive Lead Project Origination and Process Innovation | BC Builds, BC Housing

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

Erin Kapela, Cowichan Tribes

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.

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. This year marks over 30-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, a recent UVIC Grad and a marine biologist with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and his dog Koda.

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

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

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

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 1st Vice President

SATURDAY CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Open and Closed Meetings – Why Should You Care?

Saturday, 1:30 pm – Colwood Room

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 – Sidney Room

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 – Carson Hall B/C

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

The Future of Energy in BC

Saturday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm – Sidney Room

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 – Colwood Room

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 2nd 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 – Carson Hall B/C**

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.

PROGRAM SPONSOR

